

The Address—Mr. Rowe

a keen student of their problems, Mr. A. R. Mosher, president of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada—

An hon. Member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Rowe: I should say president of the Canadian Congress of Labour—I am glad my hon. friend knows the difference—has made this statement:

In domestic affairs, one of the most disturbing factors as we enter the new year is the army of unemployed workers. A slight improvement in employment took place during the summer months, but the situation is again becoming extremely serious, and there is little, if any, prospect of adequate action by various levels of government to bring about an improvement.

Indeed, had these cautious advisers of the crown included that paragraph in the speech from the throne, it would at least have given a touch of reality to the problem itself. Instead we are told by the speech from the throne that it is only regional and seasonal. There is little hope for a sound solution to a problem which the government seems to refuse to see.

I do not know how the speech from the throne is prepared—or at least how recent speeches have been prepared. But it might be well in future, if those who prepare it are so weary as to omit these things, that they should call in some others to give some assistance. Because, really, this speech from the throne is a reflection upon the House of Commons when, at a time like this, the government brings down a document that does not mention these real and serious problems.

Instead of this we are told that everything will be all right. We of the opposition believe, of course, that these more or less local projects proposed for construction this year are well merited. In fact, Mr. Speaker, all of them should have been done before, and we have told the government so, in the House of Commons, on repeated occasions.

However, we do not believe that the Cape Breton causeway or the North Sydney-Port aux Basques ferry, or the Prince Edward Island ferry, or the removal of Ripple Rock, or the development of some historic sites or the placing of a few monuments throughout Canada will solve permanently this unemployment problem. We do not believe that.

No, Mr. Speaker. But the government dare not touch the issue that is staring them in the face. And there are underlying economic reasons for this situation that they refuse to admit. There are relief policies that they seem to be afraid to adopt.

In this day and age, with unprecedented world advancement, Canada's economic progress should not falter at a time like this.

[Mr. Rowe.]

We are in the midst of great world advancement. Despite the times and the international conditions which may threaten our security, we must realize that we stand geographically in the centre of that advancement.

Look, Mr. Speaker, at the United Kingdom. I will venture to say that some of my friends to the right, when they hesitated about having conferences with her a few years ago, thought that she had gone broke. But look at the way she is coming back. Look at what is happening in West Germany and in Europe. Look at what is happening to the great republic to the south of us whose population has increased in a time of great prosperity in the last 15 years more than the total population of Canada. Why should we, a young country, falter in advancement at this time? We have no reason for long-term pessimism. When we point out these problems do not let any little squeaky voice from the back benches tell us it is blue ruin. It is blue ruin when you do not face realities whether in your own affairs or in public affairs. When we point out these things we are not preaching blue ruin.

No one within sound of my voice wants a depression in this country. Heaven knows we have been through that problem before. We want to avoid a depression. We do not want a depression in the midst of plenty. We do not want unemployment in a time of world advancement. It is bad enough to have it at a time of world depression, as we had some years ago. Oh, you like to harp on and talk about the 1930's. No one was more responsible for that than those who sit to your right, Mr. Speaker. As they left office in 1930 they left every elevator full of unsold wheat, and every lumber yard that had not been burned almost full of unsold lumber.

That condition was brought about through a lack of policy in those days, Mr. Speaker, and it is being brought about through a lack of policy today. We had a British market in 1925. In 1921 we sold 250 million pounds of bacon and 77 million pounds of meat to Great Britain. What do we sell her now? Now we are importing cheese from New Zealand. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) says: "Me too." I say: "Yes, yes."

The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), who is a shrewd businessman, is too busy to understand agricultural problems, but he must have more encouragement. All he gets from the Minister of Agriculture is: "Me too." That is all right.

Indeed, the richness, vastness, and variety of our potential resources justify our keen national pride and betoken a long-term economic greatness that could well exceed our most