

is certain: that the budget has done nothing to remedy the situation of the unemployed by creating new industries. Rather the reverse; they are closing up the present ones and any business that they may have is stagnant. They cannot therefore expect our people who have left to return to their native land, when no inducements are offered.

I fail to notice in the budget anything relating to our fisheries. I do not suppose the report of the fisheries commission has yet been brought down, but I cannot help feeling that the fishing industry, like many others, has been sadly neglected. I do not wish to say much on the question until the report is given to the house, but I would ask the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Elliott), with whom I have had considerable correspondence, to place in the supplementary estimates such a sum as would be of substantial benefit to the fishermen of Victoria county. A part of my constituency devoted to fishing is so situated geographically that the small harbours and inlets are very much exposed to the storms of the Atlantic, and therefore no breakwaters or wharves can be built. The fishermen cannot compete with the larger fishing fleets of Gloucester and other places because they cannot use boats larger than can be hauled up on the shore. The ex-Minister of Public Works, as an experiment, installed an engine by means of which the boats could be hauled up on a skidway or hoist. This worked very well and I firmly believe that had that gentleman continued as minister of the department he would have installed more such engines. The experiment proved quite successful. When the present Minister of Public Works considers the situation carefully I believe that his generosity, so highly spoken of a few nights ago by an hon. member, will show itself in this instance. I do not know of a more deserving case. Imagine twenty fishermen or so coming into harbour on an evening in the fall, in October or November, a gale of wind blowing. The poor men, tired out from the long day's work, are compelled to go out to their waists in the icy water to drag the fish-laden boats up on the shore. If you ever watched this work being carried on you would say that these men were certainly entitled to some assistance from the government. For two years I have been trying to interest the government in the matter, because the cost would only be about \$500 for an engine and skidway, and the fishermen would operate the engine themselves. Now that the Minister of Finance shows a surplus why should not the people of Canada share in it? I am not opposed to the spending of

money to beautify Ottawa and make it the Washington of Canada; I do not object to spending half a million dollars for our embassy in Washington while the representative of the wealthiest country in the world has been contentedly living in a rented house in Ottawa, but I do say that while these large and extravagant expenditures are being made by the government on these and other works, the poorer places throughout the country should participate.

There is not a member of this house who has not somewhere in his constituency a small town with no proper post office or other public building. I am reminded of one instance of a beautiful little town along the north shore where the post office was maintained by an old gentleman in his kitchen, for which he received a rental of \$1.50 a month. A few years ago this became a distributing office, and the old gentleman had to enlarge his kitchen by building a shed, because a good deal of mail began to come in. Through me he applied to the government to have his rent increased to \$2 per month, which was the rent then paid by the customs, but I was told by the Postmaster General that this could not possibly be done, that the laws governing the matter were very strict and could not be altered. I am sure we can all recall similar instances, Mr. Speaker, and I think the government is deficient in its duty to the people of this country in not spending more money in our rural districts. When the people of the maritimes learn of these great expenditures for which they have been taxed they will certainly feel that, according to the estimates for the maritimes this year, they have been discriminated against.

A larger reduction in the income tax would have met with greater favour throughout the country, and I believe the abolition of the sales tax is very necessary. It is the only tax which strikes the working man in what he buys both in the way of clothing and food; in everything he gets from the smallest store in the country it affects him personally, and the abolition of this tax would meet with very strong favour. I will certainly vote for the amendment.

Mr. MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak neither in praise of the budget nor yet in absolute condemnation of it. I appreciate the difficulties of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) and I know it is no easy task to budget the accounts of this great country of ours in such a manner as to satisfy and conciliate not only this house but also the conglomerate elements in his own party.