

all be in accord on that. I hope this government is honest when they say they are going in for election purity. But I have not much confidence in the promise they have made in that connection. I hope I am wrong. But I remember distinctly that some very tricky ballot boxes were used in the eastern part of Ontario during the late election in 1904. They were not manufactured by the Conservatives, nor in their interest. We have been told to-day that we are all the same, but I think he will have to go back a long way to find where and when Conservatives have manufactured trick ballot boxes, with false bottoms in them, so that the ballot could be switched to one side, and another one be put in its place. Where did these boxes originate, and where are they likely to originate again? I think not in Ontario. We have got a law and a government there that will punish that kind of thing, and the revelations that are taking place in London are a warning to them that whether they run clean elections or not in other provinces of this Dominion, so far as Ontario is concerned, men who do wrong will be punished. If I do wrong in that way I am willing to suffer punishment for it, just as I would ask that another man should be punished for doing the same thing. Now let us unite in getting clean, honest, straightforward elections throughout the Dominion of Canada. Anything we can do to purify the election laws and to give us a good, clean, honest, able administration in this country, by men that are elected by the people and for the people, and to serve the people, we will endeavour to do, and will join our friends opposite for that purpose. I have very much pleasure, Mr. Speaker, in concluding, to move the following amendment in reply to the speech from the Throne:

That the said motion be amended by adding to the proposed address to His Excellency the Governor General the following paragraph at the end thereof:

We desire to express our respectful regret that more adequate reference has not been made to matters of public interest alluded to in Your Excellency's gracious speech, and that other matters of grave public concern have altogether escaped mention therein.

We deeply regret the financial stringency which is alluded to in Your Excellency's gracious speech, and which has already occasioned great inconvenience and loss to the people of this country. We sincerely deplore the lack of ordinary business prudence and foresight on the part of Your Excellency's advisers, especially their reckless and wasteful extravagance and the immoderate taxation exacted from the people in recent years, all of which have materially contributed to this financial stringency. We humbly beg to call Your Excellency's attention to the fact that the Customs and Inland Revenue taxation for the nine months ending March 31, 1907, was at the rate of \$68,754,120 for a period of twelve months, and that during the past five years the average taxation of the people has amounted to the sum of \$57,105,177 annually;

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that the adverse balance of trade against Canada has enormously increased during recent years, and for the twelve months ending August 31, 1907, it amounted to no less than the sum of \$121,467,844; that the expenditure for the nine months ending March 31, 1907, was at the rate of \$87,000,000 per annum, and that the total expenditure during the past five years has thus reached the alarming figure of more than \$383,000,000, and exceeds by \$170,000,000 the expenditure during the corresponding period ending June 30, 1906.

We respectfully and humbly submit to Your Excellency that having regard to these considerations, the business of the country has not been carried on with that reasonable foresight, care and prudence which have characterized the management of successful business institutions throughout Canada, and which we are entitled to demand from Your Excellency's advisers.

Mr. H. H. MILLER (South Grey). Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that after the excellence of the speeches to which we have listened in this debate it would be a matter of considerable difficulty for me to say anything more that would be of added interest and I will not detain the House at any great length. Referring to the address of the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden)—and I regret that he is not here this evening—the first item to which he referred was in connection with the service afforded by the Post Office Department. He said in his speech:

Under these circumstances it does not seem to me that there is very great cause of congratulation to the country that the Post Office Department, year after year, is piling up a surplus when the postal service throughout the country, out of the mouths of business men and others, is denounced in terms which I would hardly care to repeat in this House to-day.

The hon. gentleman has lately made a tour of the west. In that country it would be strange to me if it were not possible for him to find some complaints regarding the post office service. We all know that in the Canadian Northwest, a very large country that has been peopled in recent years by the coming in of many hundred of thousands of immigrants, many men have selected their homesteads a long distance from the railway lines. They have sought these places because of the better soil that they have found there or for some other consideration, and they are patiently waiting the advent of the railway. It would be a matter—I was going to say—of impossibility to give all these men, isolated as they are, a mail service as frequently as they would desire to have. The figures given by the hon. Minister of Finance this afternoon have clearly proven that there is nothing in the complaint, yet I would point out that in our own province of Ontario the mail service in recent years has been very, very considerably improved and that we have, in many of the principal towns and smaller cities of Ontario, to-day a street delivery of