

that side of the house thump their desks. I thought about how happy the people would be.

But then we found that he did not have a surplus, at all. It has been stated several times that there was a deficit of \$20 million, and a return of capital of \$372 million which, of course, should be used to pay off debt. It was not, as the minister said, a surplus larger than the accumulated totals of all the surpluses in our history. There was no surplus at all; and that, in spite of the fact that during that time the payment of \$50 million or \$60 million at least in subsidies had been discontinued, and despite the further fact that the actual revenue exceeded the revenue forecast by \$509,271,000. In 1946 the minister budgeted for a deficit of \$260 million, so that it was in excess by \$249 million over the forecast. Still they had a deficit.

Of course I am aware of the fact that there are some non-recurring, temporary and abnormal expenditures, some of which were mentioned by the minister. I shall not read his words in this respect, but shall simply point out that he budgeted for a surplus of \$190 million over expenditures. Has he taken full cognizance of non-recurring expenditures? Does the government propose to pay off some of our national debt? We should know it now. Or is it anticipated that there will be a larger surplus by the end of this year, or just before the next general election? Will there be a whopping big surplus which can be used for political purposes? The surplus budgeted for is about \$190 million or \$185 million. I see by the papers that it will be less than \$190 million by \$10 million, now that the premier of Nova Scotia has been coerced into signing an agreement. I notice, by the way, that the premier is not pleased about it.

Mr. McILRAITH: He is a pretty good man, though.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): This evening's issue of the *Ottawa Journal* states this:

Acceptance of dominion government financial proposals on the basis of new concessions made by Ottawa—

And so on. It refers to "new concessions." Some more of the auction sale going on. What a time they are having with him! And I wonder if the government has an auctioneer's licence.

Then, as reported in the press, Mr. Macdonald said that it is his intention—

—of continuing his fight for "just provincial demands and claims" and quoted the words of a ringing Scottish war song: "They have not seen the last of my bonnets and me."

And, believe me, I don't think they have seen the last of him.

83166—191

Mr. MACKENZIE: All the blue bonnets are over the border.

Mr. ROSS (St. Paul's): What will be popular with the people of Canada? The popular thing would be a real effort on the part of the government to reduce ordinary expenditures. I realize, of course, that there are some necessary uncontrollable expenditures, but there are others which are really unnecessary and which are controllable.

Then, as to the matter of extravagance, the government is still so war-minded that it continues to think in terms of war finance. What is a million among so many? What is a hundred thousand, even? It does not make much difference. It seems that a hundred thousand is just chicken-feed these days. That is the trouble with them; they cannot get down to brass tacks so as to see that if you keep a dollar off here or there you will save the taxpayer some money.

I now come to a point about which I must complain. It seems to me impossible to get a straight answer to a straight question in the house. On May 31, 1946, I received a return to a question I had asked in the house, as follows: "What is the total number of employees of the government of Canada including employees of boards and commissions appointed by the federal authority as of March 31, 1946?" And this second question was asked, "What is the total amount of salaries, wages and allowances paid to such employees in March, 1946?"

This return left out War Assets Corporation and the harbours board. Of course War Assets Corporation is, I suppose, just chicken-feed. Information respecting the harbours board came to me afterwards as a supplementary, but I had to dig up the information about War Assets Corporation. I knew that they had employees, and that they were spending money.

This year I asked exactly the same question, but added the words "and corporations". Of course all employees of crown companies are employees of the federal government; there can be no question about that, and that includes even the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. But the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation was not included in this return, despite the fact that all employees of crown companies are employees of the federal government.

I do not know even yet whether the return is complete; indeed I believe I can say it is not complete. However, I shall compare the figures as best I can, from what I have at my disposal, and I shall give the totals which, it seems to me, are important. I shall not give details respecting individual items. Perhaps