

with tuberculosis. There are several other parks in which we have buffalo, elk, and other animals. For instance, in Riding Mountain park there is probably the largest herd of elk on the North American continent. It was not thought desirable or necessary to turn these animals loose, because they would have had to be transported to some place where they could find a living. At any rate, this action was not taken.

MOUNTED POLICE

REPORTED CLOSING OF OFFICE AT PUGWASH,
NOVA SCOTIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. P. C. BLACK (Cumberland): I should like to ask the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) if the Royal Canadian Mounted Police office at Pugwash is being closed. If so, is this being done on the instructions or with the permission of the government? The people of this country were reassured recently that this force would be increased, not diminished. It might be noted that Pugwash is a large shipping point.

Right Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): I have asked for a report about this matter and I shall be pleased to give my hon. friend an answer to-morrow.

THE BUDGET

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER
OF FINANCE

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Minister of Finance) moved:

That Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of ways and means.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I rise to my allotted task to-day with a sense of heavy responsibility. This budget is being delivered at the most critical hour in history. The Hun is hammering at the gate. Backed by almost incredible weight of mechanized power, he has operated with cold-blooded ruthlessness. He has violated every principle of the law of nations. He has overrun one after another of the democratic countries of Europe. He has brought our gallant ally France to her knees. At this very moment the enemy of mankind stands with naked sword at the threshold of Britain herself.

For the first time in a thousand years the world has been made to realize that a new "Dark Ages" may not be the figment of a wild imagination. The incredible has indeed happened. Europe, the fine flower of western

culture, is threatened with the blight of barbarism. All the things we hold dear—the democratic way of life, the Christian ideal, these age-old tenets of human relationships, fair dealing, justice, and brotherhood are threatened with destruction by those who would shut the gates of mercy on mankind.

We know now only too well that we are paying the price of long years of wishful thinking. There is no doubt that all of us in the democratic countries, governments and peoples alike, have been blinded to the stark potentialities of force and evil. Fortunately, at last, I believe, our eyes are opened and we see clearly. And if we do, it is not too late. For no one and no event can shake my conviction that in the long run truth must triumph over falsehood, good over evil, justice over might.

Obviously, the message which I must bring to-day cannot be a pleasant one. I come to you to collect part of the price to which I have referred. Nor can I be dogmatic or definitive in the proposals I make. We live from day to day—indeed, from hour to hour—and our plans must be subject to change in the light of new circumstances.

In dealing with specific measures, we have had to take into account a multitude of unusual facts and factors. Again, in determining the magnitude of the aggregate burden to be imposed upon the Canadian people, we have had to weigh many conflicting influences and to form a judgment as to how far we could go at the present time without setting up adverse factors which would tend to defeat some of the very objectives we are trying to reach. There will, I am sure, be those who will think that I have not gone far enough and probably those who will contend that I have gone too far. Still others will differ with me on details of specific measures. All that I can say is that I have spared no pains to ascertain the relevant facts, to weigh the merits of various measures and proposals, and to reach conclusions in the light of the supreme emergency which faces us to-day.

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ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

Before coming to my budget forecast for the current fiscal year and the tax changes I recommend, you will expect me to review the economic and financial events and policies of the first nine months of war. To make it as concise as possible I shall limit myself to a discussion of factors which give the setting for, and determine the principles underlying, the measures which the government has to propose.