

will be verified, and I am convinced that we shall find that considerable further reduction can be made. I may be in error, but I believe, and am in hopes, that the work of the Senate will help the Audit Commission, which will pass upon the activities of the various departments.

My honourable friend claims that business men should be called upon to examine into the Departments and into the expenditure of the Public Works Department and the Railway Department. Whatever commission is appointed, whatever body of business men is called upon, their work will have to be accepted by the Government and by Parliament. I draw the attention of my honourable friend to this situation: during the many years when he sat in the Government he must have done similar work, but his time was mainly during the war period when money did not count. There was an orgy of expenditure. Everybody went wild. We must sober up, now that we have to pay the bills. My honourable friend has sat in Council considering Estimates and has weighed the items one by one, week after week. On that Board were business men who could bring their experience to bear upon the problems which they had to examine and solve. I may tell my honourable friend that for many weeks this Government has examined into the Estimates and weighed every item of expenditure, and he will judge of our work when the Estimates are brought down. He will find the reductions quite to his liking.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: I am glad to hear that.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Now, we could not have balanced the Budget, except by a reduction in expenditure. But there are expenditures which seem to be important and are being called for everywhere. I have laid down for myself the rule that at present they must be either essential or remunerative. My honourable friend knows that a Cabinet composed of fifteen or sixteen members representing various Provinces and in close touch with the people may not always see eye to eye with the representative from this Chamber. There are requirements which they know better than does the representative from this body. There are obligations upon them which they feel must be met. One has but his limited view of things. The representatives from the Commons in the Cabinet have their local knowledge of affairs, and of the needs of their respective provinces.

My honourable friend has said that there is considerable uneasiness throughout the land. Yet he will recognize that general conditions in the country are good. Production during

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the past year has been large. Our trade expansion, our foreign business has increased. Our transportation system has shown better results. Employment has been plentiful throughout the land. There have been times this year when there was even a shortage of labour in some centres. Public finance is better. The announcement which we are able to make shows that. We have an increased income and a decreased expenditure. My honourable friend must of course take that statement without having the Estimates before him. I am desirous of having him look minutely into the next Estimates to be brought down. I know that there are shadows in the picture. I know that we have an emigration problem, but this problem is easily explained. Wages in the towns and cities of the United States have been double those of our own people. There is a temptation for the wage-earner to cross the line and obtain that larger wage. On our farms, in our rural communities, both in the East and in the West there has been uneasiness, there has been discontent. The reason is not difficult to find. In many places production has been greater, but the prices have been low. Our people who have crossed to the south have not been going to the farms. Had they done so they would have found on the other side as bad a condition in the rural parts as existed in their own neighbourhood in Canada. They have been going to the towns and cities.

Hon. Mr. DAVID: And to the manufacturing centres.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend says to the manufacturing centres, but he must not forget that there has been cause for a labour shortage on the other side of the line. That labour shortage is due to the practical prohibition or considerable restriction of immigration from European countries, but not from Canada. Canadians have therefore had an opportunity which has been denied to wage-earners from Europe. There is in some rural communities in Canada a certain amount of dissatisfaction because during the war the people enjoyed higher prices and lived more comfortably; but to-day the prices are normal or at pre-war levels, whereas the things they buy have not come down in proportion. It is very easy for anyone to increase his personal or domestic budget, but we all know how hard it is to reduce it. One of the fundamental reasons for the present disturbing elements in our economic field in this country has been the wage paid to labour in towns and cities and on our railways. I am not recriminating. By reason of war conditions they obtained a considerable increase in