

*The Address—Mr. A. C. Stewart*

**Mr. Stewart (Yorkton):** My hon. friend has been long enough in this house—and I have been in a legislature before; I am not a new member—to know that that is not a question. The hon. member did not ask me a question. He made a little speech. I have no objection to that.

In connection with the matter of our wheat market I want to say this, that the people of this country, whether the hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Harris) agrees with it or not, did in their judgment less than a year ago endorse the government of this country, the government which carried Canada through the days of the war and has done so since. The people watched their records; the people made their decision, and it was an overwhelming decision.

I am not going to profess that every minister of this government is a perfect minister; I do not think the government would contend that for one minute. But they did a good job when the going was tough, and I feel that as far as these markets are concerned, and as far as the negotiating of markets is concerned, they are fully seized of the fact that the western farmer feels, and properly so, that during the war he was called upon to take a reduced price; that he feels that the general taxpayer of Canada should assist him if times get tougher. I think they feel that. In addition I think the government will see, as they have already done by fixing certain minimum prices, that the farmer will be properly secured as far as the government can secure him, we being an exporting country.

This afternoon the Secretary of State for External Affairs spoke for over an hour. Hon. members will note that he made certain references to matters of economics and conversations with regard to trading that they carried on all along the line. I venture to say that the staff left behind—I understand that staffs have been left behind in some of these countries for trading purposes—are busy trying to see that other markets are procured for Canada. I do not think you will find that the trip to the Orient was wasted at all.

I submit that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) is not over in the old country just on a health trip. He has been visiting certain other countries in Europe. It was obvious at the conclusion of the last session that he was tired out. I venture to say that the Minister of Trade and Commerce has not been entirely enjoying himself over in the old country. The matter of obtaining these markets is a matter of negotiation. I feel sure that the government is seized of the importance of securing a market for the surplus wheat particularly.

Of course we now have the international wheat agreement for the next two years, and other markets, I venture to say, will be found. The situation in England has not been ideal. The previous speaker, the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming), said that England today was buying from Russia, Czechoslovakia and other countries. Well, there is an election tomorrow in England. I am not speaking for the Liberal party, but personally I hope that Winnie Churchill goes back in there, and then we may get a little better deal than we have got so far.

**Mr. Knowles:** I will take you up on that.

**Mr. Stewart (Yorkton):** The C.C.F. are always so optimistic in politics; they are pessimistic in everything else. You were very optimistic up in the Battlefords, and you know what happened up there the other day.

Considerable emphasis has been laid on the matter of unemployment. Every hon. member in this house has been surfeited with printed pamphlets prepared, no doubt, by the C.C.F. braintrust, sent and labelled "Canadian Congress of Labour", which is either their left wing or their left foot, I do not know which. But in any event they are the political arm of the C.C.F., or the C.C.F. is their political arm. In any case, the Canadian Congress of Labour has been responsible for sending to every hon. member these printed pamphlets having to do with the abolition of the means test.

The matter of unemployment is referred to in the amendment of the C.C.F. party. I personally listened to the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) speak on unemployment. He did not say that the municipalities would have to take the load. He implied that they should take their share of the load. I made a survey of unemployment in the three constituencies surrounding Yorkton and served by the employment office there. The situation there is that less than 4 per cent of the employables are unemployed. I was assured by the man in charge of the employment office that directly spring opens up not only will every one of them be employed but there will be a shortage of labour up there. That is not an invitation to Cape Breton South to send that 10 per cent of his up to my particular constituency.

I respect the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis). On many occasions he seems to talk the same language as some of us talk. Sometimes I think he should move his seat in the house, but apparently his associations have spoiled him. When he spoke yesterday he dealt with unemployment. In connection with unemployment he made certain statements that I do not think he was