

States with regard to the St. Lawrence, and a very little whisper there—because although it is a big matter to us it is a small matter to the United States—would have arranged for this thing and we would not have needed to worry as much about tariffs and so on.

As regards the treaty as a whole, while it does not look so bad if you look at it from a little distance, when you examine it more closely you find that practically every preference has been cancelled by the exchange situation, with the exception of those items involving competition with the United States, where, owing to their exchange situation with Great Britain being worse than ours, we have the advantage. While the exchange situation cancels any tariff benefits there might otherwise be in this agreement, these benefits are accompanied in almost every instance by increases in the duties on the home market, adding to the already overburdened tax-paying consumer and working man. You can paint a sparrow to look like a canary, but the test is, can it sing? And the test of these tariffs is: Will they accomplish the purpose for which it is alleged they are intended, and if so, when—in one or two or three years? Before the next election, I suppose, would be the hope at any rate. Faith and hope are fine things in a spiritual sense but mighty poor things with which to do trade with the grocer, and a mighty poor explanation to give to your wife and children of why they have little to eat.

Why is the unemployment situation in British Columbia so acute? Because it has been neglected by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon), who I regret is not in his seat. It is almost five months today since parliament prorogued, and we were told the day of prorogation that steps would be taken at once to make agreements with the provinces, that if the cities could not finance their obligations the provinces would have to lend them the money, and when we asked where the provinces would get the money the government told us that they would pay their share and lend the provinces money. Scores of men heard that declaration. The minister told us today that he was in hopes of some arrangement being come to by and by. The local British Columbia papers say that it is hoped to have an arrangement perfected in a few days. But we were told that very same thing four, three, and two months ago. It is true that single men are being taken care of by the government, but married men are not. Many of the smaller cities are bankrupt, and when they go to the provincial government for assistance and say they want a loan according to the terms of the bargain announced in this House of Commons and in Bill No. 72,

the province says: We are waiting to hear from the Dominion government. I do not know what the government is doing, but I hope it will soon get a move on because these men are in desperate circumstances. Action is imperative now—not a year or two from now, not in the far distant future, but now. Let me give an illustration. A few days ago a man in my home town killed his wife and two children and himself, and a charitable coroner's jury brought in a verdict of temporary insanity. It was not insanity. That man was not insane, he was desperate, with no work and no food, and no hope of work or food. That is what prompted him to take that action. It is to men like this that the government says that they must have faith and hope. "You have to be purified as by fire. We are going to help you," the government says, "with this whole bunch of preferences, 221 of them. If you do not like some particular one of them, there is an awful jumble of them anyhow. We have arranged for you a preference of ten per cent in the wide British market on grindstones." Now the value of grindstones exported from Canada to Great Britain last year was precisely \$23. If that is not a consoling fact or a good argument to use with the grocer, try this item: Food, canned clams, preference 10 per cent. The total export of canned clams from Canada to the British market last year was 336 pounds—not tons, not hundredweight, but pounds. This is the sort of tripe that is dished out to these men who do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, of these dubious tariff helps and these grubby reforms, why does not the government follow the line depicted by the poet who said, "And still the bold brave man is fortunate." Let the Prime Minister be the bold brave man, and he will be fortunate. Let him take his courage in his hands and deflate currency and inflate prices as they have done in Great Britain. Would that not be a step which would give immediate results, which would immediately relieve the situation, which would increase prices and give immediate employment? If it was all right for Great Britain to do it—and it has been a success—and for a number of other nations, it could not be wrong for us. Probably it would add 25 per cent to the price of wheat, and give immediate help to our lumbering, fishing and manufacturing industries. Would that not be better than to drift along as we are doing now? Why wait until the burden on the unemployed and on the taxpayers becomes unbearable?