

**— ON PARLIAMENT HILL —**  
By a Member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery

OTTAWA, June 2.—Last week saw the completion of one of the "big jobs" of the parliamentary session—the disposal of the House in Committee of the many separate resolutions that go to make up the Budget. Rather unexpected progress was made with the result that the Budget now has been approved, clause by clause and line by line. True, bills based upon the various resolutions are still to be put through, but that is rather a pro forma proceeding and little debate thereon need be looked for.

**Taxation Reduction of \$28,000,000**  
It was noticeable that, as detailed consideration advanced, Mr. Robb was able to "go himself one better," in several respects, than in his formal Budget speech on April 11. For instance, on the latter occasion, he estimated the net debt reduction at \$30,000,000; this sum he was able to revise in committee, making it \$35,000,000 due to "unforeseen economies in administration" following the tabling of the Budget. Again, in his Budget speech, the Minister calculated the saving in taxation likely to result under the fiscal and sales tax amendments at \$24,000,000. Detailed study of the matter showed, however, that the actual saving to the masses of consumers would be as follows:—on Sales Tax reduction, \$16,000,000; on Sales Tax exemption, over \$8,000,000; on customs tariff reductions, \$1,223,000 and on income tax reductions \$2,000,000, or a total reduction in actual living costs of \$28,000,000. Arithmetic of that sort will make hearty appeal to people who are looking forward to something lighter in the way of taxation burdens.

**Further Sales Tax Reductions**  
Quite as important to basic producers as the Budget resolutions

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themselves were some of the amendments put through in committee of the whole House early last week. Munday indeed, proved an important day for all who, as producers or consumers, are interested in the weight of taxation and the cost of living. On that day alone, the acting Minister of Finance, accepted two amendments from "across the floor"—one by Neil (Independent), removing the Sales Tax on feedstuffs for cattle, calves and hogs; the other by Robert Forke (Progressive Leader), removing the same tax from windmills; portable engines with boilers, in combination, and horse power and traction engines for farm purposes. To these, the acting Minister, Mr. James Robb, added an amendment of his own, designed to be of advantage to fishermen, viz: removal of the Sales Tax on gasoline engines purchased for and used in boats, the property of bona-fide fishermen.

**Conservative Opposition**  
Conservative opposition to the reception and passing of these amendments showed itself in a debate which exceeded in bitterness anything previously witnessed this session. Mr. McEwen scathingly condemned these as evidences of "tinkering and back-slapping" that was "keeping the country on the wrong side of the fence." He said, of the indecent bargaining which the government was buying the support of Progressives who were mere chattels of barter. His loyal henchmen proceeded to show how little they heeded this slashing rebuke to others by proceeding to do themselves the very thing their leader has condemned. In a brief period, they introduced no fewer than four amendments, of a character which drew upon them, collectively, the term "cheap political trickery," from the returned Liberal from Brome, A. R. McMaster. To taxpayers who are the heads of families, the fathers of young Canadians, one of the most promising and encouraging of the Budget clauses approved last week was that providing for an exemption, per child, of \$500 as against \$300 under former legislation. An interesting comment, in this connection, was made by the Acting Minister of Finance, namely: that the "cut" per child would mean a loss to the Treasury of \$2,000,000—in other words, a straight saving of that sum to fathers who are called upon to fill out income tax papers.

**Government Inspection of Banks**  
Before the Commons committee on Banking and Commerce, Hon. James A. Robb, last week stated that the government would during the present session, introduce in parliament amendments of the Bank Act providing for some scheme of government inspection of chartered banks. Concerning while the Royal Inquiry into the Home Bank failure is still incomplete, this bold intimation of policy will meet with approval of all classes of citizens in Canada; not least, perhaps, the bankers themselves. Since last session, much has happened and the heads of Canadian banks have come to realize, not only that the public has a sound and just right to see, but that legitimate rational objections stand to gain, earnest government inspection. What the Minister has in mind remains to be seen. Meantime, his hint of legislation to come will be as welcome a bit of news as the Canadian banking public has heard in many years.

**Sir Henry Thornton's First Year**  
Hon. George P. Graham, last week tabled his "Railway Budget"—a document now regarded by Parliament and the country as second only to the real Budget in general interest and importance. The striking feature of the Minister's statement was that, in 1923, the Canadian National system proper showed a betterment in operation, over 1922, of \$17,349,850. Including the Central Vermont Railway, which is operated by the Canadian management, this "operation surplus" rises to \$21,187,462. Including fixed charges, the total deficit at the end of 1923, stands at \$52,779,350, as against \$58,696,911 in the previous year, a betterment, or "catching up" on the deficit of more than \$6,000,000. Operating revenues for 1923 show an increase of more than \$20,000,000, totalling \$263,554,436 while, (Continued on Last Page)

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Lemon Extractor, each.....10c  
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Men's Work Shirts in Navy and Dutch Blue, also dark grey. Collar attached and pocket. All sizes. Each.....\$1.00

Kiddie Rompers in Khaki Duck and Check Gingham, to fit all ages 2 to 6 years. Pair.....40c

Men's Sox for heavy wear, pair 25c; for medium wear, 2 pairs for 45c and 3 pairs for \$1.00; for fine wear, pair 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25.

Men's heavy Khaki Britches of Whipcord and Moleskin. Made to wear and not to tear.....\$2.50

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Sale in Curtain and Drapery Department—Third Floor. Miss Wark in charge.

**RED, WILLOW AND FIBRE FURNITURE**  
A Large New Shipment—Also Old Hickory

Scores of pieces are combined in the newest addition to the large Furniture Stocks (Third Floor). These special values come just when purchases are everywhere being furnished for the summer. But, of course, most of these pieces are equally good for indoors, both in living room and bedrooms, where the flexibility and easy comfort of wicker are desirable. There's an attractive choice in various colors and finishes, also in the natural finish. The prices range from.....\$5.00 to \$25.00 (Falls' Department Store, Simcoe)

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