

(Translation):

Mr. LESAGE: Before concluding, Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to caution against a number of swindlers, those who have sent or might be tempted to send these so-called pressure cards. I have myself made a serious check-up of the names of those who sent them to me and I found that not 2 per cent of them would pay income tax under the proposed rates. I caution them, as I am by duty bound, for were the government to raise the exemption to \$3,000, the small wage-earners would be those who would be the victims, as they would receive less in old age pension and family allowances, and they would pay more in indirect taxes, thereby paying the exemptions granted to those who would have swindled them. Indeed, these demagogues do not work for the benefit of the average farmer, the humble worker or the ordinary family man, but for their own advantage, exacting from those who have to save their money to eat, the sum of 5 cents for one or two cards that cost only a fraction of one cent.

In concluding, I ask the hard-working people of the splendid constituency I represent in this house to throw out of their homes, of their public organizations, these swindlers, these visionaries, these irresponsible demagogues, who attempt to stir up public opinion by unattainable promises in the hope of quenching their own thirst for power and domination.

Mr. J. E. SMITH (York North): Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few observations in this debate, I desire to join with those who have preceded me in extending congratulations to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) upon the excellent manner in which he presented the budget to the house, and also to congratulate the government upon the contents of that budget, containing as it did a report of a splendid surplus and announcing welcome tax reductions for a great many people throughout Canada. It has, I am sure, been very well received throughout the country, and I submit that it merits the support of the members of this house.

The budget, reflecting the general prosperity of Canada, and revealing the excellence of the job accomplished by this government in reconversion from wartime to peacetime production, has been inspiring to the Canadian people, and tended to create confidence. It has tended to create confidence in Canada and also to create confidence in the government, and at a time when confidence means a very great deal in our national life.

The minister, in presenting a picture of prosperity in Canada, was careful to draw

attention to the fact that we live in a world still disorganized after many long years of war, and that until such time as peace, prosperity and plenty are restored to all the countries of the world, there is no need for us here in Canada to be complacent.

Events of recent years have made the world small indeed, and we as Canadians must face up to our responsibilities of citizenship, not only as Canadians but as citizens of the world. Our future in Canada depends in large measure upon two factors: How we are able to get along among ourselves here in Canada, and how we are able to get along with the rest of the world.

Here in Canada we have many reasons to give thanks that our lot has been cast in a happy place. If we would stop more often to count our blessings, and less often to air our grievances I think we could be here in Canada a more happy and more contented people. We face the future in a world still disorganized and weary after long years of war, a world in which there is still a threatening force no less terrifying than war itself. But as Lloyd George said in one of his great speeches of the first war, while there may be shadows in the valley, there is sunshine on the hills. So as Canadians today we are looking to the hilltops, where the sun shines brightly with the hope of better days in the world at peace.

Here in Canada where we are able so soon after a strenuous period of war to present a budget of the quality presented here last week, there is certainly no need and no place for pessimism. We have every reason to look forward to the future with confidence. We know that industry has been converted almost entirely from war-time to peace-time production, and that employment and production are at high levels. Foreign trade has reached heights never before attained and, best of all, the outlook for continued trade and employment is good.

Despite the high volume of production, demand for products of our primary industries continues to exceed production, and the government is to be commended for seeking to give continuing security and stability to the incomes of our farmers by negotiating long-term sales agreements for our products.

Farmers of Canada did a magnificent job during the war, and they did that magnificent job under extreme difficulties. They are continuing to do a magnificent job of production in this post-war era. The coming of peace did not eliminate all the problems of the farmers. The most serious problem confronting farmers today is the acute shortage of farm help. It is not only a matter of wages,