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**MR. KENT ABLY DISSECTS
 THE DISASTROUS BUDGET
 OF MORRIS GOVERNMENT**

Mr. Kent (continued)—
 The Minister of Finance brought
 down here last year the estimates of
 revenue and expenditure of the year
 we are now passing through, 1913-
 1914.
 He estimated that on the statement
 as fixed by the reduction in taxation,
 there would be a substantial surplus
 at the end of the year 1913-14.
 He said, "For the financial year 1914
 we look forward to a substantial sur-
 plus approaching a quarter million
 dollars."
 The figures upon which he based
 that were:

Estimated Revenue ... \$4,000,000
 Estimated Expenditure. 3,734,189
 This would have left a surplus if
 the anticipations of the Minister had
 been realized, of about \$265,000.

Changes It
 We are now through about three
 quarters of the year, and the Minister
 comes in and revises his estimates
 of that year. He admits that his cal-
 culations did not warrant the con-
 clusion at which he arrived. "I pointed
 out at the time that the premises
 on which his calculations were based
 were wrong."
 He now admits that his calculations
 were wrong and that in this year
 instead of a surplus we will have
 a deficit.

To-day in face of the facts pre-
 sented to this House, we find that my
 statements of last year were just-
 ified.
 The Minister point out that on the
 tariff as made last year we would
 have a deficit of \$190,000. In other
 words he was out in his calcula-
 tions \$450,000, that is a surplus of
 \$260,000 is converted into a deficit of
 \$190,000 or a difference of \$450,000.

Deficit Now
 Looking at the figures of the Min-
 ister, looking at the fact that now
 when only three-quarters of the year
 has passed, the Minister has to re-
 vise his financial statement, and in-
 stead of anticipating a surplus of
 \$265,000 he anticipates a deficit of
 \$190,000.

I say, looking at these facts, surely
 the position which we took last year
 that the Minister, in making his cal-
 culations, in making this sweeping
 reduction in the tariff, was acting en-
 tirely with a view to the approach-
 ing election, and not with a view to
 the best interests of the country was
 absolutely borne out.

This way of treating the financial
 affairs of the colony, making them a
 political football, this putting on and
 taking off of duties is not going to
 enhance the reputation of the country
 abroad. The condition of affairs as
 disclosed by the information before
 the House, is one which I submit,
 should make us pause and consider
 our position and the manner in which
 our finances are being dealt with.

Bank Balance
 I have here the Bank balance as
 tabled a few weeks ago, and I find
 that one of the items on that balance
 is a debt balance for \$552,678 against
 the interest of the public debt.
 What does that mean?
 It means that we had to borrow
 the money to pay the interest on our
 public debt at the end of last year, a
 fact utterly unjustifiable in view of
 our very large revenues.
 The balance sheet shows on the
 total balances here a total balance
 in favor of the colony of \$498,000. In
 that balance is included the reserve
 fund of \$500,000. So that without the
 reserve fund we should be actually
 \$2,000 to the bad.

Cannot Be Included
 There are other credit balances
 that cannot be included in your cur-
 rent account. There is \$123,700 to the
 credit of loans 1 Geo. V. 1911, for a
 small amount to the credit of the
 1898 loan, to the credit of our trust
 accounts. There is also an amount
 to the credit of suspense accounts.

But if we take only these accounts
 that are fairly referable to current
 accounts and we find that you have
 covered by your drawings a very con-
 siderable portion on the \$500,000 re-
 serve of the colony, practically to the
 amount of nearly \$300,000.

The Minister has, of course, to get
 out of the difficulty, and after pro-
 viding for the amounts spent last
 year from the current revenue and
 supplemented the other day by Sup-
 plemental Supply to the extent of
 \$244,000 he introduces a loan bill for
 \$360,000 to indemnify himself for cap-
 ital expenditures, and to relieve these
 balances.

Position Wasn't Sound
 The year before last the Minister
 had taken a position which was a
 sound one and had the Government
 acted upon it the affairs of the colony
 would not now be in the position in
 which they are. He took the position
 then, in referring to some remarks



that had been made in course of de-
 bate, that reduction of taxation
 should be gradual.
 The Minister in his Budget Speech,
 1912, said: "Under these circum-
 stances I should hesitate to assume
 the responsibility of advising a gen-
 eral reduction in taxation at the pre-
 sent time, pointing out that such re-
 duction, whenever made should be
 gradual and should depend upon the
 increase of the revenue, so that we may
 not dislocate our economic and in-
 dustrial machinery."

Not What He Preached
 That, Mr. Chairman, was the state-
 ment contained in the Budget Speech
 delivered here the session prior to the
 session just preceding the election.
 The very next session he goes back
 on that and comes in here with a most
 sweeping reduction of taxation,
 amounting to \$385,000, and practi-
 cally abandoning the position which
 he took in 1912.

Now, if the Minister and the Gov-
 ernment during their term of office
 had gradually reduced taxation, I
 think, in the light of the figures which
 the discrepancy between estimated
 I gave this afternoon in relation to
 expenditure and actual revenue, they
 could have very easily given the peo-
 ple of this country the benefit of re-
 duced taxation without finding them-
 selves in the middle in which they
 are at the present time.

