

three years ago in a most intelligent and vigorous way, and it is very largely as a result of his efforts that the improvements which have taken place in regard to expenditures have been achieved.

Then we have the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon). Who would envy him his task in meeting the problem of unemployment, a task which it is impossible for one properly to describe. I say the government have endeavoured, as far as we can from day to day, to meet the problems of the day as they present themselves to us.

May I say this: Canada is a democracy, is still a democracy and I hope will remain a democracy. But the success of a democracy depends upon the extent to which each individual unit which goes to make up that democracy discharges his or her obligation as a citizen of the country. I fear that in these days there is a tendency on the part of many citizens to lean too much on governments, whether they be municipal, provincial or federal, and to look for help and assistance where very often they could fend for themselves. Unless we can imbue the mass of the people with a sense of responsibility, then there is not much hope for this Canadian democracy.

But, sir, I have hope for it. I have confidence in it. I believe our Canadian democracy will overcome the difficulties with which we are confronted. Not perhaps to-day or to-morrow but as the days go by and as the people once more become fully seized of their duty and their sense of responsibility, these difficulties will be overcome. All we can do as a government is to confront our task each day, and to endeavour to the best of our ability to discharge our duties. All we can ask of hon. members opposite, all we can ask of provincial governments and others holding public positions in Canada is that they shall attempt to do the same. We do say to hon. members opposite—not that we are asking any consideration for our actions—that we do feel that there are tasks in which all of us can join in an effort to solve the problems with which Canada is confronted.

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Melville): Mr. Speaker, let me at the outset congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) upon the very acceptable manner—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Louder.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: If the house will just keep quiet I think I can get up steam soon enough. Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin over again, but as what I have said would come out of my forty minutes I do

[Mr. Stevens.]

not think I shall. However, before the interruption I was congratulating the Minister of Finance upon the very acceptable manner in which he performed his somewhat difficult duty. We realize he had not a very rosy picture to present, but he did it well enough. Then, the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) certainly displayed an ability to criticize the shortcomings of the budget. He levelled a devastating and withering criticism against the government, which the hon. member who has just taken his seat has not been able to break down.

My good friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) is recognized as one of the best parliamentary debaters, and for that reason he need not apologize for his inability to do anything. We never dreamed of casting any reflection upon his ability. When the whip of the Liberal party asked concerning the book from which he was reading, we were not casting any reflection.

I shall spend only a very few moments discussing some of the matters with which he has dealt. I shall not cover all of them because were I to do so my whole forty minutes would have expired. He indicated, first, that he hoped we were all wiser than we were last year at this time. There is not much evidence of increased wisdom as a result of experience either in the wide-world without or in the government of Canada, within. Certainly, that is so if we are to judge the government by its present policies. My good friend compares two years of trade—both of them Tory years. That is not a very effective comparison. Because one Tory year happens to be better or worse than another Tory year does not assist us in arriving at any intelligent conclusion. In order to make a somewhat better showing my good friend, the minister, adopts a new system of comparison altogether. Apparently, now, when values are down, comparison of values is not the right way. How does the business man value his returns at the end of the year? How does the farmer value his returns? Does he figure out the number of carloads of wheat he grows, or the number of dollars he handles? We heard so much of that kind of comparison last year that we are simply fed up on it. There is not one word by Tory writers about the small amount we are getting in return. In order to make it look better he transfers our trade figures from values to volume, and in that transfer shows evidence that, on that basis, we import more castor oil, more bologna and more nuts, than formerly. Then he complains that as the values are low, inevitably our revenues must be low.