

Mr. DUGUAY (Translation): Will my hon. friend permit me a question?

Mr. DUPUIS (Translation): My hon. friend will have an opportunity of speaking in his turn; he should then take advantage of it because he has not long to sit in this house. When the day comes for the people to give their verdict, the constituents of Lake St. John will ask him to remain at home.

Mr. DUGUAY (Translation): I may fall but I shall fall on my feet.

Mr. DUPUIS (Translation): It is an anomaly, something like a square circle.

I state that this government—I do not charge it with deliberately betraying its secrets—showed a lack of wisdom in imparting to some of its friends—perhaps those who are interrupting at this moment—that a tax of two cents per pound would be levied on sugar. The burden of this tax falls upon the poor, the farmer, the workman of my constituency who can ill afford it. They have been suffering hardships for the last two years; they depend on public charity and live at the expense of the government. All farmers and workmen in this country will be called upon to pay two cents more per pound of sugar; they will purchase this commodity from the retail dealer, the latter having purchased it from a wholesale dealer who has not paid the tax, nevertheless the people, the workmen in distress, will have to pay it.

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): Hear! Hear! Carry on!

Mr. DUPUIS (Translation): Mr. Chairman, this impost is most unpopular and the hon. Minister of Finance should reconsider his decision. I ask him in all earnestness to do so, together with numerous members who have already made the same request. If he wishes the Conservatives to remain in power, he should suppress this tax which burdens the people and will deprive them of a necessity of life, especially to infants. In order to prove my contention and assure hon. members opposite that I harbour no ill feelings towards the government, I state that the enforcement of this tax will prove the strongest argument against their party and will be the cause of their downfall. I repeat it: Representatives of the Conservative party, even if the people had no other grievances against your administration, if you enforce this sugar tax of two cents per pound which is directly levied on the people and paid by them, you will be defeated and, thereby, permit the Liberal party to assume power.

Mr. Chairman, I have fulfilled my duty by expressing my views on this question and,

contrary to what certain hon. members on this side have stated, I think that the hon. Minister of Finance will reconsider his decision. He is intelligent, broad-minded, whom I admire, he has proved by his budget statement that he was worthy of occupying the post of Minister of Finance. I am convinced that this very able man will have the good sense, the wisdom of suppressing this sugar tax of two cents per pound and levy on the classes which can afford to pay, sufficient taxes to balance the deficit and thus allow the government to carry on the administration of the country.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): Before this item carries I feel it my duty to lodge a complaint against the tax of two cents a pound on sugar. I am not one of those, Mr. Chairman, who can be accused of having been very critical of the government during their term of office, but I do feel that this tax is very unfair to the poor people of our country, those who are at this time struggling for an existence. The minister says this tax was applied because of the need for increased revenue. In reply to that I would say this is one of the last commodities that should be taxed under present conditions. People cannot even buy sugar at present prices let alone at the increased prices as a result of this tax. This matter was brought home to me last summer because of the fact that in the part of the country from which I come wild fruit was very plentiful. People travelled for miles over the hills and valleys to gather this wild fruit of all kinds, and they obtained enormous quantities. The complaint that many of these people made to me was that while they could get plenty of fruit the difficulty was to get sugar. What are they to do if fruit is plentiful again this summer? They will not be able to buy the sugar to preserve that fruit, as they wish to do.

The minister stated that since this government have been in power they have reduced the expenditures of the country by \$81,000,000. I contend that even though they have made some decreases they have not grappled with the problem of the expenditures of the country to the extent they should be grappled with. Truth of that statement can be found in the budget speech delivered by the Minister of Finance in this house on March 21 of this year, and I particularly refer to pages 3211 and 3212 of Hansard, where the minister gave a summary of the revenues and expenditures by departments. I have analyzed those figures, and this is the result of my analysis. In 1928-29, for every dollar that was collected we spent 76 cents. In 1929-30, for every dollar