

*The Budget—Mr. Spotton*

Speaker, for burning the midnight oil while learning the beautiful language of our compatriots. Right here I wish to say to our French Canadian friends from Quebec that I am delighted that I have lived long enough to hear the French language spoken from our side of the house. It was rather lonely to be sitting in the old parliament listening to the eloquent French addresses from the government side of the house and not knowing whether what the speakers were saying was correct or not; but now we are glad we have such a gallant band of able men from our sister province who will take care of the Conservative party in the province of Quebec, and glad that those battles of passion and prejudice will no longer hold sway.

In the short time allotted to me, Mr. Speaker, I suppose I shall do as all other hon. members have done—discuss everything else but the budget. So far as the budget is concerned, I think it suits my constituency very well. I suppose the principle of taxation is that it should be borne by those best able to bear it, and the increase in the income tax, the tax on corporations, comfortable chairs in railway coaches, compartments, staterooms and telegrams would seem to be fair and equitable. In connection with the tax on telephone messages, I should like to say not many local calls in the country districts bear tolls greater than fifteen cents. About the only place our people will feel the effect of the increased taxation is through the six per cent sales tax. They were quite used to that under the Liberal régime, and apparently in my county they liked it because they supported the King administration. Therefore so far as the budget is concerned I think it will be well received in the constituency of North Huron.

Most of the budget speeches of the present session were made during the discussion on the unemployment relief measure. I do not know about conditions in any other province, but in the province of Ontario I have heard practically no complaints about the handling of relief moneys. In my county relief measures were placed in the hands of the municipalities, regardless of politics. A Liberal mayor selected the ten men who went north from my home town, and we were all satisfied. The councils of the various municipalities in my county handled the relief problem in an eminently fair and efficient manner. I wish to give a few impressions I have gathered from listening to the debate. When I heard my right hon. leader being traduced, as he has been during this debate, and when I have seen during the course of every debate opposition speakers trying to enhance the glory of

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the leader of the opposition, it seemed to me that their attitude was fully set out, and that they had given an indication of their future campaign methods throughout the dominion. Having studied his well prepared address I have come to the conclusion that the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power) made it abundantly clear what their method of campaign will be. He approached the different subjects with which he dealt very carefully. After laying a foundation he approaches his next point with some such expression as: "I do it with some reluctance." During the course of his speech he said:

This is a matter which I find it somewhat distasteful to discuss, since it has been my practice ever since I entered politics not to indulge in or discuss personalities.

This was an admission that he was going to discuss personalities.

But on account of the peculiar circumstances of the case, in that it is proposed, as I hope presently to be able to show, to entrust to one man supreme power in this country, and in that this one has, partly of his own volition and partly on account of the extravagant and exaggerated adulation of his followers, thrown his personality into politics so that it has become almost a political issue, we who take a definite stand on this matter must discuss that personality as any other live political issue.

He goes on to show that that personality was the moving spirit in the last campaign, and gives it credit for the winning of the general election. He then proceeds to state that the personality to which he has referred is as unstable as the shifting sands, has the manners of a Chicago policeman and the temperament of a Hollywood actress. He even goes to the race track to get the word "welsher." It is not necessary for me to repeat the personal attacks which have been made upon the leader of this government. But let me say this: In 1930, rightly or wrongly, the people of Canada dismissed the old physician and took in a new one; and I presume he will be in his place, prescribing for the next three years. We have been elected for a five-year period, and I think the people of Canada are sick and tired of political parties slipping to the country whenever they think the psychological moment has arrived. I agree with the platform of the United Farmers of Canada that legislatures elected for a definite period should have the nerve to stay during their full term of office, and appeal to the people at the end of that time. They should not strive at any particular time on some special issue to throw up a smoke screen, but should wait until they have served their full term, and then face the country on their record.