

benefit. Therefore I am not so anxious as some people are for the taking away of the sales tax. I want if relief is to be given let it come from the reduction or removal of indirect taxation. I think that would be much better.

I do not think I shall carry the story further. It becomes interesting to me and I feel like talking, but I have broken the ice and I have given expression to a few points that have a direct bearing upon the questions involved in this debate. If the people want more of the story they can find me in my office, or I would be pleased to discuss it with any hon. gentleman who wishes to pay me the compliment of visiting me.

Mr. L. W. HUMPHREY (West Kootenay): I feel that it is fitting that I should at least state my position in relation to the budget that has been brought down by the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb). Before going into the question that I would like to touch upon, I would like to associate myself with those who have directed kind words to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding). I sincerely trust he will be soon restored to health, and that we may be privileged to see him again in this chamber.

It is not my purpose to go into details in discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the free trade and protection issue, or the advantages or disadvantages of this budget; but simply to express my opinion as to how the budget will affect my own district, and at the same time keep in mind how it will affect the whole Dominion. First let me say that, as I view this budget, it will appeal to the majority of the electors in the district I represent, and in my own opinion will result in a greater degree of prosperity in the farming, lumbering and mining industries; as the district I have the privilege of representing is given over particularly to farming, with some lumbering and a good deal of mining, I feel that what would be good for the interests I have mentioned would certainly be good for the whole district. It is very gratifying to have before us a financial statement of the Acting Minister of Finance, and to know that the financial condition of this country is as good as it is, and especially in the face of the organized system of propaganda that has been circulated in the country during the past six or eight months. As the province of British Columbia is now entering a period of prosperity I do not believe that this budget will in any way interfere with the future of that province, or have any detrimental effect upon any of these industries. I believe that there are

many factors and conditions that affect the prosperity of a country outside of the tariff issue.

On some of these questions, that are of vital importance to the whole country, I should like to touch very briefly, and also endeavour to bring out a different view from that which has been expressed by some hon. members in previous debates. At the beginning of this session I believe that practically every member of this House was primed up to a certain extent with a system of propaganda which was spread throughout the country crying for economy and for every government to practise and to bring about a policy of economy in every way. Although I am in accord with the policy that has been brought to the notice of the whole country, I do not feel that I can be in any way stampeded into supporting a policy that I would believe to be one of false economy. No doubt as regards many forms of expenditure it will, perhaps, not be necessary to practise the most rigid economy, but at the same time it will be necessary to economise to a certain extent. My position in regard to the budget—and I should like to state my position now—is that I feel I can support the budget as it stands to-day, believing that it is in the best interest of the whole Dominion.

Some questions that I should like to take advantage of this budget debate to touch upon pertain to the whole of the Dominion, while perhaps, they have some small particular reference to my riding. The first question to which I should like to refer is that of immigration. In the past year, more especially than any other year, I feel that the present government have been putting into effect a policy of immigration designed to promote the future development of this country, and the few remarks that I propose to make now, I should like to direct to the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Robb), so that he, if possible, may profit by the experience that we are having in British Columbia. During the last session of this parliament, legislation was introduced in this House providing restrictions in regard to the Chinese and, in my opinion, that is legislation upon which the country can compliment the government and that will bring about effective restriction of Chinese immigration. We in British Columbia have a complicated immigration problem. We have the Chinese; we have the Japanese; we also have a mixture of many other nationalities, and in that connection I should like to draw