

storage plants. For the benefit of the leader of the Opposition, I may say that years ago we asked the Government of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, of which he was then a follower, to take over the cold storage in this country from one end to the other. We knew that sooner or later the entire cold storage activities would get into the hands of private corporations in a way that would be detrimental not only to the consumer, but also to the producer of the live stock which goes through the abattoirs of the country. The advocacy, therefore, of Government ownership and control of cold storage plants is in line with what we have been contending for in Western Canada. I mention this simply to show that certain views expressed by the Opposition coincide with the views of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. For these reasons I find it my duty to support the amendment.

Mr. ROBERT H. BUTTS (Cape Breton South and Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have on quite a number of occasions been pronounced out of order in this House. While I sometimes complain of the decision of the Chair, I shall not complain to-night if both the Chair and the House consider me out of order if I take up very much time, having regard to the temperature. Let me congratulate the Government, and particularly the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) on the many excellent features of the Budget. I feel that I am justified in saying—and I am more at liberty to do so because the minister is not in his chair—that such a Budget speech, or such a speech on financial matters as was delivered by the Finance Minister this afternoon, has never been heard in the Canadian Commons. The reading section of the country—even those people who cannot read but may hear read either of these addresses—will have, I think, added confidence in the Finance Minister; will have a greater confidence in him than has been reposed in a Finance Minister of this country since the day's of Canada's inception. They cannot but feel gratified at the comparison which the Finance Minister made between the position in which Canada finds itself after the struggle through which she has gone and the position of the other countries to which he referred this afternoon. I say, therefore, that I will support the Budget in all its fullness. But there is one point to which I wish to direct the attention of the Government and the Minister of Finance, more by way of recommendation than anything else.

The address delivered this afternoon by the Minister of Finance was so much in contrast with some of the speeches delivered by gentlemen on the other side of the House that I could not help remarking the difference.

Let me begin by remarking that one or two hon. gentlemen opposite, since this debate commenced, called attention to the fact that the ex-minister of Agriculture (Mr. Crerar) has resigned his seat in the Cabinet and that no explanation whatever came from the Government. One hon. member also referred to the fact that the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. McCurdy) had resigned his office and that no explanation ever came from either that hon. gentleman or the Government. This thought came to me while that hon. member was speaking: Would it not occur to him that the Opposition have gone through this session without a leader and no explanation is forthcoming from them? Would it not occur to that hon. gentleman that before they appointed a leader at all, they appointed a committee to look after the affairs of the Opposition during the session, and then they appointed a leader pro tem, and, they brought him to a banquet in Montreal in order that he might proclaim the fact that he was not the leader but only the leader pro tem. There is no explanation coming to the House about that. One sees how it is that certain persons rush in where angels fear to tread.

Mr. MCKENZIE: The hon. member, if he were in the House at the time, would know that the first time I addressed the House in the capacity of leader, I explained from my seat what my position was, and he will find my remarks on Hansard.

Mr. BUTTS: That simply strengthens my remark. There has been a good deal of debate in regard to free trade and protection. Let me ask some of those extreme free traders to look over the history of Canada. I am not going to labour the question, because it has already been well argued and almost every argument pro and con has been laid before the House, but let me ask them: Where do they, the free traders, fit in? Was there ever a free trade Government since 1878? Has it not been protection, whichever party was in power? Have both parties not carried out exactly the same policy in every particular? Why, even if you go over the reciprocity pact, you will find that the late Mr. Paterson, who was one of the gentlemen who went from here to negotiate it, kept up the protection on