

We had hoped that the government at this time would do something to ease the burden that lies on the consuming public of Canada, but we cannot find in this budget anything that tends to do that. Additional taxes are being levied under this budget upon people who are unable to pay the taxes that are now in force. We thought that something would be done to equalize the imposition of taxation upon the people. In his budget address the Minister of Finance gave a statement of the funded debt of Canada, and among the items enumerated at page 3219 of Hansard I find that there is the sum of \$774,650,000 odd of outstanding bonds that are tax free. There is an annual interest payment on those bonds of \$39,347,950.25—bonds that are tax free. A portion of that will become taxable on the first of November of this year, namely, the sum of \$276,688,100, but the balance will run for a further term of years. The people of Canada, not only in the west but in central Canada and in the maritime provinces, the ordinary person, the labouring class, the consumers, the common people of the country, are doing their utmost to make ends meet, but they find it impossible to pay taxes on farm lands, if they own farms, or to pay taxes on town properties if they have houses in the town. I think we were entitled to expect at this time, after two or three years of a depression such as we have been going through, that in this budget some step would have been taken to see that those people who have been escaping taxation should be brought just a little closer to the average man in the country. It may seem to the minister and to the government a rather extreme thing to do; it may look like renouncing contracts. But you must realize that the great majority of the people of Canada have been forced to renounce contracts; they are not able to live up to contractual obligations, and if there are 1,300,000 people in Canada on relief in addition to the hundreds of thousands who are on the verge of relief, surely it is time for some of these corporations and individuals who are holding tax free bonds to contribute to the upkeep of the country. A suggestion of that kind was made this afternoon by the hon. member for Nelson (Mr. Stitt), but he did not give us the figures to show what amount was involved. There is however a sum of \$774,000,000 odd, as I calculate from the statement of the Minister of Finance, of tax free bonds in this country.

I believe we have come to the time in the history of this country when every person must help to carry the load. It does not

[Mr. Porteous.]

seem fair any longer to leave the great bulk of the Canadian people suffering while those who were fortunate enough to get hold of tax free bonds go scot free. I realize that investments which they may have in corporations and in industrial concerns may not be earning the dividends they have in the past; I readily understand that these people are taking a substantial reduction in income right now. But they can afford to take a still greater reduction, or can afford to pay some part of the taxes of the country instead of the government endeavouring to tax the home, the housewife and children by such levies as an additional two cents on sugar. Before such taxation was levied, I submit that the government should have exhausted every other source. I know it sounds almost revolutionary to suggest breaking contractual relations even with individuals within Canada, but the time has come when, in my opinion, it has to be done.

I should like to refer to another matter. I think the government would be well advised to make a reduction in the duties imposed against certain classes of commodities coming into this country, for example, gasoline. It does not seem to me to be a fair proposition that oil companies such as Imperial Oil, the British American, the McColl-Frontenac, the Shell Oil, and other companies which may be able to take advantage of the protection afforded to the larger companies, should be able to draw out of the pockets of the people of Canada moneys to which they are not entitled. This commodity has a protection of two and one-half cents per gallon plus the excise tax. A dumping duty was in effect and a form of dumping duty is still in effect notwithstanding what the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) says. It is time that the people of Canada were able to get some of the benefits to be derived from the cheap gasoline being sold throughout the world. If this government was deriving any benefit from these duties it would not be so bad, but duties should not be imposed simply for the sake of protecting an octopus like the oil industry and penalizing all individuals who find it necessary to buy gasoline and oil. Such action is not fair in times such as we are now experiencing. One oil company was able to ship \$12,000,000 of profits down to the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey to enable that company to get on the right side of the ledger for last year's operations to the extent of \$8,000,000, whereas otherwise they would have shown a loss of some \$4,000,000. This is only one class of industry which is protected by the tariff legislation put through