

designed by the brilliant architect, Sir Christopher Wren. As we walk into that building we see a tablet on the wall which bears the inscription, "If you desire to see the achievements of this man, look around you." If you desire to see the achievements of economy in the midst of mass production, just look around you.

I should like to put the case of the municipalities before the house. If it is to be the deliberate policy of the federal and provincial governments to deny any assistance to the municipalities in connection with relief works, the problems of the municipalities will be greatly intensified. Many men are looking forward to relief works upon which they may earn sufficient money to pay the rental, on the homes in which they and their families live. I question very much whether the municipalities can carry their burdens very much longer. We must remember they have only two major sources of taxation, namely real estate and income. Speaking for the province of Ontario, there is no doubt we have just about reached the maximum, so far as taxation on the homes of the people is concerned. I believe the government will be well advised even to increase their contribution to the municipalities for these purposes. Such a policy is absolutely essential, particularly in view of the fact of the many avenues of taxation that the provincial governments and this government have in comparison with the few that are open to the municipalities.

We have had several committees sitting dealing with subjects referred to them by this house, but none of them have dealt with what I consider are vital problems. I think we should have set up a special committee to study the best means of introducing a system of unemployment insurance. I readily understand that such a system will have to be based on the peculiar needs of this country, but study and preparation are required before any action can be taken, and I am of opinion that in view of the basic need for unemployment insurance the first duty of the government was to set in motion a special committee for this purpose. Then I think the government might well have taken hold of the suggestion embodied in the resolution of the member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) for the establishment of an economic research council. I am convinced that before we get out of this depression the need for such a council will be imperative. I believe the resolution contains the germ of an idea that will be of great assistance in approaching the

[Mr. Mitchell.]

problems that have to be solved if we are to climb back to prosperity.

I have a number of other suggestions to make, but time will not permit. I say to the government that the people are ready for leadership—not leadership backward, but forward. The people are willing to take chances.

An hon. MEMBER: We have taken too many.

Mr. MITCHELL: Someone on the other side says that they have taken too many chances. Well, you have played pretty safe, you have not taken any chances so far in regard to solving the major problems confronting the dominion. It is all very well to be favourable to banks, insurance companies, and power companies, but governments do not exist merely to be paternalistic to such corporations. The people of this country are ready for a real progressive policy initiated by this government.

Mr. D. B. PLUNKETT (Victoria): It is gratifying to note that the budget has been received throughout Canada in a very commendable manner, and I believe it is worthy of consideration for its complete and clear review of the country's present obligations and future necessities. Perhaps the best evidence of its favourable reception by the country is the very weak criticism of the budget offered by hon. members sitting to your left, Mr. Speaker. It is noticeable that in any criticism from hon. gentlemen opposite no solutions have been offered or positive suggestions made that are any better than those brought down by the government. Particularly is this so in reference to the care or relief of the unemployed.

During the debate it has been suggested by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), and in this he was supported by the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail), that all deposits over \$20,000 in the savings banks should be taxed for the direct benefit of the state. As political publicity this may sound very well at the present time, but what faith or confidence can the people be expected to have in this country if those who by hard work and industry have saved some money and deposited it in our savings banks are to have those savings absorbed by the state? What incentive would there be for anyone to work and save his surplus money for future contingencies if such proposals were to become law? Our banks are the custodians of the people's money, and the only money actually owned by any banking institution is its capital stocks and reserve funds. The capital stock usually consists of the bank's office buildings