

provinces. Customs regulations also should be made as easy and elastic as possible with a view to preventing delays and displeasure. In this connection the utmost care should be taken in the selection of customs officers, so that whilst performing their duties they can also very greatly facilitate and expedite the transaction of needed customs business by the tourist.

I cannot close my remarks, Mr. Speaker, without saying a word of appreciation of the yeoman service rendered to the tourist industry by both the Canadian National Parks branch and the Natural Resources branch of the Department of the Interior. The publicity carried on has been most timely and most instructive and has served to waken the dormant spirit in a number of our people. Let us hope that they will not only carry on but also increase their sphere of action.

I hope I have not bored hon. members and I trust the policy which I advocate will find favour in every corner of this chamber. I cannot think of a single interest which would not be represented in the benefits to be derived from the tourist traffic. We have at our door one hundred and ten millions of people comprising the richest nation in the world, a nation that loves travel and pleasures. Why should we remain inactive when reasonable effort on our part would attract them in scores of thousands? The question of the tourist industry is non-controversial and is of national importance. The farmer, the merchant, the manufacturer—all are interested in its development. Hundreds of reasons can be advanced in support of its exploitation, and I have yet to find a single argument against it. I have devoted a great deal of time, more so in recent years, to the study of this vast national resource, and I have consistently advocated the urgent need for federal action.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, may I say that I know of no better way of developing this country and of increasing our national prosperity than by taking advantage of this golden opportunity of capitalizing our natural scenic beauties and recreational facilities and selling them to the many millions of our American friends to the south of us, who are continually hunting new grounds for their enjoyment.

Mr. WILLIAM BLACK (South Huron): Mr. Speaker, in my few criticisms of the budget I intend to be very brief. I am inclined to think that in this House there is too much criticism of a destructive kind and not enough constructive. Sometimes I fear that members have lost the great visions of

[Mr. Hammell.]

our statesmen of the past, the faith that our forefathers had fifty years ago in the destiny of Canada, when I hear certain hon. gentlemen in one breath disparaging their country and in the next breath wondering what is going to happen. The great problems that we have to face to-day are debt, taxation, unemployment, railways, immigration, and probably labour. I feel that we in this corner of the House are in a very happy position in that regard. Speaking for myself, I have supported the government in every measure they have brought down that I thought was in the interests of the Dominion, and when my judgment told me otherwise I voted against the government.

We all realize the tremendous national debt that we have to carry to-day, a debt of two and a half billion dollars, which almost staggers the people. But, Mr. Speaker, when we read in the press of certain politicians all over the country saying, as the leader of the opposition (Mr. Meighen) said at Stratford last October:

Working men banished—homes boarded up—factories closed—stagnation in business—despair in the hearts of artisans—these are the fruits of the present government—the tariff had closed two thousand factories and had driven 300,000 Canadians across the line.

When we read such doleful statements, we wonder when hon. gentlemen to our right tell us that the reduction in the tariff last year did not reduce the price of farm implements. If that be the case, I should like to ask them, what was all the hulabaloo about from them, or from the manufacturers themselves? Why, Mr. Speaker, hon. members to our right say in one breath that the country is going to pieces on account of the reduction in the tariff, and in the next breath that the farmers will get no benefit on account of that reduction. I may say that at one time I was a free trader. In the late eighties and early nineties I was as strong a free trader as there was in the land. But things have changed in the last forty years, and to-day, although I am a very low tariff man, I do not think I could at this time support free trade.

The hon. member for Fort William and Rainy River (Mr. Manion) has been telling us about the hard times that prevail. Now it seems to me that instead of calling the country down we should do something to build it up. I had to examine the Parliamentary Guide to see when the hon. member for Fort William and Rainy River came to this country, and I found that he was born here in the early eighties. He would be a young man in the nineties, and if he had lived and worked on a farm at that time as I did, he would have little to say about hard times to