

to be mean in relation to the present occupants or any other occupants of government house, but one wonders where this thing is going to end. We do not mind reasonable expenditures. But last night we passed an item to renovate a residence in Quebec at a cost of \$150,000, and if certain rumours that come to one's ears to-day and other days are well founded, even these two residences will not be all.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to relieve my hon. friend's mind at once about any rumours there may be as to other residences for the purposes of the governor general. If there are any such rumours, they are entirely without foundation, and such a suggestion would not be countenanced by the government.

Miss MACPHAIL: I am very glad to hear it. Two are enough, I think. We do not want the people in government house to have to scurry out and borrow dishes and silverware. That is disgraceful. We ought to be able to provide them with enough cups and saucers and spoons so that they can eat and drink. Everybody wants to see our government houses places of beauty and culture and dignity, but all that can be had for a good deal less expenditure. I sometimes think that one almost trips over the attendants, there are so many. I am not so sure that all that is necessary in order that there shall be culture and beauty and dignity, and though it is unpleasant for me to have to say it, I think it is time that the parliament of Canada said that this is enough, and we are just saying that to the Minister of Public Works to-night, as we did last night. We feel sure that the government will take into their consideration, as the term is, the wishes of parliament in this matter. It has been very clearly shown last night and to-day that parliament does feel that the expenditure is sufficient and should not be added to, and that if there is to be a change of any kind, the amount should be reduced.

Mr. IRVINE: I think there are amounts totalling \$129,000 in the estimates immediately before us for Rideau Hall, and last night we passed a vote of \$150,000 for a similar purpose. To-morrow night perhaps we shall vote \$200,000 more for the same purpose. I cannot say that I am really opposed to these votes because I think the people of Canada desire to maintain this kind of thing. As far as I am aware, no protest has come from any section of the country against these expenditures. It may be that they do

not know what is going on, and for that reason we ought to congratulate the hon. members of the house who have drawn the attention of parliament and of the country to the amounts we are expending for this purpose. Perhaps the more we spend in this way the better, because I do not know that there is any more emphatic way of attracting the attention of the public to the situation than by spending huge amounts of money. If they want to have royal conditions and all that kind of thing, they will have to pay for it. I do not think it would be wise for us to try to maintain the office in a second-hand way. If it is going to be maintained after the order, I was going to say, of Melchisedec, but that might be regarded as sacrilegious, so I will say after the order of the middle ages, we shall have to pay for it, and if we pay a little more, it might draw the attention of the public to the situation a little more speedily. On that ground I am not in favour of reducing these votes; in fact, I would like to increase them. If we are going to have royalty in Canada, I want it to be real royalty; I do not want any of this second-hand business. Moreover, I want to see Rideau Hall provided with so many knives and forks that when parliamentarians are entertained there, there will be a few left.

So far as I am concerned I want to say frankly that I do not think we need government houses in the provinces. I think they ought to be done away with. I do not think we need a government house in Ottawa. But the people do. They have made no protest; certainly I have never received one. The people of Ottawa, so far as I have been able to observe, are very glad to welcome this kind of thing—perhaps they get some forks there too—and they know what is being paid. The more people are ruled the better they seem to like it; they seem to desire to bow and scrape before people. Well, if they enjoy that, let them pay for it. Why should we object? As long as they like that kind of thing, by all means let them have it, and let them pay for the bowing and the place to bow in. If they want to double the expenditure, that is the business of the people of Canada, and if to-night we have protests against this kind of expenditure, as the people evidently want them, I am not going to make any. I am going to wait and see whether the exposé of these figures will be noticed by my constituents, and if they take up the protest of course I shall be glad to respond to their wishes. But until that time