

*The Address—Mr. Ferguson*

anywhere else. Let them postpone the appointment of the two commissioners to the Vancouver harbour commission. Let them close up the Prime Minister's house for a while, take some of that money and give it to the burnt-out veterans, not next month but immediately. Let there be no delay. When the universal old age pension begins to be paid, let us say with pride that one group that was not held back was the men who offered to sacrifice their lives in the defence of this country. To every man, woman and child who listens I say that is my plea on behalf of the veterans.

I served with these men. Fortunately—and I thank God almost every day for it—I have no incapacitation from my service. I was fortunate in being able to provide a livelihood for myself and family. When I see what this government is trying to do with the burnt-out veterans today I thank God more than ever that I came out whole and hearty, and that I do not have to place myself on the generosity of this government.

There is another matter to which I should like to make reference. The government are trying to get out of a muddle. They are trying to sail down the river on a Sunday afternoon by taxing where taxation is not necessary. They have placed a tax on cigarettes. By doing so they have crippled considerably a very new, outstanding and necessary industry, namely, the tobacco industry. Up in my part of the country the people running these tobacco farms came mostly from Europe. They are men who came here with their families with practically nothing as far as worldly possessions were concerned. By the sweat of their brows they have developed an industry which means millions of dollars to this country. In the government's struggle to get out of the conditions into which they have placed themselves they said: "Oh, tobacco? That is almost the same as liquor. It is horrible that people smoke. Let us put a tax on it; let us increase the tax on every package of cigarettes up to 25 cents". What has been the result? The tobacco companies, which in my opinion are nothing but octopuses and trusts and should be investigated, said: "We cannot bear the tax. Our employees have asked for a rise in salary, and quite properly so. We have to give it to them but we will take it out of the hides of the tobacco producers this year." In my opinion that is exactly what was done. They could fall right back on the poor old producer, the farmer, the hewer of wood, and they said: "We will not pay you what you should receive because the federal government had added an unnecessary tax on tobacco". There is another crippling of

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industry which has been brought about by this government's past nonsense and present lack of a sane and sensible course.

That should not take place in a country that has the resources that Canada has. When we leave school in Canada we leave a history book and a geography book about an inch or so thick. From then on practically all of us are educated by United States literature which is sold on the newsstands. The magazines are in glowing colours, and the advertising contained within them is put out by the greatest advertising agencies in the world. The net result is that most people in Canada have champagne appetites and beer incomes when one considers the way they are being educated by the newsstands. From the time they graduated or skipped out of school, either one or the other, they have been subjected to the same kind of education. We are trying to live beyond the incomes we have. Take railway engineers. Our railway engineers drive to the border, unhook a trainload of cars and drive their engines back into Canada. The cars are then taken on by an engineer from the United States who gets a much better salary than do our engineers, but yet they drive identical locomotives. We are separated from our neighbours by only an imaginary boundary, and yet the people of Canada have to pay higher prices for refrigerators. They see them advertised in United States literature, and they desire them, and rightly so. What this country must have is expansion to meet the necessary taxation to permit our people to live on a comparable basis with our neighbours to the south. What do we find? Here are some comparative figures. In Canada, because of the new regulations and taxation imposed by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott), the purchaser of an automobile is required to make a down payment of \$1,363. That same car in the United States can be purchased with a down payment of \$687. To finance that car in Canada costs \$121 a month. In the United States they can finance with \$84 a month. That is the champagne of it. But the beer end of it is that we cannot afford to pay \$121 on the incomes we receive. The federal tax on a Canadian automobile is \$474, while the federal tax on an American automobile is \$70.

We have all the wherewithal with which to go forward. All we need is selective immigration from the British isles, sprinkled with Europeans of the right calibre. In my opinion immigration is one thing that should have been attracting the attention of this government for years, ever since 1935. There is no mystery about it.

We need the home market. If we have people here they will buy here. They will