

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

them today, with her arrangements to exchange machinery for feed grains, or some other commodities.

Nations must buy today where they can sell, and if we wish to increase our exports we must take imports in exchange for them. That leads me to say this, that there is a great deal of fear at the present time concerning competition from overseas countries, particularly from Japan. May I say to the government that I think its influence should be used, with the United States particularly, so that Japan will be allowed to rely more and more upon her natural market which is on the Asian mainland, and not have to try to push her way into markets which have not been hers in the past. I believe that the natural market for Japan is in China, whose 500 million people require those goods Japan can make. She would also trade with India, Indo-China, Ceylon and Burma, as well as other eastern countries. But if we insist upon trying to prevent trading by Japan with China—in pre-war years she was a great trading nation—then she must try to push her goods into markets where she can push them, and some must come into Canada to pay for food and raw material she needs.

The problem cannot be solved by tariffs. Tariffs, of course, have affected the Canadian economy in the past. Giant organizations have been built up behind tariff walls, often subsidiaries of powerful American corporations, and tariffs have protected those industries that have exploited the Canadian people through the years. The automobile and textile industries are two examples that come to mind. Of course we have those industries with us and we cannot throw their workers to the wolves. But I am pointing out that if we want to prevent competition from Japan, then we should see to it that we use our influence to help Japan regain those markets which were normally her own.

Much depends upon our ability to trade; much depends upon the prosperity of our economic structure. In other words, our whole social security program, in which we are vitally interested, depends upon the maintenance of full employment, stable and adequate farm prices, and a prosperous economy. That is the only way in which we can carry the social security program we have already adopted, and expand it as I shall suggest this afternoon it should be expanded.

And so, in spite of what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) said this afternoon, we believe in public planning. We believe in economic planning through public control and direction, in the public interest. And we make no apology for believing that that

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is the method by which we should develop our economic life.

We have a pressing problem, of course, in the realm of housing. The census of 1951 revealed that one out of every five houses in Canada is overcrowded. In the rural areas this condition exists to the extent of 23 per cent, while in the urban areas the condition is not quite as bad, with a figure of 16 per cent. In the urban areas over 350,000 homes are reported as being overcrowded, homes inhabited by probably two million or more Canadians. We are told in the same census of 1951 that many homes are in need of replacement or major repairs.

We say again, in spite of what is said in the speech from the throne, that this problem will not be solved by a reliance upon private investment or by new facilities for loans to home builders through the chartered banks. I had intended this afternoon to copy down a statement made by Hon. Mr. Ilsley when he was minister of finance, where he said that the banks had been denied the right to enter into the mortgage business, and that their loans had been limited to a certain field. He believed that policy was the right one, and that Canada should continue it.

May I say that other countries have been solving their housing problems by providing for the construction of subsidized low-rental housing on a large scale. That is true of the Scandinavian countries, and true in large part in Great Britain, as well as in New Zealand and in other countries. For those who cannot afford to build, loans to public bodies under such a subsidized plan are indeed essential.

At the moment you have the spectacle of unemployed miners in Nova Scotia, and mines shut down. Men with their families are moving out of that area looking for work. If the mines in northern Ontario are closed down, which is threatened by the employers, can the workers in those industries afford to go some place else and buy new houses? Remember, many erected the houses whence they came. Their equity now is of little value. Consequently, if we are to have a mobile labour force, and that is necessary in the kind of economy we have in Canada, then we must provide rental houses as well as houses for purchase.

For those who want to build houses, loans at low rates of interest could come from where? Through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. How should they be financed? I say through the Bank of Canada. If you have the chartered banks doing it, that is the way they will be financed. Securities will be deposited with the Bank of