

The Budget—Mr. Church

four or five Liberal members representing that district today there is not one of them in the cabinet, and we will not have one as long as the present government is in office. The people have spoken. Troops from the Toronto district under Colonel Denison of the bodyguard saved the prairies—the Queen's Own, the Grenadiers. They went out there to Cut Knife pass, The Pas, and all those places and saved the prairie provinces. Those men marched across by lake Superior in the depth of winter, with the temperature 45 and 50 degrees below zero. All they had were biscuits and hard-tack, yet during the Riel rebellion of 1885 they saved that country from being dislocated. Yet now, sixty-four years later, that Toronto district is not considered worthy to have a cabinet representative.

While the present budget is very good in some respects, in others it is very defective. It is true that the 8 per cent sales tax has been removed from fuel oil used for heating, and that the tax on cider and other wines containing 7 per cent proof spirits is reduced; but the tax reductions are very small. For 1948-49 the revenues of the country amounted to \$2,771 million, while the expenditures were \$2,176 million. Back in 1896, when Sir Wilfrid Laurier took office, it only required \$36 million to run the whole of Canada; and dear knows we have not doubled in population since that time. Now they spend that much in a day. They count that day lost in which they do not spend more than that. According to these revised estimates, the revenue for 1949-50 is expected to be \$2,550 million and expenditure \$2,460 million. No change has been made in the personal income tax. That is too bad, because the small businessman and the wage earner were expecting that something would be done for them.

When we come to look at the housing situation we find that it will be difficult to qualify under any of the schemes suggested by the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply (Mr. Winters) or the central mortgage company because we have no cheap land left in the city of Toronto. Neither do we have a steam suburban railway service; and the government has taken too much money out of the pockets of the people. Refunds from the prior budget were supposed to be made six months ago, but now we find that an act of parliament will be required before the money that has been collected can be given back. That is unfortunate, because many people were looking for that money to help pay their income tax for the current year.

The amendment moved by the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe) calls for an inquiry into our trade position. Trade is

falling off, and now our constitution is being tampered with by the federal government in the manner I indicated a moment ago. I quoted several Liberal ministers of justice and chief justices of Canada who were opposed to any such action, but the government are going ahead anyway. All this has happened since the election in June. Where are our ships today? They are tied up in our harbours because we are not exporting the maximum quantity of goods to the markets of the world. We should be sending forth products of the sea, the soil, the forest and the mine, but our export trade is falling off and our ships are tied up.

Then I come to the dominion-provincial conference. There is no reason in the world why that should not be held immediately, before they make the British North America Act into a scrap of paper. Why not call this conference now? Most of the provinces have chosen new leaders within the last few years, so a conference could be called at any time. Why not call it here and now, while parliament is in session? Such a conference is very badly needed. It is a case of now or never, or perhaps of now and forever. Why should we have to wait months or years before such a conference is held? I can see no reason for the delay.

The amendment moved by the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe speaks for itself. So does the report of the Auditor General, who has very little control over things now. Look at those in the other place. I asked the former head of the government many times if he would not arrange for a joint meeting with those in the other place to see if they could not be given more work. The Senate was never intended to be top-heavy as it is today; that was not the principle in mind when it was decided to have two houses of parliament. The other day I received a letter from a gentleman who said he had noticed in the *Citizen* that the Senate would not sit. He wrote to me and said, "The Senate will not work," and went on to express a little humour about our friends in the other place. I believe they have a great many able men over there, however, and if they were given more work this chamber would be relieved and parliament would not need to sit so long.

The amendment of the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe deals with trade, and particularly with trade within the commonwealth. We all remember the depression of the thirties, when it was only preferential trade that saved this country in the early thirties. Under it the trade of Britain with Canada was increased by 45 per cent while the trade of Canada with Britain was increased by 44 per cent, and still both Canada and Britain