

*The Address—Mr. Spencer*

Further be it resolved that Canada, through her Prime Minister be the convener of such conference, which should be called at the earliest possible date.

What has been the answer? Within the last few weeks we have been cut off almost completely from one great exporting country. The effect to-day is indeed very, very serious. By cooperating with those who are competing with us in world trade we may gain something; but by antagonizing those competitors we can do a great deal of harm. In my opinion the sale of Canada's wheat is the most important problem with which we are faced. Had time permitted I would like to have said a few words in support of the suggestion made by the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) that Canada should go off the gold basis, which would give us a fair chance to compete with Australia, Argentine and Russia.

In conclusion may I state that we find agriculture struggling to exist. Mr. Brownlee, the premier of Alberta, went so far as to say that we cannot allow agriculture to be destroyed, realizing that it was likely to be destroyed. Other industries depend on agriculture because it is basic to our industrial life. If something is not done I see only two courses open: Either people will leave the farms in great numbers or if they remain and attempt to compete they will have to accept a reduced standard of living. Either alternative would be very regrettable indeed. I appeal with ample cause therefore to the government of the day to aid agriculture before it is too late.

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, as, under the rule, I am limited to a period of forty minutes, I shall merely offer congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address without entering upon an extended discussion of their remarks. I will say a word or two however with reference to the mover of the address. The hon. gentleman is of my own race. I congratulate him upon the manner in which he performed the task entrusted to him but while doing so I cannot congratulate him upon the arguments he used on behalf of the government. My hon. friend quite properly thanked the government for conferring upon the Acadian race through him the honour of moving the address. With his statements in that regard I am in hearty accord and I feel that I too should thank the government for recognizing the Acadian people in the maritime provinces. If however one were to listen to and accept all that the honourable gentleman said one would be inclined to believe that this was the first time justice had been done by any government to the

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Acadian people. My hon. friends opposite should not forget that the greatest act of justice to those people must be credited to a Liberal government. In 1926 for the first time the government recognized that justice should be done in Acadia and with that in mind one of our people was called to preside over one of the most important government departments. If however the government of to-day has not seen fit to repeat that act of justice then with the mover of the address I say, "Thank them, and at the same time thank the Lord for small gifts received."

My hon. friend referred to the *bonne entente* which existed between the English and French speaking people of the province of New Brunswick. With him I am in accord on that point. There is a *bonne entente* between those two races which compose the population of the province. I hope that condition will long continue but I fear Mr. Speaker that, through the actions of certain members of the Conservative party in the last Dominion election in the province of New Brunswick as well as in the province of Prince Edward Island, the *entente* in a very short time may cease to exist. When one reviews the election campaign of last July he discovers that certain persons acting on behalf of or in the interest of the Conservative party sent through the mails thousands of circulars calling upon the people of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to vote against the Liberal government because it had dealt too justly with the Acadian people. It is high time such actions were frowned upon and exposed in this house. The sooner they are exposed the sooner will this method of warfare disappear. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to place on Hansard to-day, not for the sake of arousing prejudice or making political capital, evidence of the sordid tactics employed during the heat of the recent political battle. In my hand I hold a circular which was sent broadcast through the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. I cannot speak for Nova Scotia because I have no evidence in connection with that province, but I have evidence concerning the two former provinces. I wish to place the contents of this circular on Hansard to show the tactics adopted during the last federal election in at least two provinces with the purpose of leading the people astray. This circular begins:

Are we a British dominion?

Then follows:

List of Roman Catholic cabinet ministers and chairmen of important committees in the House of Commons, 1930. The Minister of