

The Address—Mr. Brown

An hon. MEMBER: Always suppositions.

Mr. BROWN: However the present Minister of Trade and Commerce came into my constituency and spoke very indignantly about the laxity of the government in dealing with the wheat crop and he recalled to the minds of the electors the action taken on behalf of the farmers by Mr. Arthur Meighen from the years 1918 to 1922. He said that Mr. Meighen had instituted a wheat board and had sold the Canadian wheat, that he had made a permanent board and then the people had turned him out of office. When speaking to my electors I said that only one statement really was true, that the electors had swept Mr. Meighen from office. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is quoted as follows:

Would it have not been effective if the men who went to England last year to endeavour to find a market for Canadian wheat had behind them the support of a strong, virile government, whose opinions and pronouncements had to be listened to by the other nations of the world?

It is very interesting to note that while the Minister of Trade and Commerce was speaking to the people of the west in that tone the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) was adopting an entirely different tone in the province of Quebec. Speaking at Buckingham Mr. Cahan used these words, as they are quoted in the Ottawa press:

The real aim of the budget is to open markets for the wheat produced by the western provinces, but wheat is not the only industry in Canada. The man who gives \$10 of labour, in manufactures, is doing as much in Canada as the man who produces 10 bushels of wheat in the west. We have made sacrifices. . . .

I want you working men to get this point.

We have made sacrifices for these western provinces. . . .

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the east has made no sacrifices; they have given nothing to the west for which we have not paid many many times over.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BROWN: No man will be more willing to endorse that statement than the present Prime Minister. Then Mr. Cahan goes on to say, as reported in the Montreal Star of July 12:

Mr. Dunning always thinks in terms of wheat. He has never had much else to think about. The entire wheat crop of Canada has never yet reached \$500,000,000 in total value in any year, yet the gross annual value of the products of the factories of the island of Montreal alone is approximately \$575,000,000.

Mr. Dunning proposes that these Montreal factories shall be crippled and destroyed by [Mr. Brown]

the free admission of the products of British factories, in the hope that Great Britain may hereafter show good-will by buying more Canadian wheat.

Canadians cannot live by wheat alone.

The point I make is that the Secretary of State seemed to see a conflict between the wheat growers on the prairies and the workers in the Montreal factories. I hope by this time he has realized that the interests of the workingman in Montreal are absolutely dependent upon the purchasing power of the farmers of the west and his people can succeed only in the proportion we succeed.

During this period of depression many western farmers have been advised to adopt mixed farming. It is somewhat amusing to come east and listen to the advice given. People who know nothing about farming take the liberty of advocating mixed farming and state emphatically that the west will have to adopt it. May I say Mr. Speaker, that so far as my district is concerned we have always had that type of farming. Our district is a mixed farming district although we grow great quantities of wheat. Our land however is suitable for the mixed variety of agriculture and we have always been engaged in it. Indeed I question if there are as many cattle and pigs being shipped from that district as there were thirty years ago. I remember that I came from the west about forty years ago with a train load of Gordon and Ironsides cattle and those cattle were gathered within a very short radius. We have always been engaged in mixed farming. I wish heartily to endorse the statement of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) that there are large areas of the western provinces not suitable for mixed farming. The lack of a good water supply in itself is sufficient to prevent the raising of cattle or hogs to a greater extent than is being done at the present time. Supposing we do engage in mixed farming to a greater extent, where will we get our markets? Supposing we do, from where will the markets come? There is nothing to encourage mixed farming on an extensive scale either in respect of cattle, hogs, eggs, honey or any of the other commodities. True, everybody recognizes the value of diversified farming. We believe it is better where possible not to have all our eggs in one basket. The people in the east fail to recognize however at the present time we are producing large quantities of different farm products. I wish to give these figures:

In 1930 Manitoba produced 10,000,000 pounds of honey; Saskatchewan and Alberta 2,000,000