

five thousand carloads of boilers and radiators to those provinces, which would mean thousands of jobs in Montreal, Toronto and other places. We also brought back carloads of stuff from the McAvity people in Saint John, who make fine valves and brass goods, and from firms in Halifax.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you have been very kind to me and I am going to sit down. I have done my best to show how the economy of the maritimes can be expanded in the interests of the whole of Canada.

Mr. J. A. BRADETTE (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation of the speech just delivered by the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. MacNicol). His very first statement struck me forcibly; that his riding would expand to the extent that the rest of Canada expanded. I believe that is a fine motto, and I may use it later on when I speak about dominion-provincial relations.

I should like to preface my remarks with a well deserved eulogy of the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott). Since the first day he came into this house I have watched this magnetic young man, and I was not astonished at the celerity with which he advanced in the public life of this country. When he was appointed parliamentary assistant he practically did the work of a minister. Later, when he was made a member of the cabinet, he came up to and surpassed all expectations. The way he was able to accomplish so much work was a revelation. In making that statement, I have more particularly in mind what happened last year, when he was the cabinet minister responsible for the army and air force. Then, on account of the condition of health of the Minister of Finance of that day, of whom I want to say a few words in a moment, the present minister had to assume the heavy responsibility of piloting last year's budget through the committee of ways and means. Again he was a revelation to the house and the whole country. Perhaps it will sound a little musical to his ears to hear some praise for a change, not only from this side but from the House of Commons as a whole, though he may have been compensated to a large extent by the fine commentaries which have appeared not only in the Liberal and independent newspapers but also in the Conservative press. I do not want to predict what may be his future, but there may be something even bigger ahead for the present Minister of Finance.

I should like to say a few words also about the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Ilsley). We were fortunate indeed to have a man of

his ability, his courage and his sincerity of purpose as Minister of Finance during the war years. He carried the confidence and respect of every citizen of Canada, regardless of party affiliations. I can apply the same words to the high office he occupies at the present time. He is giving the Department of Justice all his talents and all his sincerity, as he did when he was carrying the heavy responsibility of conducting the finances of this country in time of war.

Before I proceed with my remarks, I should like to read two or three excerpts from the *Ottawa Journal*, a newspaper which calls itself independent, but which is usually a good Conservative newspaper, of Thursday, May 1, 1947:

A Second Look at the Budget

Solomon in all his wisdom could not fashion a budget that would please everybody. When a finance minister comes, as Mr. Abbott came on Tuesday, with a budget giving nine out of ten taxpayers a 29 per cent reduction in income tax—a great number get much more than that—and lopping \$110,000,000 off collective income tax payments, he is bound to please many.

And Mr. Abbott has given tax relief where tax relief was most needed—to people on wages or medium salaries. The *Journal* has argued often that our middle class population, people on fixed salaries, benefited less from war conditions and suffered more from war taxes than any other class. Mr. Abbott, acknowledging this, and remedying it substantially, says . . .

And later on:

Our own view, for what it is worth, is that Mr. Abbott has levelled off taxes (apart from excess profits) to where we may expect to find them for some years to come. We are now budgetting at the rate of about 2,000 million dollars a year; a great deal of our expenditure is uncontrollable; we have embarked on many heavy commitments, and may have to embark on more. In the light of that, plus things happening in the world (a good way to study the budget is in conjunction with this week's report of the foreign exchange control board), it might be as well if we braced ourselves for continuation of existing taxes, for some years at any rate, guarded against vain delusions, and felt thankful for our lot.

I believe that is very fair, and reflects what is in the minds of the people of Canada at the present time.

When the opposition mentions economy, we are in complete agreement. We favour curtailment of expenses, and retrenchment. But a few minutes ago I listened to my good friend, the hon. member for Davenport, and what he propounded to the house respecting requirements of the maritime provinces. No doubt those suggestions were all very fine, and perhaps they should be implemented. But I just leave this question to hon. members, as to how much it would cost the federal treasury if we were to give effect to the recommendations made—and I believe they