

May I point out that bargaining has been the basis of all British agreements. Are there any members present who recall Cobden's agreement with France, that treaty after the repeal of the Corn Laws. Read the life of Cobden and the difficulty in connection with that. Take our present treaty with France; all treaties that are of any value mean bargain, bargain, bargain. Those who have no interest beyond the academic in these matters always denounce the actions of practical men. We are a practical government, and under those circumstances we propose to continue to make bargains. We have been negotiating bargains with other parts of the empire and will continue to do so as occasion offers.

I have trespassed upon the time of the house much longer than I had expected to do when I rose to my feet, but I can only reiterate that I am conscious of no neglect of my duties to the cause of Canada, and I certainly have as great a love of empire as hon. gentlemen opposite. I do not propose for a single moment to depart from the general principles that have governed us in dealing with the economic problems of Canada at the Imperial conference that will meet at an adjourned session in this city during the succeeding months.

One word more. The right hon. gentleman opposite has suggested that we might endeavour to drive legislation through with undue haste, and he warns us that we shall not be able to do so. We welcome that, for the fuller the discussion of any measures, the better they will be; but I will say we do not propose to listen to any vaudeville effusions such as we had last session from the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young). An intelligent discussion is one thing; but the discussions that then took place were merely endeavours to wear out the patience of the minister in charge, and I think most of the hon. gentleman's friends held the same view.

I am deeply grateful to the house for having listened with such patience and I can only add we are conscious of no neglect of duty, no failure in our devotion to the cause of Canada and the empire in every thing that has been done. Guided by that thought and sustained and inspired by the support of an intelligent electorate which has rallied round us in the past and will do so in the future, we shall go forward and discharge the duties that have devolved upon us.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, under the rules

of the house only the Prime Minister and the leader of the official opposition have the opportunity of speaking for more than forty minutes. Under this handicap may I be forgiven by the previous speakers if I refer only incidentally to their speeches and confine myself very largely to stating our own position. There is, perhaps, some difficulty in the atmosphere of Ottawa in maintaining the sense of the over-shadowing importance of the needs of the labouring men and farmers whom we represent. Ottawa is interested in the fortunes of the Conservative and Liberal parties, interested in the social functions connected with the opening of the house; interested in the coming of the new Governor General; interested in the prospective visit of the King of Siam; interested in the gossip connected with the new plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to the United States. May I venture to read the headlines on the front page of the Manitoba Free Press issued the day I left Winnipeg, February 26. This will perhaps bring us back to realities:

Police wield batons on paraders' heads to quell disorder—Exciting clashes mark procession of 4,000 unemployed and communists—Minor clashes mark jobless gathering—Dominion-wide unemployment demonstrations checked by police—Unemployment relief problem is grappled with by legislation—Bracken's bill to ratify projects to aid workless gets third reading—Time wealthy were fully aware of present situation, declares Haig—Russia makes trade proposal to Canada—United Farmers of Canada convention moves last barrier to political action—by overwhelming vote, delegates wipe out ruling objecting to political alliances—Charter of liberty, with exception of threat of secession, is adopted.

I turn to an inside page and I read: "Sixteen nations agree to buy European wheat stocks." This really means that Europe is isolating herself as far as possible from America. Another heading relates to the closing of Brandon college:

At the regular chapel exercises at Brandon college, Doctor J. R. C. Evans referred to the recent press announcement regarding the inability of the Baptist union to finance the college until the close of the current academic year.

No finances! Still another heading:

Brookland's schools are to be closed—Compulsory holiday for children is caused by lack of finances.

Brooklands, I may say, is a suburb of the city of Winnipeg, and these school children are being thrown on the streets because the teachers cannot be paid.

In order to understand what this unemployment means in actual cash, may I quote the figures from the last report on unemployment