

is not a precedent which I think ought to be established and I leave it with that expression of opinion in which I feel sure the whole House will agree. The Minister of Finance may not find so willing an opposition at another time, and it would become a question, and should become a question with an opposition as to whether it should encourage such slovenliness on the part of a Finance Minister and a government.

With the story that the Finance Minister has told of increasing revenues and increasing expenditures, *pari passu* with increasing revenues, with larger foreign trade in both volume and value, and with general prospects in the country indicating continued prosperity and development, no one on this side of the House and no one in the country sympathizes with any feeling of less pleasure than the Minister of Finance himself has had in detailing it to the House. We on this side of the House and the citizens of Canada generally, are glad that Canada has a large measure of prosperity. We hope it may never be the fate of any succeeding Finance Minister to have to give other than a favourable story of the year's progress in Canada to a parliament that is waiting for his words.

Whilst we rejoice in that and are glad we are careful not to become idolators and bow down and worship these men as though they were gods and the authors of all this prosperity. We find the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues before us and we consider them no more than plain ordinary citizens like ourselves. We do not know that they have any special connecting wires with an all-wise and bountiful Providence by which they establish communications and, acquire information enabling them to take steps which shall be especially beneficial to themselves while they are in office. We do not look at them in that way, we look at them, in the prayer-meeting phraseology, as poor fallible creatures like ourselves with a fair amount of wisdom and experience, very, very liable to make mistakes, very, very liable to yield to temptation and very, very prone to blunder into situations thinking they are stepping almost into the Promised Land, situations from which, when they have once plunged into them, they with tears, and in sackcloth and ashes pray for some means of deliverance. In some such hole as that my right hon. friend and his colleagues, through the ministers who sit one on each side of him, have the extreme felicity of finding themselves on this very date.

The story of 1910 has been told us in the blue-books and the minister, of course, has not attempted to throw any light upon

that; that is a reading out of the pages that have been before us all. It may, however, not be unwise to make a comment here and there, to stick a pin in occasionally at this passage and the other, not so as to destroy the feeling of content at the story of 1910 but, by way of admonition, if possible to point a moral and adorn a tale which shall be beneficial in succeeding years to those who may be conducting the affairs of this country. Old history is still old history and I do not propose to go far back in connection with that except just to remind my hon. friend how exceedingly juvenile he was or how exceedingly inexperienced he was, or how exceedingly unvarnished he was when, in 1896 and thereabouts, he promised to govern this country with some millions less of yearly taxation than it had been governed with by his opponents at that time in the government, to recall to his mind how he was going to marshal his army of good, pure, Grit free-traders and march upon this great citadel of Ottawa, where were entrenched the men who would dare to propose \$40,000,000 as the yearly expenditure of this Dominion of Canada, who were draining from the pockets of the poor people of this country at that time some \$27,700,000 of taxation per year.

Just to remind my right hon. friend that it is not safe always to attempt to forecast the future or to use against your opponents a weapon which comes back in future years upon yourself, I have to say that the gentlemen who were going to rule this country by taking from the people taxation of less than \$27,000,000 annually, come down to-day, and, with clapping hands and shouts of approval hear the Finance Minister tell us that next year he is going to take \$89,355,128 out of the people of this country as taxes. We were sinners beyond redemption when we proposed to take \$27,700,000; these are saints beyond praise when they propose to take \$89,355,000. So things have changed. There is an increase of taxation amounting to about 195 per cent as between the year 1896 and the year 1910-11. Then, the total revenue of the country in 1896 was in the neighbourhood of \$36,600,000. We were vehemently denounced because we raised so much money from the people of the country. The revenue this last year has been \$101,503,000, and next year my hon. friend is looking for about \$117,500,000. So that in the matter of taxation and in the matter of revenue, including taxation, there have been vast strides forward in this country. Not only have our railways to a certain extent increased, not only has our trade increased, and it is well and pleasant to dwell upon these features, but we must remember that our taxation also has increased; and I absolutely dissent from the state-