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TELEGRAMS.

ST. CROIX STATION.

London, April 16th.- Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Chancellor of the Exchequer, delivered his first budget speech today to a crowded and intensely interested house, which included four former Chancellors of the Exchequer, Messrs. Asquith, Chamberlain, Lloyd George and Horne, with a crowd of distinguished personages in the galleries. On the whole, it was a sanguine, almost optimistic, diagnosis of the nations financial and commercial health, delivered in a vigorous concise style and eliciting congratulations for Mr. J. Ramsay Mc Donald, leader of the opposition, for its manner but not entirely for its substance. The Chancellor was able to tell of steady improvement in trade and industry and of hope for the future. He believed that the country was experiencing a series of transition years, but had passed the peak of depression. At the same time he added a warning that its hope might yet be frustrated by untoward events on the continent, or at home. In contrast with former times, when budget plans were kept a strict secret until the speech was delivered, Mr. Baldwin's leading proposals had become public, the removal of six pence off the income tax, reduction of the corporation tax by one half and reduction of the beer tax of one penny per pint, come very near the forecasts but the surplus is only 36,000,000 pounds whereas a surplus of 50,000,000 pounds had been estimated Total expenditures for the year are estimated at 816,616,000 pounds and revenues at 852,650,000 pounds. The last year's surplus of 101,000,000 pounds went toward reduction of the debt and the Chancellor announced that when the fiscal year came to an end on March 31st, trade, both at home and abroad, had improved and there was considerably less unemployment There will be some disappointment that no greater reduction is promised in direct taxation, including the levies on tea, sugar and similar commodities, the liberal and labour parties being very keen for the free breakfast table. The Chancellor held out the hope of some reduction in the sugar duty in the near future. He also announced a number of small reductions in postal charges, telephone rentals and telephone calls and confirmed that the government is considering a tax on betting. The latter however, is mostly regarded as too contentious a matter to be lightly undertaken. The Chancellor laid marked stress on the importance of the utmost possible debt reduction. There would be, he said, plenty of debt for our grandchildren when they come. He contended further that nothing eased the finding of capital for industry so much as the recognized policy of redeeming the public debt. Remarking that last year's surplus came from the best of all possible causes, namely, reduced expenditures, Mr. Baldwin declares his determination to bring about further economies in the coming year and announced that practically the whole estimated yield from old a[illegible] duties in the next three years would be applied to sinking fund purposes. The Chancellor pointed out that under his revised proposals the country would still be raising the enormous amount of 700,000,000 pounds in taxation yearly. Dealing with the revenue, he doubted whether there had been any rise in the purchasing power of the population. He said the consumption of beer and spirits and to a less extent, tobacco, had been touched. He argued that it was useless further to reduce taxation at the cost of debt redemption, saying to postpone debt redemption year after year means insolvency. Alluding to foreign indebtedness with the exception of the American debt particularly, all others had been extinguished, as they might regard the Canadian debt as virtually settled. With regard to the United States debt, he said the sinking fund on this was 23,000,000 dollars and the amount agreed upon to repay this year in respect to the United States loan for the purchase of silver under the Pittman act, 30½ million dollars. Explaining the decision not to touch the sugar tax, the Chancellor thought it highly improbable that the consumer would be the gainer by any reduction for more than a very short time, a reduction in the tax would lead to an increased demand and the money sacrificed by the Exchequer would go straight into the pockets of producers and retailers. Regarding the reduction in the price of beer, he said the trade would contribute four shillings per barrel, while the State would contribute twenty shillings to the reduction. He dilated on the disappointing results of the excess profits, announcing that the gross collection for the year was only 57 million pounds, instead of the estimated 75 millions, while the refunding of overpaid duty for the year amounted to 55 million pounds. He intimated, that in his opinion, little further relief for the taxpayer could be hoped for, unless some new sources of revenue were discovered, His speech was a mass of figures and statistics, presented in a highly businesslike manner. Mr. J. Ramsay Mac Donald, leader of the opposition, while congratulating the Chancellor on the manner of his speech, strongly condemned his omission to reduce taxes on sugar, tea and other commodities. He declared that this was much more needed than a reduction in the income tax which, mainly relieved wealthy people. He especially condemned failure to reduce the sugar tax which bore heavily on the poor. Mr. Mc Donald warned the Chancellor that the labour party would offer hostile amendments to his proposals. On the whole, the reception of the budget was distinctly favourable. The strongest opposition came from the labour benches, where two lines of attack will be made for further reductions of indirect taxation and in favour of some form of action on capital and more effective reduction of the public debt. The labourites will also complain of the Chancellor's failure to reduce or remove the tax on entertainments. General comment characterized the statements as being, if not striking or brilliant, at least prudent and showing strong common sense. Various resolutions, for the purpose of carrying out the budget proposals were formally agreed to in the House of Commons tonight. The debate was then adjourned.