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A Prophet of Taxation

Sir Edmund Walker, who was one of those who fathered the famous Toronto manifesto calling for the defeat of the Laurier Government in 1911, and who has since been recognized as probably the principal financial adviser of the Borden Government, has been giving some fresh advice to Canadians in an address delivered at Toronto. He reminded his hearers that it was the duty of every man, woman and child to do his little part in adding, by extraordinary industry, to the natural store of wealth. Nothing, he counselled, should be bought or built that is not absolutely necessary.

“For,” he is quoted as saying, “in the years to come we shall be bending our backs to a taxation such as, in this country, which has been singularly free of taxation, we have never known before, and so also will our children for generations to come.”

And so this is the reward of the Canadian people for turning their backs upon the Laurier tradition of prosperity and plenty, during which the great banks set the example of building, at a vast expense, monuments of architectural magnificence wherever, in the whole Dominion, they set up a branch of their business of caring for and administering the savings of a prosperous people.

No more work for the building trades of Canada. Taxation such as has never been known for the people of Canada for generations. It is, after all, something that at the end of these generations there will still be the banking palaces to remind Canadians of the golden age of Laurier rule, which Sir Edmund and his powerful friends did so much to bring to an end.

And now, when Sir Edmund Walker is talking in this sense in Toronto, the ministry for whose existence he is partly responsible