

chandise by the people of Canada. But what will the people of Canada get out of the plan? Will they, through their Government, receive any part of the profits which accrue to the manufacturers through this business? We have not been told so. It would have been told us were it a fact. Now, the exports to Rumania under this plan will consist largely of clothing.

Was there any dearth of work among the clothing manufacturers of this country prior to the giving of this order for goods for Rumania? I do not think so. Hundreds of thousands of young soldiers were coming back from the front and being incorporated into civil life, and their demands for clothes gave the tailors and the garment manufacturers all the work they could handle. What are the real facts concerning this matter? Our clothing manufacturers, in order to fill the orders for Rumania, have had to go outside of Canada and bring in factory operatives to carry on the work.

Shall we be paid for the goods which we are selling to Rumania on credit at the very modest interest charge of five and one-half per cent? When I say "we," I mean the people of Canada, represented by their Government. I hope and trust that we shall be paid for them. I thought we were to accept payment in Rumanian bonds. Perhaps it is not bonds; perhaps it is merely promissory notes that the Government of Rumania is going to give us. Now, is the Government of Rumania an organization to which one would wish to advance credit? If the Finance Minister went into the Bank of Commerce with a promissory note of the Rumanian Government not backed by his own valuable signature, do you think that the president of the bank would advance him very much money on that note? I do not think so. This is a matter on which no one can speak with the slightest degree of certainty. An interesting sidelight, however, is thrown upon the subject when we learn from one British economist that the advances of Great Britain to Rumania are of very doubtful value, and when we learn from another source that it is a very serious question whether the present Government of Rumania truly represents the will of the people. I understand that they have had two peasant revolts there, which were with very great difficulty controlled. Moreover, Rumania, lies close to Russia, now in the throes of revolution and disorder, and to Hungary, where the people are in the midst of a civil war. I ask the Minister of Finance whether, if he were again the

trusted advisor of widows and orphans as manager of a trust company, he would advise them to sell what they had to Rumania? I do not think so.

It may be said in reply to this criticism that Canada is helping to repay the debt of the Allies to Rumania for her adherence to the Allied cause. If that be so, then the Government should make a gift to the poorest of the Rumanian people, who, indeed, are in dire distress. But if the present proposal is a mixture of business and philanthropy, then it is neither good business nor good philanthropy; for what assurance have we that the goods sold to Government of Rumania will be distributed to those inhabitants of that country who are in the greatest need of them?

Now, let me say a word about economy. Economy is a question of details. It is very difficult for me, after pointing out these large extravagances, to point out where money could be saved, because I do not know the details—the Opposition cannot know the details. But Parliament may very well affirm its control of the purse by appointing a committee of its members who are familiar with the successful conduct of large businesses—we have several such members on both sides of the House—to investigate thoroughly the business administration of all departments. The Minister of Public Works, who, if anything, is candid—his candour sometimes is rather embarrassing to his friends—has told us that he could get on in his department with two-thirds the number of clerks that he has. If that is so of other departments, what an immense saving could be effected in the administration of the country's affairs if there was a thorough, business-like clean-up of the whole thing. This has been done in Great Britain. A special committee was appointed by the British House of Commons to go into the administration of the different departments and they discovered extraordinary waste and incompetence in many fields.

We propose to borrow, under the advice, I assume, of the Finance Minister, all our capital expenditure and all our war expenditure for this year. What excuse does the minister give for this? I have been reading his speech—he very kindly gave me his manuscript—and in between the lines I see that the minister does not enjoy this idea of borrowing all expenditure except ordinary expenditure. He does it, he says, because the cost of living is very high now, and there is unrest. But I have pointed out that the high cost of living is