

thousand sons of Canada died. Why should these men, who profited by the war to the extent of millions of dollars, not come forward even at this late date and say to the parliament of Canada, to the government, to the Minister of Finance, "We will do our best to assist in reducing the national debt; we will give you a part of our millions which we will ask you to put out at compound interest as is done in Great Britain"? Why should not our millionaires follow the example of the rich men in Great Britain and come to the assistance of the nation in this way? If they made such gifts, in fifty years the national debt of Canada would be very materially reduced.

Mr. HEAPS: But suppose they will not come forward, what then?

Mr. McINTOSH: In that case I say, cultivate them in such a way that they will want to contribute.

Miss MACPHAIL: I gave the country six thousand dollars; would the hon. gentleman do the same?

Mr. McINTOSH: Did I understand the hon. member to say that she gave six thousand dollars towards the national debt?

Miss MACPHAIL: Call it anything you like.

Mr. McINTOSH: If the hon. member did that she deserves every commendation. That is along the line of my argument and now that a start has been made in the House of Commons I believe the time is ripe for other member millionaires to follow suit. Those who feel strongly inclined to follow the example of the hon. member should come forward and give a lead to those outside the house.

Mr. HANSON: She has no family to keep.

Mr. McINTOSH: That is an individual question. I am discussing the national debt, something much broader. Now so far as paying off the national debt is concerned, I think it might be well to consider for a moment or two the records of the two parties in this respect. Let us go back to the time of confederation and see what the Liberal and the Conservative parties have done respectively in the way of reducing the debt of this Dominion. Before the war our national debt was heavy enough; since the war it is considerably larger. In 1871 our Conservative friends paid off about \$500,000; in 1882, \$1,734,000; in 1912, a little over \$100,000; in 1913, \$25,000,000. This represents a total of \$27,000,000 approximately, over a period of thirty-four years, or an average

[Mr. McIntosh.]

of \$82,000 a year. That is not a wonderful record; it would take a long time to pay off the national debt at the rate of \$82,000 a year. It is clear, then, that the Conservative party has never made any serious effort to cope with the great problem of our national debt and has done comparatively little towards its reduction. What about the record of the Liberal party in this respect?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. McINTOSH: I am sure hon. gentlemen will be pleased to hear the record of their opponents, because there is nothing in life, especially in public life, like political chivalry. In 1900 the Liberal party paid off over \$700,000; in 1903, \$10,000,000; in 1904, \$739,000; in 1907 over \$3,000,000; in 1924, \$35,000,000; in 1925, \$345,000; in 1926, \$27,000,000; and in 1927, \$41,000,000. In other words, the Liberal party in 27 years has paid off a total of \$159,000,000, or an average of \$448,350 per annum—practically half a million a year. This is a record of which the Liberal party ought to be proud; and when a Conservative member brings up in this house the question of the national debt I am pleased to stand up and show what the party in power has done in squarely meeting the situation and making a real effort year by year to wipe off the debt and reduce taxation in order that the Canadian people may have a chance to develop more fully.

The budget, as every one knows, is the annual statement presented to parliament by the Minister of Finance for the approval of this house, and in the budget we receive a statement of the estimated revenue and expenditure for the coming year, as well as the financial policy and proposals of the party in power for the ensuing year. In this respect the budget now under consideration is a very favourable reflection of the system in force in this country. It is direct and effective and possesses a continuity linking it up with those budgets preceding it. It is direct because it gives us a picture of the finances of Canada; it is effective because from it we get a clear-cut conception of business conditions from coast to coast, and in the preparation and presentation of this budget the hon. Minister of Finance has done a piece of work which will bring credit to himself and to this country.

When we were considering the speech from the throne there was no amendment brought in, but to this budget an amendment and a sub-amendment have been proposed. I would like to say that as far as the speech from the throne is concerned I am glad to note that nationally and internationally we are making