

The Budget—Mr. Boucher

who were actually swinging the lead than to neglect one veteran who is in actual want.

I make that statement from the barest, purest sort of materialistic point of view. We have fought two wars within the memory of most hon. members of this house. We are going to fight another one, and perhaps still another; certainly we must fight the one coming up. In the midst of war or preparing for war the finest asset any nation can possibly have is a feeling of implicit confidence in the hearts of those who will be called upon to make sacrifices in the war, the parents of the soldiers, and the soldiers themselves. By such things as I have recounted we are destroying in the hearts of our people the confidence we shall need most urgently one of these days. We are going to find ourselves in a position similar to that of the boy who, in the story familiar to all, called, "Wolf! wolf!" until his friends got so used to hearing him that when the wolf finally came they left the boy and he was destroyed.

I hope we do not destroy the morale and confidence of our people by such things as I have come in contact with in our treatment of veterans. I fear we are neglecting six veterans in actual need in order to catch one veteran who may be trying to swing the lead.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I shall leave this case on the doorstep of the government and on the doorstep of the Canadian people as a whole, the responsible people whose behaviour will decide whether or not this nation shall continue to survive.

Mr. William A. Boucher (Rosthern): Mr. Speaker, my first words in this debate and indeed my first words in this house must be to express my warm appreciation to the electors of my constituency for the honour and privilege they have given me of representing in this house the constituency of Rosthern. Some of the oldest settlements in Saskatchewan are to be found there. Fish Creek and Batoche are names that have a familiar ring to those who have read some of the history of our Canadian northwest. In the early eighties our pioneers came from many parts of Canada. Some years later they were followed by immigrants from many countries of the world, who settled down in that happy corner of Saskatchewan to become Canadians. Adopting the spirit of our first Canadian settlers, they laboured incessantly, receiving and giving all possible co-operation in the building of homes and communities, and adding the advantages of their culture to the development of what we are proud to call our Canadian way of life. This population, transplanted from many lands, has proved a most important asset not only to Rosthern and Saskatchewan but to the whole of Canada.

[Mr. Blackmore.]

More thrifty, more sincere and more co-operative Canadians cannot be found today in any part of our land.

Before the turn of the century, in 1896 to be exact, part of what is now Rosthern elected Wilfrid Laurier as its representative. Thirty years later the same constituency elected his successor to the leadership of the Liberal party, the right hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King), so he could continue his unrelenting efforts for the Canadian people. It is the earnest wish of the people of my constituency that in their name I should pay tribute to this great statesman, who continues to give this house the benefit of his wisdom and experience.

The people of the constituency of Rosthern are proud of the ability, sincerity and devotion to Canadian affairs shown by the man who is now Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent). Most hon. members had occasion to know him while he held office as Secretary of State for External Affairs and Minister of Justice. In the short time during which he has held the reins of this administration the progress of our country's affairs has continued without interference or interruption. The continued competence of the government, the increasing prosperity of our nation and his great humanitarian outlook have gained him our confidence and I am sure the complete confidence of the Canadian people. Those of the west have given a warm demonstration of this confidence during the last two or three weeks.

The people of Canada placed their confidence in the Liberal government in 1945. I am pleased to say, Mr. Speaker, that since that time my own constituency has given proof of its continued confidence in the present government, by giving the Liberal party one of the largest majorities it has ever received in the history of Rosthern. My predecessor as member, Mr. Walter Tucker, as you know is a very able and competent man. He was a big man here in Ottawa; he is a big man in Saskatchewan. We have high hopes for him in our province; and I venture the prediction that we will hear a great deal more of him in the not too distant future. I realize that my task in replacing him is a very difficult one. I have, however, pledged myself to do my best to follow his example. The people of my constituency expressed confidence that I could do that to their satisfaction and it will be my earnest endeavour in this house to fulfil their wishes.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) on the ability he displayed in discharging his responsibility when placing before this house the budget which we are now called upon to approve. It has been the lot of this country's