

something to-day; whether there are no more budget changes to be laid on the table?

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Acting Minister of Finance): Nothing more to-day, Mr. Speaker.

#### DISMISSAL OF J. B. LEVESQUE

Mr. ALEXANDRE J. DOUCET (Kent, N.B.) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 1924, the House ordered the production of all correspondence exchanged between the Department of Marine and Fisheries and Mr. Jean Baptiste Lévesque relating to the dismissal of this employee; on April 30 last, the hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries informed me that the officials of his department would immediately furnish all the information required relating to this dismissal. I wish to know if I shall soon be given this information?

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Minister of Marine and Fisheries) (Translation): The correspondence to which the hon. member refers has just been laid on the Table of the House.

#### THE BUDGET

##### CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE ACTING MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Monday, May 12, the debate on the motion of Hon. J. A. Robb (Acting Minister of Finance) that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the House to go into committee of Ways and Means, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Woodsworth.

Mr. R. F. PRESTON (Lanark): Mr. Speaker, I desire to address the House for a few moments on a question that I believe to be of great importance not only to the people whom I have the distinguished honour to represent, but also to the masses of the people of this country. I concur with what other hon. gentlemen have said in reference to the absence of the right hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding), and I join with them in expressing the hope that in the near future providence will restore to him his health and strength and that he may be enabled again to take his place in the House. To the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) I extend my congratulations upon the bold and vigorous way in which he delivered his budget speech, but to the contents of it, Mr. Speaker, I cannot subscribe.

About a year ago it was rumoured about the country in the press and elsewhere that this government was likely to make some

[Sir Henry Drayton.]

changes in the tariff, and it was suggested that if the changes were made the result would be disastrous to industry, especially to the woollen and textile industries. Following upon that rumour, more than one deputation came to Ottawa to wait upon the right hon. Finance Minister. One of these deputations which I have particularly in mind was made up of a body of able executive men, men of wide experience, who felt it their duty as business men to come here and give all the information they could to the Finance Minister. They laid their cards on the table; they appealed to the minister, and I personally was present and heard the appeal. He received them in his usual courteous manner but gave them no encouragement and when the budget of that year came down it was found that nothing had been done along the lines suggested by them. The country has been placed in a most deplorable financial condition by reason of the fact that no relief was given to the industries I have mentioned.

Before the budget speech of this session was delivered, I understand, another deputation came down here and waited upon the Acting Finance Minister along the same line—men, as I say, of outstanding executive ability, men who knew their business and who wanted to give the Acting Finance Minister what guidance they could and to point out the need for some relief. I do not know exactly what the answer was, but it was stated that he did tell them they might thank God that they had this government in power. What he meant by that I do not know, unless it was that if the Progressive party were in power the condition might be even worse.

I propose to deal with this budget under several heads: First, from the point of view of its effects upon the industry of my own constituency; second, its effect upon the industrial fabric of the country as a whole; third, its adverse effect upon Canadian wages, Canadian employment and the standard of Canadian labour; fourth, its menace to the Canadian home market and consequently to the great mass of the agriculturists of Canada; fifth, its relation to immigration and emigration; sixth, its demoralizing effect upon Canadian stability and Canadian development and its equally demoralizing effect upon public confidence in the integrity of public life involved in the apostasy from the solemn pledges and undertakings given by the government to the people.

I wish to speak first in reference to my own county, with which I am most familiar.