

The Address—Mr. Rowe

optimistic dreams. This country must go ahead; this country has gone ahead. This country will go ahead in spite of the weakness of the policies of the present government. However, we must march and move with the changing times through which we pass.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, conditions change swiftly as the years pass. When I entered this house some few years ago 40 per cent of Canadians worked and toiled in agriculture in Canada. Some 20 per cent worked in industry. Today about 40 per cent are dependent upon industry and about 15 per cent or 16 per cent are employed in agriculture. The revolution of agriculture has advanced all the way along. Who believes that we can put the millions of people that we need in this country and the boys and girls now growing up, the millions that want to come from Europe whose brothers and sisters have made good citizens of Canada, in agriculture? Still we have that antiquated policy that in order to get into this country the individual must be able to farm. Because of government policy there is nothing else to do and there is not much to do on the farms today, because of changing conditions.

During the war and defence boom years, when our resources and industries were needed so vitally, when every bit of energy we could produce was needed and every factory was called upon, with even frame buildings put up for the manufacture of goods, this government took great credit for our expanding economy, full employment and consequent prosperity. Now they write a speech from the throne that does not mention these things. Some \$14 billion was poured into the European economy by the United States of America, and Canada under the Marshall plan lent \$1½ billion to enable them to buy our products. That speaks well for the initiative, enterprise and basic strength of this vast and rich young country. The following year, on that account, I believe we sold \$650 million worth of our products, much of it agricultural products. The money seems to be running out. Last year we sold just \$152 million worth on that account.

In our over-all trade situation conditions have also changed swiftly. We pray and dream of that long-term future when we shall have international good will, when we shall have peace and quiet underlying normal prosperity and progress. Hope springs eternal, of course. As individual freedom will always reign in this land, no other people have more reason to look forward to such an age. Every period of a hot or cold war or hot or cold peace brings new challenges to our initiative and enterprise. Indeed, if we are to be ready for prosperity

without either a hot or a cold war boom we must study our national plans to meet that challenge.

The youngest among us cannot recall and the oldest of us are apt to forget when we had normal prosperity and normal progress. For almost half a century no such state of affairs has been our fortune. In less than half a century we have endured two gigantic wars. In that time we have been involved in two world conflicts as well as spending more energy, money, production and all it takes, to prevent a third world war, than was spent in the other two. Under those conditions we have not had business as usual, and as we look forward to that better day of normal peace and business as usual it becomes necessary, especially for the older who forget or for the younger who do not see, to glance back a little bit and find a precedent for policies that may be required to promote the prosperity and progress without which that longed-for peace and prosperity may be pretty cold. For that challenge we must be prepared, Mr. Speaker.

Since the birth of this young nation only two political parties have been so challenged. Others have promised but only the traditional Liberal party, which now governs this country, and we of the Conservative party, who sit to your left, have been called upon to perform. Many others have promised. We have shared, in our plans, policies and contributions, in the great development of this young country. Despite the fact there is a difference in our policies, there has been very little if any difference in our sincerity of purpose even if there is that clear and basic distinction between our background and outlook in our political faith.

As the horizon of normal times comes closer to us, we observe the need of a sound and straightforward approach to our fiscal and taxation problems. Our leader has consistently emphasized the soundness of our traditional fiscal policy to encourage the development of more of our resources within our own country. He has also urged for a dominion-provincial conference to study our whole taxation field. I am amazed that after all that we have heard about national unity, after all we have heard about that problem and the warnings that we could expect a conference sooner than formerly expected, and after all the pressure that has been put on from this side of the house, nothing seems to have been done. We heard nothing about that in the speech from the throne, and I hope the Prime Minister will tell us what he intends to do in that regard.