

with small political arguments during this time of stress and strain. I would not have attempted to go into these figures had it not been that they were being broadcast throughout this chamber and the province of Ontario. When arguments such as these are presented I feel like saying to hon. friends opposite: Canada is passing through a crisis; drop your petty politics and come let us reason together. An hon. member gets up and says that two hundred factories have closed, and we hear actual applause. During the next campaign I should like nothing better than to have a sound picture of these proceedings to show how seriously the opposition has been aiding in the work of this session. When we go back to our people we will say: Regardless of whether or not our party is elected, we shall do our best and give our support to all necessary legislation, no matter whence it comes. Perhaps not the majority, but many of the opposition sit there chuckling and hoping that Canada will become more depressed so that hard times may cause the defeat of the government. The old farm which was left us was in a terribly run down condition. The roof was off the barn, the fences were all down and the soil was impoverished; it could not be expected that there would be a good crop the first year, but we are cleaning up the soil and we shall be able to give a good account of ourselves.

Considering the load he is carrying, the Prime Minister should be given every encouragement. I am reminded of a story in connection with a train climbing the Caledon mountains. With much chugging and puffing the engineer finally brought his train to the top of the grade. The brakeman came along and the engineer said, "I never thought I would make the top." The brakeman replied, "You wouldn't have made it if I hadn't put on the brakes." We hear hon. members saying that they hope the economic conference will be a success, but they know it will not be. What father would place his hand on his son's head and say, "My boy, I am sending you off to college but I know it is no use"? I claim that has been the attitude of the opposition during this session.

Mr. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (East Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to agree with the hon. member for North Huron (Mr. Spotton) when he says that there was possibly a great deal of claptrap during the last election campaign, but I think he will agree with me when I say that this side of the house does not hold a first mortgage upon that commodity. The hon. member discussed the depression as affecting automobiles; I am going to discuss the depression of human

[Mr. Spotton.]

values which has taken place since the inception of this parliament. I hope that the contribution he made to this house will go to solve the conditions under which the agriculturists of this country are suffering.

With other hon. members, I compliment the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) on his presentation of his first budget. However, I contend that the budget itself is nothing to cheer about, and I do not think that this dominion will be able to stand many more like it. It places an added burden of \$5.50 on every man, woman and child in this country, an additional burden of \$27.50 on the average family of five. In my opinion it lacked the only sound method of taxation, the taxing of those who can best afford to pay and the placing of the burden where it is best able to be borne. The sales tax has been increased, and after all, we might just as well call it by its proper name—the buyer's tax. This tax increases the cost of every conceivable article used in the homes of this country. The same thing might be said of the excise tax, which has been increased by 200 per cent, enhancing the cost of well nigh everything that goes into the home of the ordinary citizen. There is plenty of money in Canada, and in this time of stress, when every individual has to face a decrease in wages or a shortening of hours, all of which causes a reduction in his buying power, it would have been in the best interests of this country had the government gone, like the Quakers, to where the money is. Two-thirds of the money to be raised will be taken out of the pockets of the average tax payer.

This afternoon one of the speakers broached the question of a change in the constitution of the Senate. I am opposed absolutely to an appointed Senate. I feel we have reached that stage in our legislative development when the Senate should either be abolished or elected; we have reached that stage in the development of our democratic institutions where every individual who fashions or makes the laws should be directly responsible to the electorate. If we must have a place wherein to put those who have passed their sphere in this chamber, the best thing to do would be to provide some sort of pension. I say this in all sincerity because after all some sacrifice is made by those who participate in public life; and when they give the best years of their lives to the service of their country they are surely entitled to some consideration in their declining years. I believe that would be a far better way to deal with the problem than the spectacle we have before us to-day.

The question of inflation has been touched upon during the debate. Rather than express