

BUDGET SPEECH

OF

THE HON. C. R. MITCHELL

TREASURER OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

Delivered on the 21st March, 1918

IN THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

On Moving the House into Committee of Supply

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



EDMONTON:

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we have heard so much about are being rapidly discharged and I think they could be altogether discharged if the people who obtained the benefit were so disposed; I believe every dollar could be paid off now if the people took the trouble to do so. When we take these facts into consideration it is a matter for congratulation that these healthy conditions are the result of real production and honest toil. They do not originate in any such thing as a trade boom or a real estate boom, and we feel the better satisfied when we realize that they are of a permanent and not of a temporary nature.

THE BURDENS OF WAR.

ENLISTMENTS.

Now with regard to the burdens of the war, let me first refer to the enlistments of this Province. We find that although Alberta has contributed in a large measure to the necessities of the army in connection with food supplies, we have also given our quota of men to the trenches and put our dollars into war loans. Up to the end of last year the enlistments in Alberta amounted to 36,486 men. These are the latest statistics available on that point. I do not know what progress has been made since the beginning of the year under the Military Service Act. However, we have sent our food and our produce and we have sent men in a very large proportion as compared with other Provinces, and we have also done well in a monetary way.

VICTORY LOAN.

*The Victory Loan which last Fall was so successfully carried out produced in Alberta \$16,515,150, equalling a contribution of \$33.26 per head of population. In one city of this Province—I might as well mention the name—the City of Calgary, one person in every 3.89 subscribed. This I understand is a record for cities in the Dominion of Canada. In addition to these subscriptions there have been other contributions. There are the contributions to the Canadian Patriotic Fund. Let me give you a statement of the manner in which the people of this Province have contributed for patriotic and other relief purposes, and I think, considering our population and the class of people—for we are not a rich people individually, but are poor individually, we are a laboring and producing population and therefore there are very few among us who are capable of making large individual contributions—we have good reason for self-congratulation. I see a smile on the faces of some. Well, there are people, perhaps, in this Province who could give, if they would, large donations. Some of them may have, and others I know have not. However, with respect to the public contributions they may be tabulated under the following heads: Belgian Relief, Jewish Relief, Sailors' Relief, Serbian Relief, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Patriotic Fund, Tobacco Fund and Halifax Relief Fund. In the year 1914 the total subscriptions of the public—and this is apart from Government subscriptions—amounted to \$396,249.26. That was for 1914 and 1915. In 1916 it increased to more than \$800,000.00. In 1917 it rose to the enormous sum of \$1,249,555.00, or a total of over \$2,500,000. In addition to that the Province itself has contributed some \$380,701.16. The time, however, Mr. Speaker, has arrived when these burdens, particularly the Patriotic Fund,

* See Statements Nos. 4 and 5.

have reached a point where there must be a more equitable distribution. The Government has, therefore, thought fit to secure such distribution by means of taxation, and already there has been introduced a Bill dealing with that portion of the Patriotic and Relief work—a Bill designed to raise funds for that purpose and at the same time to raise additional funds for the general purposes of the Province.

STATEMENT NO. 4.

STATEMENT OF MONEYS RAISED IN ALBERTA DURING THE GREAT WAR, FOR PATRIOTIC AND RELIEF WORK.

Public Contributions.

	1914-15	1916	1917	Total
Belgian Relief -----	Not	available	by years	\$ 86,000.00
Jewish Relief -----	Not	available	by years	9,750 00
Sailors' Relief -----	Not	available	by years	15,168.00
Serbian Relief -----	Not available	\$1,303 00	\$ 3,339.91	4,642 91
British Red Cross -----	\$ 3,281 52	2,570.16	38,012.00	43,012 00
Canadian Red Cross -----	42,738.74	171,245.08	341,317.70	555,301.52
Patriotic Fund -----	350,229 00	688,416 70	766,886.29	1,834,245.70
Tobacco Fund (O.S.) -----				15,000 00
Halifax Relief -----			100,000.00	105,000.00
	<u>\$396,249.26</u>	<u>\$863,534.94</u>	<u>\$1,249,555.90</u>	<u>\$2,668,120.13</u>

In addition to the above total of \$2,668,120.13 the Government of this Province has contributed **\$380,701.16**.

The time has come, however, when a more equitable distribution of these patriotic burdens must be devised. The Government of the Province has therefore decided to secure it by means of Taxation.

STATEMENT NO. 5.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR PATRIOTIC PURPOSES SINCE OUTBREAK OF THE GREAT WAR.

	1915	1916	1917	Total
Con. Home Belgian Soldiers	\$ 486.66			\$ 486.66
Belgian Relief -----	1,000.00	\$ 15,053.33		16,053.33
Gift of Oats to Britain -----		271,815.81		271,815.81
Catholic & Huguenot Relief -----		1,999.99		1,999.99
Recruiting -----		3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	4,000.00
Patriotic Fund Act. North and South -----		11,500.00	13,500.00	25,000.00
Returned Soldiers -----		8,606.38	15,688.99	24,295.37
Halifax Relief (1917 only) for 1918 see below -----			50 00	50.00
Boy Scouts -----		1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
British Sailors -----			5,000.00	5,000.00
Military Y. M. C. A. -----			5,000.00	5,000.00
French Wounded Emergency -----			10,000.00	10,000.00
Red Cross -----			5,000.00	5,000.00
Miscellaneous -----			426.11	426.11
	<u>\$1,486.66</u>	<u>\$312,975.51</u>	<u>\$56,665.10</u>	<u>\$371,127.27</u>
Grant to Halifax Relief, 1918 -----				10,000.00
				<u>\$381,127.27</u>
		Less -----		426.11
				<u>\$380,701.16</u>

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OF

THE HON. C. R. MITCHELL

TREASURER OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DELIVERED ON THE 17th MARCH

1919

IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

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STATEMENT NO. 4

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR PATRIOTIC PURPOSES
SINCE OUTBREAK OF GREAT WAR

	1914-16	1917	1918	Total
Con. Home Belgian Soldiers ---\$	486.66			\$ 486.66
Belgian Relief -----	16,053.33			16,053.33
Gift of Oats to Britain -----	271,815.81			271,815.81
Catholic and Huguenot Relief	1,999.99			1,999.99
Recruiting -----	3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		4,000.00
Patriotic Fund, North and South	11,500.00	13,500.00	\$800,000.00	825,000.00
Returned Soldiers -----	8,606.38	15,688.99	38,328.08	62,623.45
Halifax Relief -----		50.00		50.00
Boy Scouts -----	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	3,000.00
Navy League of Canada -----		5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
Military Y.M.C.A. -----		5,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
French Wounded Emergency ---		10,000.00		10,000.00
Red Cross -----		5,000.00		5,000.00
Great War Veterans' Ass'n ---			2,580.00	2,580.00
Polish Army Hospital Fund ---			1,000.00	1,000.00
Knights of Columbus---				
Military Huts -----			2,500.00	2,500.00
Western Veteran -----			400.00	400.00
	<u>\$314,462.17</u>	<u>\$56,238.99</u>	<u>\$855,808.08</u>	<u>\$1,226,509.24</u>