

administration has taken office. The people have not failed to observe the improvement in conditions disclosed by each successive budget brought down since the present administration took office. The country is looking to this administration to carry on the good work it has begun and which it intends to continue.

In a word, Mr. Speaker, we believe that in this budget we have been able in very large measure to implement the promises, the professions and the pledges which we made to the electorate in the general election of 1921. We believe that we have established a policy that is entitled to be called a real national policy, because it is so framed as to serve not one class but all classes as well as all interests, manufacturing, commercial, and financial. We want to see that policy given a trial. We believe that if it is given a trial this country will witness a forward progressive movement such as it has not known for many years, and that when the time does come that we appeal to the people again for their support, they will express their confidence in a government which has lived up to its convictions, carried out the promises which it made to the electorate, and conducted the nation's affairs with the interests of the people ever at heart.

Let me say in conclusion that in what we have done not only have we been seeking to improve the country industrially, but we have been seeking also to unite the nation from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We have viewed with a good deal of concern the division which has sprung up between eastern and western Canada. We have felt that it was not good for Canada to be divided into two great sections, each becoming more and more class conscious—the West feeling that it had a grievance against the East, the East bitter in its antagonism towards the West. We have sought therefore a policy which would bring about national unity and demonstrate a community of interests. We have sought to do this in a manner which, we believe, will help to bring from the Old World immigrants to our shores as the tide used to flow hither in the past, which will have the effect also of again bringing immigrants from the United States. We believe with the legislation we are presenting prosperity will return as it came in the days of the Liberal party before, when due regard was had to the development of the primary industries of this country. We feel we are helping to unite Canada, to promote a community of interest between the different classes and the different parts of our country, and in this way to build

up a stronger, a more prosperous and a happier Dominion, proud to be a part of the great British Empire to which we belong, a country that will be of service to its own kith and kin and of service as well to the community of nations of which it is a part.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, at this late hour of the night and at this late stage of the debate I shall endeavour to make my contribution to the discussion as brief as possible. I cannot let the occasion pass without saying a word of commendation to the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) on the statement he submitted to the House five weeks ago to-day. My hon. friend is Scotch, and he has some of the valued characteristics of his race; he has the Scotch characteristic of hard-headedness, he has also the Scotch characteristic of modesty. But I think his modesty must really be suffering very severely in view of the lavish compliments that, quite properly, have been bestowed upon him. His budget speech was the shortest that has been delivered since I became a member of this House in 1917. That may be the reason why the debate is the longest in my parliamentary experience. If I might be permitted, I would proffer a word of advice to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and to my right hon. friend who leads the opposition (Mr. Meighen); it is that in this respect they might each endeavour to emulate a little more the brevity followed by my hon. friend the Acting Minister of Finance in introducing his budget.

Nor can I let the occasion pass without saying a word with respect to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) who is unable to be in his seat. I think by common consent the Right Hon. Mr. Fielding occupies a pre-eminent position in the public life of the Dominion. His experience as a public servant has extended over forty years, commencing in the province of Nova Scotia and continuing in the larger federal arena. In that long and valuable service he has contributed unstintedly of his outstanding abilities to the upbuilding of this Dominion. I think it is a great deal to his credit that at the end of that lengthy period of public service he stands at the forefront, remarkable for his courtesy to his opponents, and without the slightest suggestion of a stain on his reputation as a public man. In that respect he has set a worthy example to our public men, young and old, who may be moulding the destinies of the Dominion to-day, or in the future.