

and in accepting protection has gone crazy. When these results are known and are resented, the consumer, the press and the public of Canada must not in fairness to the producer attempt to put the blame on him.

When a bricklayer's labourer lays to his hand a trowel and starts to build a wall, he slobbers the mortar over himself, over the wall and over the passers-by. His job has not been to use a trowel, but to fetch and carry bricks. Sometimes he drops a brick, just as this government does. The Prime Minister dropped a brick when he made his "five-cent" speech.

Mr. MANION: It lit on his head.

Mr. STIRLING: He dropped another brick just two years ago when in addressing a tense and anxious collection of farmers who crowded into the railway committee room he based his argument in reply on what was an absolute misstatement of fact. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not asserting that the right hon. gentleman rose to his feet with the deliberate intention to say what was not true. Rather do I believe that that galloping tongue of his ran away with him. Although his attention was drawn to the fact in the subsequent debate which ensued in this house, so far as my knowledge goes he has not corrected it, he has not withdrawn it, he has not substantiated it, and I am quite sure he has not apologized for having made it. But he based his case on it. Those who listened to the Prime Minister's reply to the grievances which the farmers laid before the government were but the ears of a far greater multitude scattered throughout Canada, and that incident, I can assure this house, has neither been forgotten nor forgiven. Like the bricklayer's labourer, this government has in its latter end taken into its hand a new tool—a tool which in the past it has condemned as useless, pernicious, provocative, a tool that it is unaccustomed to use, and the first piece of work that it has turned out with it is this amateur budget, this piebald suggestion. Throughout Canada during the campaign and on election day the people will be turning over a thought in their minds, "Can we trust this government?"

Mr. MANION: No.

Mr. STIRLING: So far as the fruit and vegetable grower is concerned, he has already answered that question, "No, I cannot." For years past the government and their supporters have been vaunting their principles and deriding ours; they have been misconstruing our words and taunting us and disbelieving what we said in relation to this matter; they have put forward their own principle as some-

thing which is just and upright and on which a great Canada can be built; they have derided ours as a snare and a delusion. Now, when their tide is ebbing, when power is slipping from them they have grasped at this elusive protection, they have attempted to make use of it, and they have produced a fiscal jumble which will yet be their undoing; and if they blow up in this house without passing the budget, they will go into the campaign with the horrid thing tied to their tail; but if with their disconcerted majority they put it through they will have to push it before them in every riding throughout the Dominion. I have a strong impression, Mr. Speaker, that were a tense silence at this moment attainable, one's ears could catch a sort of gentle rushing sound as of a multitude in motion—a sound of the swing of the pendulum.

Mr. C. E. BOTHWELL (Swift Current): Mr. Speaker, in spite of the criticisms we have heard this afternoon of the budget brought down by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning), the favourable impression made by him on the first day of this month has not been dissipated during the days that have passed. In fact, the impression that it is a good budget has been confirmed from day to day. We have heard this budget analyzed by the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett), by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens) and by the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion). The country has had an opportunity of reading the analyses made by the two first-named hon. gentlemen, and still we find that the papers throughout Canada are endorsing the budget.

After the budget speech was made by the Minister of Finance, that good old, outspoken, Tory paper of the city of Toronto, the mouth-piece of the Conservative party throughout the Dominion. The Mail and Empire, had this to say:

The Dunning budget does not vary from the type with which the King government has made the country familiar. It is centred, as were its predecessors of Mr. Fielding's and Mr. Robb's framing, on the avowed object of cheapening production.

Another item from the same editorial:

Though the government is worrying about its future it shows little sign of repentance. It still leans to the free trade principle for which, almost in its purity, Mr. King and his party declared in the convention of August, 1919.

That same paper does not applaud the budget brought down by the Minister of Finance, but those are statements which were contained in the editorial. A large portion of the press of Canada has been favourable to