

higher than the Canadian duty. When we compare the two countries and compare the progress made in the United States with the progress made in Canada, we look for reasons, and I say the reason is that we have not a proper tariff in this country. I might discuss many things in this line, but I am not going to do it. I could refer to other industries which are being handicapped because of the present tariff, which are crying out for some redress, but which are receiving absolutely no consideration from this government. The tariff has to be revised, but I do not believe this government is capable under present conditions of revising it satisfactorily, particularly in view of the fact that they are dependent upon the support of the Progressives to keep in power. We have been told time after time by the Prime Minister that his hands are tied, not only in regard to the tariff but as regards other matters, because he has such a small majority. I say that the Prime Minister should not have attempted to carry on a government without a proper majority. After the last election, when he found that he did not have a working majority he should have gone to the country immediately and either obtained a satisfactory majority or allowed some other party to obtain a majority. This feature of being dependent on another party for support is certainly not in the interests of any country, and it is most unfortunate, particularly in the case of Canada, under present conditions. I hope there will be an election soon. Out there in British Columbia the supporters of the government are in despair. They are finding great difficulty in obtaining candidates in the various constituencies for the Liberal party. They are so hard up that they are fighting to get the Minister of Public Works (Mr. King, Kootenay) to run as their candidate in different constituencies. They think that the Minister of Public Works, besides being a wonderful statesman and all that kind of thing, is the Minister of Public Works, and if they can get him to run they think they can elect their candidate perhaps, because the people may think they are going to get something in the way of public works. Otherwise they have no hope. The hon. minister shakes his head. It has got so bad out west that the Liberal organizer for British Columbia had to come down to Ottawa, and shortly afterwards we saw it announced in the press that the Minister of Public Works had decided to run in Vancouver Centre—mark you in Vancouver Centre and not in his own constituency. I think his own constituency is one place where they apparently do not want him. I do not know why, but evidently they do not seem

[Mr. McQuarrie.]

to want him. The minister has finally decided to run in Vancouver Centre. All I can say to him is that if he decides to commit political suicide, there is the place for him to run. Notwithstanding his portfolio and all that kind of thing, when the votes are counted after the election I am afraid he will find he is away down in the list. Another feature is that the people of British Columbia do not think this government is going to come back. They think the people of Canada are sick and tired of a government so inactive, so helpless and useless as this government has proved itself to be—a government which has not been able to carry out any of its pledges, which has not been able to do anything, which is dependent entirely upon the say-so of another group in the House. When they go to the country—and I hope they will do it soon—the good old Conservative party will come back to power. In England they are talking of holding the next Imperial conference in Canada. They want to do something, I suppose, to bring Canada into line; but in any event they are friendly to Canada, they want to help us, they want to co-operate with us, to confer with us and all that kind of thing, and therefore the next Imperial conference may be held in Canada in 1927. May we hope that when that event happens there will be a Conservative government in power so that something may be accomplished.

Mr. JULES EDOUARD PREVOST (Terrebonne) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, nowhere, have I better understood than here this very old maxim: silence is golden. That is true in more than one respect, but this truth is especially exact in the strict meaning of the words since, according to the dictum which is dear to Americans, a practical nation; Time is money. I, therefore, intend to be brief in the few remarks which I propose to make with reference to the budget submitted to us.

All who inhabit this country acknowledge the fact that we are faced with serious problems which complicate our national existence. If these problems are self evidenced to all citizens, even though they may not fully understand our economic situation, even though they may be ignorant of the intricate ways of our finances, the more evident must they be to the well informed observer.

These problems are of two orders: first economic, secondly national.

I shall not linger over theories on political economy. I shall go straight to the point and admit that the financial situation of Canada is critical.

I do not wish to be placed among the pessimists for I still have faith in our future.