

*The Address—Mr. Gingues*

If the Minister of Finance should object that he will have to find other revenue sources, I would strongly advise him to find them and to rid our people of this disheartening method of taxation, the income tax.

We could, for example, levy a higher tax on alcoholic beverages and luxury goods in general. We could even organize a national lottery and place it under the jurisdiction of the Post Office Department which, I am sure, could sell national lottery tickets as easily as it sells money orders. Such a source of revenue alone would permit the Minister of Finance to exempt from income tax hundreds of thousands of Canadians, freeing them from all the red tape of the Department of National Revenue, and the government would still be in a position to meet the requirements of its social legislation and the national debt.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, the Income Tax Act is a demoralizing measure and I wonder whether the time has not come to look for something better. Those who direct the taxation policy of the government should ponder and endeavour to obtain revenues by other means.

Any word liable to demoralize another person is an evil word and should never be uttered. Likewise and with greater reason, any law which tends to demoralize a people is an evil law and deserves to be suppressed.

The people are aware that they must pay taxes and are ready to do so. They know the government needs revenue but they hate the present taxation methods. Let us find other methods such as I just mentioned. I have already taken the liberty of writing to the ministers concerned to suggest certain methods. I hope they have studied them and that the next budget will bring forth these reforms. The people will be satisfied, their spirits will be better and they will face the future with confidence.

And now, Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding all that it has done to promote the building of houses, I would like the government to improve the National Housing Act. We all know that this act is nearly perfect. If it has not produced the expected results, it is only because of the high cost of building.

The cost of building, however, is about to become stabilized and the government should, in order to make the National Housing Act more complete, absorb part of the interest. At present, a worker is unable to build a house for less than \$6,000 to \$7,000. The interest on \$6,000, at 4½ per cent, amounts to \$270 per annum. In other words, on \$6,000 the interest alone would amount to \$22.50 a month.

[Mr. Gingues.]

In addition, the Sherbrooke property and school taxes amount to \$125 per year. If we add insurance and upkeep, the rent comes to approximately \$40 per month.

A labourer will be unable to keep his home if he has to build under such conditions. However, it would be much easier for him to purchase a house and keep it if the government absorbed the difference between 4½ per cent and 2 per cent, because there his rent would only amount to some \$30 per month.

I therefore urge the government to look into the matter carefully and follow my advice. I am convinced that it is the only way to help thousands of Canadians who wish to buy a house. Being property-owners they will be better Canadians.

Now, Mr. Speaker, may I deal with various matters of particular concern to the constituency I have the honour of representing. A Sherbrooke industry employing some 500 workers, male and female, prospered during the first great war. Right after the 1918 armistice, however, hundreds of glove workers were dismissed and had to look for employment elsewhere. Not only did the industry lose thousands of dollars, but these workers, who had spent many years acquiring the precision which is essential for glove making, were left at loose ends. Glove imports from Czechoslovakia and western Germany were the cause of the trouble.

Remembering this experience, I felt it my duty, as early as 1942, to bring to the attention of the government the importance of this industry to the city of Sherbrooke and to the country at large. At the time the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. MacKinnon) visited the present industries—the Julius Kayser and the Austin Gloves plants. We then supplied the Department of Trade and Commerce with all the information required in order that the government might protect, after the war, an industry that had contributed its share from the economic viewpoint and had given some five hundred local workers steady employment. Unfortunately, I am afraid that imports from certain European countries will again help to nullify the efforts of hardy Canadians who invested rather substantial amounts, only to find that their efforts were useless and that they had better turn to other industries.

Canadian manufacturers are not seeking any favours, Mr. Speaker. All they want is honest and loyal competition.

However, that is not possible with European countries, since the glove-making industry on that continent does not operate the same as it does here. Over there, it is a