

Mr. J. S. SINNOTT (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate you on the manner in which you keep order and decorum in this chamber. Sometimes your tasks are arduous and difficult, and your patience is tried to the limit. Therefore I think a few kind remarks along this line are in order. I wish also to congratulate those who have spoken before me, as I know they have contributed much towards the wisdom of building this great Canada of ours, Canada a nation which is only a child in age compared to what other nations are and has the distinction of having achieved a most enviable record in obtaining results in the winning of the war, a record more outstanding than that of any other country with a comparable population. Canada's achievement in this respect has won not only the support of the Canadian people but the admiration of the whole world. I cannot say too much to compliment those responsible for that magnificent effort, a mighty large share of the credit for which should go to our Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King).

Up to the present time I have felt that I should sit back and listen to the more experienced speakers carry on, but after listening to speeches for almost eight months I feel that I have profited sufficiently from the example of my fellow members to be able to contribute something myself. While the budget brought down by the right hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilsley) does not show—

Mr. PROBE: I should like to ask the hon. member what he is quoting from; or, alternatively, I should like to ask you, Mr. Speaker, if the ruling about the reading of speeches still applies.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member knows that according to the rules of the house a member is not supposed to read his speech. I assume he is consulting his notes.

Mr. SINNOTT: I am following rather extended notes. While the budget brought down by the Minister of Finance does not show much of an over-all reduction in taxation, there is one feature of it that the government is emphasizing, and that is, keeping employment at a high level. I was more than pleased on July 5 to hear the Minister of Finance announce several important steps which were being taken in the economic and financial field to prevent undue increases in the cost of living and the cost of production, to improve the effort for price control, to encourage a greater supply of scarce commodities, and to facilitate a stabilization pro-

gramme which will be orderly and will give the nation protection against adverse developments outside of our borders.

I was pleased to hear the Minister of Finance announce the equalization of the Canadian and United States dollars, but most important of all was the control of rents. I believe many rents are too high, and I urge that the wartime prices and trade board make a strict revision of all rents and continue the controls.

Early post-war developments have been quite favourable, and there has not been the unemployment during demobilization that many were led to expect. Reconversion has proceeded with comparative smoothness and rapidity, and the evils of inflation and deflation have largely been avoided. Interruptions which have resulted from labour troubles have seriously delayed the production and distribution of articles which so many of our people are desirous of obtaining. It is recognized that it would be dangerous to the Canadian economy if price controls were not continued for at least another year.

I particularly wished to emphasize this afternoon the unflinching efforts of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). It has been said by many in this house that most of the time of the house is taken up by agriculture, but I must say that I consider this as one of the most important subjects for discussion. If it were not for the farmer, the fisherman and our primary producers generally, the rest of the nation could not exist. For those who have never milked a cow or done the many chores of the primary producer this may be a joke, but let me say again that without those most important people our economy would falter into oblivion.

Nothing would be a finer gesture than for those who have never done this class of work to take a week after the house prorogues and go through the trials that the primary producer goes through, especially those of the dairy farmer. Some would certainly change their minds as to what he has to go through to make a livelihood for himself and his family. There are two types of farmer, the grain grower and the mixed farmer. The grain grower in these modern times, with all the modern machinery at his disposal, is living a life of leisure in comparison with the mixed farmer. Most certainly he has not the trials and tribulations of the dairy farmer who has to work 365 days a year. Certainly all the dairy farmer earns should never be begrudged and should be encouraged by continuing government subsidies.