

*The Address—Mr. Coldwell*

labour expended in producing these commodities. It is this sort of thing which should have compelled the attention of parliament last autumn and should compel the attention of parliament this session.

What we think is this. In order to meet the problems that are arising and will continue to arise more acutely as time goes on we have consciously and deliberately to plan our economy so that various types of producers may receive the proper compensation for their toil on the basis—I will use the term so often used—of something like parity. We believe that is essential in a modern state, and more and more we shall have to move in that direction.

Indeed our whole social security system, of which we are justly proud and which we have always supported, depends upon stability in the economy. If we have not a stable economic basis for our social security program, then with drastic declines in returns in industry, in agriculture and so on, we are apt to jeopardize the whole structure we have so laboriously built up. With a serious decline in the returns and in the economy the ability of our people to meet certain obligations would very seriously affect our social security program. Consequently we have to find ways and means of stabilizing the base, strengthening it so that we may carry the load of both the modern industrialism and the social security program.

In agriculture we of the C.C.F. have argued and suggested, both here and in the country, that we should have a forward pricing system so that when the farmer sets out to produce a steer two years or three years hence he will know approximately the minimum price he will receive for that steer at that time. It is being done in other countries and it could be done here. What I have said about forward pricing in the case of a steer is equally true of many of our farm commodities.

I have emphasized that farm purchasing power is of tremendous interest to people in industrial centres. As a matter of fact I noticed how that was illustrated this very morning on the financial page of the *Montreal Gazette*, which I usually read before I come down to the house in the morning. The headline this morning said: "Loss is shown by Cockshutt. Sales off 38 per cent." And I add these words: "in the last fiscal year." Let me repeat it: "Loss is shown by Cockshutt. Sales off 38 per cent." This indicates very clearly that because the farmers have lost their purchasing power the Cockshutt implement company, on which people depend

in parts of the Ottawa valley, have sustained losses and their sales are down. What is true of declining sales in this industry is true of many other industries.

As I listened to the Acting Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Rowe) complaining this afternoon about the loss of trade, the loss of markets, unemployment and so on, I thought he was advocating some form of protective tariff to keep the products of what he called the low wage countries out of our country. Just before that he had been insisting that we had to trade more with the United Kingdom, that a conference should be held to give us more commonwealth trade. Yet, if I read the newspapers aright, some of our industries have demanded and received protection against products coming from the United Kingdom. We all remember what happened two or three years ago when the dumping act was used to reduce the sending of small British automobiles to this country.

Only by planning our trade and commerce within a planning of the economy can we meet such a situation. Monkeying with the tariffs will be of no avail. Indeed, when you raise a tariff you erect a wall against your own income. That is what you do. The erection of tariffs in the past has shown that they fail to achieve the objective which a good many working men and women are being told today they can achieve. Always they have resulted in a more privileged position for the manufacturer in that industry and, until the workers were unionized, the more privileged the industry, the more privileged the manufacturer, often the worse the condition of the workers in the industry. That was true of the textile industry in the 1920's and the 1930's, as speeches in this house will clearly indicate. I remember that the late Mr. Raymond put a well documented speech proving that very point on the records of this house some years ago.

We all know that was true until the automobile industry was thoroughly organized, when a change took place. Therefore I say that we, the workers, the farmers or any of us, cannot look for any hope of better things simply by playing with tariff walls. In many instances today tariff walls are giving protection to all kinds of industries.

I bought a small gadget in connection with another little thing I bought in the United States when I was down at the United Nations meeting. Incidentally I declared it and paid duty on it when I came in because I had entered Canada at Halifax a short time before. I wanted another of these little gadgets and I phoned a store here and asked if they had it. They said they had. I asked