

Mr. PORTEOUS: I made no statement; I said I understood that the hon. gentleman ran as a straight Progressive in the last election, and he is reported in the Parliamentary Guide as having done so.

Mr. ROWE: Take it out of the Guide.

Mr. PORTEOUS: Shortly after coming to this house I listened to the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) giving an analysis of the 1930 election figures, and I wish to quote from his speech on that occasion as reported in Hansard:

May I say at once that the victory which my hon. friends have achieved is much more apparent than real. They sit opposite in numbers considerably greater than those who are sitting on this side of the house. Nevertheless when the vote is analysed, when we look into the figures of the official returns of the votes cast on July 28, it will be seen that the number of those who voted for hon. members sitting on this side of the house was considerably in excess of the number who voted for hon. gentlemen opposite.

He goes on to say that the total vote cast on July 28, according to the official figures, was 3,898,995, that of this vote the Conservative party received 1,909,955 votes, and that the total vote opposed to the government was 1,989,040. I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that that is a very unfair analysis of the vote at that time because, as a matter of fact every Liberal candidate in that election was a government candidate, and every candidate who opposed a Liberal candidate was opposed to the then government. A true analysis of the vote in 1930, gives a total vote of 3,898,995, of which the Liberal party received 1,714,860, and there was opposed to the government 2,184,135 votes.

Further, on looking over the votes in the last four elections I find that there was opposed to the Liberal party in every one of those four cases a majority of the votes polled. At no time, in other words, did the right hon. gentleman now leading the opposition have the confidence of the people of Canada, as expressed by a majority vote, to assume the portfolio of Prime Minister and to lead the government. In 1921, the Liberal party had 117 members in this house; in 1925, 101; in 1926, 116; and in 1930, 88. I go further and say that the Liberal party has never received a majority vote in any general election in this country since 1908.

There has been much talk among the members of the opposition with regard to trade expansion and trade relations. Looking over the trade returns of Canada during the periods of Liberal regime I find that our imports

increased from a total of \$747,804,000 in 1922, to \$1,248,273,000 in 1930. Our exports in 1926, amounted to \$1,328,700,000 and they had decreased to \$1,144,938,000 in 1930. So during the regime of the Liberal government there was a general decrease in the trade of Canada. During the ten years from 1920 to 1930, we had an unfavourable trade balance with the United States of \$2,120,142,484, and in that same period our gross debt, dominion, provincial and municipal, increased by \$3,872,136,780. Hon. gentlemen opposite speak slightly of a favourable trade balance, but I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if a man buys more than he sells and continues to do so until his credit is exhausted, what happens? Everybody knows, and it is the same with a nation as with the individual. We cannot keep on having unfavourable trade balances and remain solvent, and therefore I say that the hon. Minister of Finance is to be complimented on the showing he made in his budget speech, that during the first eleven months of the fiscal year we had a favourable trade balance of \$70,000,000.

With regard to trade and taxation I have before me figures showing the taxes collected from duties between the years 1922 and 1930, and I learn that the Liberal party collected from the people of Canada ever increasing amounts of duty, beginning with \$71,864,000 in 1922 and reaching \$122,122,000 in 1930. The hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth has said the only way to balance the budget is to cut down expenditures. I challenge his sincerity in this statement, because of the fact that any demands made by this government to cut down expenditures have been opposed by hon. members opposite. It is all very well to talk about cutting down expenditures in a wholesale way, but when the items come before the house and are vigorously opposed we have evidence of the insincerity of such suggestions. The total expenditures of the dominion today, because of expenditures for unemployment relief, old age pensions and other things, have greatly increased. Yet hon. members in the far corner of the house come to us at this time with a new movement known as the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, having for its purpose the socialization of our whole system.

The people's ability to pay will at some time reach its limit. It is not possible for one half of the people of Canada to keep the other half; therefore we must work towards economy. The amendment to the amendment has been based upon the inflation of currency. From time to time Australia has been set up