

friend the labour gentleman had not a word further to say, and changed the subject and talked about the weather as being a more congenial topic.

Now, I say if we want seriously and reasonably to do something by way of remedying the situation, let us begin at home; let us begin at the top with those members of the Government who are receiving these high emoluments. Your Honour who sits in the chair there, receiving a very handsome recompense for the very easy labour which you perform, be content to take your reduction of 40 per cent. I am content to take my reduction of 25 per cent.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: We are really better off with a 25 per cent reduction than we were in pre-war times with the \$2,500 that we got then. We were able to carry on with that. We must all expect to make a certain amount of sacrifice for the good of the country; let us be willing to make it. I trust that the Government during the recess will consider this matter—I charge them nothing for the suggestion. I hope that they will consider it, and put it in charge of the Minister of Labour. He is an expert at getting through legislation in this House, as witness his great success yesterday with a most iniquitous Bill, the Cheese Bill. I am sure that if the Minister of Labour were to introduce a Bill, and bring to it the power of his captivating words, he would get it through this House, and probably the public pressure would force it through the other House. The Bill would properly come from the Minister of Labour; it would not be for a capitalist such as the leader of the Government to introduce it, because people would not believe in his sincerity. If such a Bill were passed, we would have set an example to the labour men and the workers of the country—I should say, to the other workers of the country—which I am sure they would gladly follow.

Hon. GEO. LYNCH-STAUNTON: Honourable gentlemen, one has heard here all sorts of advice given to other people as to how to reduce the high cost of living and the increased cost of employment; but when my honourable friend who has just sat down pointed out to us how the high cost of employment should be reduced, I venture to say he did not strike a responsive chord in every bosom in the Chamber; which shows that men in every walk of life are eminently greedy and selfish. Self-

Hon. Mr. FOWLER.

sacrifice is the noblest virtue in the world, and we only desire to see it practised by other people, although we admire it so intensely.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: At a distance.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUNTON: Now, you cannot get any reforms except by necessity, and the only way by which you will bring down the cost of labour and the cost of everything else is by starvation. That is the only argument that will prevail. Men are all alike, from the king to the peasant; every man is looking out for himself, and every man is going to keep all he can. If you should walk out, when you are receiving \$4,000 a year for three months' work, and tell the people who are chiselling the stones to build this edifice that because they are getting \$10 or \$15 a day they are getting too much money and they ought to set an example to Canada, you would be speaking to ears as deaf as your own when you are spoken to in this House. I consider that all these rules of political economy that we are asked to apply are utterly and absolutely useless, for the simple reason that they are always ignored.

My honourable friend is absolutely right. All those salaries should be reduced; in fact, they never should have been increased. An unconquerable desire to increase one's gains and an equal indifference regarding other people's money is manifest in all walks of life. I venture to say that, by employing a man for \$20,000 a year, I could save a million dollars in each year around Ottawa without dismissing a single person by preventing extravagance. There is not a committee that looks after any of these things. Stationery is sent out to the members here in trunks that cost four dollars each, and that are not worth a snap of the fingers to anybody; yet no one even takes the trouble to ask them to send the trunks back again. There are a hundred trunks at four dollars apiece given out here, and they are stuck in every member's house, and nobody cares a rap for them.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: They are not worth expressage.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUNTON: Members need not pay expressage; they could send them back here on the Government road; but new trunks will be bought every year at four dollars each. It is the same with everything; nobody takes any interest in anything but himself.