

gave me in their editorial pages. Is not the press often called the fourth estate, the lever that uplifts the world?

I asked for no favours, but last session on behalf of my electors I fought for the redress of an injustice and a wrong. On July 21 last year, the case was discussed fully, and to save repetition I would refer hon. members to Hansard of that date. I have no thanks to offer to the government, because no one should be thanked for doing his duty, but I offer my congratulations to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and to the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion); who understood at last the justice of my claim. In fact an official of the health department saw to it that twenty-four gallons of muriatic acid were used to fumigate the bugs in the old station building. The sanitary system has been renewed, the floor and walls have been tiled and the roof has been re-covered. The exterior repairs are not yet completed. The platform should be renewed and the adjacent buildings be put in order so that the station may be worthy of welcoming you, Mr. Speaker, and all members of the house and the members of the press gallery, when they come to that garden of the lower St. Lawrence—Riviere du Loup. As there is already a Perley Bridge and as the member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley) has been instrumental in that matter, and on account of the numerous speeches delivered last session on the subject, would it not be only fitting to give the station the name of Parley station? It is to be regretted that a new station has not been built in accordance with Canadian National plans, because this would have relieved unemployment in my home town.

The discussion about the matter last year did not cost the country so very much, thanks to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart), since several refunds were made. For instance, there was the question of cement. Repairs were to be made to the wharf at Trois-Pistoles, and the cement was supplied by an agent of the Canada Cement Company and another agent of the National Cement Company. When the government changed, the cement was supplied by a prominent Conservative, who sold it to the government at \$1.40 a bag, plus transportation. The Minister of Public Works, being notified about the matter, made this man refund the difference between \$1.40 and 65 cents a bag as well as the cost of transportation. I also brought charges in this house against a wharf foreman, who took joy rides at the expense of the government and also padded the pay lists. I congratulate the minister on

[Mr. Pouliot.]

having succeeded in getting that money refunded as well. So my speeches in that connection did not cost the country very much, because I had the cost paid by the Tories of my home town.

Other speeches were made about the Riviere du Loup station by the Prime Minister, the Minister of Railways, the hon. member for Argenteuil and others. These did cost the country something; I thought that should be made up in some way, so the Minister of Public Works was told about some dirty work being done by a contractor in another constituency, who was using timber which was not in accordance with the contract. The minister had the wharf emptied; the stones were taken out and therefore some economy was made, which partly compensated for the speeches made by hon. gentlemen opposite in connection with the Riviere du Loup station.

This shows one thing, Mr. Speaker; one should never say die. If hon. members opposite sometimes are not satisfied with the answers they get from their ministers they have only to follow my example. It may take some little time, but eventually they will receive their reward if their cause is just. The motto I give them is "Never say die."

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as I see the situation the speech from the throne reveals on the part of the government an absolute bankruptcy of ideas. In the face of a world crisis absolutely no lead is given by the government. The speech states that world conditions are beyond the control of the Canadian people. That may be so, but the question is what we are to do in the face of such a situation, and to that question no answer whatever is given.

The speech states that within the last few months a favourable balance of trade has been established. I think it was only last year that I had the pleasure of complimenting the government on getting away from that old mercantilist fallacy, but they are back again with the old fetish. I would say that the actual situation facing Canada is rightly interpreted by the president of the Royal bank, who says:

While the severe dislocation of international trade has naturally resulted in a substantial decrease in our exports—

He goes on:

—these figures reflect the transition from the period of expansion and development coupled with the investment of foreign capital in Canada to a period of retrenchment and reliance on our own resources.