

the crops of those very lands were so good and the sale prices so high that farmers went to California for the winter. Now there has been a swing back to the other cycle.

I could tell you stories about the situation of farmers in southern Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan that would bring tears to your eyes. I want to make it clear that they are just as much interested in the welfare of Canada and just as loyal Canadians as we are, but their debt problems seem to be insurmountable. It is our duty, if we have any red blood in us and love for our country, to try to help the people of the three Prairie Provinces solve those problems. It is no use to say to them, "You went reckless and wild." Who did not? Who built those big railways across Canada? Not Manitoba nor Saskatchewan nor Alberta, but Ontario and Quebec. Who built the vast system of highways across Canada? Ontario and Quebec. Who lent money to the Western Provinces and put them into debt? Ontario and Quebec. We of the West did not lend it to them; we did not have it to lend.

Honourable senators, I have tried to show you the situation that exists, and I ask you to join with the people of the three Prairie Provinces in meeting that situation. Some of us are standing fast and trying to fight radicalism—call it Communism, if you like, because that is what it is. If you do not come to our assistance with a clear mind and a kind heart, God help you!

Hon. GUSTAVE LACASSE: Honourable members, I will try to make my remarks short, to match my stature. First I want to congratulate the mover of the Address (Hon. Mr. Hugessen) and the seconder (Hon. Mr. Parent). I particularly liked this statement, made by my honourable friend the mover, the new senator in our midst:

I have been a resident of the province of Quebec for now nearly thirty years and I can truthfully say that at no time during that period have I felt that I was a member of a minority existing there merely upon sufferance or the forbearance of the majority.

I think that is a wonderful and eloquent tribute to the Laurentian province, and I derive much pleasure from quoting it, because it confirms an impression which I have had for many years respecting that province, which I claim to know particularly well. But I do not accept without reservation my honourable friend's other statement that "we have solved our minority problems in Canada." I will say no more of my own view, not even allude to what took place but a few

Hon. Mr. HAIG.

weeks ago in the famous battle of East Hastings.

I do not wish to be harsh towards any honourable member this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: You could not.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE: I am glad my honourable friend thinks that. I listen with keen attention—yes, with deep interest—to all the speeches and utterances falling from the lips of the right honourable leader on the opposition side (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen), not only because he is a master pleader, excelling particularly in the art of defending any cause he chooses to defend at any time, but also because his views as a rule are a true echo of the feelings and sentiments of prominent men in the nation. But I would humbly say that I was a little surprised at the orientation he deliberately gave to the debate yesterday. After all, our status as a unit within the boundaries of the British Commonwealth of Nations was not the only thing referred to in the Speech from the Throne, yet my right honourable friend seemed to concentrate almost exclusively on that point.

It is true he said something about the Employment Commission. May I digress for a moment here to say that I do not think his criticism was justified; I do not think he was absolutely fair when he stated that very little progress had been accomplished by that commission. If a man is falling downstairs the first thing to do for him is to stop him from falling farther. That is a negative action, I will agree, but an essential one. If that commission had produced nothing more than a similarly negative result we should, I think, have ground to be pleased, considering that during the five years' existence of the former Administration unemployment was steadily increasing. We have all the more reason to be pleased on learning that not only has a stop been put to that increase, but there has been positive progress to the extent of four or five per cent of re-employment throughout the country.

I will come back now to the issue of imperialism, though I do not wish to keep the attention of the House too long on that issue and thus repeat the sin committed yesterday by my right honourable friend. I believe that, in contrast to his usual kindness, he was a little harsher than he should have been in criticizing the views expressed by the mover of the Address, our young friend who was recently appointed from Inkerman (Hon. Mr. Hugessen). I think the only fault that could be found with the mover's views is that they