

monwealth of nations. For some time there has not been an imperial conference at which the various members of the British commonwealth could state their views. We have had no imperial parliament to speak for us. We are developing separate policies in the various nations of the commonwealth, and you cannot have a commonwealth that will endure if the various nations comprising it pursue independent policies."

At no time in the history of the empire has it been more necessary for the dominion of Canada to give support, even if it is only moral support, to the motherland. Our foreign policy should be wrapped up with that of the mother country. Never has it been more necessary that this should be done than now. There is no use in saying that we can depend upon pan-Americanism and the Monroe doctrine. We depended on them in the past and they were found wanting. We are entirely dependent upon the mother country for our liberty and freedom. I am surprised that something has not been said along the line of what Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Wilfrid Laurier stated, that when England is at war Canada also is at war. I believe that if the time comes again this country will do its duty towards the motherland as it has always done in the past.

The government would be well advised to send at once all the food we can possibly spare for the people in the old land. Instead of that, they have been begging the question all along. The strength and unity of the British empire have been built up by centuries of statesmanship. The dominions, once colonies, have become independent nations under the crown. In Palestine the situation goes from bad to worse for lack of statesmanship; while the little kingdom of Sarawak has been bludgeoned into accepting the status of crown colony in place of its former independence.

Discard preference and let foreigners swamp empire markets and you create unemployment and sacrifice one of the main factors which have welded the British empire into the greatest influence for good since the coming of Christianity. But this is exactly what the government have threatened to do.

The British empire came into being by the colonization of overseas territories and the reservation of the trade of those territories to the mother country. A strong commercial position was built up but as times changed the system was modified. Trade was extended to foreign countries but advantages were given both to Britain and to the colonies by lower rates of duty than those imposed on foreigners.

[Mr. Church.]

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr. Golding): Order. The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. CHURCH: Well, Mr. Speaker, there will be another opportunity.

Mrs. GLADYS STRUM (Qu'Appelle): I cannot share the enthusiasm of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) or the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. McCann) for the budget. I do not know what handling money does to people, but it makes these two ministers genial, and I suggest that it might be a good idea to try it on all the Canadian people and see what it would do for their dispositions.

We were all pleased, however, to have this statement of the Minister of Finance:

Today we have just ended a year in which our accounts show a surplus—a surplus larger than the accumulated total of all the previous surpluses in our history.

With that for a financial background you would think that something worth while for the Canadian family would be done, and yet we find that very little is proposed for the relief of the Canadian family in spite of the fact that, according to the minister's own words, more than half of the families in Canada have incomes that fall below the income tax levels, or less than \$1,500 for a married couple; and that kind of family income in Canada gives rise to *Health* magazine, which is the publication of the Health League of Canada, pointing out what the Marsh report uncovered a few years ago. In its latest issue this magazine says:

One of the largest contributions of the Marsh report was to place in the bright spotlight the shameful income situation of Canadian families. Of every three of our families, two have incomes below a level sufficient to maintain decency and health, one in three falls below even an existence minimum—an income quite insufficient to cover even the bare necessities of life. Small wonder that the giants of hunger, misery and squalor have roamed the land.

The majority of Canadian families lack protection for life and health because of inadequate family income, and they are also victims of bad housing. They have no provision for illness and no provision for comfortable old age. In fact this budget makes the rich richer and the poor poorer because of the price increases through the removal of price ceilings and through the removal of subsidies. It fails in the redistribution of national income, which is part of the Liberal platform; and I say "platform" advisedly and not "policy", because the policy is the direct opposite.

In contrast to what we have done for the Canadian family I want to point out what