

of the people included in the schedule read out by the minister. The tax amounts to only 14½ per cent. In addition to that, all the other forms of taxation have remained high.

As I have said before, production is the barometer which would have kept down inflation; the law of supply and demand would take care of that. On many commodities that law forced down prices in the United States, after the controls were taken off. The government has failed to give any relief in the manner I have mentioned, and in my opinion it has shown a lack of vision and of consideration for the taxpayers.

The extravagance of the government in connection with ambassadors is beyond description. I see that the Department of External Affairs alone is spending \$1,779,000 more than it did last year. Ambassadors are travelling all over the seven seas. Some of them do not know enough, when they speak in the language of a foreign country, to ask for their laundry. They are out there, acting as our ambassadors across the seas, but they are only amateurs who learn by experience, with no knowledge of foreign affairs and no knowledge of external affairs. We have now reached the sixty-fifth day of this session, and it is nearly time we had a day devoted to the discussion of foreign affairs, instead of submitting ourselves to the catechism style of: A question a day keeps the ambassadors away.

Some of the members of the press have made good ambassadors and have gone all over the world. In fact, so many ambassadors have been named that we have discovered that the great basic industry for solving unemployment in Ottawa is the appointment of ambassadors, and this is known as the ambassador cure for unemployment. We are spending \$1,779,000 more for ambassadors, and the end of it is not yet in sight, because there are at least 200 more days left in the year. Appointing an ambassador a day will keep the tax rate away up, according to the way I look at it.

As I said before, we will have a cold winter next winter. We are now around the middle of May, and our fires are still on in our homes and in this building. In only two or three months the fires must be put on again. Where will we get the coal and other kinds of fuel? What is the government going to do to get it? We have been talking about a national fuel policy; I brought the matter up in the house in 1923, but everybody opposed it. They did not believe in a national system of bonuses, subventions and subsidies to bring coal from Alberta or from the maritimes to central Canada. The government opposed it for five or six years, and then it adopted a system of

[Mr. Church.]

bonuses, subventions and subsidies. Ontario wants to use coal from Wales, Alberta and the maritimes if it can get it; but nothing is being done about it. Next winter we will have a terrible state of affairs, with old age pensioners freezing in their houses and homes. I do not know how they are going to avoid it.

Then, not only should we have a national fuel policy, but we should have a national hydro-electric policy. I pointed out in 1924 that we should have a national hydro-electric policy for Canada. A return I received at that time shows that we have a potential horse-power in Canada of 45 million of which only 7 million has been developed and some of that is only seasonal, operating in the summer time. One-sixth, or 7 million horse-power has been developed. It was shown that we had not been progressive enough, and that we should have had further utilization of our hydro-electric resources, for heating purposes where possible. I was surprised in 1927 when I was there to find that British Columbia, one of the richest provinces in power, had made very little progress in that direction. That would be a fine solution for the trouble they are having with regard to fuel.

I have been surprised to find that in these days no one wants to own a house, because even if you own it you cannot get into it. Many people are complaining. No contractor wants to build a house. In Toronto 65 or 70 per cent of our citizens used to own their own homes. Today the builders are getting out of house building because nobody wants to own houses or real estate. The government should do something about it. The city architect at Toronto, Mr. Gillies, said the other day the difficulty is that a shortage of low-priced land within the city, and the high price of materials and of labour make it prohibitive for anyone to build houses.

I am going to ask the government a few questions. Why is there a housing shortage? Does the government realize how urgent the problem will be during the coming winter? How quickly shall we get these houses built? Why cannot all the building trades workers be drawn out of the forces and the factories? Is all the building trades labour which is now available being used for the building of houses? No. Go around the streets of Ottawa and in the playgrounds and you will see the answer to that for yourself. Will the government's housing programme be held up because public authorities cannot get land? What are people going to do while they are waiting for houses to be built? Our veterans are living in hovels and basements although they have