

not what it should be, and that many of our problems are not the sequel of a universal crisis.

If Canada had had, since 1921, a cautious administration, a government determined to toil for the welfare of the people rather than seek the support of a group whose vision did not embrace all parts of Canada, a young country like ours, immensely rich in natural resources of all kinds, with a population less than ten millions, could have passed through this world crisis without difficulty. Theorists, of the old schools, however, setting aside the lessons of our tariff history since 1878, despising the post-war example of almost every country of the world in tariff matters, swerved and began the wilful destruction of the Canadian tariff. The consequence of this fatal policy was soon felt. The closing of mills, foreign purchases, an unrest among the working classes, a decrease in the purchasing power of our currency and the decline of the home market for our farmers. These are a few immediate results of the policy of a government that the people has punished and which they will not soon forget.

Abraham Lincoln once spoke in this strain. I know very little about tariff. I do know, however, that when we purchase rails from a foreign country, we have the rails and the foreigner has our money; but when we purchase rails in our own country, we have both the rails and the money. This is the simple but clear explanation of a great economic principle. This principle can be applied to all products manufactured or not that the Canadian people purchase abroad and which should be produced and bought in our own country.

That is why, as soon as legally possible, the right hon. Prime Minister, in less than a month and a half after the general elections of July last, called an emergency session of parliament, in keeping with his pledge; tariff changes were enacted and put into force and immediately an improvement in domestic conditions was felt; foreign industries were invited to establish themselves in Canada; the people's morale rose, and the country began anew its ascending march towards progress.

Owing to its geographical situation, Canada needs an adequate protection for its industries and various products. The speech from the throne intimates that changes in the tariff will be submitted at this session of parliament, that a bill providing for a new tariff commission will be brought down, and that this commission will undertake to stabilize trade and give the Canadian producers a chance of developing our domestic market under loyal com-

[Mr. Cormier.]

petitive conditions towards foreign producers while protecting the consumers of this country against all exploitation. I feel certain that the whole country will applaud these statements of a lofty political order, and that the house will enact these measures which aim at developing our industries, thus relieving unemployment and bringing back to the Canadian fatherland happiness and prosperity.

The unemployment relief measure adopted at the session of September last, has proved beneficial. This emergency and purely charitable legislation, with the aid of provincial governments, municipalities and our two great railway systems, was the means of providing the daily bread to hundreds of thousands of citizens during the winter. In my own riding this wholesome and providential measure gave to numerous families the necessities of life which had been denied them owing to the decrease in lumbering operations.

I do not wish to take up the time of the house in quoting statistics, but I want to draw your attention, sir, to a report of the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson), published on the 11th inst. in the Ottawa Journal. The report states that 231,351 people had benefited from the help given the unemployed, that the days of work secured by the joint assistance of the federal and provincial governments and railways, amounted to 3,975,355, that these outstanding figures did not include the report of the Quebec government. Moreover, there had been direct assistance given to families and individuals in all parts of the country.

When the final report is made public, the figures which I have just quoted will be greatly increased. The pledge given by the right hon. Prime Minister, to take immediate steps after the elections to relieve unemployment, is in striking contrast with the dilly-dallying policy of the late administration which contended that the unemployment crisis existed only in the imagination of the then opposition, and continued blindly to fill the country with immigrants to the number of about 100,000 annually.

The present government has shut the door against all those who cannot provide for themselves and, as regards certain countries, it has closed the door definitely, so long as present conditions do not entirely disappear. This sound legislation has received the approbation of the Canadian people. The house knows, and so does the country, that when an illness is aggravated by the lack of proper care the convalescence is slow. The opposition, through its speakers and press, rebukes the new administration for not having cured, in a few