

above category, and we must for some years to come make shift to use such fixed plant as we now possess.

Members of Parliament and their constituents should alike refrain from pressing upon the Government their claims,—long delayed though these may be, necessary as they may appear to local interests—until this country is in a sounder financial condition. Deflation of our swollen credits is a more vital matter than magnificent public edifices or memorials, nor can there be any speedier means found whereby the mounting cost of the necessities of life may be reduced.

Outside of these larger enterprises which for the most part would be charged to our capital account, every effort should be made to lessen the drain upon the ordinary revenue. Let us agree that our public service is not overpaid. I imagine the public service will take that as a very conservative statement. It has of late become obvious that our experts can obtain higher salaries than the Dominion awards—there remains, however, more than a suspicion that certain departments are overmanned and that in many directions there is a duplication of effort which costs the country dearly.

So much for the unpleasant subject of economy, what of the positive side—that of Production. The first function of Government under the direction of Parliament is to see that a sufficient amount is raised by taxation to meet the country's annual expenditure. From the comments of the platform and press it is apparent the methods whereby this end can be accomplished will be the subject of much debate and profound difference. Daring as I may be, I do not propose to anticipate that event; suffice it to say that on those who propose radical changes in our customary methods of taxation the burden falls of proving there are other more equitable and equally efficient modes of raising the amount required. So far as my observation has gone, I have failed to discover in any or all of the alternative plans proposed sources of revenue which would suffice to produce anything like the total needed.

In a question like this, as in all matters of business, what is required for clear judgment is above all an accurate knowledge of the facts. While doubtless other hon. members, more able and experienced than I, have at their disposal this essential—yet such is my misfortune or density, I have never been able to find it clearly set forth. It would be to me a profound satisfaction if the Bill (introduced into this House some nine years ago and dropped because of dis-

agreement between the Commons and Senate) providing for the appointment of a permanent tariff commission—were this Session revived and eventually put into force.

It is not often I venture to advance my opinion against that of the former Minister of Finance, but his suggestion made two sessions ago, that certain members of the Government should make personal inquiry on this matter throughout the country, struck me as an inadequate substitute for a body of experts who would study the question year in and year out, collate the facts, and thus permit Parliament to frame a system of taxation on something like a scientific basis.

But, after all, Mr. Speaker, it is but a play on words to denominate taxation as production. There are other measures more truly within that category, whereby the Federal Government can actively aid this essential factor in Canada's welfare. May I be permitted to mention but two of these? The first is the encouragement of suitable immigration to these shores. Nothing within the power of the Government to do can contribute more largely to our progress than an energetic campaign to this end. I would restrict the newcomers to that class who prefer to settle on and cultivate the soil—who are apt to be assimilated, who desire to become permanent citizens, and who will adopt for their own guidance the ideals of justice and freedom which have created for the British Empire its outstanding position in the world. The reputation of Canada and the widespread knowledge of her resources are such that even within the limited class above mentioned, I am confident that tens of thousands of the well-disposed citizens of other countries will be glad to join their fortunes to ours.

The second measure which appeals to me as of paramount value is a generous meed of assistance towards scientific research. Nearly a year ago I endeavoured to impress on the House the importance and urgency of this question. It would be unfair to repeat what was said on that occasion. I was disappointed when through the last session the Government made no move in advance. Each month's delay handicaps us in the race with rival nations, and under the seal of ignorance keeps hidden stores of treasure which might otherwise be at our disposal. How much would not Canada have lost if the scientific knowledge and patience of Dr. Saunders, the discoverer of Marquis wheat, had not been utilized by the Department of Agriculture?

[Mr. Cronyn.]