

the opposition would be unable to move it. In my opinion it is a simple budget, so simple a child could play with it and not be harmed, because there is nothing in it to explode; nothing in it to tell the people of Canada what the government is going to do. It is like the speech from the throne, which I understand is prepared by the government; but this one was very simple and had practically nothing in it. What was omitted from the budget had as great a significance to Canadians as what was included. Its omissions at once promise a continuance of the conditions which have driven away to a foreign country more than half a million Canadians within the last five years. From this point of view particularly, and for a reason which I shall elaborate upon later, I ask the indulgence of the house while I make some comments on the budget brought down by the Minister of Finance.

I desire to deal with the tariff, not so much with regard to its relation to capital as to its relation to labour and agriculture. It is not sufficient to say that this industry or that industry employs more hands to-day than it did ten years ago. It is not even sufficient to measure the expansion in ordinary terms of growth. We are living in a time when ordinary measures of expansion are futile. We are living in a country which has been invested by bounteous Providence with riches not duplicated in the history of the world. But once we are so administering our affairs that we are driving our sons and daughters to foreign lands where they have the opportunity for the expression of the talents of which we are so proud. It is not the foreign market alone which has been put in jeopardy—that would be lost first, of course—but the home market also is invaded; and nothing is more certain than that pre-eminence in the home market is the ideal which should be aimed at. The only country which fills me with apprehension so far as this question is concerned, is that country in which labour is better paid than in our own and where the standard of living is higher as well—I refer to the United States. Our working people have gone to that country and have found employment in every place where manufacturing is going on. These Canadian artisans are adding to the power and wealth of a foreign nation, while people in this country are suffering through lack of employment. I am sorry the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) is not in his seat, because I intended to direct my remarks to him. Has he not been surrounded and pestered on the way to his daily duties by artisans who cry out, "We are not beggars, we only want an oppor-

[Mr. Rennie ]

tunity of helping to support ourselves and our families in the country in which we were born?" This is also the case in Montreal and Quebec; in fact it is a condition which exists in every part of Canada. Manufactories will always be found in the United States where men will be required to work; and our men are there instead of here in their own country. No nation can exist which has agriculture alone as an industry; there must be a mixture of industries to bring out the national mind and the national strength and form a national character.

Hon. members opposite sneer at the statement that thousands of our people have left this country to seek employment in the United States. Why has the government of the province of Quebec been taking steps, including the establishing of agencies, to induce these people to come back and resettle in their own province? If their people had not left the country, that government would not be trying to bring them back. Let any man visit the manufacturers in the United States and he will find the Canadian artisan toiling there and doing well, whereas if Canada had a judicious system of taxation they would be working here and doing very well in their own country.

Not only has this country been made a slaughter market by being overwhelmed by the sweepings of the United States, but at times it has been made a sacrifice market by ruinous proposals to suppress certain trades. We all can remember what the salt manufacturers of the United States did when the salt industry first started in Goderich. The salt manufacturers of Syracuse sent in their salesmen with instructions to undersell Canadian salt on the home market and thus crush this infant industry. The shoe trade was dealt with in the same manner by the leather manufacturers of the United States, and twenty-one shoe factories have been closed up in the province of Quebec alone.

In a young country like this, manufacturers are obliged to depend upon credit for the capital they have not themselves, and when such tactics are pursued by the United States manufacturers the Canadian manufacturer cannot escape defeat. He is unable to sell his wares in order to meet his banking arrangements and he becomes insolvent, the factory is closed, his employees are discharged and go to the United States. This is occurring continuously, and once confidence is lost it is not easily restored. The American manufacturers have the great backing of capital behind them, and are thus enabled to obtain an advantage