

The Budget—Mr. Cockeram

\$60,000 a month. That amount, added to the \$354,000 salaries and cost of living bonus, makes a total of \$714,000 alone. Then there was the cost of printing the cheques, envelopes and all the other work that is incidental to the operations of the department. It is known generally that although the department of health did not take on men to operate the act the department of the Minister of Finance took on something over two thousand additional men to handle family allowances. The salaries on this account are not included in the figures of the cost of administering the act. When statements are given to hon. members there should be some degree of accuracy in them.

I should now like to touch on the subject of Canadian mining. It had been hoped by those actively engaged in the development throughout Canada that in introducing his budget this year the minister would have given some consideration to the future of the industry. The minister is aware that so far as the gold mining industry is concerned it is up against a fixed price for its product, and it is having to meet increasing costs to the point that much ore which was considered profitable in the past has now become waste rock and of no economic value. This has been accentuated by the new policy announced by the minister in regard to United States exchange. At this point let me say that I am not opposing the placing of Canadian funds on parity because, if it is good for Canada as a whole, then we must accept it as such. The minister knows that the industry is willing to accept it as such. With the increasing costs and the disappearance of the ten per cent premium, I estimate that at least twenty-five per cent of the ore resources of Canadian gold mines have been dissipated. In my opinion the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) has a great knowledge of what this industry means to the country. Perhaps his knowledge is greater than that of the Minister of Finance because, when the prospectors' association were holding a meeting in Toronto, the Prime Minister wrote a letter to the president, Mrs. McMillan, which read as follows:

I shall be grateful if you will convey my cordial greetings to the members of the prospectors and developers association of Canada, on the occasion of the annual convention of the association at Toronto, on March 11, 12 and 13.

I am much interested to learn of the intention of the association to inaugurate a "Mining Day" for Canada so that all Canadians, young and old, may better appreciate the great importance of mining to our country.

[Mr. Cockeram.]

Mining is one of Canada's outstanding industries. The splendid development of our vast mineral resources was one of Canada's most important contributions towards the winning of the war. The further development of these resources, in the years following the war, can contribute greatly both to the national welfare and to the welfare of many lands.

I send my best wishes to all attending the convention for a pleasant and profitable meeting.

In this house we have heard a great deal about the depression of the thirties. Let it be remembered that in those days the gold mining industry was the chief anchor of the Canadian economy. I believe this will be admitted by everyone. To show the importance of this industry, I would point out that during the years 1929 to 1932 the value of the production of all metals other than gold decreased from \$114,000,000 to \$40,000,000, whereas the value of gold production increased from \$40,000,000 to \$71,500,000. I would also point out that at present from 110,000 to 120,000 men are actively engaged in the mining industry of this country, receiving an average wage of approximately \$2,000 a year. In other words, the mining industry is paying out in wages the enormous sum of roughly \$240,000,000 annually. In these figures I have referred only to those directly engaged in mining. One would not have to stretch his imagination a great deal to realize how many citizens of Canada are indirectly dependent upon this great industry for their livelihood.

I have already stated that the industry does not oppose the plan of placing the Canadian dollar on a parity with the United States dollar if it is in the interests of Canada as a whole; but if we admit that it is in the interests of Canada as a whole, then obviously something must be done to take care of this one casualty that has been brought about in the national interest. This was recognized by the Minister of Finance in announcing the change in policy, when at page 3184 of *Hansard* he said:

Moreover, this action is being taken at a time when the unfavourable effects will be minimized for practically every one of our great export industries with the exception of gold mining.

In this statement the minister recognized the great harm that would be done to this industry, and now he must give consideration as to how the damage may be offset. Before offering any suggestions in this regard, I should like to say that as far as I am concerned—and I am sure I am speaking on behalf of