

nothing. That kind of legislation is more suggestive of the deliberations of the inmates from an insane asylum than from a legislative assembly.

This writer states that 156 parcels of land in the Blackfoot municipal district will be up for sale for arrears of taxes on March 29, 1932. Frankly I do not think it will be any use offering that land for sale, for it will be merely a formality—you cannot sell land out there. The Bureau of Statistics shows the price of land over all Canada has dropped \$10 an acre in four years.

No words of mine, Mr. Speaker, could exaggerate the gravity of agricultural conditions, and indeed of unemployment conditions, in this country. I heard that eloquent orator from Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) discussing the absence of any real emergency or crisis of unemployment in the province of Quebec. On another occasion I will give him some facts in that connection which may disabuse his optimistic mind of the opinions he now holds.

I will take such measures as will provide for the giving of work to every man and woman in this country prepared to work.

We know the source from which that statement comes, and we also know that at the present time the expense apparently of providing work is so great that there is a likelihood that the actual relief programs will be stopped, and that from now on a measure of dole—if you like to call it that; it is no disgrace—will be administered. Hon. gentlemen opposite are inclined at times to discredit the dole. Personally I prefer work, it is far, far, better for the character of our people, but if it is found to be impossible for this government to finance any further relief works, the dole is the only alternative. Of course it would not be impossible if they would adopt some of the proposals suggested by members in this corner of the house, but unfortunately the government will not sweep aside the orthodox rules of finance. If they would do so, it would take them more quickly out of the bog than anything they have in their minds at the present time. In the absence of any disposition on their part to discard orthodoxy, there is no other course open to them than to cut down expenditure on the relief works that were provided, as they declare, to preserve the morale of the people of this country and supply needed relief.

I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to the points I have already mentioned, I regard the introduction of this measure as utterly inexcusable unless in the event of war or famine. We have no war in this country,

unless it be, as someone suggested to me the other day, a class war. If the government recognizes that it is now, or may be, confronted with a class war, then possibly on that ground it can justify this astonishing legislation. The government will not assert that. But it admits that condition by increasing the police force, by keeping up the morale of the naval and military forces by not cutting their salaries, and by maintaining the judiciary in good spirits by not reducing their salaries. The police, naval, army and judicial forces are favoured—the story is plain for those who would read.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that a condition of war does not exist. Nor can it be argued by anybody that a condition of famine exists in this country. A condition of shortage does exist in certain territories, which condition can be met with our adequate transportation facilities and our vast supplies of goods. Therefore I am definitely opposed to this measure. I will vote against the resolution, and I will vote against the bill when it is introduced.

Hon. J. C. ELLIOTT (West Middlesex): I desire, Mr. Speaker, to make a few observations on the resolution which is now under consideration. First of all may I express my regret that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and the members of his cabinet did not see their way clear to accept the proposition which was made by my right hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King), that to meet the purposes of unemployment and farm relief a supply bill should be brought down. Had that been done, members on this side of the house would have cooperated to the fullest extent to facilitate the passage of the bill at the earliest possible moment. That, to a large extent, is the issue, and it is the reason for the discussion which has taken place during the past week. We all regret the very serious economic condition throughout the country, and it is a pity that the government has not taken such a course as would have enabled every member to discharge what I submit is his first duty to his constituents—the consideration in committee of supply of estimates to meet the urgent necessities of the country.

The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) eloquently and ably defended the system of relief in operation in Saskatchewan during the past year, and dilated upon the excellent manner in which the Saskatchewan Relief Commission had discharged its duties. While he was pronouncing those eulogies I could not help thinking what an