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FINANCES OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BUDGET SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

SIR LEONARD TILLEY,

Minister of Finance,

IN

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA,

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1882.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY, in moving the House into Committee of Ways and Means, said :—Mr. Speaker, in moving that you leave the Chair, and that the House resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, I desire to make the usual financial statement. I may be permitted, Sir, to say that at no period in the history of Canada has a Government met Parliament with the financial condition of the country in the position it is to-day ; at no period in the history of Canada has its credit stood so high as it stands to-day ; at no period in the history of Canada, possibly, was the country, generally speaking, as prosperous as or more prosperous than it is to-day ; and I propose, Sir, in the statements that I am about to submit to the House, to establish that that prosperity is in a great measure dependent upon the policy of the Government adopted by Parliament. I know, Sir, that in the estimation of some of my friends opposite I have undertaken a herculean task.

Some hon. MEMBERS.—Hear, hear.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY.—Hon. gentlemen opposite say “hear, hear.” In view in the predictions of hon. gentlemen opposite in 1879,