

they were governed, and invariably we were told by many of the workmen, that they complained about the taxes which they paid to the government. When it was explained to them that a part of the taxes they were paying was refundable, this information came in many instances as a surprise to these people. From the information which we obtained, there must have been hundreds and hundreds of letters reaching the Department of Finance, because letters were written to many members protesting against what they felt was heavy taxation levied, while very few of the persons complaining realized that a part of the money taken from them was being held to their credit and would be returned. As a matter of fact, especially in the case of those who were paying income tax for the first time, many could not be made to realize that anything taken from them by the dominion government would ever be returned to them.

Another criticism that was made was with regard to taxation in the lower brackets. While it is true that there may be certain hardships in the imposition of taxation in the lower brackets, on the other hand the fact cannot be overlooked that many hundreds more of our citizens in Canada have money standing to their credit than ever before. I will place some figures on the record to show the improved financial position that many Canadians are in to-day. For instance, in 1939, if we take the savings accounts of the Canadian people, there were at that time 4,161,897 depositors having accounts in our savings banks, and to their credit in the banks there was standing the sum of \$1,709,156,774. In 1943 these figures had increased respectively to 4,662,113 depositors and, standing to their credit, a total of \$1,961,160,946. There was therefore in the savings accounts in Canada an increase in the number of depositors to a total of over 500,000, while standing to their credit there were increased savings amounting to over \$252,000,000.

In regard to current accounts, it is also interesting to note the figures, and I am putting them on the record because many of us hold the opinion that no country to-day is in a better position than this Canada of ours. Regarding current accounts, in 1939 there were 684,119 depositors with a total of \$821,717,082 standing to their credit. Let us take 1943 next, and may I observe that I am quoting the month of October, 1939, and the month of October, 1943, the latest date for which I can obtain figures. In 1943 there were 738,333 current accounts, and standing to their credit there was \$1,826,837,690, showing an increase in current accounts of 54,214 and a total increase of accounts standing to the credit of

these depositors, as against the year 1939, of \$1,005,000,000. These figures, I believe, speak for themselves, and they show, notwithstanding the criticism we have heard with regard to men in the lower brackets being affected by the income tax, that, generally speaking, the people of Canada were never in a better financial position than they are at the present time, and that never have we had as many people holding deposits in the savings banks, and that, despite the many billion dollars taken out by the people of Canada in victory bonds and war savings stamps.

I wish to deal next with criticism levelled by certain newspapers and clergymen against those of us from British Columbia who are opposed to the granting of the vote to Japanese and who urge their repatriation. To the clergymen and others who go out of their way to criticize us and to call our attitude un-Christian, may I say that I do not doubt their sincerity in the views they hold, but I would point out that many people have held sincere views which nevertheless, in many instances, have been dangerous, and I say without fear of successful contradiction that the views held by those who oppose us are impracticable, however sincerely held they may be, and that those people may in the future regret the stand they are taking.

The Cooperative Commonwealth Federation and some of the newspapers in British Columbia, when dealing with this question and our attitude toward it, endeavour to draw a comparison with what Hitler did in Germany with the Jews. To my mind, and I say this as strongly as I can, this is not only an unfair comparison but also an odious one. When those in British Columbia call it a political trick—well, I will say they know something about political tricks. However, as one who has held views on this subject for quite a long time, long before this question arose exactly in this way in parliament, I mean since the war started, I can sincerely say that I have held these views not from any political point of view but from practical considerations, and I am sure that those who are opposing us will yet regret the stand they are taking. The C.C.F., some ministers of the gospel and others have consistently refused to answer two questions which have been propounded not only since 1939 but since the days away back in the early thirties, and which I propound to them again to-day. I put these questions before the House of Commons and I would also ask hon. members from eastern and central provinces to answer them. I challenge those who have criticized us, particularly members of the C.C.F. in this house and in British Columbia, to answer these two questions which I am