

is a tax collector, and a Doomsday Book is being made up every day. It is not at the end of the year. The emissaries of the Government are everywhere, spying out to see where they can supply more taxation. It will be more and more taxation. I would recommend to the honourable leader of the Government (Hon. Sir James Loughheed)—I know he will hear me, although he may be absent—that the Government should consider the possibility of beginning in this country a sinking fund, or by and by, with the lavish expenditure which is going on, our country will not be able to pay interest and will be so overwhelmed in debt that our currency will fall far below what it is at present. The financiers of the world know what the resources of a country are; they know what the amount of the debt is; and the currency fails in proportion to the amount of the country's obligations and the inadequacy of its resources to pay the interest and the principal of its debt.

It is within our recollection that after the war in the United States, notwithstanding what we may call the bounteous resources of that country—its huge territory, its material possessions of every kind and its energetic people—the currency of the United States was \$150 to \$200 of paper money for \$100 in gold. They commenced to economize, they established a sinking fund, they liquidated the debt, and in a very short time the currency of the United States was equal to par in gold. That is the only legitimate and proper course for any government; not to go on, in profligate style, lavishing money here and there, but to commence at once to lop off all extraneous expenditure and to come down to the hard and fast rules of supply and demand in production and expenditure, until Canada once more rights itself and is an independent commercial, financial and political power.

I want to speak a word about this building. It has been very highly eulogized, and I do not agree entirely with the eulogy. I remember the old building. I came here in June, 1867, and those Scotch granite columns of the old building were going up in a green field, and down below, where the fence is, was an old rough stone wall. That building was picturesque in its pretty colour and association, and looked like an eastern palace. The variation in the stones and ornament and windows, and all the rest of it, made the building a very beautiful one. This, of course, is a commodious building. There are a great many offices

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and a great many passages. There is a labyrinth of entrances and exits. I hope none of the senators will be lost in it. The cost of the building, I believe, is as large as that of the public buildings in Albany, New York state. I do not know how much more it is going to cost, but I hope that the amount will be commensurate with the utility of the building, and that the structure will be an ornament and pride to Canada. It was begun at a very bad time, and I hope that every effort will be made to rescue it from being an immense and extraordinary expense out of proportion to its utility for the housing of Parliament.

With regard to the Franchise Bill, I may make this succinct remark, that I believe any Bill will be an improvement on the iniquitous War-time Elections Act—an Act that was odious to a great majority of the people—that was an eyesore and a grievance, and was tolerable only because it was enacted during the stress of the war, when almost anything was justified. I trust that the proposed Franchise Act will be just and equal to all portions of the country; that it will introduce to Parliament men who represent the various classes in the community, and represent, above all, the high ideals of the people in seeking the advancement and the renown and honour of our country; that it will be a measure which reflects the advanced sentiment, the patriotic motives and spirit of co-operation of every province in the Dominion.

I might go on to speak of other topics that were mentioned by the learned mover and seconder of the Address, but I forbear to trespass further on the time of the House. May I add my humble tribute to the acknowledgment that has been made of the immense importance of the visit to Canada by the Prince of Wales. By his genial manner, his bonhomie and his disposition to become acquainted with even the humblest, he endeared himself to every one who came in contact with him. His very high station was represented by his mature dignity, and the goodness of his nature and disposition by his affable manner and his cordial reception of all who came to him. I join in the congratulation, and if Canada should be a separate nationality, according to the dreams of the honourable gentlemen opposite, I hope that the successor of the Duke of Devonshire, who, I hear, is going away, will be His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Hon. JAMES DOMVILLE: Honourable gentlemen, I did not intend to say anything.