

tory, of \$254,808,388.25, make an aggregate estimated expenditure for the fiscal year 1917-18 of \$268,840,662.58.

Schedule C is composed of the items in the Supplementary Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1919:

Chargeable to Consolidated Fund, \$41,786,999.15; chargeable to capital, \$5,170,313.53; total amount of Schedule C, 1918-19, \$46,957,312.68.

Hon. HEWITT BOSTOCK: Honourable gentlemen, at this late hour of the night it is almost impossible to criticise the figures that my honourable friend has given to the House. Needless to say, they amount to a very large total, representing the enormous amount of money we are having to spend at the present time.

My honourable friend did not refer to the amount of the war appropriation that we have made, which is of course additional to the expenditure mentioned by him. The other day I gave the figures, showing the amount of money the country has been called upon to supply this year. If we take the amounts that we have already voted, of \$500,000,000 for war expenditure, \$50,000,000 for the Department of Railways, and an increase of \$4,500,000 in the railway account for the purchase of supplies, and add to these figures the amount of \$299,682,239, which my honourable friend has just mentioned as the total for the year 1918-19, we arrive at the grand total of \$854,182,239, which represents the amount of money we have voted this year, and which, I presume, will have to be found and spent. The position at the present time is a serious one, and one which I think it is the duty of everybody in the country to consider. We have become accustomed to dealing with such enormous sums of money that we are beginning to think it does not matter what the total of these items is. As stated in another place the other day, the public debt of Canada to-day amounts to \$1,200,000,000, which with our population, which I think is correctly put at about 7,500,000, makes a debt of \$150 per head. If we refer to the position of the country in 1914, before the war began, when our net debt amounted to \$335,996,854 and we had a population of 7,000,000, making the debt \$48 per head, we shall realize to some extent the way in which we are loading the country with debt at the present time. These figures show that it is incumbent upon the Government, and everyone who has anything to do with the public affairs of this country, to keep down the expenditure to as small an amount as possible.

We have heard from the Minister of Finance on several occasions the statement that he expects everybody in this country to be as careful and to save as much as possible, in order that he may be able to get money to finance the affairs of the country.

I want to call the attention of the House to one of the items of public expenditure. I have before me the Public Accounts for the last year. On referring to the expenditure for the Post Office Department, I find that in the year 1911-12 it amounted to \$9,172,035; in 1913-14 it amounted to \$12,182,258; in 1916-17 it amounted to \$16,300,578. When we come to this year we find an estimated expenditure for that department of \$19,116,260, and in addition we have to add an expenditure of some \$600,000 under the war appropriation. That is an enormous increase in one department, and, although there may have been some reason for an increase on account of additional work in connection with the war, I think the expenditure is a great deal more than it ought to be.

There are several other subjects, that could be brought to the attention of the House, if there were time, which would show honourable gentlemen that the country ought to be very careful about the expenditure that is being made.

I want for a few minutes to refer to an item that appears in the Supplementary Estimates. Two sessions ago we had before this House a Bill dealing with the Quebec and Saguenay railway. That Bill provided that the Government should pay a certain sum of money for the railway, and appointed the judge of the Exchequer Court to examine into the condition of the railway and to assess the value that the Government should pay for it, and the Bill fixed \$4,349,000 as a sum which was not to be exceeded. We find in the Estimates to-day this appropriation:

To acquire free and clear of all charges, encumbrances or claims, at any public sale, the Quebec and Saguenay railway, extending from its junction with the Quebec, Montmorency and Charlevoix railway to Nairn Falls, Que., about 62.3 miles, at a price not exceeding \$3,489,313.53.

That item says nothing about the valuation placed upon the road by the judge of the Exchequer Court. After the Bill of 1916 was passed, the matter was brought up before the Exchequer Court and gone into. There was a difference of opinion between the counsel who appeared in the court and the judge of the court as to some of the items which were to be allowed. The