

quired, it will be for the Government at that time to consider what measure of taxation will be necessary to meet the situation.

Mr. MACDONALD: I apprehend my hon. friend to say that this is such a peculiar and unusual form of taxation that he does not wish to commit himself to the suggestion that this will be a permanent form of taxation in Canada, if further taxation shall be necessary. We all hope that the war will come to an end before 1917. While we trust that the successes that have taken place lately are but the harbinger of still greater successes in the near future, yet it does seem to me that in view of the financial obligations that the country has to assume, my hon. friend will necessarily, as a cautious minister, have to look forward to obtaining very large sums of money in various ways. Before the Bill founded upon these resolutions reaches its second reading the House ought to have some information as to what this war has cost us. Nothing but statements of the most general character have been made in this respect, although we have been sitting for over two months. The House does not know how much the war cost us during the past year; it does not know how much it is costing us to-day. In England statements in this regard have been made quite freely and regularly to the House and to the country. If this measure is intended to meet the situation that has been created by the unusual expenditure in connection with the war it seems to me that we ought to have that information before it is embodied in a statute.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: There is no desire on the part of the Government to withhold information as to the cost of the war. My hon. friend will recall that in the Budget speech I dealt with the matter of our war expenditure, and showed the amount which had been expended for war purposes. I may say that we are spending at the rate of about \$11,000,000 or \$12,000,000 a month upon the war; our expenditures here and in the United Kingdom are running to about that amount. I am speaking from memory, but I am quite sure that I am substantially correct in my statement.

Mr. MACDONALD: That is about \$350,000 a day.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Yes, I stated also to the House that the British Government was supplying our men actually at the

[Sir Thomas White.]

front with rations, equipment and munitions. In the nature of things, it is not possible for us to settle that account with the British Government until a later date, possibly until the war is over. It may be that that account will be settled on the basis of an estimate; it is difficult to see how precise accounts could be submitted and dealt with. Just to recall to my hon. friend's mind what I stated in the Budget, I shall read from page 845 of Hansard:

From the outbreak of war to the end of January, 1916, our war expenditure amounted to \$158,000,000.

Last year the Prime Minister, in introducing his War Appropriation Bill providing for an estimated expenditure of \$100,000,000, gave in general outline the purpose of the expenditure. I think he also laid on the table of the House details of the expenditure to date. The Prime Minister will bring down during this session a further war appropriation Bill for probably \$250,000,000. I think he stated in the House the other day that the Militia

10 p.m. Department was preparing a statement of the expenditure up to date, but enlarged upon the fact that it was quite a formidable task, and that time would be required before he could present these details of expenditure. I do not think that I could make any further statement even in connection with the second reading of the Bill, but if my hon. friend is not satisfied with the statement which I am making, I can get the information a little more accurately from my department. As I say, I think that during the past twelve months the expenditure has been about \$11,000,000 or \$12,000,000 a month.

Mr. MACDONALD: Exclusive of our share of Imperial expenditure?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Exclusive of our share of Imperial expenditure, which can only be determined at a later date. It is to be borne in mind that as our forces increase, our expenditure increases. Therefore the amount which we shall expend during the coming fiscal year will depend upon the number of our forces and the time at which enlistments occurred. That is to say, we might have 300,000 men in June, 350,000 in August, and so on.

Mr. MACDONALD: The minister has given us the clearest explanation that we have had, and I assume we will have a fuller and more accurate statement when the Prime Minister moves his vote for \$250,000,000. It would be desirable for the