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brief as possible under the circumstances, 39. With regard to the proposals of the Budget, I have said that the war is a triumph of the abnormal, and, I might have added, of the extraordinary. I am bound to say that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance has met the extraordinary and the abnormal by very ordinary and normal proposals, 40. I was very much interested in the steps which my hon. friend has taken to see that those who are dealing in liquors do not wriggle out of their responsibilities at this particular moment in the history of the country. I wonder if my hon. friend has had his attention directed to some actions which perhaps are not wriggings, but which are by no means lovely actions, on the part of the sugar refiners in this country, I may be asked what I would have proposed to the Government as a substitute for the steps they have taken. I think that it would have been a most fortunate moment for the Government to have tried a little incursion into the realm of direct taxation, 41.

Poster, Sir George (Minister of Trade and Commerce)—42.

The feeling which prevails on both sides of this House and in all parts of this country is that, whatever may be said of other conflicts, in this we have no doubt of the righteousness of the cause we are defending. I have had very close communication with the sugar refiners for the last fortnight, and I think I know the course which they have adopted. I have no other disposition than to give my meed of praise to the stand which has been taken by the sugar refiners of Canada during the last three or four weeks during which this crisis has been upon us, 42. So long as the sugar refiners do as well as they have been doing, and give the householders of this country the refined sugar at the prices they have been charging, we have not very much fault to find with them, 43.

Maclean, W. F. (York South)—34.

We must do something for the Empire, but we must also do something for Canada. The Minister in his speech referred to the fact that business was more or less dislocated by this great war which has just sprung up in Europe and to which we are a party. We must, however, carry on the business of the country; we must keep our industries and manufactures going; we must find employment for our people. Our banks to-day have of total available assets one thousand five hundred million dollars. Yet apparently the Minister of Finance says to-day that he sees no prospect of getting money from the banks for the special requirements to which he has referred, but that he must go as a borrower outside of the country. That is probably the right course to pursue; but does this House and this country know that of that one thousand five hundred million dollars, \$133,000,000 is used up by call loans outside of Canada and \$67,000,000 of call

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loans in Canada? 35. We should not rely upon our banking organizations for the currency, but should have an absolutely stable currency in large amount in the shape of national notes secured by gold reserve, 36. The business men of Canada to-day are concerned even more about the currency of this country and about providing finances for the country's needs than they are with regard to the war itself. We propose to empower the banks to make loans on grain, etc., but if the banks have not the currency and not the means whereby they may do so, what is the good of such legislation? 37. If we have not grown as fast as we should have grown, it is because our banking and currency laws do not keep abreast with the requirements of the times. We have all wished to see militarism disappear; it is the curse of humanity in this day; we have to keep at it until it is finished. I care not how long the battle; it may be a most serious, long and discouraging struggle, but now that we have entered upon it we must see it through and our legislation must be based on the fact that it is to be a long and a severe struggle, 38. If we have control of the banks it is time we told the banks of this country that the savings of the people of which they are the custodians shall not be used for stock speculation, and that if they are to be used for facilitating investment it must be on lines approved of by some responsible government board, 39.

Maclean, A. K. (Halifax)—32.

It is of course an unusual thing for us in this country to have a second Budget statement delivered in the one fiscal year, and I am sure we will all regret the circumstances which necessitate the deliverance of this second financial statement by the Minister. It was not unexpected, however, that Parliament being assembled, we should have a statement from the Government announcing a sharp decline in our revenues, and that efforts were being made to supplement the revenues of the country in order to meet any probable deficits, 32. I trust that the Government will exercise a wise discretion in public expenditures during the next few years, and especially during the present fiscal year, and that none will be commenced which are not of a national character and which will not be productive to the nation, 33. With the best possible motives and in all sincerity I do suggest to the Government the desirability of considering the question of placing upon the free list many of the food supplies of the country. It is worthy of consideration whether or not something might be done to enable Canadian manufactures to participate in the export of manufactures to countries hitherto largely supplied by the belligerent countries of to-day. This is a matter which might very well be taken into consideration by the Government and particularly by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, 34.