

The Budget—Mr. Isnor

\$1,000	Married Person (No Children)		
	No Tax		
2,000	\$194	\$118	\$76
3,000	491	383	108
4,000	810	663	147
5,000	1,158	973	185

Yet in spite of those reductions hon. members on the other side of the house say that there is no saving in this budget.

Mr. HARKNESS: It is like one of those delayed action bombs.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): You never know when it is going off.

Mr. ISNOR: It seems very difficult for members of the opposition to restrain themselves and keep quiet, but I notice that the members on this side show respect by keeping silent when an hon. member has the floor.

The hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario referred this afternoon to a balanced budget. During my term of seven years, from 1928 to 1935, as a member of the Nova Scotia legislature, when I sat with the opposition and at another time with the government of the day, I was always keenly interested as a businessman in financial affairs and my interest naturally centred around the budget. I recall that it was my endeavour to emphasize the importance of a balanced budget and the necessity of keeping expenditures in line with revenue. When I was first elected as a member of this house for the constituency of Halifax I continued to follow this course. On the outbreak of the war and during the war our thoughts were more on finding money and using it to win the war and we gave little thought to balancing the budget. But now that the war is over and Canada is embarked on a post-war high employment and reconversion period, I believe it is necessary for all members of the house, particularly businessmen to see how quickly Canada can be brought into a position where she can report a balanced budget.

I was pleased to hear the Minister of Finance, when presenting his budget, say that his 1946-47 budget proposals meant that he was covering nearly 90 per cent of the expenditures and that if we could maintain high employment and income we shall be able to look forward to something like a balanced budget in 1947-48. Like the Minister of Finance I am a great believer in the ability of Canadians to achieve great objectives. This was shown during the war when Canada's achievements won the admiration of all nations. In peace times, with human needs just as urgent, happiness and contentment so essential, and a high standard of living so necessary, cannot we look forward to con-

tinued cooperation and unity of purpose in achieving these objectives and devote our energies to reaching them and thus focus the eyes of the world on Canada not alone in war but in peace?

I am going to touch on the subject of controls, which the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario passed over so lightly this afternoon. I believe the controls which were brought into effect in 1941 are reflected in this budget and have a direct bearing on the financial economy of our country. Modern war requires the full and effective mobilization of a nation's economic resources, and Canada was quick to realize that if this was to be had, steps must be taken not alone to equip and supply the fighting forces but to maintain the civilian population in such a manner as to get the fullest possible cooperation from all Canadian citizens.

Fortunately, so far as financial organization was concerned, though Canada's financial structure was already established and developed before the war, it was felt that with the increased spending power created during the war through accelerated employment and earning power, it was necessary that certain controls should be set up. When one looks back and realizes the benefit which is accruing from these controls I am sure that each and every member of the house will say that these were of direct benefit to our country, and no argument on their behalf seems necessary. Still there are those who to-day advocate doing away with the controls which have helped to make Canada the envy of perhaps every other nation of the world. Taking into consideration the vast amounts which would have been spent in Canada and the greatly increased earnings of Canadians, I think the government was most wise in bringing into being the wartime prices and trade board, "to provide safeguards against any undue enhancement in the prices of foods, fuels, and other necessities of life and to ensure an adequate supply and equitable distribution of such commodities." Underlying the work of this board has been the belief that if ample supplies were kept available and were controlled, fair and reasonable prices could be maintained and our financial structure maintained on an even keel.

I do not propose to go into all the various control branches that were set up. We are familiar with the steps taken in the appointment of administrators in the major commodity fields. Some of these administrators have been severely criticized, while others have been praised for their work. I personally believe that, taken on the whole, they have performed a worth-while job.