

The Budget—Mr. Fraser (Cariboo)

not think for a moment that British Columbia has been treated any better than any other province that was in necessitous circumstances.

Then we have the outstanding feature, so far as I am concerned, of the whole relief program; that is, the assistance that has been extended in the drought stricken areas of Saskatchewan. For a considerable period of time we took care of practically 300,000 people in that area, and at present I believe something like half that number are still being supported by the government. That is a national responsibility; these people have suffered calamity and they are entitled to the support they are receiving. We only hope that in a very short time conditions will be such that they will be able to take care of themselves. As nearly as I can figure it out, and I may be wrong, the total amount spent by the government in connection with relief is about \$175,000,000, but the demand for relief seems to be worse at present than it has been in the past. I do not understand why that should be so. With improved conditions and with the assistance that has been extended to the provinces and municipalities I do not understand why we do not see some improvement in general conditions, but apparently, from what has taken place in Montreal during the past few days, these people in the provinces and municipalities seem to have thrown up their hands entirely and said they could not go on any longer. I cannot see that angle at all. I think they should have a little more courage; with all due deference to those gentlemen I think if they put a little more effort into their work of taking care of local matters of this kind they would not have to call on the federal government so much.

I think all hon. members will remember what happened in 1932 when the house was considering the Ottawa agreements. The opposition claimed that we were ruining our foreign trade. They said we were not going to have any more foreign trade, that no one would do business with us. Since that time, however, we have gone on and made trade treaties with foreign countries to the advantage of both this country and those foreign countries. We have done just as the Liberals did when they were in office, except that we have made better and more equitable trade arrangements which will stand up under any sort of criticism they have to offer. The most astonishing feature of the whole situation is that when these treaties come up in the house for review we do not hear any opposition to them. Hon. gentlemen opposite know they cannot be criticised.

Mr. MUNN: Did you make any treaties with our nearest neighbour, the United States?

[Mr. J. A. Fraser.]

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): I shall have a word to say about that in a moment, if my hon. friend will be patient. We have entered into trade agreements with France, Poland, Germany, Austria and Brazil, and the other day we were told that treaties are pending with two other important foreign countries. I do not know whether or not the United States is one of those countries, but we all know that negotiations with that country are under way at the present time. Hon. gentlemen opposite seem rather afraid that we may be rather successful in making a good treaty with that country.

Mr. MUNN: No, I am all for it.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): Certainly my hon. friend is all for it. He will be all for it after we pass it, too; he will not have a word to say about it, but just the same he will go out in the country and say this government is no good.

Mr. MUNN: They will leave it to the next government.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): The next government will be all right, too.

Now I should like to say a few words in regard to tariff matters, and I should like my hon. friend from Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) to put down his newspaper and listen to me for a moment. He is the chap who talked about the ramparts of ruin that were thrown around this country by this government, and I want to tell him something if he will listen for a moment. To listen to hon. gentlemen opposite one would think this government had imposed unbearable taxation on the people due to the application of excessive duties. He spoke about the duty collected per capita. Hon. members could get this information themselves. I think this fellow, this hon. member, is pretty intelligent, and the other day when he made his ramparts-of-ruin speech he must have known the facts. In 1911 after fifteen years—or something like that—of Liberal government they collected from the people of Canada per capita in tariff duties \$10.17, and in 1934, after this government had raised the ramparts of ruin, the collection was only \$6.75. There are your ramparts of ruin! Those figures indicate the exaggeration which hon. members opposite have to use in order to make any case at all.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): We have no trade; that is why.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): In 1911 the per capita taxation, so far as the tariff was concerned, amounted to \$10.17, and in 1921 it