

Then the question is where the money would come from. If a war broke out tomorrow the money would be forthcoming, and peace has its emergencies no less than war. Again, if we are to say that first things should come first, as my hon. friend from Ontario (Mr. Moore) has said, and if we are to put forward a definite national purpose, what better objects could we have? Could we not divert some of the money now being used for the construction of barracks or public works, which we do not need, and devote it to these worthy veterans who would make good use of it and to whom it would be a great blessing? Then, while the business people of this country are taxed almost to the limit, at the present time there are pools of wealth which have been accumulated by special privilege, by the watering of stock and things of that kind. Those pools should be found and taxed. A slight increase in business would mean a great increase in the revenue of the country.

Then there is one other source to which we should look for money. We have in this country a central bank, which we on this side of the house desired to be owned by the government. The governor of that central bank has been given something like \$107,000,000 in gold. According to the regulation that amount of gold would provide currency to the extent of \$420,000,000 at a valuation of \$20.67; if the valuation were put at \$35 it would increase that amount of currency by three-quarters, yet in Canada to-day we have only \$220,000,000 in currency and of that amount only about \$35,000,000 is actually in circulation. So surely we should look to the central bank to provide some of this money, and more and more as time goes on, because of the assets that have been given to it. That could be done without the security of government warrants bearing three per cent interest.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would say that in the last analysis the object, the aim and the end of all legislation should be to make conditions better in the homes of the people of this country, and we in this parliament should not vote for anything unless it will make those conditions better. I say the younger men and women of this country are crying loudly for equality of opportunity. All are calling for greater equalization of wealth and for the stamping out of selfishness and greed in high places. If we are to be worthy of the age in which we live we must try to preserve democracy, personal initiative, liberty and freedom, and if we are to be true

custodians we must guard what has been attained by the long, long struggles of the past.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. F. T. SHAVER (Stormont): Mr. Speaker, I observe that many hon. gentlemen opposite desire to have the question put, but there yet remain a few of us on this side who, having held our peace for quite a considerable time, desire to express our opinions.

I am sure that while many congratulations have been extended to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) upon the able and comprehensive way in which he has explained the financial position of Canada and upon the budget which he has presented to the house, we all agree that he well deserves those congratulations, to which I desire to add my own. I think the Minister of Finance not only deserves the congratulations of the members of this house; I believe he deserves the thanks of the Canadian people for the very efficient way in which, during the last few years, he has handled the difficult portfolio which he holds.

I trust that the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw), who preceded me, will pardon me if I do not refer to his remarks at any length. It is always a pleasure to listen to the hon. gentleman; he is always fair, moderate and courteous in debate, but there is one point to which I should like to refer. Once again the hon. member brought up the question of the beet sugar industry, which I presume is quite a considerable industry in his constituency. I give my hon. friend credit for being interested in that industry; I think any member of this house who has in his constituency an industry which employs a number of people should not be ashamed to rise in the house and stand up for those people. But as I mentioned last year it seems rather strange that the hon. member should expect some particular consideration to be given that industry, aid by way of bonuses, assistance by way of reduced freight rates or something else, while at the same time he finds fault because the textile industry, which gives employment to several thousand people in my constituency, receives protection against the textiles which would be dumped into Canada from every other country in the world if that protection did not exist.

There were a few high lights in the budget speech of the Minister of Finance to which I should like to refer briefly, because to me they seem very important, since they indicate that conditions are improving. There was the fact