

Book because that publication agrees with all the proponents of the monetary reform advocated by the Ralliement Cr ditiste. It agrees with them in this sense that it reveals the true wealth of our country, such as our exports.

Proportionately to our population, Canada is already the fourth largest exporting country in the world. In fact, on this same basis, our exports last year were twice as high as those of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in this country to which nature has been very kind, we do our best to administer our own business. In the field of public administration we have chosen experienced people. In the provinces, the members are not appointed; they are legally elected. This situation prevails, at the municipal level, for the choice of our mayors and aldermen.

In our school board, the chairman and the members were chosen. They were all elected by the population because the latter recognized them as men of merit and sound judgment.

To-day, we realize that the majority of those directors, while they are serving their fellow-citizens, are anxiety-ridden. The soundest minds become dizzy. The school boards wonder how they can possibly pay their teachers.

The mayor of the city of Montreal, supposedly a man of experience, recently had to make a closed retreat to find out his true vocation.

On the other hand, the mayor of the city of Quebec is wondering whether he will be able to pay for the sidewalks that were built under his predecessor's administration.

And the confessions made in private by some representatives of the province of Quebec would surprise many people, were they made public. Now, those representatives face some problems at the present time not because the Union Nationale party is in office but for entirely different reasons.

In New Brunswick the prime minister, though a member of the Liberal party, also finds himself in an impasse, as stated in the newspaper *L'Action* on February 4, 1969, and I quote:

In his ninth year as premier, Louis Robichaud, now aged 43, is trying to find a way out of this financial impasse which forced his Liberal government to reduce its capital expenses, increase taxes and forget the federal-provincial medicare program for the time being.

—New Brunswick is not the only province to experience financial problems.

Use of Bank of Canada to Ease Tax Burden

However, that is the way people comfort themselves, Mr. Chairman. Things go wrong, but the victims are not alone, for it is the same everywhere. So the same system goes on and on.

The Minister of Finance for New Brunswick stated last spring that the debt had doubled these last two years and was totalling \$273,900,000.

I quote another extract of that article:

In a small province with a population of 624,000 souls, the debt amounts approximately to \$441 per capita and it cramps the style of the Minister of Finance on the bond market—

Last March, Mr. Des Brisay presented a budget based on

The financial situation of the province and of the country—

He quoted the high cost of loans as well as the rise in debt—

Mr. Speaker, we remember the statement of Mr. Paul O. Tr panier, mayor of Granby, (P.Q.) a well known member of the conservative party. In a rhetorical outburst he stated that most of the municipalities were on the brink of bankruptcy.

In an article published recently in *L'Action* of March 1, 1969, here is what Mr. Clarence White wrote:

Our tax-payers have reached the extreme limit on what is feasible and there could be no question of adding to their tax burden, be it an election year or not. Thus spoke yesterday Mayor Gilles Lamontagne when the budget was presented to the City Council.

Quebec has four or five very difficult years ahead if the provincial government does not come to the rescue of its capital city. Quebec cannot get out of its deficit alone and without the help of the government.

Mr. Speaker, in the educational field, difficulties are just as serious. I quote from *La Presse* of January 29 an article signed by Mr. Roger Champoux.

—ages ago, the province of Quebec reached the limit in the matter of income and property taxes. In addition, the government is unable to draw from other items of the estimates the necessary amounts to comply with the demands of teachers. Education is essential, but there are also roads, health, industry and a thousand other urgent needs.

And Roger Champoux adds further on:

Every time the teachers have submitted reasonable representations, we supported them. When woman teachers were less paid than their colleagues, we denounced that stupid condition. When country people paid less than city people, we decided that a reform was essential. When there was some of talk of granting to the teacher the