

which is made up largely of farmers will go out of business too. That is the thing which I believe a good many of us fail to notice. The provinces of western Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, whose citizens are largely employed in primary production, will simply find it utterly impossible to carry on unless something is done to adjust that inequality. So that whether you are talking about agricultural machinery or shoes, the products of the farmers or the fishermen, you must have equitable prices. Therefore I say the third thing Canadians want right now is equitable prices, and if this government cannot give equitable prices, then it cannot govern the people. That is abundantly clear.

We need an increase of purchasing power all the way round; there need be no comment on that. We need more and better markets, not only externally but internally. We need reduced taxation and reduced debt. How are these changes to be effected? I ask in all simplicity and honesty: did any hon. member notice in anything said yesterday by either of the leaders of the two main parties any inkling or even a suspicion of a suggestion of any way in which these improvements can be brought about? I did not, and I think every hon. member who followed the debate carefully, as no doubt all hon. members did, will agree that nothing was said along those lines.

I now turn to the speech from the throne, although I have not time to consider the whole thing with care. I am glad I have not. There is this one part of it which vitally concerns all of us:

My ministers recognize that the plight of those who are still unemployed cannot await necessary constitutional amendments, nor the summoning of any conference. They are prepared therefore, notwithstanding constitutional impediments to effectual action, to join with the provinces in a further determined effort to meet the immediate situation.

What is that determined effort going to be? One idea which seems to be spreading throughout the country, especially in the west—and I do not know whether or not the government is to blame for it—is that as a result of little remarks such as those to which I shall refer in a few minutes the government is attempting to create among people the idea that something has got to happen to the British North America Act, is attempting to get the people into a state of mind favourable to changing it, and, that in the course of that change they will steal away from the provinces some of the powers they now have. If that idea exists, do not blame

me. I merely tell the house the idea that is developing—and there can be no doubt about it.

Hon. members will notice at least three places in the speech from the throne where there is a sort of whine, if I may use that word—probably I should say “complaint”—about constitutional difficulties in the way of the government doing its duty towards the people. For instance we find this:

Having regard to the existing division of powers and obligations under the British North America Act, responsibility for unemployment and the solution of its problems is necessarily divided. There has been an increasing assumption of obligations on the part of the federal government.

It is well that there has been. But that is just one hint; here is another:

The intensification of the problem has set forth in bold relief the obstacles which the existing division of constitutional authority places in the way of a solution.

Altogether the paragraphs I have read constitute three attempts to impress upon the people of Canada the idea that the government cannot do what it wants to do unless the British North America Act is changed.

It would be interesting to spend a few moments in a discussion of certain passages of the Prime Minister's speech delivered last night in which I believe he indicated the kind of change he thought ought to be effected. May I say that so far as my native province is concerned, and I believe so far as all the provinces with which I am familiar are concerned, they certainly are not prepared to grant those changes. Whether or not the Prime Minister meant those expressions as I have interpreted them, I do not know. However, we will talk about that matter later, and shall not take further time in the discussion of it to-day. Is the government trying to filch from the provinces some of their provincial rights? Are the provinces too powerful? That is the question being asked by men throughout the country.

Then, in the speech from the throne there are references to proposed expenditures which, apparently, indicate another thing the government is going to do in order to make their determined effort. At page 3 of *Hansard* we find reference to the home improvement plan, the National Housing Act, and the Municipal Improvements Assistance Act. Aid has been given to the mining industry by subventions, and there is reference to federal public works, the construction of highways, land settlement, special projects for farm employment, forest conservation, and grants in aid to the provinces to assist in