

they would show that we were only throwing dust in the eyes of the people by saying that we had a surplus when such was not really the case, and that proper book-keeping would show where the country stood. After five months of investigation and preparation by so capable a financier as the Minister of Finance, he came down to this House and presented his Budget. Let me call his attention, and the attention of the country, to the testimony which he gave us in respect to the legacy which had been handed over to him. Coming from him, or coming from any hon. gentleman on that side of the House, I am sure it cannot but have weight with the people. I was sorry to hear him the other day denouncing this legacy and saying that there was nothing in it, that it was a burden to him, and that even upon his gigantic shoulders he could not bear it. Even he, who seems to care nothing for any assistance from anybody else, who cares for nobody on that side of the House but himself, comes now to the conclusion that this heritage was not at all so brilliant, so glowing and so attractive as it at first appeared to him. That is what happens to every man to whom a fortune is given by his parents or some other benefactor; it is not nearly so attractive after it is spent, after it is all gone. Let me give the House the judgment which my hon. friend passed upon the condition of the country the first time he had the opportunity of addressing the House. It will be found in the conclusion of the Budget speech delivered by him to this House on March 13, 1912. He said:

It will, as I have said before, be gratifying to all that the material prosperity with which we have been so highly favoured still continues to be our portion. Despite the serious vicissitudes through which the western wheat crop has passed and the unusual heat experienced in the province of Ontario during the past summer, the field crops of Canada show a bountiful yield and with the high prices prevailing for practically all its products the great basic industry of agriculture continues in a flourishing condition. Almost every department of trade and commerce shows expansion. Our mines are wonderfully productive. Our coast fisheries, notably the Atlantic, have enjoyed a good catch and high prices. Our manufacturers are thriving and new industries are springing up throughout the whole Dominion. Railway construction, especially in the West, proceeds apace, preparing a way for settlements in districts not yet opened up and for trade with other markets than we now enjoy. Our increased bank deposits, clearings and circulation, the amount of public and private building evidenced in municipal and business structures, extensions to manufacturing plants and residences in almost every part of the country, all attest

that the general prosperity of Canada at the present time is very great.

Our Dominion continues to be the land of hope and promise to the home seeker. During the last year, as before shown, our immigration from Europe and the United States reached an average of nearly a thousand a day, bringing their capital, their intelligence and their energy to assist in the great task of developing the resources of Canada and building up her nationality. Much has been said in the past with which I am in accord as to the selection of immigration as far as possible with an eye to the quality and character of our future citizenship. Notwithstanding the large stream of immigration, labour conditions are good and extreme poverty, from any reason other than incapacity or direct misfortune, is hardly known.

Under the favourable conditions which I have described, and with every prospect for their continuance, the future of Canada looks bright indeed. In the enjoyment of peace, plenty and prosperity her energetic, loyal and patriotic people look forward with hope and expectation to an ever great and greater future.

That, Sir, is a description, a beautiful and most glowing description, and certainly a true description, of the conditions in which our friends on the other side found this country on the 6th day of October, 1911. It is sad to relate that it did not take long to produce a condition that makes a very different picture. We have often seen in the yellow-covered almanac a picture illustrating the effect of Kendall's Spavin Cure, showing a horse before using and after using. The dilapidated condition of the horse in the picture before using never was half so bad as the picture of Canada after using the Tory Government for a short time. It has already been observed that we are plunging headlong into expenditures when we have no money to meet them. But, before going into that, there is something else which I learn from the speech of the Minister of Finance, and I am sure we have all to learn from him in matters of finance. Speaking in all sincerity for myself, I am sure that I can put him up as my Gamaliel for many years to come.

He told us when replying to the leader of the Opposition that our railway policy was of the most foolish and abominable kind, and that no people other than fools—he did not use that language—could propose such a policy, because it was ruinous to this country. When the Minister of Finance took charge of the affairs of this country and struck his balance sheet, and investigated the conditions to see how matters stood, it was then, if he had any criticism to make on the great question of railway