

expenditure. It is always easier to find fault with others than to do better ourselves, and the difficulty connected with carrying on our system of Government should not be overlooked in judging of how matters are carried on either as to the collection of revenue or its expenditure.

It is no new thing for me to urge the absolute necessity of retrenchment and economy in our expenditure so as not to exceed our ordinary annual revenue, or to urge the propriety of collecting closely in order to increase our receipts. The difficulty however, arises in carrying into every day practical operation these important obligations. While hundreds of thousands of people practically ignore their obligation to pay government claims, and hold back from payment, and furthermore are clamorous for money for thousands of different objects which they consider legitimate and necessary from the Government, it is hardly possible for a Government to do as they would and satisfy the people of the country.

Our entire system of government may be said to hinge upon our financial condition, with that in good shape—with sufficient revenue to meet the demands of the public service—to meet, say, the administration of justice, our educational institutions, superior, common and benevolent, sufficient to meet demands for agricultural and colonization purposes, to permit of assistance to railway construction in various parts of the Province, to meet the expenses of legislation and of the civil service. With all these provided for as respects money, everything then would work smoothly and satisfactorily. Such a state of things is highly desirable and worthy of every effort from all of us to accomplish.

This state of things does not exist at present, and the problem to be solved is to conduct the public business of the country with efficiency and at the same time economically; to collect what is due the Crown without unduly pressing upon the debtors, and also to limit the expenditure for necessary objects without impairing the proper working of our institutions.

Here is where the difficulties come in. These things are easier to talk about than to carry out, but it is necessary to allude to them from time to time so that all may see our position and feel