

*Monetary Proposals of Social Credit Party*

with a healthy and productive job. They can no longer be satisfied—with studies and reviews: they will have to prove they can do better.

Declaring war on poverty, submitting reports and statistics about the poor will not solve the problem. The poor will realize that we really understand their problems the day we set up vast public works projects.

I realize that development projects would entail expense, but they are not impossible to carry out, unless our leaders want to remain enslaved to the small group of people who control our economy.

It is not the bankers who are responsible to the people, but rather the government which has the sovereign right to create money and credit.

Let us stop fooling around, and use our brains. The weak remedies applied so far have proved inadequate. Let us resort to extreme measures. Desperate ills call for desperate remedies. The government must show it is sincere by replacing the old system with a new one, by making financially possible what is physically feasible and good for the Canadian people whether poor or rich. This is what our politicians, in spite of their powers, have never been willing to do.

• (8:20 p.m.)

Hypocrisy must cease. People expect measures of this kind and not to have to tighten their belts. There is no need for that in Canada. Let the majority government use the power it received from the voters in the last election to take truly effective measures to fight poverty and to create a truly just society, while letting the big money lenders attend to their business and resorting to the sovereignty of the State to discharge its function.

This is the only solution to our present economic difficulties. We are no longer naive enough to believe that tightening our belts as a result of taxes will settle the situation. We agree that overhauling a faulty system will not be easy, but since there is no choice, we must act as soon as possible, if we honestly intend to prevent a revolution.

Along with the commissions concerned with the civil service, education, public service and unemployment insurance, why not establish a monetary commission made up of financial experts devoted to the poor which, with the help of technology, would balance the goods with the needs, provide the necessities of life, and devise credit patterns in all conscience, foresight and honesty? Since the country is

[Mr. Dionne.]

responsible for money, should it not derive benefits from it and regulate its circulation?

The Bank of Canada should issue sufficient credits for the necessary public works. Let the country use its own commodities first before applying on foreign markets. A national currency, measured more accurately, should make production and consumption credit easier. Afterwards, we could import what we still need. We shall not have to pay for our surplus production or for this gold of little nutritive value that God has hidden under our mountains of rock.

Even at that, we cannot fear that our economy will not ensure us a decent living. What exists, we have made, and we produce enough to ensure a living to those who do not produce anything.

Reverend Father Alexandre Dugré, a Jesuit, in a scathing article published in the *Messenger canadien du Sacré-Cœur*, in May 1943, called the attention of political leaders to the economic situation of that time, which is still prevailing.

We ensure a living to workers and unemployed, and we deprive ourselves of the potential production of those who are unable to work. Some economists, who seem to know all the answers, remind us of heretics who claim to have a perfect philosophy. That does not prevent us from realizing that quite often, it is perfectly false.

If they were right, Pope Pius XI would have been wrong to stigmatize with a violence unusual in encyclical letters the frightening strike of those who ration money and take unfair advantage of men to the benefit of dark interests. This is, indeed, what the Pope said:

In the first place, then, it is patent that in our days not alone is wealth accumulated, but immense power and despotic economic domination is concentrated in the hands of a few, and that those few are frequently not the owners, but only the trustees and directors of invested funds, who administer them at their good pleasure.

A terrible charge without any limitation in time, space and countries. Very harsh words that the rich and mighty would like to suppress, that the true leaders of the people did not want perhaps to understand.

Napoleon said: "I plead in favour of the poor; the rich will always have good dinners as an excuse."

The Pope advocates the same thing. Let us listen to him. May poor people never be forced to appeal to revolutionaries to obtain