

were made sincerely—by the hon. member this afternoon. These things are worth remembering when we are discussing the budget and national financing.

Then, I have one word to say about taxation. During the last by-election in Pontiac, the candidate for l'Union des Electeurs approached the electors of that riding. He talked to the workers, the settlers, the professional men, and asked them, "Do you like taxation?" Naturally those people said, no; just the same as if he had asked them if they liked smallpox or typhoid fever. No one likes taxation. I do not like it. If anyone were to ask any member of parliament, that member would say, no; the same as the electors in Pontiac did last fall.

But when in the next breath the same speaker said to those people, "If you elect my party to power at Ottawa, taxation will disappear", then I call that demagoguery, pure and simple. It is not a proper appeal to the intelligence of the people of the country; on the contrary, it is an attempt to appeal to their passions. And one of the greatest dangers to democracy is these demagogic statements, wherein people make appeals to the passions of others, and attempt to take from democracy those things which make it a strong and living function.

These are points I am bound to make, because no matter what government holds office in Ottawa, no matter what its political stripe may be, we are bound to have taxation in this country, the same as in any other country of the world. They have taxes in Russia; they have taxes in France; they have taxes in socialist Britain, regardless of what some theorists may say. I say this with a bit of heat, because I do not quarrel with the ideology of any party. I have made a thorough study of the philosophical background and the monetary system of the Social Credit party. But when some of their supporters get on a public platform and say that they will abolish taxation, if they are returned to power, then I begin to doubt the sincerity of such utterances, and doubt the sincerity of the statements they make on the hustings during election times.

Why is our taxation high today? I will answer that, just as any one of my people in my constituency would answer it. When I hear hon. members of the Progressive Conservative party say that taxation is too high, I am tempted to ask them what happened in Canada during the last thirty or thirty-five years. I would tell them that in that time this country has taken part in two world wars. We were not the last to enter world

[Mr. Bradette.]

war number one, nor were we the last to do it when world war number two began. We entered those wars spontaneously.

But what happened during those years of war? What happened, when the Conservative opposition brought upon the House of Commons crisis after crisis during the last war? Those were the days when the government sitting on the treasury benches told the opposition that Canada was making a magnificent effort in her every war department, and that all her population, whether they were in the armed forces, or in civilian occupations, were playing a full part. But the opposition brought on these crises time after time and, on many occasions, the work of the House of Commons was vitiated by the unfair political situations thrust upon it by the opposition.

What did they want? They wanted a million more men in uniform. They were telling the House of Commons that this country was not going far enough in its war effort; that we were not giving enough in lend-lease to our allies. They were saying that we were lacking in our effort; and all this at a time when the Minister of Finance of that day, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the cabinet as a whole were telling parliament and the whole of Canada that this country was making a magnificent, yes, a 100 per cent effort, that was the admiration of the whole world.

What would have happened if we had listened to the opposition? What would have happened if we had had a national government, if we had listened to the dictation of the committee of two hundred. Taxation would have been trebled; it would be three times what it is today. We cannot get away from those facts.

We must be realists, and I say it ill behooves any member in the opposition to say that taxes are high. True, they are high, but one of the greatest causes of our present high taxation is that we participated loyally and generously in two great wars for democracy and Christianity, when Canada, the empire and civilization generally were in jeopardy. And we are proud of having done our part, but there has been a price to pay for such magnificent participation.

It is easy to say that the war has been over for two years and that something more should have been done for lower taxation. But surely if I lose my house by fire today, it cannot be expected that it will be rebuilt, by itself, on the next day, when the embers are still burning. Surely we must be prac-