

will be at the end of 1916 some \$30,000,000. Truly, a four years' record to be proud of.

The "Colonist" of December 19th, 1915, contained the following announcement of Mr. Bowser, touching our financial position:

"I conceive the most vital duty resting upon the administration of which I am leader is, in the first place to adopt a sound business policy coupled with reasonable retrenchment until such time at least as the various problems now confronting our Empire shall have been surmounted.

"Money for the present can only be obtained at excessive rates of interest, and while I yield to none in my firm belief in the future of the province, in its wonderful resources and in its recuperative powers, once the normal conditions have been restored, still it must, in my judgment be our immediate task to make our expenditures conform to the present peculiar and unusual financial situation.

"Our watchword shall be 'Courage and Caution.'"

How can such a strong, manly statement be reconciled with the Budget of 1916?

In December, the Bye-election had not taken place. When the Budget was brought down the Bye-elections had taken place. It was, no doubt, found that in order to stem the strong tide of public opinion running against the Government, that the economy programme of December must go, and a resort was made to vast expenditure of public funds, even a greater expenditure than in 1915, in the face of a falling revenue. Surely the Premier does not think that the different constituencies can be bribed with their own money. If so, he is entirely mistaken. I am of the opinion that the electors will, at the first opportunity, no matter what legislation is brought down, no matter what promises are made for the future, no matter how much money is spent, no matter who the candidates are supporting its cause, cast their ballots in favor of an opposition, with the intent to overthrow the Government, of which they have had enough.

INVESTIGATION OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

It has been, and is, declared by the Government or-