

*The Budget—Mr. Kuhl*

youth conference, and the happiest message that the youth of the country could possibly receive would be his assurance that the government would prohibit the promiscuous use of codeine, as has been done in the United States and nearly every other country in the civilized world.

Mr. W. F. KUHLE (Jasper-Edson): Mr. Speaker, most hon. members who have spoken thus far on the budget have commenced their speeches by offering a tribute of praise to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) for his good work. Just to be different, I am not going to follow the beaten path; I will tell the minister and the government exactly what I think. When I think of the deplorable conditions of poverty throughout this Canada of ours; when I think of the hopeless condition of the young people throughout this country; when I think of the mental agony of both young and old; when I think of the pitiable condition of the blind, the maimed and the halt; when I think of the medical care that people require and cannot obtain; when I think of the possibilities of this age of plenty; when I think of the untold suffering, misery and agony that is being endured; when I think of the veritable hell that people are going through in these days, I cannot have any mercy whatever for the monetary policy which is supported by the minister or for his banker-bondholder budget.

I do not wish the minister to think I am criticising just for the sake of criticism. That is not my nature. The minister can rest assured that if he proposes any real, genuine reform I shall be one of the first to support it with both hands, both feet and every inch of the seventy-seven inches of my physical anatomy. But, Mr. Speaker, in view of the untold suffering that is abroad to-day I think it is time we dealt with the facts as we find them. I think the time is long overdue when we should quit playing and pussy-footing around; I think we should bore right into the heart of the problem, attack this citadel of high finance from every corner and deliver broadsides at it from every angle until it is demolished.

I do not wish the minister, however, to think that I harbour no kindly feelings whatever towards him on his presentation of the budget. I think his address certainly demonstrated his excellent business acumen and the many qualifications he has for the position of Minister of Finance. However, if intelligence and ability could be measured in that way I maintain that one ounce of intelligence and ability applied on behalf of the people would

[Mr. Hartigan.]

accomplish infinitely more than a hundred pounds of intelligence used only for the benefit of the bankers and the bondholders. This budget is undoubtedly the best the minister can do under the existing monetary policy, but that is the whole point, the existing monetary policy. I am sure no one in this house expects the minister to do much better as long as he permits himself to be bound by the shackles of an obsolete and outworn monetary policy. I am quite sure that if, before making up his budget, the minister had tasted some of the economic food of which some of his colleagues have partaken, I would find in his budget more that would merit favourable comment. As it stands, however, I must say that the whole thing can be summed up in one sentence: The people have asked for bread, and they have received a stone.

Many members of the Liberal party have been proclaiming from the housetops that their presence in this chamber in such overwhelming numbers is a definite and positive indication that the people of Canada approved of their trade policy. I contend that such statements are an entire misrepresentation of the facts. If there was in the Liberal platform anything at all of which the people approved it was the monetary reform which they hoped they would get. Anyone who knows what monetary reform means realizes that, as far as any indication of it in the budget is concerned, it is conspicuous by its absence. If the people of Canada voted on a policy at all certainly it was not a policy of trade. The people of Canada were under the impression that the Liberal party was going to restore to government its sovereign right, the industry of manufacturing money, as the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. McGeer) indicated in his speech not long ago. The speeches delivered from time to time by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) certainly gave the people of Canada the impression that this was going to take place. Let me repeat just one of the statements frequently made by the right hon. gentleman:

Usury, once in control, will wreck any nation. Until the control of currency and credit is restored to government and recognized as its most conspicuous and most sacred responsibility, any talk of the sovereignty of parliament and of democracy is idle and futile.

We are still looking for indications of the implementation of promises of that kind. In view of that statement I say that if there is going to be no more monetary reform than is indicated in the proposed legislation, the inaction of the Liberal government in this connection will constitute one of the greatest