

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I intend to say only a few words. I did not know my honourable leader intended addressing himself to the question of the Minister at Washington.

I have read the address of the first Minister in the other House. A copy is not in front of me at the moment, but perhaps it is not necessary for my purpose. I think he mentioned that the representative of the Argentine Republic built in 1923, if I remember aright, a residence which cost \$350,000, and said that the Argentine Republic was expending a very large amount, \$200,000 or more, in addition to that; also that Mexico had repeated the same experiment. So if we launch into an expenditure of \$500,000, of which \$300,000 will be spent upon a house and the balance upon equipment, we may be confronted a year or two hence with the necessity of making additional expenditures if we are to keep pace with the Latin nations to the south. Perhaps we may be asked to vote an amount equivalent to what we are asked to vote now. Where will the expenditure stop?

I desire to say—and I say it as a humble member of the party—that the policy in this respect enunciated by my own distinguished leaders some years ago was a policy that never appealed to me, and I have never had any hesitation in expressing my opinion outside of this House as I express it now. I concur in the attitude taken by the honourable leader on this side (Hon. W. B. Ross). I for one desire to see this country maintain the most friendly and most pleasant relations with the great nation to the south. Our interests are inextricably interwoven; we speak the same language and our intercourse is a growing one; but we are not in exactly the same position as they are, or any of those other nations that are represented at Washington. We are part of the British Empire; we are not an independent nation, though we may have a theoretical status of equality with the other members of the Empire. Those other nations are separate entities dealing with a distinct nation, the United States. It would have been safer, more economical and wiser to have at Washington a gentleman occupying a position less distinguished than that of Ambassador. I presume that is what our representative really is. I have never heard any complaint, or at any rate, not for a long period of time—not since the time, back in the last century, when we began to negotiate our own treaties—that the British Minister at Washington did not represent us satisfactorily; and I know that there are on his staff some gentlemen to whom some of us

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

have appealed very frequently for information regarding current matters or legislation pending or likely to be introduced in the United States, and we have always had the courtesy of prompt and most satisfactory attention, and all papers desired have been forwarded to us.

We are only a night's journey from Washington. Our Minister there will negotiate nothing, I assume, without the approval of the Ministry at Ottawa. By reason of our contiguity to the United States, the Ministry at Ottawa are within close range, and in less than a day one or more of the Ministers can go down to Washington for a conference between principals, instead of ambassadors, on important questions of policy. I do not think the distance is too far. Some of us—I am not often one of the fortunate number—find the Board Walk at Atlantic City not very far when we desire a little holiday. Washington is not much further than that.

I regret that the Government have decided on the step they have taken in appointing an Ambassador. I have no intention whatever of saying a word derogatory to the occupant of that high position: he may be a worthy representative of this country: but I think that we are at the present time too anxious for what we think is a place in the sun. Like a young boy, our Government are troubled with growing pains. There is too much desire for display before the people of the world, as if we were a self-contained community, a distinct nation, and not one in the great circle of self-governing dominions that form the British Empire.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Honourable gentlemen, I quite understand the state of mind of my honourable friend who leads the other side of the House (Hon. W. B. Ross) when he finds himself confronted with the pretty large items that appear in the present Supply Bill. His surprise would quickly disappear if he had the task of sitting in Council and listening to the demands that come from all parts of Canada. This is a very large country, with considerable public works, and it is the bounden duty of the Government to see that those works are maintained. We receive here, from all over this country, claims that immediate repairs are needed on works along our shores and at our ports. All these matters must be attended to and provided for.

My honourable friend says he has consented to the new item of \$1,700,000 for the Maritime Provinces, but he singles out the appropriation of half a million dollars for the Legation at Washington. I want to tell my honourable