

not one single dollar of that amount was raised by way of taxation. Every cent of it was borrowed money and every dollar of it was left for subsequent administrations to meet. That is where at the present time, if the government finds it difficult to reduce the public debt as largely as it might wish to reduce it, the difficulty arises. We have to continue to pay off the loans that were made at that period, most of which moreover, were made in a manner that deprives the government altogether of deriving any revenue from the income from the bonds that were issued by the government of the day.

Now, in regard to immigration, I hope if my hon. friend is really in earnest in desiring immigration to assume the proportions that he has said he would like it to assume, he will drop this talk about there being no employment in Canada and about migration to the United States. Let me ask him at the moment, should his remarks be cabled to England, what would be the effect to-morrow, on the mind of an immigrant about to come over to either Canada or the United States? He would read that the hon. leader of the Conservative party in Canada says that the doors of some of the American consulates in Canada are being crowded by people wishing to go to the United States, and that there is no employment in Canada for those wishing to come here. What would the result be? The man debating in his mind whether to go to Canada or to the United States—he has decided to go somewhere on this North American continent—reads the words of my hon. friend opposite, and they are sufficient to turn him to the United States. This country has suffered all along far too much through hon. gentlemen opposite preaching blue ruin. It is time now that at least that kind of party propaganda should cease. May I say to hon. gentlemen opposite, the answer to all their talk of blue ruin will be found in the statements which are appearing from every commercial house, from every banking institution and from every financial concern of importance in this country, week in and week out, that not for many years has there been a period of prosperity such as Canada is enjoying at the present time, and that so far as the future is concerned it points to greater and still greater prosperity.

My hon. friend asked me about the report of the commission upon conditions in the maritime provinces, and in that connection said that, while it was a step in the right direction to appoint that commission, the credit for doing so was due to representations from the delegation of Conservative members from

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

the maritime provinces which was in the House last session. I would remind my hon. friend that before the House assembled last session the government had prepared its speech from the throne, and in that document there was this paragraph:

With a view to affording such remedies as may appear to be practical and appropriate, the government also propose to appoint a royal commission to inquire fully into the claims that the rights of the Maritime provinces in regard to the operation of the Intercolonial railway have not been observed, and that in regard to transportation, immigration and other economic factors these provinces have suffered prejudicially in their position under confederation.

The speech from the throne in which that declaration appeared was read on January 8 last before this House had formally assembled for business. May I add that far from hon. gentlemen opposite being responsible for the commission being appointed, hon. members from the maritime provinces sitting behind my hon. friend were among those who criticized the government for appointing that commission. What was done by the government in that particular was done as a matter of fact in spite of the representations from hon. members from the maritime provinces on the other side of the House rather than because of them.

I wish I could oblige my hon. friend by meeting the specific request that he made of me in the course of his remarks, namely, to advise him at this present juncture of the particular measures which the government intend to bring down to carry out the recommendations contained in that report. He said that he had not had an opportunity of reading the report carefully. I doubt very much if many members of the House have had that opportunity up to the present time. I know that personally I have not had an opportunity thus far to give to the report the careful study that I should like to give to it before beginning to discuss in detail the particular measures that will be brought in to carry out its recommendations. During the time that my friend the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and myself were in England our colleagues in the government gave very careful study to the report. They have in mind the steps which should be immediately taken, but up to the present time neither the Minister of Justice nor myself have had time to confer with them to the extent we should like before pronouncing in this House on the particular measures to be brought down. I think my hon. friend will agree that it is not unreasonable for us to ask that we should have that opportunity before speaking in detail of the measures that it is our intention to introduce.