

The Address—Mr. Woodsworth

from hunger and some were actually living on mushrooms picked in the woods. Such a situation, he said, required action by the government. There were 23,000 people unemployed and more than 100,000 dependents affected.

In my own city of Winnipeg we have at the present time some 1,200 married men and 800 single men in receipt of relief very largely owing to their unemployment. Large and influential deputations recently waited on the city council of Montreal to bring to the attention of the council the extremely serious situation which prevailed. Within a few days we have had deputations from Toronto and Ottawa. We had evidence presented at the unemployment conference with regard to the serious conditions even among the immigrants from northern Europe. The Danish Consul and the Scandinavian Emigrant Station have both protested in the very strongest terms against the bringing over of Norsemen into the midst of a population where there was a great deal of unemployment.

I do not wish at this time to discuss the responsibility of the federal government, but I should like again to take the position I have taken on previous occasions, namely, that the body which is so largely responsible for the immigration policy and for the financial policy of this country cannot possibly escape responsibility for the unemployment which is largely the result of those policies. The government which through its arrangements fails to make it possible for people even to obtain the necessities of life—food, clothing and shelter—cannot possibly have a claim upon the loyalty of its people. It may be a government of certain interests; decidedly it is not a government representative of the great masses of the people.

The Speech suggests with regard to our big problems that their ultimate solution lies largely in increased production and the development of new and wider markets, apparently ignoring the fact that already from one end of this country to the other we have production that is altogether in excess of the buying power of the people. Surely it does not require a man of any great economic knowledge to recognize that if we have already too great production we shall not solve our problems by having still greater production. It would seem almost obvious that what we need to do is to increase the buying power of our people. That is the point of view which again and again during the past two or three years members in this quarter of the House have been trying to urge upon the government. There are only three or four factors necessary to production. We need the

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natural resources; we need labour; we need equipment, and under the present financial system we need financial capital. It is not necessary to speak of the natural resources of Canada; the Prime Minister has already waxed eloquent on that. It is not necessary to say anything in regard to labour; I have already indicated that there are vast numbers of our Canadians who are not able to obtain work and who could readily be utilized in developing these natural resources. In regard to equipment, you will permit me to quote just a few of the recognized authorities along this line. Mr. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, says:

Canada is blessed with more railways than she has traffic for.

The Journal of Commerce declares:

We now have a plant capacity which in many lines is 20 per cent ahead of domestic consuming demand. In order to run full, 20 per cent of the output must be sent abroad.

The Shoe Manufacturers' Association declares:

The productive capacity of the Canadian shoe manufacturing industry and the distributing facilities of the shoe trade of Canada are much in excess of the requirements of the present Canadian population.

Mr. S. G. Latta, of Saskatchewan, said:

My province is now producing enough to feed approximately thirty million people. Our population is about three-quarters of a million and we are not making a living out of our production.

So much for the equipment that is necessary to develop these resources. But we have been told all along that in addition to these primary factors we must have financial capital. Well, that problem is now solved for us; for Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor at the last meeting of the Bank of Montreal stated:

It is a matter of national importance that the commercial loans in Canada of all our banks are \$100,000,000 less than a year ago. . . . These figures indicate the ability of the banks of Canada to finance a trade revival when it occurs. Furthermore, while there is this excess banking capital in the country, borrowing abroad, which increases our interest remittances—already too heavy—is not a necessity.

At present, then, according to one of the outstanding authorities in banking circles, we already have more than abundant financial capital to carry on the affairs of this country, and that without resorting to any of the changes which have been advocated by my colleague and other members of this House. I am speaking of the economic system as it now stands. We already have our natural resources, our labour, our equipment, our financial capital; what more do we need? I think that the real difficulty was indicated many years ago by the United States Com-