

have the power to modify the declared policy of the government without being under the necessity of consulting his colleagues. If such assurance is not given and if this regulation is not modified then I must regretfully conclude that the government has made some hidden concession to the manufacturers, and my vote on the budget will be determined by this consideration.

Mr. F. N. McCREA (Sherbrooke): With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I shall take up a little time in expressing my views on the budget. I do not wish to be harsh or to make any rash statement, but inasmuch as I differ from the government on the budget I desire to outline my reasons for coming to such a conclusion.

The present condition of the country is serious, its burdens are very heavy. Our taxation is almost intolerable and how long people can continue to bear their present burden is something I cannot predict. The question is, what is the prospect for relief? My own impression is that the only sure relief is increased population and increased capital. How are we to get that increased population if we do not give these people something to do? We must have employment to offer them, otherwise they will not come. The people we have in Canada at the present time are leaving faster than others are coming in. In my judgment we cannot place all the people on the land. Of course it is a good place to settle a great many people, but we cannot build up a nation with nothing but farmers. Therefore, we must give some real protection and fair play to industry if we want to increase our population. We have heard a good deal about free trade and about high protection, and all that sort of thing, I am not a high protectionist; I am a moderate protectionist. People who do not believe in my theories will say, "Oh well, he is a manufacturer and consequently speaks from a manufacturer's standpoint". I am and have been a manufacturer for years, but the branch of the business I am connected with, the paper industry, requires no protection. No paper, or very little at any rate, is imported, except tissue paper or something of that kind. The real paper industry makes paper for export and not for import; consequently a tariff on paper would not affect my business. I have been in business for some fifty years or more, and I speak with the information and knowledge I have acquired during all those years. The western farmer would lead us to believe that the panacea for all his troubles is free

trade, and that if the farmers had it they would be happy. They have dwelt on that theory so long and so much that it has become a hobby with them and it is more hobby than real. I think a reasonable amount of tariff or of protection would benefit the farming community more than any other class of the population of Canada, and I will tell hon. members why. This country needs population and capital, and if we get the population we must give employment.

Looking at it in the smallest possible way; suppose that an immigrant coming to this country is willing and able to earn a living and support his wife and three or four children by honest toil, with reasonable pay, the moment he sets foot on Canadian soil he becomes a consumer of fifty per cent of his earnings. If he is a common labourer earning \$4 a day, fifty per cent of those earnings will go to supply foodstuffs and other commodities that the farmers should and do produce. That being the case, we need population. Suppose we doubled our population, and instead of a few labourers or farmers coming to this country, a million or two came over. That would create a market for a \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 worth of farm products every day of the year. I ask my farmer friends if that does not appeal to them as being to their advantage as farmers. What is the use of a farmer producing large crops of vegetables, butter, cheese, and other articles if he has no market for them? Everybody will agree that the home market is the best market for any country. Fifty per cent of the immigrant's earnings will be spent in foodstuffs, the balance going to the shoemaker, the tailor and for rent. I do not wish to speak in bitterness in discussing this question, because the tariff does not affect my business directly in any way. Of course, any tampering or gerrymandering with the tariff affects everybody, perhaps not directly but indirectly. Anything that affects the country of course affects everybody in the country.

The government seem to take great pleasure in the fact that they issued fifty million dollars of bonds for the purpose of equipment for the Canadian National Railway. They put out another issue of a couple of hundred million of refunding bonds. They take great pleasure in the fact that the bonds were taken up quickly and readily by Canadians. So do I. That fact indicates two things; it indicates that the people of Canada have money, and that they have faith in their country and in the government to some extent. But it indicates something else which to my mind is more serious. It indicates that the people of Canada, instead of putting their money into