

as in other countries; but now that there is a wave of industrial depression, conditions have become better in this respect. It seems to me that we are inclined to legislate too much, in Canada as elsewhere, for the settlement of labour disputes. In my opinion the better way to settle such disputes is to let the individual employer and the individual workman negotiate between themselves. In my own town we have never had labour organizations, and we have never had strikes of any kind; our thrifty working-people for the most part own their own homes; and harmony prevails among all classes of the community. I have already spoken of the concord which should exist between the farmer and the manufacturer and other business men in the community.

The action taken by the Government to give seed grain to the farmers of the West has, I think, met with the approval of all classes. There have been 48,630 applications received for seed grain, which will supply 3,473,456 acres, requiring 6,000,000 bushels of wheat and oats. I believe that the Government is treating the West very generously in this respect, and I am glad that the farmers of the West will be helped thereby. The Ontario Government is providing for its own people; Manitoba and the eastern provinces are doing the same; but in the prairie provinces, Manitoba excepted, it is the Dominion Government which has taken action, and we trust it may be successful in relieving the situation there. I believe that this Government deserves a great deal of credit for the manner in which it has conducted the affairs of Canada since it came to office, and I congratulate the Minister of Finance upon his Budget, which I believe to be as fair and equitable as it possibly could be. I think it bears equitably on all, and I have no doubt that all the people of Canada are willing to contribute to the expenses of this war. I believe that the Budget has so arranged things that all classes will contribute in proportion to their ability to pay, and that the policy of the Government in this respect will be endorsed by the electorate. In my own riding, so far as I have been able to learn, the people are at one in endorsing the course taken by the Government to provide means to enable Canada to bear her share in this terrible war.

Mr. D. B. NEELY (Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with some degree of interest to the remarks of my hon. friend

from South Grey (Mr. Ball), and I must express my regret that I cannot agree with a number of his conclusions. The hon. gentleman, and other hon. gentlemen on the Government side, seem to view with very great complacency the tariff proposals we are now considering. I can quite understand that the mental attitude of the hon. gentleman might be influenced to some extent by the fact that his livelihood is gained in an industry which certainly will benefit largely by the proposals in this Budget. My hon. friend deprecates the idea of putting class against class, the manufacturer against the farmer and the farmer against the manufacturer, and I quite agree with him that there should be the best possible relationship between all elements of our citizenship. I agree with him also when he says that the farmers appreciate the presence of the manufacturers in this country; and I agree with him when he says that the manufacturers appreciate the farmers. I should say they do, and they will appreciate them a great deal more when these tariff proposals have become law. My hon. friend, who is a practical business man, comes to the defence of the Government when he says we must not blame their policy for the widespread depression that exists in commercial and financial affairs throughout Canada. I must differ sharply with my hon. friend in his conclusions, for, in my judgment, the policy of this Government since it came into office has had a great deal to do with the financial and commercial depression that exists in Canada to-day. This Government came into power on a policy which, if it meant anything at all, meant restriction of trade to the Dominion. If a policy of restriction of trade has not for its logical conclusion commercial depression and unemployment, then I understand nothing of the principles of political economy.

The defeat of the trade agreement of 1911, brought about by the protectionist arguments of hon. gentlemen who now occupy the Government benches, is and must be considered largely responsible for the present commercial depression. In the first place, it was a great blow to production in this country, in that the great community engaged in the industry of agriculture, which is the foundation of Canada's prosperity, was prevented from obtaining, on terms of absolute preference, what in my judgment and in the judgment of the great