

As I have just said, since the majority of hon. members understand French I do not wish to repeat in English what I have said already in French. However, I should like to repeat one of my first remarks. The present budget is extremely important, and it is the duty of my colleagues to rise and express their points of view or the opinions they have received from their respective ridings. As you may have noticed, it is not my intention to criticize the government on the past administration. Yesterday is yesterday and to-day is to-day. Therefore let us thrust aside the criticism made by many hon. members and express fundamental ideas which will be of benefit to the country in the future.

I should have liked to see a change made in the twenty-five per cent luxury tax which was imposed on jewellers during the war. The population accepted this tax while hostilities continued, but to-day they are asking for relief. Personally I believe that their demands are justified. They are willing to accept a twelve and one-half per cent luxury tax deducted at the source. Some contend that this would cause additional work for wholesalers, but that is not so, because already they are organized to collect the eight per cent sales tax. I would add that at present certain articles are sold in hardware and other stores without the payment of a luxury tax when in fact these articles should come under the luxury tax.

Along with a great number of members I have received representations with regard to the double taxation imposed upon soft drinks. I was hoping that at least one of these taxes would be done away with, especially when we realize that the consumer of soft drinks is the daily worker in the country upon whom we have already imposed many other taxes. These workers accomplished a great war effort; let us grant them some relaxation.

There is a rumour that the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Fournier) may in the near future distribute new flags to all the public buildings, but before that is done this question will have to be brought up on the floor of this house. The flag is at present the subject of headlines in the newspapers, and of conversation in practically every home in the country. I have been informed that some of my colleagues are in favour of the union jack, while others are in favour of the red ensign; therefore I consider it my duty to express myself plainly. I hope the new flag will not be a borrowed flag but a distinctive flag, in other words a flag of our own. May I borrow the words which have been used by many in the past: A flag is chosen on principles and

[Mr. Boivin.]

facts. If this house does not come to an agreement in due course I shall rise to express myself on the subject.

In conclusion I should like to read the last paragraph of the address delivered by His Excellency the Governor General on his arrival in Canada, and to ask you, Mr. Speaker, and the members of this house to keep it in mind:

Although I have now said farewell to arms, this does not mean rest and relaxation. On the contrary, there is a lot of splendid constructive work to be done, and it will be my aim and privilege to devote myself wholeheartedly to the duties of my office which will allow me to watch with sympathy the growing prosperity of the Canadian people who have earned for themselves by their own endeavours the great position they hold in the world to-day.

If everyone keeps that paragraph in mind it will be to the benefit of a greater Canada.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, there is a phrase: happy are those who expect nothing because they will not be disappointed. I have a great deal of admiration and respect for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley). During the six years of war he has had a very heavy task to perform. On the whole I believe he has won the admiration, if not the support, of a great many people in this country. He is one of our native-born citizens of the maritimes, and he became a national figure in that local setting.

In my opinion there is no royal road to the return to happier days, just as there is no royal road to learning; and there is no short cut to peace and prosperity. It has to be earned and worked for and deserved. The bulk of our people, after listening to those who preach a new utopia and a new world to come, I believe expected in this budget some relief from taxation. There was a large number, however, who did not expect it, because they know the ruthless destruction which takes place in every war, and they know that the last war surpassed every war in history in destruction. There was three times the destruction in the last war that there was in the war of 1914-18. So while many people were led to expect a new utopia after this war, I believe it will be a long time coming.

I have a few constructive suggestions to make to the government. Others were made by the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) the other evening in his address in this debate. We should secure if we possibly can a more modern method of preparing and presenting budgets. The present method is not the fault of the finance minister, because he is simply following the practice of responsible government of the past two hundred years. Under the principle of respon-