

those who pit one race against another, are not worthy of our confidence. Democracy protects our most prized freedom. It even protects its detractors.

In concluding, I hope I have shown that the true autonomists are those who have worked sincerely, conscientiously, intelligently, tactfully and with common sense to attain the real autonomy of our country. Those who refuse to meet the Dominion will have to answer to the intelligent electors of the province of Quebec for their insincerity and for the harm which they are causing daily to our good old province of Quebec.

Mr. FULTON: Does the hon. member know that under the regime of the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, conservative prime minister of Canada, this country, for the first time as an independent and sovereign nation, signed the treaty of Versailles? On that occasion, the prime minister of the day fought resolutely, even against the British, in order that Canada might take part in that conference.

Mr. TREMBLAY: I did not quite understand the remarks of the hon. member. However I know that Sir Robert Borden was not at the Versailles conference in 1919 for I happened to be on leave in Paris at that time and I am positive that Mr. Borden was not there.

Mr. FULTON: I shall repeat my question in English.

(Text):

My question was this: Does he not know that it was the Prime Minister of that day, Sir Robert Borden, who fought even against the English and obtained for Canada a place as an independent nation at the peace conference and in connection with the peace treaty signed at Versailles?

Mr. TREMBLAY: I do know that.

Mr. J. A. ROSS (Souris): May I, first of all, offer my congratulations to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott). I well remember when he was a new member in this house in 1940, as I was. He has come a long way since that day. In presenting the 1947 budget to parliament on April 29, he certainly made much of a rather disappointing budget, which he said would give an average reduction of twenty-nine per cent in personal income tax, or fifty-four per cent reduction for the single taxpayer in the lowest income tax bracket. He did not go farther and tell us that in that bracket it would mean a saving of \$6 for the taxpayer, and that in the case of the seven per cent reduction which is for the much higher bracket, on \$200,000 it would mean a saving of \$10,385.

[Mr. Tremblay.]

Lest I be misunderstood, I want to say right here that we do appreciate the reductions which have been offered; but, coupled with that statement, I must say that the people of Canada were expecting much more along other lines. No increase is allowed in the exemptions, which are now \$750 for single people, \$1,500 for those who are married and \$1,700 for a married couple with two children. We maintain that these exemptions should be at least \$1,000 for single persons, and \$2,000 for married people.

This budget distinctly discriminates against parents of families. It in no way encourages family life in Canada. That has been the condition in this country for some time, and I wish to give a short example. Let us take three persons, each earning \$3,000. Of course that is above the average because, as has been pointed out, the great mass of our people are not able to pay any tax. I am sorry that they are not. At any rate, in the case of the single person receiving \$3,000 the gain in the tax reduction is \$172.50; the childless married man gains \$112.50; and the parent of six gains only \$67.50. Yet the percentage tax reductions were 29, 29, and 31 per cent respectively in these cases I have cited.

At the \$3,000 level the family allowance for children is almost entirely repayable as income tax, while in the higher brackets it disappears altogether, so that it does not help in any way whatever.

Surely now, two years after the war, something should have been done for family people throughout the country. Up until 1946 a married woman was allowed to earn as high as \$660 without taxation. This figure was reduced to \$250 in the 1946 budget and now remains at that figure. A levelling-up process should have taken place. Many married nurses and other skilled women are indifferent about working these days, though there is great need for people of this type. This tax affects the production of much required foodstuffs. The farmers' wife should be allowed a greater exemption in respect of dairy produce raised on the farm such as poultry, eggs, garden produce and so on. I wish to endorse the request made by my colleague the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Miller) when he suggested some time ago and again yesterday that there should be an exemption for the married couple on the farm of at least \$500 for the production of dairy products or of pork products on the farm. If that were done it would have a most desirable effect and, spread over the whole country, it is surprising what added production it would bring about in hogs and dairy products at this time.