

their affairs into shape and taking advantage of this money that is available at present for anyone who can set up a case that will entitle him to receive it. But for those starting out to manufacture some of our raw material or to conduct an industrial business which would be a credit to this country and to the men engaged in it there is no money available because men are unwilling to go into business on account of the financial policy which has been put into force by the present administration. Manufacturing is at a standstill in this country. Manufacturers are courageous; they are a benefit to the country there is no doubt about that even our farmer friends will admit it, but there is no man and no body of men who are willing, unless under some extraordinary special circumstances, to engage in industry in this country because they do not know when the attack will come from the government. At one time it was the agricultural implement industry. Then the government made it up to those engaged in that business. On that we cannot take time to dwell. The automobile business was treated in the same way, but always there was a preference to those who are engaged in it. We know how the shuffle took place. We know how the Minister of Finance said, and he will pardon me for recalling this, that he was going to stand by his guns, that there was going to be no change; but there was a change. That business is suffering even with the consideration the Minister of Finance gave to it. And now it is the woollen industry. I am acquainted pretty well, as I have no doubt the Minister of Finance is, with the personnel engaged in the woollen industry in this country, and I know of no finer body of men anywhere, no men who love their country and want to carry on business in it and enjoy all that Canada affords more than they do. They have been struck by this tariff.

We had the speech from the throne. There was not much in it. I think members on the opposite side of the house will agree with that; if they do not, I think an inquest should be held because actually there was nothing in it. In this budget there is nothing that this country can take as a real benefit exclusive of the cuts in taxation, and I would be very glad to roll up and stow away all those cuts if the Minister of Finance would do what is manifestly the obvious thing to do, namely, cut the sales tax. When he came into office he found the garden sown with these tares. There was a sales tax which was put on in war time, and which has been a handicap to business. The large majority of people do not know how that tax cuts into

[Mr. Ryckman.]

them; I do not believe the members of this house do. I am not arrogating to myself any special knowledge, but I have had occasion to consider this particular matter of the sales tax and I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the people of Canada, that there has been nothing that has cut so hard into the workingman, into the consumer, as the sales tax, multiplied as it is, in some cases, several times, and lifted from the pockets of the consumer without his knowledge. The only knowledge he has of it is that the money is gone and that it should be in his pocket. The Minister of Finance knows that this is true, and in this budget he has put the sales tax back to where it was when his party came into power. I ask him now—I do not wish to appear over-earnest, and frankly I am not trying to play politics—I ask the Minister of Finance to strike that sales tax off the books altogether. I believe the country can afford it. As the minister says, the revenues are buoyant, and if he will wipe away that tax altogether in the interest of business, the rebound in business that will follow will mean greater revenue, more prosperity, and a better feeling throughout the country. It would in all respects be to the benefit of the country as a whole.

I heard the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) say something yesterday about the shadow government. I was but a short time connected with it, but sufficiently long to know that I for one walked into the shadow of a department that was a great spend-thrift department. Mr. Speaker, I dislike to use the word economy; I do not know that I should be called upon to preach it. The abuse and the misuse of the word is something that troubles me, but I submit that there is nothing like economy practised in the government of this country. What is economy? It is the spending of money wisely, and the refusal to spend it foolishly. I want to give two instances where the government could practise economy, and I speak of one of them because of my connection with the city of Toronto. I have been told that this government was losing thousands of dollars a day in Toronto just by reason of the port of Toronto being so glutted that goods could not be examined and duties paid and the work carried on properly. I knew that the government offices were housed in buildings for which the government is paying large sums in rent. I asked for some particulars, and I found that everything was in readiness to build a customs house in Toronto, but it had not been done; why, I will leave to your imagination. But it is as plain as the nose on your face that the government would