

the years when the bulk of the debenture debt of the municipalities was incurred many of these municipalities which are still heavily in debt would have now a much lighter burden to carry.

Levies for sinking funds were made, but instead of being laid aside or invested and kept intact for the purpose intended, the money was expended for current purposes, in order to cut down the rate of taxation. The new arrangement enables municipalities to make it part of their contract to pay the sinking funds yearly into the treasury of the province, where the money bears interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, compounded yearly, and it is made the duty of the Depart-

ment to make it obligatory on the part of the municipality to meet its obligations as they mature.

A witty Frenchman once said: "Doubtless the Almighty might have made a better berry than the strawberry, but doubtless he never did. I would apply this to the Dominion and say: "Doubtless the Almighty might have made a better country than Canada, but doubtless no such land exists." The land of the maple is the land for us, for our children and our children's children to the remotest generation, under the Union Jack, that is ours by inheritance as well as ours by choice; the flag that is the agent of civilization, the champion of human liberties and the defender of human rights.