

The Budget—Mr. Homuth

Mr. TUCKER: Yes, you did. You are discussing that.

Mr. KINLEY: He is discussing the tariff.

Mr. TUCKER: I suggest that he is discussing family allowances as much as I was, and the same rule should apply to him.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not understand that the hon. gentleman intended to speak of family allowances.

Mr. HOMUTH: I was not speaking of family allowances, and I have never been as much out of order as the hon. gentleman.

Mr. MITCHELL: What are you talking about, then?

Mr. HOMUTH: I do say that labour must be careful, because in spite of the promises that no matter what board was set up, where labour was interested labour would be consulted, labour would have a say, labour would have something to do with initiating such legislation, or orders in council—in spite of the promises, that has not been the case. What is the situation with regard to all the boards on which labour was to be represented? It is this. Government policy had been laid down and these men could agree with it or not; it was government policy anyway. That is the whole picture all the way through; otherwise we would not have had these difficulties with labour in the first place.

An hon. MEMBER: Ah!

Mr. HOMUTH: My hon. friend says "Ah!" Well, after the next election he will not be able to say it in this house.

Mr. SPEAKER: I regret to inform the hon. member that his time has expired.

Mr. HOMUTH: I have been watching the clock closely, Mr. Speaker, and I believe I have one minute left. I did want to say something about the hon. gentlemen to my left. I have not time to do that now, which I am sure will please hon. members. However, there is some satisfaction in knowing that now they feel they have a Moses who is going to lead them to the promised land. I checked up on what Moses really did, and found that it took him forty years and then he never got to the promised land, so that we are fairly safe. After the next election, when we come into power, we will bring the Canadian people to the promised land without any particular Moses.

Mr. G. G. McGEER (Vancouver-Burrard): In listening to the sort of appeal we heard from the last speaker (Mr. Homuth) I hope the people will not conjure up the kind of promised

[Mr. Homuth.]

land we had in this dominion after the election of 1930. It would seem to me, Mr. Speaker, that there are many reasons for believing that the people of Canada have not forgotten the attempt of a Conservative government to cure a national depression with an appropriation of \$20,000,000. As I read the election returns it seems to me the people have not forgotten the kind of plutocracy that was established when the privately-owned plutocratic monopoly of the Bank of Canada was established by a Tory administration. If that is the kind of promised land Progressive Toryism has to offer, I think it is the kind of promised land the people of Canada will be glad to wander in the wilderness for at least forty years to avoid.

I do not want to get into the bickerings of party politics to-day, Mr. Speaker. I want to deal with what has been to me, during my experience in parliament, the most important and far-reaching of all its institutions, namely, the budget. I think every hon. member will agree that the growth and distribution of wealth, not the persistence of poverty, must provide the true way to a more useful life, a greater regard for order, and that love of independence which alone can assure a greater and more enduring freedom. You know, sir, that we of the British race have always prized freedom above everything else. Our whole constitution was born of the revolution inspired by a hatred of autocracy and a love of freedom; and in the armies of liberty that have marched down the ages of our civilization we have built an empire, the greatest force in our modern world, upon the foundations of freedom. To-day our great leaders meet and propound the issues as we see them in this conflict, as centering around four great freedoms. But I want to come to that great freedom which is involved in the budget.

As a young man I started out in life with a fear of debt. I made up my mind there would never be a mortgage on my home. While that home was very modest, I achieved my aim; but I completely overlooked three things. I forgot that there was a crowd up in my city hall; I forgot that there was another group of fellows in the provincial legislature, and that there was still another galaxy down in my national parliament, all conspiring together to make a mockery of my ideal of having a home without a mortgage. My city fathers succeeded to the extent of putting a billion dollars on it; my provincial legislators put on another two billion and my national parliament already has added another thirteen billion.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): How much did you put on when you were mayor of Vancouver?