

territory; figures that have driven Canadian trade out of the West Indies, out of parts of Africa, and are threatening us in other parts of the world; figures that it is clearly demonstrated are below any possible costs of production. Such systems exist in various countries. What is the use of saying to this parliament and to the hard driven worker of this country: The solution for you, my friend, is the unrestricted play of the law of supply and demand. One might just as well talk about controlling the laws of gravity. These laws are not functioning to-day. My hon. friend cannot put his finger on any country in the world where they are.

But what is the ultimate result of his course, assuming it could be operative? He says:

If economic forces are allowed free play, the marginal producer—

Get this.

—the marginal producer will be the first to go.

In other words he introduces the old law, the natural law, I suppose he would call it, of the survival of the fittest.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The jungle law.

Mr. STEVENS: "The jungle law" someone suggests. Well, Mr. Speaker, is Canada to come under the jungle law? As a matter of fact we have it to-day. What I am trying to do, and what others are trying to do who argue as I have argued in this matter, is to induce parliament to recognize that two-thirds I would say, of our people to-day are suffering because certain groups are practising the jungle law. In this report we have called for a recognition of the overwhelming power of concentrated wealth, and the penalties that are suffered by the whole agricultural industry, by the workers in large measure and by the small business men and professional men of this country. That is why we are asking that parliament, as the custodian of the social rights of the people of Canada, should step in and—not regulate and interfere with private business, but stand between predatory interests and the fair operation of competitive measures between citizens of this country.

Now, sir, I want to speak very kindly but very frankly and plainly to my hon. hon. friends on this side of the house. We came into this house five years ago with a large majority. We had unlimited power so far as parliament was concerned.

Mr. CASGRAIN: You used it, too.

Mr. STEVENS: We were swept into office on a wave of distress and depression. It is

of no profit now to go back and review what might have happened in the last days of the government of my right hon. friend opposite. We were honoured with the confidence of the people of this country. The question we have to ask ourselves is: Have we been true to that trust? That question calls for answer; that question is going to be answered some time within the next few months.

Let me ask this, Mr. Speaker: Have we solved our domestic problems in Canada? It may be interjected here that there were great international problems challenging the attention of the government. I question whether a country like Canada is justified in giving great external questions precedence over domestic questions; I question that frankly. What have we had externally? We had an international conference on monetary matters. I ask any hon. gentleman in this house: Did anything come out of that, other than a peculiar determination to buy a certain amount of silver? Did anything come out of that of any value to Canada? It is true that the nations of the world said twenty-five per cent gold coverage was sufficient where practice and custom had said forty per cent previously, but will anybody say that the great gold standard policy is any more effective now in bringing happiness, contentment, stability and prosperity to this country than it was five years ago, before that conference was held? Is there anyone, other than Montagu Norman of the Bank of England and a few others who still stick to it, who will say that the gold standard so-called is operating in any country in the world? I think Switzerland is the only country in which it is operating. Holland is boasting that it is operating there; it is not. France has boasted that it has maintained it; it has not. The United States has the largest quantity of gold of any country in the world, and certainly the gold standard is not in operation there. Great Britain has a stabilization fund of some six or seven hundred million pounds, but the gold standard is not operating there. Canada is the second or third largest producer of gold in the world and is in a fortunate position, but the gold standard is not operating here. We have been clinging to these old shibboleths; we have been hanging on tenaciously to stability of currency and things of that kind, and at the same time we have forgotten that there are domestic problems calling for attention and consideration and solution.

What have we done in connection with the unemployment problem? It does not follow that my hon. friends opposite can say that the whole responsibility is on the government,