

last, not waiting until the crop was to be put in, we got ready to do this work, but for reasons that must appeal to anyone the government does not want to advertise Canada by going around talking about the distribution of seed grain.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The provinces and the municipalities had to take the responsibility for it.

Mr. BENNETT: But it does not add to the greatness of our country to advertise what we do in that regard. You compel me now to do it. We supported the farmer with seed grain to an extent and in a manner that has not been done since confederation.

Mr. DONNELLY: You took a first lien on his land.

Mr. BENNETT: We did no such thing.

Mr. DONNELLY: The municipalities are taking it.

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot help that; we have nothing to do with the municipalities. We took those steps because we believed they were in the national interest.

Now, may I say one word about freight rates? Since I first went to western Canada, over thirty-five years ago, it has always been something to talk about. Go and look at the condition of the railways to-day, or last year, or the year before. Canada has a 20 per cent lower freight rate than any other country in the world over the same sort of territory. In the great republic to the south their rates on an average are 20 per cent higher than ours.

An hon. MEMBER: Domestic or export?

Mr. BENNETT: I am talking of export.

An hon. MEMBER: We are talking of domestic.

Mr. BENNETT: That, I fancy, is fairly well-known to everyone here. The Crowsnest pass rates were established by contract and perpetuated by legislation. May I say to my friends from the west: Do you realize how difficult you are making it for the west by the attitude that some of you continue to take? Do you realize, in your denunciation of what some of you call "St. James Street," and some of you call "the banks," and others of you call "the moneyed interests," that it is upon them we have to rely largely for our taxes? To the extent that incomes are increased, income taxes are increased; and to the extent that companies earn money, 8½ or 10 per cent, increased revenue is produced. You cry aloud for the spending of money, and then complain that the people

earn it that they may pay taxes. Is it not time that you took stock of some of these things? What good on earth can any member accomplish by pursuing the course that my hon. friend has pursued to-night, and that some other hon. gentlemen are pursuing here, crying aloud, calling upon high heaven in denunciation of wealth, money and means, and then in the same breath crying aloud to tax it. I met a delegation the other day, as some of you know, and their proposal was to get money for unemployment insurance on a non-contributory basis by a steeply graded income tax. Where is the income coming from? Where there is no income there is no tax.

Sir, is it not time that a House of Commons of such high intelligence as this should be thinking in terms not of our sorrows, but of our causes for gladness; not of our weaknesses, but of our strength; not that we are caught in a great world depression, but that we have the courage and the enterprise and the skill to get out of it? Is it not time to do that? I say this because I believe in Canada, because I am carrying—as most of you know—a very considerable responsibility with respect to the financial burden of this country. And I say he is no friend of Canada who endeavours to decry it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Why did not my hon. friend think of all this last year?

Mr. BENNETT: He said the very same things last year.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: In no speech I made anywhere in Canada last year did I fail to speak of the greatness of my country, and of my faith and belief in her destiny. I defy any member to lay his hand upon a single speech in which I did not refer to the future of this country in terms of faith and of earnest and honest belief. I believe, sir, as I have said on several occasions, that failure by my hon. friends opposite to take elementary precautions for the future of Canada is partly responsible for the position we now occupy. I know what at that time other men did in their business. I know what I myself was doing, I know the advice I gave; and I know that common discretion should at least have induced men to see what was on the horizon.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): May I ask my right hon. friend this question: Did he not say from every platform that if he were put in a position of responsibility he would cure all these difficulties at once?