

months, the ills from which the country is suffering. They are not in earnest. The late government should have foreseen this. To govern is to foresee. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This lack of foresight is the direct cause of a great number of our difficulties and the Canadian people have already and will continue to place the blame where it belongs.

The speech from the throne mentions the imperial and economic conferences held in London last autumn. Constitutional questions were discussed and agreed upon in principle; however, the resolutions approved will not be put into force until the provinces of Canada have had the opportunity of studying them. An interprovincial conference will be held in the capital, in April next, with the view of considering these constitutional changes and making sure that the rights of the provinces are not violated. The Canadian people are happy to learn that the representatives of all the Dominions of the Empire will meet in Ottawa, in the course of next summer, to discuss the problems already broached at the London conferences, to settle upon plans for closer trade relations between the various parts of the empire and to thus assure a lasting and advantageous policy for Canada and the empire. The Canadian people will closely follow these various conferences which, we hope, without infringing on provincial rights, will result in more happiness and prosperity for our people.

The speech from the throne also mentions the order in council prohibiting the imports into Canada of certain products having their origin in the socialistic and sovietic republics, in other words, the Russian embargo. This measure was so favourably commented upon throughout Canada that it is unnecessary to debate it at length in the house. This order is dated February 27, 1931, but it had its source in an Act passed at the special session of the Dominion parliament in September last. Let it suffice to state that the Quebec legislature, by a motion, has shown its appreciation to the Dominion government for having prohibited the importation of Russian products which compete with those of this country. Since the Quebec legislature has deemed proper to congratulate the present government on its action, the measure enacted must be of the utmost importance for all classes of the community.

The Pensions Act adopted at the last session of the sixteenth parliament will be amended. The act as it exists is not satisfactory. The federal treasury pays 50 per cent of these pensions to the provinces which

undertake to pay the other half. Seeing that the financial state of many provinces does not allow the carrying out of this act, those governments which are not in a position to benefit by it are forced to-day to pay their quota, without receiving any advantages. An amendment was necessary. The provinces of Canada will be relieved of a heavy load and those whose infirmities of old age preclude from earning their living will bless the hand that assists them.

The grants to technical schools will be highly welcomed by the people. Technical training deserves to be encouraged by this house. In my own riding, at Edmundston, we have a technical school which justifies its existence. We expended a considerable initial capital believing that the Dominion government would continue the grant already voted. When we learned that the late government had decided to discontinue this grant, there was almost a panic in our town. This meant the closing of this institution which is almost indispensable to our young people who wish to learn a trade in order to better earn their living. I must therefore congratulate the government on taking measures to continue these grants to technical schools.

Time precludes me from dealing with all the measures enumerated in the Speech from the Throne; however, these measures herald a period of great prosperity for this country. Among them we find: tariff revision, the appointment of a new tariff commission, economy in our finances, amendments to the Naturalization Act and the Copyright Act; amendments to the Pensions Act, assistance to agriculture, technical education and Trans-Canada highways; assistance in the sale of our wheat crops, interprovincial and imperial conferences at Ottawa; better control of government purchases. It is a policy implying, that the pledges given to the people were given seriously, not mere vote-catchers, but pledges which were destined to be carried out, ensuring a return to prosperous conditions which should exist in this beautiful and vast country.

The other day, in Quebec, a veteran of our Canadian politics, the Hon. Thomas Chapais, stated: On July 28 last, the electoral verdict has placed at the helm of this country that eminent statesman, Mr. Bennett, one of the greatest that Canada has produced. And mind you, he added, such will be the verdict of history. That distinguished statesman, beloved and respected by those who will long sit on your right, Mr. Speaker, can depend, in this house and throughout the country, on the support of a united and loyal party. He