

secured will be much less than the burden imposed upon consumers. But in Canada manufacturing interests are powerful enough to extract advantage even from the embarrassments and difficulties of the nation."

Along the same line the "Investors' Review" says: "We think it a pity the people of Canada should be further handicapped by indirect taxation, which is more profitable probably to the trader and manufacturer within the Dominion than to the treasury. Discontent with the tariff is deep enough in the West already. A better way of raising revenue might surely have been found by men of courage."

I take it that these two financial papers are at least as strong as any other financial authorities of this character in the old land; and most of them have expressed themselves as being against the method taken by the Minister of Finance for raising the necessary money. I have been to-day reading the first speech delivered by the Minister of Finance in this House as a minister. In that speech he said that the credit of the country should be maintained at the highest possible mark, so that if the day ever came when we wanted money or when the revenue fell below what would be expected, we should be in a position to borrow the money and not have to impose heavier taxes on the people. That is the way I understand the speech made by the hon. gentleman on that occasion; but I regret to find that he has departed very strikingly from that position. Referring to the speech that he delivered the other day, I must say for the minister that in its construction, in its language and style, it is a fine piece of machinery, so to speak. The language is excellent; it is concise and well constructed. I must further give credit to the minister for breaking the news of the disastrous condition of the country as well as any man could possibly do it. There is a story of breaking the news. When Mr. O'Flaherty was sent to break the news to Mrs. Murphy that her husband had been killed, he was to do it in the gentlest way possible, so he went up to the door and said: Is the widow Murphy here? She said: What are you talking about? The widow Murphy is not here, but Mrs. Murphy is here. You're a liar; your husband was killed a moment ago! That was the gentle way in which Mr. O'Flaherty broke the news. I must say to my hon. friend that he broke the news very much better, although the situation was not much of an improvement on that of Mrs. Murphy.

I wish to point out some features of the situation that the minister had to present to us. He had to inform us that the revenue

[Mr. McKenzie.]

had fallen off very badly indeed and that the expenditure had gone up by leaps and bounds. But a little later on, on another day, he got very warm, or at least feigned to be very wrathful because he had been told that a beautiful heritage had been handed over to him when he took charge of the affairs of this country. I wish to reassert, notwithstanding any demur on the part of my hon. friend, that we did hand over to him a magnificent legacy, and a ship of state in a first-rate condition, fully equipped and ready for sea; and if any trouble did occur it was on account of the captain and crew that were put aboard when we vacated the ship on the 6th of October, 1911. It may be difficult to understand, but there must be some way of making hon. gentleman understand it, that in 1896 and for many years before that, when the previous Conservative Government had charge of the affairs of this country, things were exactly as they are to-day. Finances were down at the lowest ebb; unemployment, poverty and discontent were rampant throughout the length and breadth of this country.

That was the condition of affairs when our friends took charge in 1896. It is quite unnecessary for me to relate what happened during the sixteen years of the Administration of my right hon. leader. I could not, if I tried, put the position in nearly as good shape as it was put by the present Minister of Finance, upon making his first speech in this House on the 13th March, 1912, when he was fresh from the country, new to his position, without any prejudices one way or the other, and when he was only presenting to the House a fair statement of the standing of the country, financially and otherwise, as he found it at that time. The duty of an hon. gentleman taking charge of the business of the country, or the duty of a man taking charge of any business, is to take stock of the situation of the business, strike a balance, and see how the matter stands. Between the 6th October and the 13th March the hon. gentleman had plenty of time to look into the financial condition of the country. I have no doubt he looked into it, and, therefore, when he came down to this House on the 13th March, 1912, he was in a fair position to tell us how matters stood.

Let me digress for a moment to say that hon. gentlemen who are now supporting the Government, and who were then members of the Opposition, had been telling us from time to time that we had no surplus, that our finances were not in a healthy condition, and that when they came into power