

*The Budget—Mr. Murdock*

one of the opposition leaders, stuck to his guns, declaring that he would back the secession statement with facts.

With the great trek of Canadians continuing across the international boundary line into the United States, Canada, according to many politicians, faces a crisis.

Mr. McQUARRIE: May I ask the minister if he is quoting from another American paper?

Mr. MURDOCK: I said I was quoting from the Chicago Tribune of February 15, 1925. The item was sent to me by a personal friend, a good old boy raised in Zorra in the county of Oxford, who loves Canada and everything in it, and who wanted to know if that was the kind of talk that was going on here because, he said, he did not believe it.

My hon. friend in his speech on the budget referred in very critical and unkind terms to this government. He said many things with respect to us, and among other criticisms referred to those hon. members who went over to the Wembley exhibition. He said something about his not having voted for the appropriation to meet the expenses of the trip but that he did not dodge the vote. "I do not dodge votes," said my hon. friend. At the time I could not see what the purpose was of a statement of that kind, or why the hon. gentleman should make such a positive declaration. Accordingly I took the trouble to have some figures compiled in order to find out if the hon. member for Fort William and Rainy River was always "on the job" when a vote was taken, because that is what he seemed to want us to understand. I find that in 1922 the hon. member voted on nine occasions, was paired on two occasions, and on two occasions missed the vote. In 1923 he voted on seven occasions, was paired on six occasions, and on twelve occasions did not vote. I find that in 1924 the hon. gentleman voted on ten occasions, was paired on six occasions, and on eight occasions did not vote. I do not know even yet what his statement at the time had to do with the particular question under discussion, but it seemed to me that it was quite proper the House should know what my hon. friend's record in the matter of voting had been. When attention is being called to these matters, it seems to me to be proper to bring to the notice of my hon. friend just what his record in the matter of voting had been.

Mr. MANION: Would the minister give his own record?

Mr. MURDOCK: I will be glad indeed to have it checked up.

[Mr. Murdock.]

Mr. MANION: I wish the hon. minister would go ahead and give it now. I venture to say it is not any better than mine.

Mr. MURDOCK: I am quite sure it is better than the record I have just read. I missed two or three votes last year, Mr. Speaker, because certain hon. gentlemen wanted "to uphold the honour and dignity of parliament;" otherwise I would have been able to vote.

We had a great deal of discussion on certain matters. I want if I can, Mr. Speaker, to see ourselves as others see us. We would get the blues absolutely if we ever came to the point of being convinced by our Tory friends opposite of what a bad job we were making of running this country, and how nearly to the merry bow-wows Canada has gone since the Liberal party came into power. Therefore I do not think it would do any harm if we digressed for a short time to ring a note of optimism into this discussion and to bring to the attention of the House what the press of Canada thinks of us and what are really the conditions as shown by the press. I am not going to deal only with papers that are favourable to the Liberal party. Let us take the other newspapers and go over them as briefly as we can. I will quote first Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada, published monthly by the Canadian Pacific Railway. It should be a reasonably conservative journal. In the issue of March 25, 1925 I find the following:

The coast province—British Columbia—is very active. Its building programme is of considerable dimensions; its lumber prospects are better with new sawmills and new logging camps opening up in districts that have been lying fallow. The mineral situation is active, showing all signs of a progressive year. Agricultural development along all lines is quite normal with a better outlook, and altogether British Columbia is looking forward to a first-class business year.

My hon. friend from New Westminster (Mr. McQuarrie) and my hon. friend from Vancouver South (Mr. Ladner) will be glad to hear that. Then, *Dun's Review* March 5, 1925—

Mr. McQUARRIE: Does the minister think the government is responsible for that?

Mr. MURDOCK: I did not say that.

Mr. McQUARRIE: I do not think so.

Mr. MURDOCK: No, but I think the government's policy has helped.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Then the hon. gentleman does think so.

Mr. MURDOCK: Then, *Dun's Review* published in Toronto has the following: