

any industry that has failed to make representations not only against the sugar tax but against every tax that has been proposed, without exception.

Mr. RALSTON: Did my hon. friend give an answer to the delegation?

Mr. RHODES: Yes; the answer I gave was that I would take their representations into most careful consideration, which I did.

Mr. MacINNIS: We have had references this evening to demands made upon the government for economy, and we have heard the reasons given by the Minister of Finance why, although he was quite willing, these demands could not be acceded to at the present time. I am wondering where economies are going to get us. From my reading I believe that the world is beginning to realize that we have had about as much economy during the last three years as we can stand, and that now if we are going to get anywhere we must do it by spending. I would much rather see this government try to find ways and means of spending so as to make our natural resources available to the people. As we were told to-day, governments are having to meet changed conditions. They are faced with the necessity of doing what private enterprise was supposed to do in the past. Many of us, perhaps all of us, have received letters during the last few weeks from boards of trade and chambers of commerce asking us to use our influence to have the government effect further economies. To these letters I have replied pointing out that private enterprises, as represented by these boards of trade and chambers of commerce, have restricted activities, turned their employees out on the street, and asked the government to look after them; do they suppose that the government can look after them without any expenditure? I would like my friends on this side of the house to point out where funds are coming from if the government did not take steps to provide them. I was connected with municipal government for some years before coming here, and for years before 1930 we were raising money in order to keep the unemployed of the city working during the winter months. Many of the municipal and provincial expenditures that now burden the country were spent for the very purpose of providing employment. That is a condition that confronts us to-day, and if private enterprise will not deal with it then the responsibility for doing so will rest on this or some other government.

Mr. DUPUIS (Translation): Mr. Chairman, may I add a few remarks to this debate, as

representative of two classes of society mostly affected by this unpopular sugar tax, namely, the farming and working classes. Our country comprises farmers—they play the most important part—workmen, industrialists and financiers, better known as capitalists. I wish to state, at the outset, that I do not wish to appeal to class prejudice. In order that the economic organization of a country be as perfect as possible, I really believe that a complete co-operation is necessary between workmen and capitalists, producers and consumers. It is, however, necessary to draw the line when the administration, as in the present case, is so short sighted as to levy a tax which so heavily burdens the two most important classes of our country and which can the least afford it. Hon. members present will recall the attitude taken by our opponents, during the election of 1930, towards the farming and labour classes. Their arguments have been a hundred times alluded to, in the house. They may seem time-worn, however, under the circumstances, it is necessary to again refer to them. The farming class was then told: the sale price of your products is not sufficiently high to permit you to save, rear a family and live comfortably. While the workmen were told: your wages are not high enough. Workmen, who are unemployed, return us and, within three weeks, we shall have found you work. Quite the contrary happened. Not only does the farmer receive less for his products than in 1930, but prices have dropped 100, 200 and even 300 per cent. Workmen as well as farmers find it impossible to meet their liabilities.

How did this all happen? In 1930, both the farmer and workman earned sufficient to permit them to save. After the advent to power of the present administration, the workman did not earn enough to meet his expenses, and the farmer, not receiving as high a price as previously, had to depend on his savings. When these were exhausted, he had to borrow and, to-day, unable to borrow any more, having exhausted his credit, he is on the point of starvation. And it is exactly at a time when the farmer and workman can no further borrow, when they are deprived of their savings, when their credit is exhausted, that this government takes advantage of this critical moment to levy on them such taxes as the one under discussion. It is our duty, we, representatives of these classes of society, to strongly protest against such imposts.

Some hon. MEMBERS (Translation): Hear, Hear.