

dently is very fond of association with his colleagues in this House, otherwise he would not have hinted that we might stay here during the month of July for the purpose of considering this Bill. I cannot agree with him. Whilst probably I am quite as fond of the association of my colleagues as he is, I think no good purpose would be served by our sitting here and discussing each item.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I did not suggest it; I simply said it was our right.

Hon. Sir EDWARD KEMP: Of course, I understand it is our right. We cannot amend these Bills under our Constitution; all we can do is to vote for them or reject them altogether. I am not in favour of the latter course, although I desire to protest very strongly against the tremendous amount of money involved in this Bill. I have not examined the Bill, but I presume it covers the Main Estimates and the several Supplementaries.

I have not all the Supplementaries here. The Main Estimates amounted to \$427,511,235.73; then there were Supplementaries amounting to \$5,500,000; further Supplementaries of \$18,202,105.66; and still further Supplementaries of \$14,711,351.05. The total of these amounts is \$465,924,692.44. But there are one or two other Supplementaries which I have not got before me and which would increase this amount; and there are various other Bills carrying with them money votes which have been passed by the House of Commons. So that when we say that the Estimates approach the half billion mark this year, I think we are well within the mark. I have already pointed out that our pre-war expenditure in 1913, according to the Year Book, was \$144,456,878. We have had a war with its burdens; we have to pay the interest on the debt, the necessary pensions and other things which are chargeable to war; and I estimate that these would bring our expenditure, upon the basis of the expenditure before the war, to a little over \$300,000,000. But we have had before us Bills looking towards the expenditure of half a billion dollars. I need not repeat what I have already stated; but to me this is very alarming, and I really feel that the Government are going ahead as though there had been no war, as though there were no war debt, as though there were no railway problems and no railway deficit, as though there were no exodus of people from this country to the United States, and as though there were perhaps 200,000 or 300,000 people coming into this country annually and settling on the land. These are things, it seems to me, which

the Government have overlooked; otherwise they would have endeavoured in some shape or form to practise economy.

Last year Great Britain had a surplus of revenue over expenditure—and we all know her expenditure is very burdensome—of £100,000,000 sterling, or, roughly, \$500,000,000. She reduced her debt to that extent. In Canada, apparently, we have not given any consideration to the matter of reducing our debt, and I am of the opinion that we ought to set aside a small fund, perhaps half of one per cent per annum, and that the part of our debt which is directly chargeable to war should be wiped out over a period of 50 or 60 or 70 years, or some such period. We ought to have some policy with regard to wiping out our war debt.

I am also in favour of abandoning altogether the pooling of our revenues. That is taking all the money which we derive from the various forms of taxation and putting it into a pool.

We have in this country every known form of taxation in effect in the United States and Great Britain, with one or two minor exceptions; and on top of that we have this extraordinary form of a tax of 6 per cent on turnover. I do not want to repeat or to enlarge upon that subject at this late hour of the Session; but I do not believe it is possible to estimate what effect our taxation is going to have upon the business of this country. This country needs all the energy and strength that men of affairs can put into the business of the country; it needs it for the purpose of trying to conduct business in a profitable way in order that revenue may be collected. The effect of this enormous burden of taxation, which is heavier than that of any other country—at any rate, of any other English-speaking country—is having a paralyzing effect upon business. Whilst the business turnover is considerable, the results at the end of the year are disheartening and discouraging, and young men in business who have plenty of energy and of whom we are proud are, I regret to say, going to the United States because they are hampered in businesses here. It seems to me we should pursue a policy the result of which would be to retain their services for Canada.

What I want to get at is that more economy should be practised in dealing with the public affairs of this country, and that that word "economy" should be understood, as I do not believe it is understood at present. When one takes up the last Supplementary Estimates one is astonished to find that at a time like this the Government engages in so many expenditures all over the country. I do not