

justice to himself and to the high position he occupies when, in cold type, he reviews his effort to burlesque, parody, and place on Hansard a very serious prayer.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I was not burlesquing a prayer; the burlesque concerned the government.

Mr. BENNETT: It was a parody of a prayer from the Prayer Book, put in the mouth of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens), and I say that it came as near an approach to blasphemy as I have ever heard in this House of Commons.

Then, there is another matter to which perhaps I should refer, and that is that in the last speech from the throne the right hon. gentleman himself prepared, which was delivered on February 20, 1930, these words occur:

The dominion is already recovering from the seasonal slackness evident at the end of the year, and it is not to be forgotten that the bulk of the 1929 wheat crop still remains in Canadian hands for final disposition.

Just why the country should be proud of the fact that it could not sell its wheat, I do not know. However, the right hon. gentleman saw fit to put words in the speech from the throne indicating that up to that time his government had not been able to find markets for Canadian wheat, that he was conscious of the fact, and that the Canadian producers still had on their hands for final disposition the bulk of the 1929 wheat crop. Well, I am bound to say it has remained there, substantially, in that form or from the production of other years, ever since. That is the position. It was at that time the condition arose, and as I indicated it had reached its culminating point last year, when we dealt with it.

Then, the right hon. gentleman referred to rural credits. I think it well to say only this, that the right hon. gentleman doubtless had in his mind his own efforts in that direction. During the period we sat in conference with the provinces it was quite apparent that the efforts to set up short term and intermediate rural credits had been going on indefinitely for a period of twenty-five, thirty or forty years, and that those efforts had not been successful. Various reasons were advanced as to why it had not been possible. It is possible that upon ultimate analysis it will be found that in the older countries there has been no accumulation of capital, at low rates of interest, available for that purpose. I find in the speech from the throne delivered on January 8, 1926, the following:

While it is of importance to attract new settlers it is equally, if not more important, to assist those who are already established on the land by reducing the cost of agricultural production. To this end a measure will be introduced offering wide facilities for rural credits.

Will any hon. member in this chamber say he has felt the effect of the wide facilities for rural credits established in 1926? Will anybody in this country say that those wide facilities were established? Although hon. members opposite held office from 1926 to 1930, and although the right hon. gentleman opposite promised legislation in that year, will he say that at the time he went out of office these wide facilities had been established? He knows now, as perhaps he did not know when he prepared that speech from the throne, the difficulties of establishing cheap money credits for the farming population on short and intermediate terms. Hon. gentlemen in the corner opposite who have given much attention to this matter know from what has transpired from year to year in committees of the house how difficult it is to find any solution for the problem. The matter has engaged the attention of the officers of the Department of Finance. The best minds they have been able to secure to assist them have been made available, and provincial officers have discussed the matter with the federal authorities. I can say only this, however, that while I do not feel too sanguine that an adequate solution will be found, I believe some solution will be found which will be beneficial to the rural population. That is all which I believe can usefully be said in that connection.

I now pass to another matter, and then I have finished with this particular phase of my remarks. The right hon. gentleman dealt with the problem of unemployment relief, and the attitude taken by the Prime Minister with respect to the provinces. I find that in 1922 the right hon. gentleman was confronted with a problem of unemployment. In the speech from the throne delivered on March 9 of that year I find the following:

In many parts of the dominion continued depression of business naturally produced in a much larger degree than usual the misfortune of unemployment. Whilst of the opinion that unemployment relief is fundamentally a municipal and provincial responsibility, my government has felt that as conditions have arisen in a measure out of the late war, they would be justified in continuing for the period of the winter months the expedient of supplementing by grants from the federal treasury the relief contributions of provinces and municipalities for the purpose of alleviating actual distress.