

5,000 birds per plant; and speaking of records, I would like to inform the house that the Fraser valley was the district in which hen No. 6 made her great record of production. The Fraser valley is famous also for its pure-bred dairy herds and a number of world records have been made by the cattle of that district. A newspaper man, in an article concerning the district, described it as a valley flowing with milk and honey; I believe this is literally true, because last year a river of over 9,000,000 gallons of milk flowed towards Vancouver, together with a smaller river of about 180 tons of honey. This is not all; we boast of the greatest rose gardens in Canada, covering an area of forty acres, and we have the largest hop garden in the world, consisting of over 600 acres. With reference to the growing of hops I might say that the entire commercial production of Canada is confined to the Fraser valley, where some 1,200 acres are devoted to this crop, the annual value of which approximates three-quarters of a million dollars. This is a very valuable industry which should receive encouragement, and I point out to the government that the condition of this industry at present certainly requires the very best consideration of the Minister of Finance and those associated with him.

This little picture I have drawn of conditions in the Fraser valley would lead one to believe that we are enjoying that prosperity mentioned by the Minister of Finance. I am prepared to admit that the farmers of that district are in a better condition than those of any other district I have visited throughout Canada, but at the same time I challenge the Minister of Agriculture to go into that district and try to convince the farmers and producers that they are enjoying this bountiful prosperity. I do not say that they would treat him roughly, but certainly they would direct him to an institution at Essondale maintained by the provincial government for those not quite mentally sound. Representing this great district and knowing the problems facing the producers there, I heartily endorse the amendment moved by the hon. member for South Wellington. I agree with him that the financial statement is clear and concise; it shows that the financial affairs of Canada are in a very satisfactory condition. It further indicates to me, and I think to the people of Canada, that we are enjoying sufficient prosperity at least to pay our taxes. And now that I have come to the subject of taxes I might say that I believe the country has been rather misled in this respect. If you notice the Liberal press of the day

[Mr. Barber.]

following the presentation of the budget you no doubt observed headings which said "Robb Reduces Taxation;" "Taxes Reduced" and so on, and even the Minister of Agriculture said the other night that we should keep the Minister of Finance in office so long as he continued to reduce taxes. But, according to the minister's own statement, we find that he has been very careful not to announce a reduction in taxation. He announces a reduction in rates, but as someone has pointed out, it is not the rate but the burden of taxation that counts, and the burden of taxation imposed upon the Canadian people is increasing each year.

Let us examine the statement presented by the minister. Last year we collected from customs taxes about \$185,000,000, an increase of some \$28,000,000 over the previous year; in excise duties we collected approximately \$63,000,000, an increase of \$6,000,000 over the previous year; in income tax, we collected \$58,000,000, in round figures, an increase of about \$1,900,000. The increases from these sources totalled about \$35,900,000, and then there were certain decreases. From the stamp and sales taxes we collected roughly \$31,500,000, a decrease of about \$8,700,000. We collected \$450,000 in business profits tax, a decrease of \$500,000, leaving a net increase in taxes collected from the people of Canada amounting to \$26,700,000.

Another reduction has been made in the sales tax this year, but I think the people of Canada regret that this tax has not been entirely wiped out. Any business man who will sit down and figure out the result of this one per cent reduction can only say that the benefit will scarcely reach the great consumers of this country. The revenues from taxes have been very large during the past year, and I think the Minister of Finance could have wiped out the sales tax entirely.

During the course of this debate we have heard the argument from our free trade friends that a low tariff means lower taxes and a high tariff means higher taxes—an argument which cannot be backed up by the statement of the Minister of Finance. It has been proven that as we lower the tariff the volume increases, and it has been shown that during the past few years, in spite of a lowered tariff, the volume has increased to such an extent that the taxes from that source have increased. The budget announcements were received no doubt by some with a sigh of relief that the minister had ceased to tinker to any great extent with the tariff; by others it was received with disappointment, and a feeling of regret that he had not the courage to step out