

references to the whispers of death. If these conditions continue as they have continued without objection from anybody in authority, how long will it be before these whispers of death are realized? How long will it be before the death knell of this country is sounded? Well, I do not mean that; the country is too full of possibilities; its resources are too great. Millions of acres in Canada, the best land in the world, are still unoccupied; there are untouched forests, untouched minerals, untouched everything else that goes to build up a country. If we get good, sane government half the time we can exist, but we need it part of the time, anyway.

The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) the other day, speaking on the budget consoled himself with the thought that this budget would sound the death knell of protection. I do not believe that; I do not believe it is the death knell of protection. I think the people who are advocating free trade now will sooner or later repent, will realize that they have been wrong, and come back to a sound way of thinking. I do believe this, however—whether it will be a source of gratification to the minister or not—that it has practically sounded the death knell of getting any more new industries into Canada, or any part of it. If that is any source of comfort to the minister; if he is delighted at our not only getting any new industries but at the killing of some of those we now have—well, I think his desires will be fairly well met. But as to the budget being the death knell of protection, the death knell of the prosperity of Canada, I think he is mistaken. I hope this government will very soon change their mind to a sound way of dealing with things. I do not know whether they really sincerely believe in the doctrine which they are preaching; if they do, I am sorry to say I think they are astray. If it is a question of expediency, let me say this: The very worst thing that could happen in any case would be for the government in power to be defeated on the budget. We were told last year by the Minister of Finance that we might consider the tariff of last year as permanent, or as lasting for some time, with slight changes. This thing of gerrymandering it as has been done this year, with the intimation that it is only a step—God knows how long the jump will be next time—is another matter. As I say, the worst thing that could happen the government would be its defeat in the vote on the budget, and to my mind that would be very much better than to ruin the country. That is my

judgment; I may be wrong, but I do not think I am.

I have talked longer than I thought I would, Mr. Speaker, I did not expect to be able to continue so long, but the Lord gives strength where it is needed.

I have many other figures here as to the advanced wages and costs on the railways in the last ten years. As I said a moment ago, when everything was selling high there was some justification for these higher rates, but I do not think there was any justification for the short hours. I am a firm believer in every man doing a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, and I do not think short hours are in the interest of anybody. The rate of wages on the railways is not so high in itself, that is \$69 for twelve days' work is not out of the way, but that same labour used to be performed if it took twelve or fifteen hours per day without extra pay. The agent lives at the station, and he has only to appear when his services are needed; he can sleep the rest of his time if he likes. He has only to attend to business when there is business to do. But it is this overtime and paying time-and-a-half for overtime that is sending up the costs. The same thing applies to other services. And I wish to say this—I have said it before, but it will not spoil it to say it again: I think it is about time this government or any other government that may succeed it, and which is taxing the people by every method and every means, as we are being taxed now, when they are getting all the money they possibly can get out of us, which goes in a great measure to pay for help—I think it is about time these people should be asked to work longer than five-and-one-half hours, as they do in the Civil Service, and many of them do not work half that time. This applies to every service under the administration of the government, I do not mean that there are not good men in the Civil Service, but the Civil Service is very much over-manned and very much under-worked, and there is no reason in the world why this government should not say to the Civil Service and everybody else in their employ: We want a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. The pay is not out of the way but the service rendered is not in keeping with the wages paid, and at this time when we are being pressed for money to meet our bills I think the government should exact a fair and reasonable day's work from its employees. If we get that it will help to lessen our burdens a whole lot.