

During the war I felt that there were criticisms that should be made, and I made them from time to time. I think this peacetime budget deserves criticism and, before I conclude, I shall have something critical to say about it. After having listened to the Progressive Conservative members who have participated in the debate, I began to feel that there could have been a worse budget. When the financial critic for the Progressive Conservatives spoke after the minister had brought down his budget on June 27 he emphasized the word "economy", "economy", "economy". I submit that we could save quite a few million dollars in Canada but still could not improve materially the lot of the people. The hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. Macdonnell) took us back a long time in his speech. As reported on page 3222 of *Hansard*, he took us back to the seventeenth century when he said:

As I understand it, democracy as we have it really takes its roots from seventeenth century England, and if there ever was a place where they believed that people should try to look after themselves and have a sense of responsibility, it was seventeenth century Puritan England.

It is quite a long time since I have read about the seventeenth century. The remarks of my hon. friend created an interest in that period of history, and so I turned to Trevelyan's "English Social History". While the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario might like to live in Puritan England of the seventeenth century I prefer Canada of the twentieth. The period of Puritan England to which he referred was still 100 years before the industrial revolution. It was a time when the development of the coal mining industry forced the working of women and children, who were compelled to toil long hours underground. The hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) has told us about conditions of the mines in the twentieth century, but conditions were much worse in the seventeenth. Hon. members may be interested to know something of what was done for the aged in the time of Puritan England. As a result of forty-five years of faithful service in the compiling of chronicles, James I awarded John Stowe of the city of London, in the year 1603, a licence to beg. John Stowe was given a royal licence to beg! Then there is an interesting statistical compilation here, Gregory King's Tables. I shall refer to it later when dealing with the budget of the Minister of Finance, to indicate that in some particulars we have not gone very far from the conditions that prevailed in the seventeenth century.

[Mr. Nicholson.]

I would remind the house that there was a period, within the memory of most of us, when we did practise the word "economy" about which we have heard so often. From 1930 to 1935 we had a government here—

Mr. MACKENZIE: No, we had not.

Mr. NICHOLSON: —that had some of the stalwarts who are still in the house, and they did practise economy in those days. Let us see what the economy was. The hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario complained much about expenditures in connection with the civil service, but he has not made many concrete suggestions as to how the expenses can be cut down. His government, from 1930 to 1935, did indicate one means by which this result could be effected, for they slashed the salaries of civil servants ten per cent all across the board. Those receiving higher salaries had a ten per cent cut, and those who received \$60, \$70 and \$80 a month had the axe applied equally to them, for they, too, had a ten per cent reduction.

Mr. MacNICOL: And members of parliament and senators too.

Mr. NICHOLSON: We find that certain relief settlement plans were drawn up, because an act was passed in 1932 whereby agreements were made with all the provinces, except Prince Edward Island, providing for non-reconvertible expenditures of one-third of the amount, not to exceed \$600 per family, for the purpose of providing a measure of self-sustaining relief to families who otherwise would be in receipt of material aid, by placing such families on the land. Those were the days when my hon. friends practised economy. They said, "It is far cheaper to keep unfortunate people, who cannot find jobs, on the land. Give them 160 acres of bushland for \$10 and make available to them the sum of \$600 and they will no longer be a charge on the rest of society." That is not so long ago. That was in 1932.

Hon. members who have lived in other parts of Canada will have some difficulty in picturing what is involved when you leave a city like Regina or Moose Jaw or Saskatoon under the assistance of the federal government, the provincial government and the municipality and try to become self-supporting on \$600. I happen to have returns for some of the veterans of world war I of 1914-18.

An hon. MEMBER: Were you one?

Mr. NICHOLSON: No; I was not one. These returns relate to some of my friends who are older than I. I have, however, the