Of Their Balance
 But the Government thought other-
 wise, and to-day they find themselves
 compelled, in order to establish equi-
 librium, as they say, in their finances,
 to increase the duties upon several
 items of consumption by our people.

In relation to this question of the
 increase in duties, I think that any
 person who has even read the
 changes that have been proposed in
 the tariff, must come to the conclu-
 sion either that the matter has re-
 ceived very little consideration or
 that the Government did not under-
 stand what they were doing; because
 I think, that the smallest schoolboy
 would not have undertaken to do
 what they have done in the way they
 did it in changing the tariff.

In the first place you will notice
 that the main item in the change that
 has been proposed is a surtax of 10
 per cent. We have here a recurrence
 to the "Odious Ten per cent." which
 bore so heavily upon our people some
 thirteen or fourteen years ago, and

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which was so hard and unfair to the
 trade of the country. We have it here
 brought back in all its odiousness.
Up Go Drinks

There is also an increase in the
 duty on liquor amounting to \$1.00 a
 gallon, and an increase in the duty
 on tobaccos.
 The Government has always posed
 as being the friend of the poor man,
 the man who cannot afford to indulge
 in luxuries, but the present tariff
 bears more heavily upon the poor
 man than upon the rich man.

The man who can least afford to
 indulge in luxuries is the man who
 will suffer most from the tariff
 changes which the Minister now pro-
 poses.
 For instance, take the item of the
 tax on liquors.
 We find that there is an increase
 of \$1.00 a gallon on whiskey, brandy,
 gin and rum, while champagne and
 wines of that sort are untouched ex-
 cept as regards the 10 per cent.

Poor Man Hit
 If a poor man wants a drink, it is
 not champagne or port or sherry that
 he is going to drink, but a glass of
 whiskey or rum. Why the Govern-
 ment should have taxed one and not
 the other, it is hard to say.

Again take the case of tobacco.
 It is the tobacco that is used by
 the laborer and the fisherman that is
 taxed, while there is no tax on cigars,
 except as regards the 10 per cent.
 Now the laboring man and the fish-
 erman do not smoke cigars. It is
 tobacco, such as Mont Bernard, Home
 Rule, F.P.U. and brands of that class,
 which they use, and those are the
 tobaccos which are taxed most heavily
 under the present tariff.

Then, Sir, I think this 10 per cent.
 was unnecessary. It is very difficult
 for anyone to understand why the
 Government have gone in for this
 wholesale method of taxation. I fail
 to see the object of it. The only ex-
 planation that I can give is that the
 Government has got into the habit
 of squandering money and they must
 have it in order to meet the extra-
 ordinary and wasteful expenditures
 which they have been indulging in.

Vain Hope
 The Minister of Finance referred
 two or three times during the Bud-
 get Speech to the hope that they
 would have a surplus. A surplus due
 to economy and care is alright, but
 taxation for the purpose of a surplus
 is wrong.

Now, what is going to be the re-
 sult?
 If we take the Minister of Finance's
 own reasoning and apply it to this
 increase in taxation, we will find that
 the Government will have at least
 half a million of a surplus at the end
 of 1914-15.

Now, where is the need of dragging
 all this money out of the people's
 pockets, of disorganizing trade and
 business and rendering uncertain all
 our financial and business arrange-
 ments?
 The Minister, for instance, esti-
 mates that the revenue will be \$3,944,-
 000. That is his estimate provided
 these increases did not go into oper-
 ation. Now if you add to that what
 the Minister adds for the normal in-
 crease in the revenue of the country
 through natural causes, the increase,
 according to his estimate would be
 about \$250,000.

The Revenue
 That would give you a revenue of
 \$4,194,000.
 If you take from that the duties
 which you took off last year—\$380,-
 000—it would give you \$3,814,000.
 Now, if you add to that the in-
 crease which the Minister here esti-
 mates as likely to result to the reven-
 ue—\$650,000—it will give you a
 revenue of \$4,464,000 for the year be-
 ginning in July next.
 The estimated expenditure during
 the same time is \$3,935,000.
 In other words, it means a surplus,
 applying his own figures and his own
 reasoning to his own tariff of \$529,-
 000 for the financial year 1914-15.

Are we justified in sanctioning
 these resolutions when we know how
 easily the Government can dissipate
 surpluses?
Economy the Need
 Now, I submit for the Minister and
 for the country, that instead of this
 increase in taxation, a rational sys-
 tem of economy should be introduced
 into public expenditure. If that had
 been done you would not have had
 the disturbance which is being caused
 by this increase.

Then the inequalities and unfair-
 ness of this revision of the tariff must
 be apparent to any person.
 Take an item such as tobacco.
 It is really one of the luxuries
 which the ordinary poor man can
 afford to indulge in. The result of
 the tariff is that the tobaccos such
 as I have mentioned—Mont Bernard,
 Home Rule, F.P.U. and brand of that
 kind—are more heavily taxed than
 the higher grades of tobacco.
 There is a specific duty placed on
 tobacco.
 On a pound of Mont Bernard you
 put an increase of 5 cents, and you
 put exactly the same increase on a
 pound of Garrick.
 (To be continued)

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