

On this one item alone our Western farmers are in pocket many millions; and throughout the length and breadth of this scientifically unexplored land there are many equally golden opportunities awaiting discovery! I venture, therefore, to appeal once more for immediate consideration and broad-minded action on what will be a positive aid to greater production.

Mr. Speaker, my two-word text has been, perhaps, unduly expanded, but the subject can be compressed into the following guiding principles, which will not tax the memory unduly:—

- (1) Rigid economy;
- (2) Cessation or minimization of Government borrowing;
- (3) Adequate taxation on a scientific and equitable basis;
- (4) An energetic and discriminating immigration campaign, and
- (5) National scientific research.

In addition to these primary subjects which, by reason of our present position, insistently demand our best thought, there are other substantial legislative problems to be brought to our attention. A new Franchise Bill will be submitted and dealt with. This opens up the general question of representation and representative government, and I trust may lead to the serious consideration by a select committee of what is commonly termed Proportional Representation. The philosopher of the House has declared that humanity is on trial to-day, but humanity in this condition, having condemned representative government for all the ills of the hour, is more than ready to heave half a brick through its polished and highly respectable plate glass. Were it not well, then, to ascertain and remedy the obvious defects of a system which leaves large and important sections of opinion unrepresented by permitting local and artificial boundaries rather than the people themselves to determine an election? The threat or boast of a Provincial Premier that the next Federal Parliament shall contain not a single old member holds no terrors for me, knowing (and perchance happy in that knowledge), that "the Clerk of our delight shall hereafter rising look through this same bear garden after me in vain." But, Sir, whatever the Fates may have in store for us—and I use the plural advisedly because as the ancients pictured the Parcae as feminine in gender, so must we in modern political life recognize the metamorphosis wrought by the enfranchisement of women. A change perhaps not as striking as may prevail in Great

Britain, but yet great enough to permit the ladies to wield the abhorrent shears on the tenuous thread by which we are suspended—whatever, I repeat, these dear Fates have in store, we should, if not as members, at least in our capacity of citizens and voters, believers in the spirit of pure democracy, insist that an equal share of representation be given to each separate elector, instead of its exclusive possession being entrusted to any one class.

As a corollary to fair representation, we should be concerned with the machinery of Government. We should insist that the antiquated and obsolete plant which when in charge of either party creaked and groaned under a pre-war burden, and which, in times of war stress, frequently went out of gear, be relegated to the scrap heap in favour of a more efficient motor. The recent report of a committee of the Senate revives the significant statement of Sir George Murray that our "Ministers of the Crown"—those servants of the people who, in proportion to their responsibility, labour and necessary expenditure, are so fantastically underpaid—"have both too much to do and do too much." That Canada is not alone in this predicament can be gathered from the synopses of various like reports made to the British House of Commons. After reading these one is not surprised at the suggestion made a year or two ago that the greatest need of the English Government was a department of thinking. Shall I be deemed impertinent if I hint that an echo of this suggestion has been heard on our side of the Atlantic? If a reform of our system were to include an improved method for the submission and consideration of Government Estimates we would take a great step forward toward the intelligent control of the country's finances.

The Select Committee on Re-establishment, which did such strenuous and conscientious work at the last session, should resume its inquiries into the position of the returned soldier. There should be added to its duties an investigation into the working of the Pension Act. Let us not delude ourselves with the idea that the problem of the soldier can at any period be deemed static: in its very nature, which is human to the core, new phases, fresh consideration, further demands, reasonable and unreasonable, will arise. It is the part of wisdom that members of this House and the public should be kept in close touch with the entire situation, rather than it should be left in the hands of a depart-