

find out for yourself. Unfortunately, on account of its geographic location, it is not the easiest place in Canada to make money or watch the bright lights of our large cities.

Every year thousands of our young people from Nova Scotia leave their province for the large cities of the United States, Ontario and Quebec, attracted by their glamour, fascination and the greater economic reward for their efforts. But those who have remained in dear old Nova Scotia have carried on bravely and have not asked for a great deal of assistance from anyone. Money spent on federal buildings and other federal expenditures in Nova Scotia has been mere chicken-feed compared with that in most of the other provinces.

And now we understand freight rates will be given a nice fat increase, and are we in the maritimes to be the goats again? Ontario and Quebec will say, "Well, if we can afford to pay increased freight rates, you people can too, and if you cannot it is your own fault." It is hard to overcome a thousand miles of geography from Halifax to Montreal, and the good people of the maritimes are deserving of much kinder consideration from the people of the rest of Canada than they receive in the matter of freight rates. Is it going to be the same old story this time?

Even when we ask for a few dollars to repair and reclaim our marsh lands we receive only a few nice words and are extended the hope that some time something may be done. But, no, they just cannot spare a dollar. Why? That is the burning question we would all like to have the Minister of Finance answer. I feel that the Minister of Agriculture would like to see the work of reclaiming our marsh lands carried into effect. My colleague from Cumberland was the first to advocate this policy and, if his advice had been followed, the marsh lands would today be a great productive source of income to the maritime farmers. But what is actually the case is that many of these lands have become so bad that they are just waste areas today.

I can see nothing, not even a glimmer of hope, in this budget for the people of Cape Breton island for better transportation over the strait of Canso. The road traffic will have to depend on a little ferry boat operated and owned by the province of Nova Scotia to get from the mainland to the island or vice versa. They will still have to keep company with the ice cakes in the winter and wait their turn to get on the ferry in the summer. I believe the rest of Canada owe it to the people of Cape Breton at least to give them the assurance that a bridge or causeway will be built across the strait of

Canso from the mainland of Nova Scotia to the island of Cape Breton at the earliest possible date.

Also there is nothing in the budget that I can see to make it easier for Nova Scotians to make a living in their own province. We thank the minister for the reduction in income tax; it is much appreciated, but to us in Nova Scotia it is somewhat the same as the poor man receiving some left-overs from the rich man's table.

Not a thing to help us overcome that thousand miles of geography between Montreal and Halifax. What the province of Nova Scotia needs is, first, some assistance to put some of our present resources on a more scientific basis, which changing conditions have greatly affected and, second, some definite programme should be worked out to make it advantageous for many light industries to locate, carry on and prosper in our province. I fully realize that this is easier said than done, but I am convinced that much can be done. There are a lot of good jobs and positions in our province, but the whole trouble is that there are not enough of them. As I said before, our economy needs to be strengthened to overcome that thousand miles of geography. And I see nothing that this government is doing to help our position. It is not any hand-out the people of Nova Scotia need or would take; we have always been able to pay our bills in the worst of times and have a little change left for the collection plate on Sunday morning. We are still part of Canada, although to listen to a lot of people around here one would often wonder. What we would like is a definite programme to strengthen our economy and increase the number of good jobs and positions in our province.

Mr. JEAN LESAGE (Montmagny-L'Islet): Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to add a voice from eastern Quebec to the chorus of congratulations which welcomed the budget speech which was delivered in a masterly way by a master in financial matters? My remarks will be confined mostly to this much talked about subject of personal income tax. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott), when delivering his budget speech, said with great accuracy, as reported on page 2553 of *Hansard*:

The rapid rate at which taxes had to be increased in Canada during the war, experienced against our North American background of a long history of low taxes and relative freedom in economic affairs, has given rise to an acute tax consciousness.

The Minister of Finance was well aware of the public feeling when he said that there was an acute tax consciousness and when he added that, even after two substantial reduc-