

Again if we want to keep our credit good, Mr. Speaker, we must economize. Consider how seriously we are affected in regard to the rate of exchange. At present our dollar is worth only 94½ cents in New York. Moreover, our exports are decreasing. If our credit is to be maintained, we must certainly economize. During the war great extravagance prevailed. This was perhaps unavoidable but now that the war is at an end there should be greater economy in public outlays, and the Government should scrutinize most carefully the public expenditure. At the last session of Parliament the Minister of Finance estimated our expenditure this year would be \$620,000,000 and that our revenue would only be \$280,000,000. I would, therefore, echo the advice which my hon. friend (Mr. J. H. Sinclair) gave the Government, and tell them to economize in every direction they can. Let them cut off the expenditure on the Official Record which costs about \$80,000, and is not, probably, worth 80 cents. Let the Government also cut off private cars. An investigation was held by the Public Accounts Committee last session, at which it was shown that the repairs to one private car—which I think was formerly used by the ex-Minister of Militia and is now doubtless used by his successor—cost \$30,000.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Shame.

Mr. PROULX: And still ministers will insist upon travelling in private cars. Last spring there were as many as three private cars attached to the same train. Now that, Mr. Speaker, means a very large outlay. If we want to reduce the public expenditure economy must be practised in all the departments. There should be a pruning down of the Civil Service to what the actual necessities of the service demand, and no more unnecessary appointments should be made. In spite of the urgent need for economy, we still see the Civil Service Commission advertising for different appointments in all kinds of inspectorships. There are inspectors for potatoes and for nearly every branch of agricultural industry. Some of these inspectors, I believe, are practically useless, and the services which they render are not at all commensurate with the cost to the country which the positions entail.

There is one other matter to which I would like briefly to refer. The Government has spent a lot of money in sending Dominion Police, or other police, around the country to prosecute the poor defaulters. I believe more money has been spent for

this purpose than has been collected in fines imposed on the defaulters. Some of these police have been persecutors as well as prosecutors, and have brought the defaulters long distances to trial. Only the other day we read in the newspapers that defaulters were brought from the northern part of Quebec to the city of Ottawa for trial.

These men should not have been brought down here, a distance of three hundred miles, to be tried before the magistrate of another province when they might just as well have been dealt with by the local magistrate in Quebec. Some of these so-called defaulters were found not guilty, being medically unfit, or having been regularly exempted, but by reason of the course pursued by the police authorities they were put to the expense of travelling expenses and counsel's fees.

As the Peace Treaty is signed, Mr. Speaker, I would appeal to the Government to exercise a little more clemency, and I wish to direct my appeal to my hon. friend the Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty), who is Acting Prime Minister. I know he wants peace and harmony to prevail in this country. Well, it seems to me that the best means to bring about that very desirable condition would be to grant a general amnesty, especially at such a time as this, when we have amongst us His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the future ruler of this Empire. The French Government have taken the course I am suggesting, even the German Government have done so, and certainly this is an opportune time for a general amnesty to be granted. Why continue to prosecute these poor fellows? I believe that at least seventy-five per cent of them are defaulters through no fault of their own. Most of them were honourably exempted. They were mostly farmers with exemption certificates, either from the Local Exemption Tribunal or from the Appeal Exemption Tribunal, and thought they were free from military service, while others were medically unfit for service. I again urge, Mr. Speaker, that the Government should recommend to His Excellency the Governor General the adoption of the course I have suggested—the granting of a general amnesty to military defaulters.

Mr. AUGUSTE THEOPHILE LEGER (Kent, N.B.): Mr. Speaker, I have much pleasure in adding my congratulations to those already tendered to the mover and seconder of the Address. Both gentlemen performed their duty with credit to them-