

the defence of the Empire than was contemplated at the beginning. This is a struggle that belongs to Canada as much as it does to Great Britain herself. We are engaged in the struggle as much directly as Great Britain and her allies, and as a part of the Empire we are proud to contribute men and treasure to the utmost that can be done. The greatest tribute that can be paid to the integrity of the Empire is the response that has been made by India, Egypt and the Overseas Dominions. This struggle has welded and consolidated the Empire as nothing else could have done. When the smoke of battle shall have cleared away and peace is declared, there will arise from its present foundation the stately edifice of an Empire greater and mightier than has been.

Reference has also been made in the Address to the country's financial disturbance caused by the war. This feature has impressed itself upon us individually as well as collectively. Probably no more inconvenient time could have arisen for a contraction of our financial arrangements than the present time. Immediately previous to war breaking out, owing to the almost abnormal growth and expansion in Canada, we had already experienced a reaction of conditions and this accentuated by the universal contraction which has taken place in the world's finances has necessarily made itself acutely felt throughout the whole of Canada.

Canada being peculiarly a spending and borrowing country, and having for the last few years entered upon great public undertakings involving the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars and depending upon the European money markets being open to our requirements, the money stringency which we are called upon to face, presents one of the most serious problems with which we have to deal. This happening at a time when we have been called upon to meet much of the expenditure incidental to the building of two great transcontinental lines of railway, added to which will be our contribution to the Empire's defence occasioned by the war, confronts us with a financial problem far exceeding in its proportions anything that Canada ever thought of being called upon to assume. The assumption of those obligations is rendered greater on account of the falling revenues of the Dominion which are in inverse ratio with the increasing ratio of expenditure.

The measures which will be brought be-

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

fore Parliament at the present session will be few and almost exclusively confined to dealing with the financial situation which I have already pointed out. The situation is an exceptional one and requiring exceptional treatment. Hence it may be said that our legislation will consist peculiarly of war measures. Notwithstanding the added burden of financial obligation which the country has been called upon to bear and for which provision will have to be made from time to time, there is not the slightest reason for pessimism or discouragement. The resources of the Dominion are more than equal to any and all the financial responsibilities which at any time we may be called upon to assume. Canada occupies practically a continent of undeveloped resources, its agricultural, its mineral, its illimitable wealth of forest and river and lake and sea all present themselves for the exercise of the enterprise and energy of our people. The added burden which we have been called upon to bear will only serve to awaken the people of Canada to the illimitable fields for increased production and newly created wealth which lie before them. With increased responsibilities will arise increased resourcefulness for individual and public enterprise.

While it is only uttering a commonplace to say that the time is peculiarly one for economy and retrenchment in public and private expenditure, yet on the other hand it is peculiarly a time for us to realize the great destiny that lies before us, and the assurance that Canada and the Empire will emerge from the present stress and trial into a condition of the greatest strength and prosperity.

Permit me, in conclusion, to express the hope that the session may be a short one and that in the transaction of the public business that comes before us we may deal with it in a manner satisfactory to ourselves and also to the people of Canada.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I can sincerely congratulate the hon. gentleman from Tignish and the hon. gentleman from Antigonish upon the speeches they have made in moving and seconding the Address in reply to His Royal Highness' speech. It has been my good fortune to have heard a good many speeches on like occasions, but I can say, safely, that I have never listened to two speeches in succession that I found as interesting and instructive as the speeches made by those two hon. gentlemen. If I were to say anything about the speech made by the hon. gentleman who has just resumed his seat, it would