

Bank of Canada Act

In fact, one needs only to look at what is happening to see how much the people are disgusted.

If, across Canada, there are so many endless strikes—one strike follows another and one is not settled that ten others break out—this is due to dissatisfaction. Nobody tries to solve the economic problem.

Mr. Chairman, at each federal-provincial conference it seems that the provincial premiers claim as strongly as possible money from the Minister of Finance, as well as action; in brief, they are asking for the necessary capital to finance their respective provinces. However, no one demands monetary reform, because this is not deemed proper. If the Minister of Finance has not taken such steps it is because, to his mind, it is better to maintain the status quo, to let the debt go on snowballing and Canada getting poorer and poorer. As Canadians develop their country, we allow those institutions to enter to their credit the assets of the citizens, that is the assets of the country and put the country and its population on the liability side. Here are responsibilities we have not been able to assume.

Monetary capital is only the expression of the economic capital itself. Money and credit are only words meaning goods and services that citizens barter. Why should we lack tokens and symbols, when we possess in fact plenty of goods?

Why should we reach the acme of ignorance and ignominy and ask other countries for the authority to create in our stead the capital we require? Yet, such is the current situation. The Minister of Finance may find this funny but it will not be quite as funny, when the revolution is here and he is asked whether he has taken his responsibilities.

If our country has reached its centennial, hence its majority, and if it now has a literate population of over 20 million, there is no valid reason for us to remain dependent on neighbouring or far-off countries simply to create our monetary capital. Mr. Chairman, we have our accountants, our bankers, our Canadian ministers, in short, our own parliament, who are capable of determining the economic, monetary or administrative symbols of all the private or public wealth our country is capable of producing. Are Canadians unable to produce, Mr. Chairman, in pursuing their daily tasks, whether they are material, intellectual, spiritual, or if you prefer, cultural activities? Is the government unable to

control the Canadian economy, so that each citizen can normally enjoy a pleasant life and a reasonable standard of living which the country can afford?

One can hardly say, Mr. Chairman, that there is a lack of production in Canada. It will reach \$62 billion in 1967. Perhaps \$38 or \$39 billion worth of goods will be sold, but \$20 odd billion worth of goods will remain in warehouses and on shelves, unsold, because available means will not have been taken, because the government will not bring about the necessary reforms in the Bank of Canada, because they do not want to take the necessary steps so that the Bank of Canada can distribute the goods and services that the people of Canada are asking for, goods and services which have been produced to meet the needs of the Canadian people. I think it is a crime that goods should be allowed to remain like this in warehouses. I think it is also a crime that some people should be jobless and drawing social welfare allowances and unemployment insurance benefits which, in fact, are paid at the expense of the working man.

To give to the unemployed, the working man is robbed, and it is a crime, Mr. Chairman, to tolerate such a state of affairs in a country where the economic situation could be adjusted so easily.

I could go on and point out many other things, Mr. Chairman, but I will close with these few words.

The role which a central bank should play inside and outside Canada, Mr. Chairman, is this.

If the Bank of Canada fulfilled its duty, if it discharged its responsibilities, we would not be ashamed, humiliated and accordingly burdened with a drop of our Canadian dollar below its par value of 100 cents per dollar. We would not be faced with 7 and 8 cents cuts such as we witness today.

Let the Bank of Canada play its part fully, concerning foreign countries, private banks, the federal government and the provincial government; then, no more will be asked, everyone will be satisfied and the private banks will find it easier to play their own part, according to the economic needs of private individuals and private institutions.

Mr. Chairman, the Bank of Canada is 33 years old. For 33 years it experimented, searching for balance, for its own purpose in the changing pattern of economic life in Canada among the nations of the world.