

*Special War Revenue Act*

impatient when others protest, but I want to repeat that to thousands of families it means that they will not be able to purchase all the sugar they really should have. I say again that one trouble is that these taxes are imposed by men who do not realize what will be the effect on many consumers throughout Canada. I think it is absolute folly to impose a tax on buns, on self-rising flour and similar articles. Let us raise the general price level in Canada by 25 per cent; then we will be able to wipe out all the extra taxes imposed this year and the budget will be in much better shape than it is at present. I do not want to labour the point, but I think the minister would be far better employed if he devoted his time and attention to that question instead of bothering with such trivial matters as a tax on buns, self-rising flour, cakes and pies, cigarette papers and so on.

Before I sit down I should like to ask the minister a question in regard to the limitation of this tax to those producing goods to the value of more than \$3,000 in a year. In deciding that question of production will the \$3,000 include bread, in the case of big bakeries, or will that amount include only cakes, buns, pies and so on?

Mr. RHODES: My hon. friend said that if we had the 1928 price levels we would not require these new taxes, and that we would have a surplus. I hope he will think me neither facetious nor disrespectful if I say to him that the reply made on one celebrated occasion is, I think, strictly in point; I refer to that of the Irishman, who said that if he had the lakes of Killarney in Hades he could sell them for a shilling a glass. It is idle to say, "If we had the price levels of 1928." That is obvious, and if my hon. friend is serious when he suggests to me that I had better address myself to the raising of price levels, I thank him deeply for the compliment because, if I could do that, I should be worthy of a place in history along with Atlas. I say that in the kindest spirit and without the slightest intention of making a remark to which the hon. gentleman could take exception. I submit, however, that the reply is absolutely in keeping with the nature of the suggestion. I must take exception not only to what my hon. friend has said but to his attitude in saying it. He says that the men who make up these taxes do not realize what taxes mean. I do not know whether he thinks that we dwell in a world apart. I had the idea that I occupied a common Canadian citizenship along with other members of the house.

[Mr. Coote.]

Mr. COOTE: Will the minister permit me to correct him? I was referring to the thousands of families who have to pay the tax.

Mr. RHODES: I will not yield to my hon. friend from Macleod in asserting my sympathy with the people. I say to him that my human sympathies, my desire to be of service to the people of Canada, my knowledge of conditions in Canada and of the homes and lives of the people are just as complete as his own.

Mr. COOTE: I never suggested anything to the contrary regarding the minister's attitude to the public; not at all.

Mr. RHODES: That is the reply I feel bound to make to the hon. gentleman's suggestion that he has a superior knowledge of conditions in the country, that we are looking at those conditions from a different plane from himself. Let me say to him that I know the homes of the people of this country, the common people. I sprang from them myself and I do not like the imputation from the hon. gentleman that these taxes are harshly imposed by those who have neither a knowledge of conditions nor any care about them. I do not mind telling my hon. friend that during the time I have been a public servant, and one with some experience, I have had to do many distasteful things, and nothing has been personally so distasteful to me as to be associated with many forms of taxation which we are called upon to impose at the present time. But I regard my personal feelings as something that must be submerged into what I conceive, either rightly or wrongly, to be that which is for the common good of the country. In imposing these taxes, harsh though they may be, I have in mind the welfare of those for whom the hon. member for Macleod professes to speak. I have in mind their welfare just as much as that of any individual anywhere in the whole farflung breadth of Canada.

My hon. friend asked a question as to whether the deadline of \$3,000 with respect to bakers was applicable to their whole business, including bread, or only to bakers' cakes and pies. The computation is based entirely on that portion of their business which consists of cakes and pies.

Mr. COOTE: I did not intend for a moment to suggest that the minister had no concern about the hardship which taxation would impose upon the people. I do not want the committee to misunderstand what I had in mind. I was suggesting that men who are sitting in Ottawa, engrossed in this very diffi-