

Opposition and the editor of the *Mail and Empire*, but everybody knows—it was stated yesterday by the Finance Minister (Mr. Fielding)—that the tariff is lower than it was before; that reductions were made on a great many articles. I feel that if this government is given a fair chance it will reduce the tariff, even at this session, wherever possible.

Mr. IRVINE: If this is not a proper time to move the amendment, when would the proper time be?

Mr. DUFF: Well, I am only a backbencher; I am not a parliamentarian of many years' standing, any more than my hon. friend is. But my idea is that the proper time to bring down the resolution moved by the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Hoey) is when the budget is brought down—that is, if he is not satisfied with the budget.

Mr. IRVINE: May I ask further whether the hon. member would guarantee to us the right to move an amendment to the amendment on the budget?

Mr. DUFF: I do not have to guarantee the hon. member any rights at all; he has certain rights in this House just the same as any other hon. member. I do not think he need worry. The Speaker will be delighted to allow him or anybody else to move any amendment that is in order.

Mr. IRVINE: We had to worry about it last year, and did not get it.

Mr. DUFF: The hon. member did not worry very much; his hair has not turned grey. Now, while I have a good deal of sympathy with the sentiments expressed by this amendment, I feel that this is not the proper time to bring it forward. Every hon. member agrees that the burden of taxation is high; that many people are suffering from that burden, and that there is a good deal of unrest and dissatisfaction. But what can we do? We have to face a certain condition. We have a very large debt, the expenditures of the country are great, and the only thing for us to do is to bear our burdens cheerfully. But I repeat that this government, wherever possible, should endeavour to economize and save money for the people. I have faith in this government. I believe that if they are given an opportunity they will pare down the expenses so that not only my hon. friends sitting opposite, but every ratepayer in the country will realize that under a Liberal administration Canada's affairs are conducted in an economic manner. I submit that in all the circumstances it would have

been far better if my hon. friend had not moved the amendment which he has introduced.

Mr. A. J. LEWIS (Swift Current): Mr Speaker, it has been a pleasure to me to listen to such a moderate speech from the hon. gentleman for Lunenburg (Mr. Duff). I remember that last session he was far more fiery and had far stronger statements to make respecting the party to the right of me and also this party. But to-day his tone is a moderate one, and we cannot therefore extend to him the criticism that we can extend to the other two hon. members who have spoken and who also come from his province. However, some of the things he said certainly demand an explanation.

In the first place, speaking of economy, he says that \$6,000,000 was spent on the agricultural interests of this country—and he was continually looking at us as if all the agricultural interests were centred in western Canada. Only a few moments previously one of the members from Nova Scotia had said that his constituency also was an agricultural one. I think my hon. friend will find that some of that money was spent in the Maritime provinces.

Mr. DUFF: If my hon. friend will allow me, I did not object to any expenditure for agriculture. I did not say it was all for the West, either.

Mr. LEWIS: I understood the hon. member to say that \$6,000,000 was spent in connection with agriculture, that we were demanding economy, and that we would not want any smaller expenditure in that regard.

Mr. DUFF: My hon. friend should remember that he and his friends are not the only agriculturists in this country. There are better farmers in Nova Scotia than there are in any of the western provinces.

Mr. LEWIS: I am quite willing that the hon. member for Lunenburg should blow his own horn; that has nothing to do with me. I am not saying there are not better farmers in the East, nor am I saying that all the farmers who have left Saskatchewan are failures. But if \$6,000,000 is spent upon the agricultural interests of the whole of Canada, representing practically half the whole population, it is a very negligible sum to spend when we consider that \$481,000,000 are spent for the rest of the Dominion. Let us remember also that we, the common people, are paying into the public treasury over \$80,000,000 in connection with the manufactured goods which we buy, and are putting a further like sum