

It is manifestly out of the question on this occasion to attempt to discuss the whole of the estimates or to deal with them in detail. I do not know whether it would be possible for us at another time to adopt some other procedure. Perhaps in the early part of the Session, when the Senate is not pressed with work from the other House, it might be well for us to take time to discuss in detail the financial condition of the country. Of course, the money that is voted this year will be spent before we meet again and that will be the end of it; but we are not settling the question of the financial condition of the country, or the question whether the Government is working on proper financial principles or not.

I have always thought, since the time of the Great War, when we incurred so heavy an expenditure and so great a debt, that the Government should proceed upon the principle that every possible step ought to be taken to reduce expense; that they should save every dollar that could be saved, with a view to decreasing the taxation of the country, which, I need not argue, is very high. Our taxes take a large percentage of the earnings of the people and undoubtedly increase the cost of living. I think we ought to keep in mind that we have a large national debt and that, if possible, a substantial reduction of that debt should be made every year. I am not satisfied that the Government are saving money as they should. Anyone who looks over the estimates that we are asked to vote cannot reasonably anticipate an early and further reduction in taxation.

To enter into details would take a long time, and I will not do so. I intend to pass by the estimates simply with the statement that I think we are entitled to demand of the Government more economy than is practised, in order that, as I have said, there may be a decrease in taxation and in the cost of living.

There is one item in the estimates that I think I ought to mention, because it strikes me that it is not justified. You may have justification for an item like the \$1,600,000 that is voted for subsidies to the Maritime Provinces. Those subsidies are the result of an award, and they are allowed as a matter of right; therefore I do not see how the Government, once it became involved in that arbitration, could avoid making this expenditure. So I am not criticizing them on that score. It is one of the large new expenditures, but, as I say, I do not see how it could be avoided. But, coming to the expenditure of \$500,000, which is item number 467 in the supplementary estimates, for the Canadian Legation at Washington, I think that is an expenditure that the Government might very

well have avoided. I do not mind saying that I never believed in this Legation at Washington. I think that we were getting along very well when we were represented there by the British Ambassador. The proposal to have a representative at Washington originated, I believe, under the old Conservative Government. If instead of establishing a Legation the Government had appointed a Trade Commissioner at Washington, I believe we would be in a more comfortable and more secure position in our dealings with our neighbours to the south, and a very substantial expenditure could be saved. For my part I cannot see any justification at all for this enormous expenditure, even for an Ambassador at Washington. This Government were in no hurry to act in the matter; for two or three years they allowed it to stand; and I was in hopes that they would let it stand permanently. However, they seem to have changed their minds, and they have now appointed their Ambassador.

I doubt very much that the American Ambassador, when he comes here, although he represents a much wealthier country than this, will find himself supported by hundreds of thousands of dollars from his own Government, for the maintenance of his office or residence.

As I have stated, I do not intend to enter into the details. It would take a long time, and perhaps when the other House is waiting for us it would be out of place for me to take any longer.

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Is the other House waiting for us?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes, the other House is waiting for a call from the right honourable the Deputy Governor. Of course, that does not preclude us from discussing the Bill that is before us.

Hon. W. B. WILLOUGHBY: I desired to say only a word on the subject to which my honourable leader has particularly referred. May I ask, in the first instance, what provision is made for the salary and for the secretarial help of the Minister at Washington?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If it is not to be found in the Supply Bill—

Hon. Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I do not find it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have not examined the items, but I think that has been provided for. I think my honourable friend will find the answer in the estimates that are before us. If he does not, I will supply it to him.