

other. There is no time to fully investigate a complicated subject like this; there is no time to ascertain whether certain elements that were grouped under certain heads rightfully belong to those heads or not, and whether the aggregate of the sums included under those headings can be rightfully compared with those expended by the previous Government, in order to come to the conclusion whether this Government has been economical with the resources placed at its disposal or whether it has been lavish or extravagant. We have no details which can be discussed and compared; but we must take the Bill with due gratitude as it has been presented—a lump sum granted to His Majesty with the formal assent of this House. Amongst the items mentioned by the learned leader of the Opposition with a view to contrasting the expenditures of the former Government with those of the present Government, is one of 10 millions or more to be expended on seeds. Now, this Budget is to run through the whole year, and the agricultural year in this country will end about September or October, and I see no credit given for the sum which will be repaid by the farmers and others—sums which have been secured as an offset to this ten million dollars, amongst other sums which the hon. gentleman has mentioned as a justification for the large public expenditure. But it is not my purpose, it is not the purpose of anybody, this year to severely criticise any item of expenditure, any action, any legislation, or anything which the Government may do. We give them a free hand this year; let them go as they please; but we will hold them responsible at another time for what they do. There is another item to which I might call the attention of the learned leader of the Government in this House, and that is, although we have a diminishing revenue, diminishing in amount, diminishing in volume, the expenses of collecting that revenue have not diminished, and the number of persons who collect that revenue, servants of the Government, have increased two-fold, three-fold, and four-fold; and I would direct his attention when he begins to put in his pruning knife at the beginning of next session, to see whether there are not too many inefficient public servants, and if the revenue of the country continues to decrease—as it probably will—whether or not the number of public servants ought not to be proportioned to the amount of revenue which is to be collected; and if the revenue be diminished, then will be the time for

our Government to look into it, whether the resources of the country are not wasted upon political favourites or upon inefficient public servants. I have pretty well run through the cursory remarks which I intended to make. I do not intend to criticise the Budget which is presented to this House, and it would be useless to do so unless we are permitted, by the regulations of the House and by the functions of the Senate, to enter thoroughly into the details which make up the great aggregate that has been presented by the learned leader of the Government.

The main motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second and third times and passed.

#### SENATORS MACDONALD AND ROBERTSON.

##### MOTION.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Before we adjourn, my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition suggested very properly this morning that we should pass a resolution of esteem to our late colleagues. I therefore beg to move:

That the members of the Senate beg to convey to their late colleague, the Hon. W. J. Macdonald and the Hon. J. E. Robertson, the expression of their sincere regret at the severance of the tie which has hitherto connected them.

They are very sensible of the value of the services rendered to the country by the Hon. W. J. Macdonald, who has been a member of the Senate from British Columbia since that province came into Confederation, and by the Hon. J. E. Robertson since his entry into this Chamber as a member of the Senate from Prince Edward Island, and they will long cherish his pleasant recollections of their kindly presence in the Senate.

The motion was agreed to.

Moved by Hon. Mr. Lougheed:

That the Clerk of the House be authorized to convey this resolution to the gentlemen named.

The motion was agreed to.

#### THE ROBES OF THE SPEAKER.

Hon. Mr. BOYER—Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn might I inquire when we may expect to see you in your official robes? It is rather shocking to us democrats to see our guardian angel without his wings, and mussing his feathers. Could not some arrangement be made with our late Speaker for the renting of those robes for the time being? I think it would add a great deal to the dignity of this House, and as we are about proroguing we will cut rather a poor