

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

## CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, February 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. R. W. Gray for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. J. C. BRADY (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, yesterday when parliament assembled we had the unique honour of hearing two very fine speeches on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I could not help but notice that nature smiled favourably at that moment; the sun was shining through the eastern windows and everything seemed to point to a very successful sitting of this parliament. I likewise noticed that the hon. and most distinguished member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) who, I believe has done yeoman service in this parliament for many years, came and focussed himself in one of the doorways and, as it were, sensed the coming battle which will be waged this year; at least that was the impression he gave me. Moreover I thought, Mr. Speaker, that the young gentleman who had the honour to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne, the hon. member from West Lambton (Mr. Gray) gave much thoughtful preparation to his speech but as I read it afterwards I came to the conclusion that it is a very dangerous precedent for a young member entering parliament for the first time to be limited in his point of view as he seemed to be. I therefore, sir, take this opportunity of looking at the situation that exists in Canada to-day and I hope that anything I say will not be local in its character or limited in its significance.

The first thing, I think, that parliament should do is to take cognizance of the fact that in the speech from the throne there was no indication whatsoever that things were not satisfactory in Canada. Now I regret very much, Mr. Speaker, the picture of public life of Canada was not truer to facts, for we must realize that we in this parliament are but the agents of public good. I thought in the speech from the throne there should be at least some indication that the day had come in this period of Canada's history, for something more constructive and less vague. What, Mr. Speaker, is the situation in Canada to-day? I think that to-day the people are going to take into their own hands the destiny of Canada. Government is but the instrument of our social organization and after all our social life has within it all the factors that go to direct and guide the doings

[Mr. Heenan.]

of a parliament. What do I find? I find, sir, to-day that the government which is but the agent to complete the happiness, the peace, the comfort and prosperity of the people has not fulfilled its duty. How shall I prove that? I think, Mr. Speaker, that there is not one either within the precincts of this house or in the broad fields of public life and commercial activity in Canada who will dare contradict what I am going to say. What are the facts? I look first to agriculture. I take a picture of agriculture from the maritimes to British Columbia and what is the situation to-day? The answer is that agriculture in Canada is in a parlous state. What did Disraeli say at a great crisis in England's history when he noticed the danger that Britain was entering into owing to depression in agricultural pursuits? He looked at the state of agriculture in Britain and used these words, he said, the very principle of prosperity, the very essence of a people's greatness lies in the success of agriculture. You may for a short time after agriculture ceases to be successful have your ports filled with shipping, your industries may still resound with the noise of the anvil or the hammer but the time comes very speedily when these activities of industrial life shall cease.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is not for me to labour a point which is known to every thinking man and woman in Canada to-day. Our agriculture is not in the state we should expect from such a magnificent country and one with such a wonderful and varied climate as Canada possesses.

Furthermore, sir, let us take another question which is uppermost in the minds of the people of Canada to-day. I refer to unemployment. I at least am honest enough to confess it has taken three years of quiet patient study to come to the realization that in Canada to-day we have what should not exist with the manifold and the wonderful natural resources which Canada possesses. I refer to the great body of men who through no fault of their own are out of employment to-day. I find, Mr. Speaker, that in examining into the employment or unemployment situation there are two main classes affected and their numbers are increasing year by year. The first class is composed of industrial men who owe their unemployment to depression in industry. The second class is composed of the men who are unable to get employment because of the fact that by new methods in industry and labour-saving devices they are not able to fit in. The result, Mr. Speaker, is that among these two classes alone we find a continual steady increase in the number of