

in living, they are cheerfully contributing to every war fund and war tax which calls for their subscriptions. And obviously they must in proportion to their contributions be curtailing their own personal spendings. There are some men in the country, it is true, who are not contributing toward the war in proportion to what they are making out of it. But that is due to the fact that the Government's business tax is not equitable in so far as it makes little discrimination between the war profiteer, and the legitimate business man.

For the raising of the money necessary for the War; for the proceeds of the loans, and extra taxation measures the government takes credit to itself. It banquets on borrowing, and glories on the extra taxes taken from the people. But to the people alone belongs the credit for the Canadian War loans, and for the providing of the extra money secured from the war taxes. The government must seek credit, if there were any credit coming to it, from a judicious and wise expenditure of the money which the public provides.

It is not the purpose of this article to go into the matter of expenditure on war. Judging by the correspondence which has passed between the Prime Minister, and his late Minister of Militia, there has been great waste and extravagance in this connection. But it is only the purpose of this article to deal with domestic expenditures, apart from the War. The public has economized in their domestic expenditures to the extent of their contributions. To what extent has the government economized in its household?

Government Promised Rigid Economy.

At the beginning of the War the Government pledged itself to undertake a rigid retrenchment in Ordinary Expenditure, and to cut down Capital Expenditure to necessary works. Despite that promise the Government has spent on Consolidated, or Ordinary Account during the fiscal war years, 1914-15 and 1915-16, 26 million dollars more than they spent during the two preceding ante-bellum years, or an increase of ten per cent; and 80 millions more than was spent during the last two years of Liberal rule, or an increase of over 42 per cent. On Capital Account where a heavy saving was to have been effected they spent in the two years 16 millions more than during the preceding two years, or an increase of 18 per cent; and 18 millions more than was spent in the last two years of Liberal rule or an increase of 22 per cent.

In fact the total domestic expenditure of the Government, (apart from war and railway subsidies) during the two years when rigid economy was a necessity, and extravagance a crime, exceeded that for the two previous ante-bellum years by \$32,000,000, and exceeded that for the two last years of Liberal rule by just about \$100,000,000, or at the rate of \$50,000,000 a year.

And Sir Robert Borden in the old days of opposition was wont to refer to the Liberal expenditure (in prosperous, peace times) as "prima facie evidence of graft and corruption."

It may be contended that additional interest charges on the national debt, coupled with pension

charges are partly responsible for the increased expenditures in these years. But against the ten million odd dollars added to Consolidated Expenditure from these causes must be deducted the Militia estimates turned over during these years to War Account.

The reasons for the unpardonable increases, especially in Ordinary Expenditures, are to be found in the outrageous, and unjustifiable extravagance, and profligacy practiced by the administration in connection with the various departments of the government. They can not be attributed to war, for any item of expenditure in any department of the government which in the least resembles a war expenditure is charged promptly to War Account. In addition to that fact it will be noted from a comparison of figures which follows that many departments, whose functions have been practically abolished by the War, show tremendous increases in their running expenses.

The following tables give a comparison of the expenditures on Consolidated Fund Account (excepting where otherwise designated) for the fiscal years 1910-11 and 1914-15. They are quite as applicable to the full war year 1915-16, the detailed figures for which are not yet all available. The total Consolidated Expenditure for 1914-15 only falls five millions short of the preceding year's expenditure, and that is mostly accounted for by a decrease in Militia estimates, which were turned over to War Account.

The increases in Immigration, Dominion Lands, Indians, etc., are particularly interesting, in that there has been little or no immigration, and quite as little land settlement during the war years, while the population of Canada's Indians is not increasing to any appreciable extent. In view of Mr. Rogers appeal for thrift and economy, the increase in the Public Works Department are also illuminating. In two departments only are decreases shown—the Labor Department and (of all departments in time of war) the Naval Service Department.

So far only a few of the detailed figures of Consolidated Expenditure for the fiscal year 1915-16 are available, but such as are shown show no general improvement over the preceding year in departmental spendings. Departments whose duties are gradually growing less as the War continues are still being handled in the same extravagant manner, while there is the same comparative increase in all departments as was evident in the 1914-15 expenditures compared with those for 1910-11.

Expenditures on Arts and Agriculture for 1915-16 show an increase of 208 per cent as compared with 1910-11; Customs expenditure shows an increase of 84 per cent; Civil Government an increase of 38 per cent; Indian Affairs an increase of 62 per cent; and Post Office an increase of 124 per cent (with an additional half million dollars turned over to War Account).

In fact for all intents and purposes the departmental expenditures of the Government for 1914-15 may be taken as their War time standard of economy. As compared with those for 1910-11 they are as follows:—