

selves and carried it, making this want of confidence in the government almost unanimous throughout Canada.

The Minister of Finance at Regina as late as February 6 last, or about three months ago, emphasized the fact that he was "a low tariff man." He said:

I stand for a tariff as low as possible having regard to the interests of consumers, producers and industry generally.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MANION: Some hon. members say "hear, hear." As everybody belongs to one of those three groups and nearly everybody belongs to all three, this means merely having regard to the interests of everybody, but having regard particularly to the interests of the government. That was the real object of the speech.

In 1929 things became bad and a climax was reached by conditions brought upon us by the government. Industry became so depressed and unemployment so rampant that demands came to the government for assistance. Deputations waited upon the Prime Minister and the members of the government asking for relief. The only answer, however, that they got was a petulant statement by the Prime Minister that they were exaggerating conditions, and some hocus-pocus about unemployment insurance which he recanted as soon as he came into the house. When the session began with business depressed and unemployment rampant, there was an opportunity for the government to show some of that great statesmanship which they so modestly admit they possess, but everything that came up in the house was negated by them.

The hon. member for Athabaska (Mr. Keller) introduced a resolution in regard to highways, but the government voted it down. Then the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Luchkovich) introduced a motion in regard to technical education, and while it did not come to a vote the government turned it down. The hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) introduced a motion relating to unemployment insurance, but in the classical words of the Prime Minister, not one five-cent piece would be given. The opportunities were great, but the government was small. It was as useless and helpless as a ship without a rudder or an engine or a pilot or a captain. The members of the cabinet were not those statesmen that they boasted they were. They were merely effigies of statesmen. They claimed prosperity, prosperity, when no prosperity existed in the country. They seem to think if they cried it loud, often and long enough, the hungry would think their stomachs

were full and the idle would think their hands were busy. They showed no leadership, no policy, no courage and no Canadianism.

The people began to get tired of the fact that Canada was being treated largely as a hinterland of the United States and of a government which on all policies dealing with the United States, acted like an offshoot of the Washington government. They began to realize what a miserable failure the government had been. In other words, the government had been found out, and the people were getting ready to turn them out, the government themselves and many of their followers admitting defeat in private conversation. They decided they had to do something radical, startling, spectacular, or they would not have a chance at the next election. So they put their heads together and concocted this budget scheme, or budget hoax, caring nothing for past principles which they had espoused in the years gone by, caring nothing for the rather awkward and somewhat humiliating attitude of standing on their heads so far as their tariff policy was concerned, and caring nothing for the indecent recantation of policies for which they had stood in other days.

Mr. HEPBURN: What did the hon. member stand for in 1911?

Mr. MANION: I was under thirty years of age in 1911 and I have gained a little sense since then, but I do not think my hon. friend has.

So they worked up this budget scheme; they took a few of our proposals which they had previously opposed and ridiculed strenuously and hilariously in the house; they took a few countervailing duties to please the agricultural section; they put some protection on iron and steel and then, fearing, apparently, that these three changes might help Canada, they introduced, or at least so they claimed, an extension of the British preference as a sop to the low tariff men of the west. Then making a complex rearrangement of all the items so that nobody could understand the budget anyway, they added a lot of humbug and hurrah and they offered that as a policy for Canada. There is in medicine an unscientific type of practitioner who when he does not know how to diagnose a case takes ten or a dozen drugs, jumbles them together in a prescription and offers it to the patient, hoping that if one therapeutic bullet does not hit the disease, another may. That is what is sarcastically called a "gun-shot" prescription. This budget is a "gun-shot" budget, the government hoping that if one political bullet does not bring down what I may call the prey, another bullet may do so.