

But what happened immediately following this? By not selling the remaining \$2,800,000 worth of bonds in the East the Minister was able to dispose of them right here at home, through a local syndicate, effecting a saving of approximately \$40,000 to the taxpayers of the Province.

There was, therefore, no "hawking round" of these bonds, but an intelligent grasp of the situation, capably managed, and with the saving I have stated. Instead of having to "hawk" bonds round the East, the Minister of Finance directs attention to the fact that since that loan was floated he has put another loan on the market. This was for \$3,000,000 and the whole amount was oversubscribed in twenty-four hours.

It has not been the habit of the Minister of Finance to hawk bonds in the Eastern markets. Once before he went East to negotiate loans to meet obligations incurred by our predecessors in office and came home without having sold his bonds. In 1918, when the Treasury needed money badly, the Minister held off until conditions improved, and by doing so effected a saving of \$750,000 to the Province. Any one can sell Provincial bonds at any time if he is willing to accept market conditions. But I think you will agree that the Minister of Finance showed capacity for his office when he awaited more favourable conditions and effected such considerable saving to the country.

The Minister of Finance does not agree with Mr. Bowser that loans should be for twenty years—at least, not at the present time. And I am inclined to think his reasons for his conclusions are more sound than the opinion of Mr. Bowser. The rates of interest are higher now than they can possibly be for the next five years, perhaps ten years. If a loan were made at the present rates of interest the Government would be perpetuating this high rate of obligation for all that time. That certainly would not be in the interests of the taxpayers. There is no doubt that, when exchange rights itself and money becomes more liquid, interest also will be lower. So that a short term loan appears to be the wiser policy in borrowing just now.

Now, in view of all this loose talk, you have a right to know something of the financial standing of the Province, and some of the particulars of the administration of that Department by the present Government and of our borrowings, as well as the purposes to which we have put the money borrowed. There is no reason why you should content yourselves with half the truth in regard to these matters. Nor is there any reason why Mr. Bowser should come before you and mystify you with financial statements—many of them at variance with the truth—when he had all the figures in his possession and knowledge.

During the sessions of 1920 the Hon. Minister of Finance, in answer to questions put by Mr. Bowser, gave all details of this information. His answer to the questions showed that the total borrowings of the present Government—since December, 1916, when they took office—have been \$13,770,000.

In order that there may be no misunderstanding as to the purpose of these loans, and in order that you may rest assured of the frankness and candour of the Government in this connection, I will append a table