

said the increase in expenditure was prima facie evidence of corruption. He pledged himself to better things if he were returned to power. Well, the people put him in Office and now what do we find? The record is amazing. In the very first full fiscal year the Conservative Government increased the ordinary expenditure from \$98,000,000 to \$112,000,000; the next year from \$112,000,000 to \$127,000,000, and last year ended March 31st, 1915, it went up to \$140,000,000. For this fiscal year ending March 31st, 1916, it is estimated by the Finance Minister at \$140,000,000. Here we have an increase of \$42,000,000 in three years or at the rate of \$14,000,000 a year.

It will be apparent from these figures that Sir Robert Borden either did not know what he was talking about before the election, or that this Government has been guilty of the wildest possible kind of extravagance.

The increase of \$13,000,000 in the expenditure of last year and a part of the increase for the previous year were made in the face of the most distinct warnings to the Finance Minister, of serious depression in trade and commerce. Customs returns for the year ended March 31st, 1914, fell off \$8,000,000 from the previous year, the figures being:

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1913..... | \$115,063,687 |
| 1914..... | 107,180,538   |

An analysis of the figures shows that the Finance Minister had warning as far back as October, 1913 nearly a year before the War, that the national revenues were declining seriously. For that month and each succeeding month thereafter the revenues of the country substantially declined, yet, would you believe it, instead of shortening sail, and adopting the prudent course of retrenching expenditures as far as possible, he greatly increased the expenditure during each of these months when the revenue was declining.

He proceeded upon the inverse ratio principle and tried to make the people rich by spending their money. Something like a man trying to lift himself off the ground by tugging at his boot straps. These figures support this statement:

|               | Revenue<br>Decrease. | Increase of<br>Expenditures<br>of all Kinds. |
|---------------|----------------------|--|
| 1913.         |                      |  |
| October.....  | \$ 533,356           | \$ 5,028,975                                 |
| November..... | 760,797              | 3,208,584                                    |
| December..... | 1,210,714            | 2,505,955                                    |
| 1914.         |                      |  |
| January.....  | 1,912,625            | 5,360,645                                    |
| February..... | 3,437,750            | 4,115,563                                    |
| March.....    | 3,337,826            | 1,706,541                                    |
| April.....    | 2,296,457            | 450,672                                      |
| May.....      | 3,095,757            | 1,794,409                                    |
| June.....     | 2,216,088            | 156,999                                      |
| July.....     | 3,111,803            | 2,080,682                                    |
|               | <hr/> \$20,913,173   | <hr/> \$26,409,025                           |

This means that before the War started or there was any talk of War, the financial situation was that

our revenues had declined \$20,913,173 and our expenditures increased \$26,500,000, so that there was a deficit created before the War of \$47,000,000.

If the Finance Minister needed other evidence of the depression in trade and commerce to warn him to steer a safe course financially, all he had to do was to look at the railway earnings. The earnings for all of the railways of Canada for the year ended June 30th, 1914, were over \$13,000,000 less than during the previous year. This decline was noticeable many months before June, 1914. The actual figures of railway earnings for these two years were as follows:

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Year ended June, 1913..... | \$256,702,703 |
| Year ended June, 1914..... | 243,083,539   |

There was also a substantial decline in bank clearings noticeable during the months when Mr. White was increasing his expenditures and the national revenues were declining; as appears from the following figures:

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bank clearings the year ended June |                 |
| 30th, 1913.....                    | \$9,260,163,171 |
| Bank clearings the year ended June |                 |
| 30th, 1914.....                    | 8,073,460,725   |

The building permits of the four leading cities also recorded sharp decreases, commencing in the Fall of 1913. The figures for the years 1913 and 1914 are as follows:

|                | 1913         | 1914         |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Montreal.....  | \$27,032,000 | \$17,619,126 |
| Toronto.....   | 27,038,000   | 20,672,498   |
| Winnipeg.....  | 18,621,000   | 12,160,950   |
| Vancouver..... | 10,423,000   | 4,484,476    |

### Great Unemployment.

Many months before the outbreak of War there was a large army of unemployed in our cities and large towns. Indeed, the winter of 1913-14 was one of the worst ever experienced by the labouring classes.

On March 11th, 1914, 10,000 men in search of work were registered at the Civic Employment Bureau in Toronto. That condition was typical of the conditions throughout all Canada. In every city, hundreds of men sought work, and sought it in vain. Nor have conditions improved since then. The plain fact of the case is that not for upwards of twenty years past has unemployment existed on such a startling scale in Canada.

In Montreal, during April, no less than 5,000 out-of-works rushed to the city hall when an intimation was given that the city would endeavour to find work for those who needed jobs. Huge mobs of unemployed were massed on the Champ de Mars of the city—all begging for work and few able to find it. In the endeavour to pick up a few cents that they might buy food, men and women went up and down the vacant fields of the city a few weeks ago collecting dandelion plants to sell for greens in the foreign colony.

In Hamilton, the unemployed paraded the streets by the hundreds. Four hundred of them marched to