

of western Canada in particular. It was largely a repetition of what had been said from every platform, but it gained emphasis, perhaps, as being the last appeal of the campaign. These are the words as they were reported in the press on the day of the election itself:

In the life of every nation, there are moments when its people are called upon to make a great decision, affecting not merely the immediate present, but the whole trend of its future development. Such a moment, I believe, has come to the Canadian people at this time in relation to the all-important question of inter-empire trade. In this situation, the people are entitled to expect their political leaders to deal with them fairly and frankly, to meet the issue without hesitation, and to enlighten them as to its true significance in relation to their interests.

A little further on, with special reference to a market in Britain for Canadian wheat, I said:

The Liberal budget of 1930 is not only a forward move in the direction of inter-empire trade and a new influence towards the great object of closer cooperation between Canada and the other members of the British commonwealth, it is also intended to meet one of the greatest economic problems confronting us at the present time, namely the necessity of obtaining a secure and permanent market for Canadian wheat and thereby ensuring a continuous flow to Canada of that purchasing power in the prairie provinces, upon which the prosperity of our country so largely depends.

The words which follow are as true as prophecy could possibly be with respect to what Canada has since witnessed:

Travelling as I did, throughout the western wheat fields, less than a fortnight ago, I have been appalled at the danger which confronts the economic life of the Dominion if we do not find the means of securing a market for this greatest of our primary products, and the greatest single source of the purchasing power which provides traffic for our transportation systems and orders for our factories and business for our retail and wholesale merchants.

The close relationship between the solution of the problem of unemployment and a market for Canadian wheat was further emphasized as follows:

The wheat of western Canada is the greatest single source of purchasing power in the Dominion. When this purchasing power is contracted, as was the case last year, it has its inevitable effect upon every link in the series which extends from the consumer through retail and wholesale merchants, back to the manufacturer and transportation companies, the greatest employers of labour throughout the country. Apart from the world-wide depression, with its resultant drop in commodity prices, the chief cause of unemployment in Canada was the short wheat crop of last year and the curtailment of export of Canadian wheat to Great Britain.

I also said:

The great proposals for empire trade which are laid down in the Liberal budget of 1930 constitute the only real and permanent solution of this great problem of unemployment.

Let me come now to the Conservative attitude in the campaign. I referred to it also in the broadcast of which I have spoken. Here may I again draw attention to the fact, already pointed out, that in the campaign very little was said by hon. gentlemen opposite in respect of the economic conference. I feel they were hardly fair with the electorate of Canada in that particular. I think they knew or they ought to have known, and they ought to have explained the bearing of their policies and what they had in mind on the economic conference. I would also draw attention to the fact that very little was said at the outset of the campaign about any changes in the tariff. The special session that was going to be called was to deal with unemployment. Unemployment was what was stressed throughout the country. There are hon. gentlemen sitting opposite from western constituencies who would not be seated on that side of the house to-day had their leader told the people throughout the campaign that he intended to deal with the tariff last session. May I pause to say this word to my friends in western Canada: I hope the people of western Canada will realize that they have the remedy in their own hands. I hope they will realize that parliamentary institutions have a great background; that, after all, what we have in parliament is something that has come into being, not in a day, but through many years of struggle to give to men the right of freedom of expression and to secure the laws they wish to have. If western Canada feels the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite are not suited to the needs of western Canada, then it is not for the people of western Canada to talk about secession or anything of that kind; it is for them to demand of those who sit in this house that they will support only policies that are in the interest of western Canada. I do not say to hon. gentlemen opposite who come from western constituencies which are suffering at the present time and which are going to suffer still more from conditions as they will become under these policies, that they must desert their leader. I am not for a moment putting that suggestion to them, but they have not only a right but a duty to point out to their leader wherein the policies that he has adopted and that he proposes to enact at this very session of parliament are going to work a further injury to the people