

May I say in conclusion to the Minister of Finance that in my own mind I have little doubt that his present policy is predicated entirely upon a successful world economic conference. And while I too have every reason to hope for a successful conference, if by any chance, unfortunately, it should not be successful, may we then hope that he will not hesitate in any way to reorientate his views so as to put us back where we may deal with the situation as it exists in Canada only, and from the point of view of what is best for Canadian producers and consumers, particularly in respect to price level. I may add that I have little doubt in my own mind but what the hon. minister will be fully equal to the occasion, should it arise.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, it is a happy circumstance that in this house, where there is such a great difference of opinion on almost every subject that is brought up for discussion, there should be one thing on which we are unanimous; that is, the manner in which the budget speech was presented to the house. So I should like to add my congratulations to those already expressed.

Before dealing with the budget itself I should like to offer some criticisms with regard to some of the speeches that have been made, and to point out the fallacies contained in some of the arguments that have been advanced. While in the main I disagree with the remarks of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) there was one remark which he made in opening that I think will be received throughout the country with the same measure of approval that was shown in this house—at least this will be so if the future works of the government give evidence of the new faith that is in them. The Minister of Trade and Commerce said:

As we look back over the past year and, indeed, over the past three or four years, many of us are willing to admit that we are much wiser to-day than we were three or four years ago. Many proposals made with great confidence that some suggestion, if accepted, would cure all the ills from which we were suffering, we now realize were mistaken ideas.

That expression was received with a great deal of applause from this side of the house, and my hon. friend added:

My hon. friends opposite seem to think the monopoly of that rests with this side of the house, but I have very definitely in mind innumerable weird suggestions that have come from the other side.

Just at this point let me say to the minister that the policies which have been advocated from this side of the house are not on trial; the policies advocated by the government

during the past two or three years are on trial. Those are the policies that have been weighed in the balance and found wanting. Let us hope, however, that the minister's statement means that the government have recognized that the proposals they made, which were to bring about the salvation of the country, have been found not to have accomplished the end hoped for. Let us hope that his statement means a repudiation of the doctrine of Canada first, as defined by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett); let us hope that it means the repudiation of such doctrines as shutting out the foreigner and making the foreigner pay tribute to the empire, or that red-blooded doctrine enunciated by the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion). Let us hope also that it means an end to that long series of letters which, following the election of 1930, the Minister of Trade and Commerce addressed to the people of Canada, and which were published in all newspapers throughout the dominion at public expense.

I wish I had time to read extensively from this document, which is one of the first if not the first of the letters issued. It is headed and addressed as follows:

Department of Trade and Commerce  
Ottawa, Canada

To my fellow citizens, in every part of the Dominion:

I should like to quote a few sentences from this letter:

Every year for the past few years Canada has been importing \$800,000,000 worth of merchandise that she might just as well have been producing from her own mines, on her own farms or in her own factories. Some things, of course, like raw cotton and raw rubber, she must import. But making due allowance for such items, the fact remains that \$800,000,000 of her annual imports have been of a class or kind that she was quite capable of producing for herself.

Then in the next paragraph he goes on to argue that if proper policies were pursued employment would be given directly to 147,527 workers in Canada. It was in order that effect might be given to this policy that during the session of 1930 the government undertook to raise tariffs immediately. A little later another letter appeared, headed with these words: "Remember the Golden Rule."

I think the minister and the country will have to recognize that the golden rule has a very much wider application than has been given it by those who advocated the Canada first, the shut out the foreigner and the make the foreigner pay tribute policies. Finally let us hope that the statement of the minister