

questions as public ownership and the social services, about which there is so much material available in England and the United States, but so little in Canada.

The article goes on to speak of the membership, and then follows the concluding paragraph as follows:

Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, M.P., has accepted the honorary presidency of the league. A provisional executive committee is in charge of its activities for the first year. Its members are Professor F. R. Scott of the faculty of law, McGill university; Professor King Gordon of the Union Theological college; Professor E. A. Havelock of Victoria college, Toronto; Mr. J. F. Parkinson of the department of political economy, university of Toronto; and Professor F. H. Underhill of the department of history, university of Toronto. The secretary is Miss Isabel Thomas, 760 Spadina avenue, Toronto. The following manifesto is being issued by the league. . . .

Then follows the manifesto which the Prime Minister read into the record and about which he spoke with such scorn. On account of the bearing of this manifesto on the very points we are discussing in this debate, I should like to offer a few comments. I read from the manifesto the following:

The league for social reconstruction is an association of men and women who are working for the establishment in Canada of a social order in which the basic principle regulating production, distribution and service will be the common good rather than private profit.

It does seem to some of us in this house, as to a great many people outside the house, that we are approaching a time when the profit motive in industry will have to be replaced by something else. That is the firm conviction of a group in parliament but also that of a great many people in different parts of the world to-day. We take it the present system is showing its bankruptcy through the unemployment, the seeming over production and general stagnation prevailing at the present time. Reading again from the manifesto, I find the following:

The present capitalist system has shown itself unjust and inhuman, economically wasteful and a standing threat to peace and democratic government.

May I point out that with nearly half a million people unemployed we have a most wasteful system in Canada. Nothing could be more wasteful than to have all these idle workers, and have our machinery working only part time. Undoubtedly such conditions are a standing threat to peace and democratic government. That is true locally, because we find on the order paper to-day provision for the securing of a larger force to protect us, for the enlistment of more constables. If such

measures are necessary it must be that present conditions are a menace. When we look at the world at large any careful student of international affairs must recognize that rivalry in economic affairs is a distinct menace. Turning again to the manifesto I read:

Over the whole world it has led to a struggle for raw materials and markets and to a consequent international competition in armaments which were among the main causes of the last great war and which constantly threaten to bring on new wars.

Can anyone controvert that statement; I think it is perfectly sound. Almost every historian of any standing recognizes that the main causes of wars in modern days are of an economic nature. I read on:

In the advanced industrial countries it has led to the concentration of wealth in the hands of a small irresponsible minority of bankers and industrialists, whose economic power constantly threatens to nullify our political democracy.

This manifesto was written before the Manitoba provincial savings office episode. It would seem, however, that nothing could better illustrate the truth of the passage I have just read than the fact that the banks dare dictate to a provincial premier when he is to call a legislature together. We thought that was a prerogative of the crown, or the crown as represented through the Lieutenant-Governor. We find now however that the banks can dictate when a legislature is to be called, and what is to be put on the statute books or to be removed from those statute books. Reading again:

The result in Canada is a society in which the interest of farmers and of wage and salaried workers, the great majority of the population, are habitually sacrificed to those of this small minority.

That is what hon. members in this corner of the house have been trying to say in connection with the budget which has been under debate, namely that essentially it is a rich man's budget, and the poor people are being taxed into greater poverty. Essentially it represents the transfer of wealth and power from the poor to the rich. I read on:

Despite our abundant natural resources the mass of the people have not been freed from poverty and insecurity.

Can anyone deny that. And, further:

Unregulated competitive production condemns them to alternate periods of feverish prosperity, in which the main benefits go to speculators and profiteers, and of catastrophic depression, in which the common man's normal state of insecurity and hardship is accentuated.

I think that manifesto well describes the situation we have in Canada to-day—and not