

There is an astonishing thing that hon. members will discover if they will just refer to their knowledge of geography. The hand that has guided the English-speaking people of this world has given them control over virtually all the valuable areas on this earth. There is hardly a section of the globe in which British people are settled that does not abound with wealth to a greater extent than the people, up to the present, have been able to use. Yet in every single state, and perhaps in Canada most of all, there exists this tragic suffering, this failure to register somehow or other and enable the people to use that wealth.

I do not wish to spend any time in recriminations; I believe we saw enough of that yesterday, and too much of it becomes a weariness to the flesh. I do wish to point out, however, that as I see it, as a representative of one considerable section of this country, about all the two old line parties ever do when they get into this house is argue over tariff and trade. If we say anything regarding trade, immediately some thoughtless enthusiast leaps to his feet with the idea that social credit people do not believe in trade, and a lot of kindred nonsense. It is dishonest to make any such statement. I will say, however, that if trade would solve the problems of this country and of the world, is it not high time we discovered how that can be done? After all the generations during which we have been struggling along in this country with respect to tariff and trade, to an ordinary person who tries to face realities it would seem that we should be somewhere near the right way of managing tariff and trade. And if, at the present time, there exists such violent disagreement between two sections of the Canadian people with regard to these two important matters, that again seems to indicate something radically wrong somewhere. Both these conditions, I maintain, tend to make the ordinary person in the street say, "Well, what is the use? What a contemptible, despairing mess it all is. It matters not whom we put in or what he tells us he will do when we put him in. We have the same old fare dished out to us from generation to generation."

What do Canadians want? If democracy is a government of the people for the people, it should give the people what they want. Everyone knows what they want. First of all this country wants plenty of jobs for everybody, and if jobs cannot be found for all our people something must be radically wrong. As soon as people get jobs they will want higher wages. Why? For the simple reason that when you are living in a country in which you can easily produce at least

[Mr. Blackmore.]

\$3,000 worth of goods and services yearly for every person, or at least every family, it is disgusting in the extreme to think that men are working in Canada in such large numbers for less than \$800 a year.

The next thing they want is equitable prices, and I think this applies to everybody. Last year the government did one commendable thing, among others. I am not disposed to criticize harshly or unreasonably, and I wish to commend the government for setting the 80 cent price for wheat. Probably they knew, as I knew, that 80 cents was not enough. There must be more money than that for a bushel of wheat or the farmers simply cannot carry on; and that statement is not the result of imagination. I should like to refer to a letter dated November 16, issued by the Searle Grain Company, to support what I have just said:

The Searle index of the prices of Things Western Farmers Buy (147 items) now stands at 136.6, 1913-14 = 100, which means that these things cost farmers in the west at the present time 36.6 per cent more than they did before the war. The price of wheat—No. 1 Northern—as of November 15th, basis the open market price, is 38 per cent lower than it was in 1913-14, and basis the board price is 10 per cent lower. This means, therefore, that a bushel of wheat in western Canada has a purchasing power in relation to the Things Farmers Buy, on the open market, of 45 per cent in comparison with the purchasing power of 100 that it had before the war. Basis the board price its purchasing power is 66 per cent of what it was.

If one is disposed to be fair and has any business judgment at all it is only necessary to look at that statement to see immediately that the farmers are faced with an impossible situation. The government has given 80 cent wheat. Let us suppose that thereby twenty cents is lost to the government. That twenty cents has to be collected from somebody by means of taxes or must be borrowed from somebody, which means that the government will incur a debt. I do not think anyone in this dominion will fail to agree that this is an unsound condition. There should be some way of paying that twenty cents without taxing it out of somebody else, because if we can depend upon these figures with regard to Ontario it is abundantly clear that the people of this province cannot stand any more taxes, and no more can the people of Quebec. Then where is the money to come from? Yet not only does the farmer need a just price for wheat; he needs the same sort of consideration for oats, barley and rye, for all kinds of meat, for eggs, milk, cream, butter and wool. How are we going to give that to him? It must be done, or the farmer will simply go out of business and any province