

*The Budget—Mr. Blackmore*

that difficulty can be solved only by finding some medium of exchange which will enable us to sell our goods to the rest of the world.

**Mr. J. H. Blackmore (Lethbridge):** Mr. Speaker, were it not for the high degree of esteem in which I hold the hon. member (Mr. Adamson) who has just taken his seat, I would be tempted to make some caustic remarks concerning the general tenor of his statement. I believe it would be a good thing for the hon. member, however, to consider three questions. First of all: If there had been no gold created in the world, does he suppose mankind would have been able to live on the earth, or would the people have had to die because the Creator forgot gold? If all the gold in the world today were to be accumulated in Fort Knox, where a good share of it is already, I wonder if the hon. gentleman thinks the rest of the nations would have to give up and die because they could not get any of that gold. If, owing to some unusual or unexpected mishap while men were tinkering with atomic bombs, they were to discover some concoction the emanations from which were to decompose all the gold in the world, should we all die because there was no gold? The hon. gentleman, however, concluded his remarks on a more hopeful note, in that he implied it might be possible to discover some other medium of exchange.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I happen to attack the problem from the other point of view. I do not believe we need gold at all in this world. I believe the thing that counts is the resources of the world and man's ability to convert those resources into goods and services useful to man. If we could approach this monetary question from that realistic angle, what a difference it would make! We now live in an age in which man, with the wonderful technological skills and machines at his disposal, can produce more goods than all the people in the world could possibly use if they could all obtain everything they wanted. If some means could be discovered, upon which we all agreed, whereby we could distribute those goods to the people who need them, we would be on our way to a veritable garden of Eden in which all men could enjoy the good things of the world as the Creator unquestionably intended they should.

So much having been said with respect to the hon. gentleman's remarks, I will pass on to something more hopeful. I do believe there is a way out of our difficulty without destroying our freedom, without setting up dictatorships or bureaucratic controls which result in the destruction of goods and threats to punish men because they produce too much. I have been told that in the United States they are actually contemplating a measure

under which a man who produces extra wheat next year, and is caught feeding it to chickens, will be punished. This indicates an anxiety on their part to see to it that no more is produced than under the present financial system can be consumed. I believe that is just as silly, just as useless, as it was to shoot cattle and drop them into the Mississippi river, or pile up surplus oranges and burn them, as was done at the beginning of the last depression. Evidently in the United States of America the same kind of mentality prevails today as that which plunged that great nation into the depression and dragged the rest of the world with it, where it remained until finally a war was necessary to rescue the world from the depression. Surely the time has come when someone with a little influence and prestige will say something that will light the way out of these difficulties.

I shall say something about this in the course of my remarks. It is not going to be as hopeless as the words of the hon. gentleman seemed to indicate. I do hope there is somebody in the Conservative party who is capable of learning that goods and not gold constitute the determining factor as regards money.

Everyone is worrying about a shortage of United States dollars. Britain needs Canadian dollars too. There is a shortage of hard currencies. Now, why is that? I shall not attempt to answer the question, because I have other matters to consider. It is astonishing, Mr. Speaker, that dollars can be short while goods are plentiful; for dollars are only tickets or claims to goods. Unless there are dollars to claim the goods, then certainly the goods appear worthless. Surely, if that is so, where goods are, dollars can be.

Reports are now circulating concerning surpluses in the United States which are embarrassing the authorities. They do not know what to do about these surpluses. There are reports of gathering surpluses in Canada which are going to confound the scarcity-minded people. At the same time, there are reported shortages in the have-not countries and the less developed countries. The fact that only yesterday the Prime Minister of India was in Canada recalls that medical investigations reveal that about ninety per cent of all the Indian people today are undernourished; that the average income of the wage earner in India is \$26 a year. Famine stares them in the face on every hand, while in the United States and in Canada we are meditating on how to limit the production that we are to bring into being in the next year. Canada, fortunately, has not gone as

[Mr. Adamson.]