

member for Greenwood (Mr. Massey), can present their viewpoint. I am somewhat jealous of the language he seems to have at his command to circle around the thoughts which he entertains. I suppose that may be due to the fact that Toronto is the centre of Ontario's educational system. The rest of us, especially in the rural districts, have to make considerable sacrifice when we send our boys and girls to the colleges and the university in Toronto, and in spite of all the hardship which seems to be inflicted upon Toronto we feel that a good deal of our money from the rest of Ontario goes into that city's educational institutions.

Mr. MASSEY: May I ask the hon. member what he considers to be the city which provides his greatest market?

Mr. WOOD: I am not sure that that has anything to do with this question. Perhaps I shall answer that later on.

The city of Toronto is also the financial centre for Ontario. While it may provide a good market for the farmers of Ontario, it will be found that after paying the charges made for doing our business, we are paying the city of Toronto very well for buying our goods. Toronto also seems to have a magnetic influence drawing many secondary industries there. The very fact that Toronto is the centre of Ontario's education, finance, and more or less its industries, causes me to think that the exhibition given us to-night by hon. members from Toronto is rather a sorry spectacle to present to a self-respecting House of Commons.

I wish to draw attention to a few figures which bear out my point. The city of Toronto has a population of about 628,000. The figures I give are taken from the 1935 report of the Department of Municipal Affairs for Ontario, that being the last year available, although I believe the 1936 report is just off the press. There are five municipalities adjacent to the city of Toronto, and there seems to be an influence somewhere that creates the condition of affairs which is associated with them. Consequently I should feel somewhat shy about being too closely associated with the city of Toronto, as far as the spending of money is concerned. In Ontario thirty-four municipalities have defaulted on their obligations, and of this number five are adjacent to the city of Toronto. I have compiled figures showing the wealth that those municipalities have at their disposal. It seems that an unfortunate lack of ability to use this wealth has got them into the unfortunate condition of which we have been told to-night.

[Mr. Wood.]

The population of the city of Toronto and its suburbs is about 800,000; the population of Ontario is about 3,320,000. That is, the population of Toronto and its suburbs represents about one-quarter of the population of Ontario. Now these municipalities have an assessment of \$1,018,400,000 out of a total assessment in the whole province of \$3,000,835,872. The city of Toronto has a business assessment of \$118,294,435 out of a total business assessment for the whole province of \$242,000,000. In other words, the city of Toronto enjoys a business assessment of about one-half that of the whole province. Again, the income of that section of which we have heard so much to-night is \$35,450,000 out of a total income tax assessment for the whole of Ontario of \$71,000,000. That is, Toronto has half the income tax assessment of Ontario. That seems to show that there must be something wrong in the administration of all this wealth. The total municipal debt of Ontario is \$461,653,182, and Toronto and adjacent municipalities have nearly half of that debt, or \$209,925,000. It seems to me, therefore, that the present difficulties are due to their spending in recent years. Is it that they have made some errors in their general administration? After all, as I look over this report I find that out of thirty-eight counties in Ontario nine have no debt at all; many others have no county or building debt—

Mr. MASSEY: How about Brant?

Mr. WOOD: I am glad to report that in six years Brant will not owe one cent. Furthermore, since the hon. member for Greenwood has raised the question, I am proud to announce that there is one municipality in the county I have the honour to represent, the municipality of Burford, which had a surplus this year and has already paid \$10,000 on the county tax for 1938.

Mr. MASSEY: On the other hand, if the hon. member were facing such a condition as I suggested to-night and the city of Toronto were free of debt, perhaps the situation in which we are at the moment might be reversed.

Mr. WOOD: No, I do not think it would. I should like to tell the hon. member that when it comes to downright honest-to-goodness frugality and thrift you have to give credit to those rural districts which are still close to the influence of the old pioneer blood. I understand the hon. member for Greenwood anticipates that we are going to have another recession. Well, we have many people in the riding I represent who are ready for another depression and always will be, because