

what the proposals are in this regard, but I am still hoping that the Prime Minister will rise to the occasion and create a central bank to be publicly owned and operated in the interests of the people, thereby giving some assistance to the masses in Canada.

The next matter in the speech from the throne, to which I wish to refer for a moment or two, is the wheat quota. The Prime Minister this afternoon read a telegram from the premiers of the three prairie provinces. He gave a history of the negotiations, and in this respect he gave the house information which was not before available. When I approach the question of the restriction of production I ask myself first of all whether enough of this commodity is produced to satisfy the needs of all the people who require it. That is the first question I ask myself, and it would appear, from the vast surpluses that exist at the present time, that undoubtedly there is a world surplus of wheat, sufficient to meet all present requirements. Moreover, we have run up against something quite new in the history of western Canada, at least in the last four or five years, for we see that countries that formerly took large quantities of our wheat are now developing their wheat growing areas to such an extent as to be almost self-sustaining. Further than that, they have been giving bonuses, and have been placing restrictions upon wheat importations. That being so, we have to face a new condition, and it is not surprising that the premiers of the three western provinces should intimate to the Prime Minister of Canada that some effort was necessary along these lines in order to bring down the volume of production until such time as some of the surplus had been consumed. That of course is a very important matter.

Going through western Canada I find that this proposal is being received with mixed feelings by the producers. Some are of the opinion that in the administration of this quota preferences may be given internally, and the view has been expressed to me on many occasions that the producers of the west would feel more at ease if the federal government, in conjunction with the provincial governments of the three prairie provinces, would create a central selling agency through which all wheat exported from Canada would be handled, with powers similar to those exercised by the wheat board of 1919.

I am satisfied that the great bulk of the producers would feel more content if such a selling agency were established as soon as possible. I submit to the Prime Minister that he should give further consideration, in

consultation with the representatives of the three provincial governments, if he thinks fit, to the necessity of creating a wheat board in this connection, a board with ample powers to deal with the situation.

The next paragraph in the speech from the throne reads:

Since prorogation, my government, under the authority of The Relief Act, 1933, have continued to assist financially the provinces in the discharge of their constitutional obligations.

That paragraph, to my mind, is more significant than appears on the surface, for it demonstrates that the present economic system has broken down badly. When the federal government has to come to the assistance of provincial governments to enable the provinces to carry out their constitutional obligations, surely we must look for the reason why such assistance is necessary. According to the Prime Minister's statement this afternoon, it has been necessary to give this assistance to the provincial governments in order that they may fulfil their constitutional obligations in providing relief and work for the unemployed, and so on; and this, in my judgment, is ample evidence of the fact that the present economic system had badly broken down. In my judgment, it is not the function of governments to provide food, clothing and shelter for the people. That is the function of the economic system, and when we find that this government, during the time it has been in power, has had to pay something like \$130,000,000 towards the provision of relief through the provincial governments and also to assist those governments financially, what more proof is needed to convince anyone who wishes to understand the situation that the system has collapsed almost entirely?

If the present economic system cannot provide the people with food, clothing and shelter, or give them an opportunity for securing these things, then the time has come when we should do more planning than we have done in the past, and should investigate more closely the reasons why the economic system cannot fulfil this function. And wherever it is necessary we should change or strengthen the system so that it might function properly in this regard.

It is not my purpose to take up more time discussing the speech from the throne. I should like to take just a few moments to deal with what I think is the crux of the problem that we have before us, namely, the reason the present economic system is not functioning efficiently. My judgment is that because of the profit nature of the system, the concentration of wealth in this and other countries