

only say to him that most people who have business to transact, most people who have a stake in Canada, and most people who are concerned about its future are thankful for the fact that he is not charged with responsibility at this time. More, I tell him that leading supporters of the Liberal party of years gone by gladden my heart from day to day with communications expressing gratitude that we are transacting the affairs of the country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Could my right hon. friend tell us who they are? Perhaps among them are the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion).

Mr. BENNETT: No, neither. Not a day goes by without a letter coming to me from some part of this country, gratefully acknowledging the service being rendered to Canada by this government. What is more, very seldom do I see men of the Liberal faith who do not express grateful thanks for the fact that the task of administration is not in the hands of the right hon. gentleman opposite. In fact, there are those who sit behind him now who have told me the same thing.

Let us look for a moment at world conditions in the light of the events of the period from 1914 to 1918. In 1919 there met in Paris representatives of most of the nations of the world, among them representatives of this dominion. They made their voices heard, indicating their views as to the effect of existing conditions upon this country. What were those conditions? First of all there were food shortages on a scale never before known. Raw materials were scarce and unavailable for manufacturing. Communication by sea and land had been disturbed. Shipping was no longer available in the ordinary commercial sense. The transport of the world had broken down because of the dislocation brought about by the war. In addition, all the organization of finance and industry was disturbed. There were staggering debts such as mankind never before had contemplated. There was a change of mental attitude and habits on the part of the people of the world. In some countries there were revolutions, in others real starvation, in others great impoverishment; in others passions were aroused by the results of the war, and national prejudices had been stimulated. Worst of all, the world had lost millions of its very best and finest men.

That was the condition in 1919. I could amplify it, but I think that would be unnecessary. It is within the memory of most members of this house what those conditions were, and yet so courageous are men that

there was shown a grim determination to reform, to reorganize, to readjust and to march forward. It is one of the striking things in history that of all the matters of which we have record to-day there is nothing that equals the recovery of the world in the years from 1919 to 1925. It is one of the most amazing and astounding matters of which we have any record. In the meantime there were the conferences at Locarno and at Genoa; the rehabilitation of Austria, Bulgaria and Greece; the great naval disarmament conference at Washington. Everywhere men were endeavouring to lay the foundations for peace and prosperity.

An hon. MEMBER: Order and good government.

Mr. BENNETT: Order and good government; not in the sense in which hon. gentlemen mutter it under their breath, but in the very broadest sense they were laying the foundations of ordered peace and regulated prosperity.

The League of Nations, which had come into being at the end of the war, was discharging great functions in a manner satisfactory to increasing numbers of people. Everywhere men filled with courage and hope were going forward to their allotted tasks. It is true that conditions in Europe were not as favourable as they were in other parts of the world; among the belligerents of Europe conditions were anything but satisfactory, but there was steady improvement. Figures supplied by the League of Nations show that seven years after the war production had increased by 18 per cent as compared with 1913, while population, because of the great losses of the war, had increased only 6 per cent. That meant better standards of living; that meant that the world was better able to take care of the conditions under which its people lived. Although in 1925 international trade in Europe had fallen, the average man on that continent was better off than he was in 1913.

Then come the next four years, from 1925 to 1929. Without taking up too much time to deal with this matter, I need only bring to the memory of hon. members of this house the fact that almost every country had again based its currency upon gold—Great Britain in 1925 and other countries at varying dates—for the purpose of having a universal standard of values and a universal medium of exchange. Industry had been reorganized, which made possible greater production; trade had been expanded consequent upon the increased production, and crude products, according to