

two thousand of them would have been turned on the streets without work. That is in line with the whole action of hon. gentlemen opposite when they were in power. They spent the revenues of this country lavishly, and now because the Government of the day is trying to care for the situation, trying to prevent our working men and artisans from becoming paupers and subjects for charity, as my hon. friend from St. John suggests, hon. gentlemen opposite are criticising the expenditure that we propose to make at the present time.

In conclusion, let me add just a word in regard to the distribution of seed grain in the West. It has been a great boon to the farmers.

I want to say to the Government that I believe they could extend their activities along the line of assisting farmers in the northern part of Manitoba, and I suppose the same condition prevails in other provinces. We have a large acreage of very difficult land that is settled by thousands of people. In the northern part of my constituency I suppose I have 15,000 or 20,000 people settled on land that is very difficult to bring under cultivation. I have suggested to my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Roche), and I do it again here from my place in the House, that some active assistance should be given to districts of this kind in the matter of cultivation. I claim that the Government could very well devise some means by which a certain acreage on each of the homesteads where poor people are settled could be cleared and broken up with large power machines so that the people might be put in the position to become producers in a short time. I believe it will pay the Government to render some assistance in the way of providing stock in some of these districts. The northern part of Manitoba is a dairy proposition. We could make it one of the finest dairying districts in Canada if those poor people had a start. I commend it to the serious consideration of the Government and I would ask them to see if it is not possible at a very early date to assist the settlers in that district in such a way as will enable them to become self-sustaining producers. Unfortunately, in some of these districts, we are forced to resort to relief work during the winter months. I hold it is a mistake to have to dole out relief, year after year, to the settlers. We ought rather try to make these people self-

sustaining by giving them something they can make a living at. By selling them a few head of cattle on deferred payments perhaps you would enable them to get into a position to make a livelihood and to pay back the advance in a few years. The Government would not lose one dollar on the investment and the farmers would be a great deal better off.

Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the crisis that exists in the Empire to-day, notwithstanding that Canada is doing its full share in providing both men and money to assist in the defence, notwithstanding that the Opposition has made pledges both inside and out of this House to assist the Government in every way possible in doing what is necessary for the defence of the Empire, we find that these hon. gentlemen have raised every obstacle possible in connection with this Budget. The quibbling argument advanced by men on the other side of the House that this is not a war tax is unworthy of the hon. gentlemen who make this statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. It is not permissible to say that the conduct of another hon. member is unworthy. It must be assumed that what he does is done with a proper motive.

Mr. BRADBURY: I will qualify that by saying that the statements made by the hon. gentlemen are entirely worthy of the hon. gentlemen who made them. The attempt is made to create the impression that the taxes that are levied are not war taxes because the dollars that are going into the revenue are not going directly into the war fund. Every hon. gentleman knows that the interest on this borrowed money has to be met, seven or eight millions of dollars. Every man in this House knows that we are making provision and ought to make provision, if we are doing our full duty to the men we have at the front, for perhaps a large pension list, and in this way I say that every dollar of this money going into this increased tax may be considered just as much a war tax as the money we are borrowing from Great Britain. I believe that when these hon. gentlemen have the chance of meeting their constituents they will find that the opinion of their constituents is that they made a huge mistake in taking the attitude they have taken in this House regarding the Budget that is before the people at the present time.