

should not, for the sake of mere party advantage, neglect the pressing problems of the hour, nor fail to carry out the principle that underlies one of these clauses of the Liberal platform which I have read—that human values are of infinitely more importance than mere material considerations. We should recognize clearly that the interests of labour and of the common people of the country ought to receive the first consideration. There, it seems to me, is the fundamental question that confronts the people of this country. Everywhere we are told that property must be protected, that the bondholders must be made secure, and so on. The time is coming when the people will rise in their might, not by means of armed strength, for they do not need that in this country, but in the full force of their intelligence, and demand that the governing bodies of this country see to it that their welfare shall receive first attention.

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver Centre): I am sure my hon. friend (Mr. Woodsworth) will not consider it amiss if I do not follow his address in detail nor attempt to reply to the various arguments he has made, whether I disagree with him or approve wholly of anything in particular which he has said. I do wish, however, to observe that the hon. gentleman's remarks on this occasion have been very moderate, in large measure reasoned, and in some respects, I think apt and timely. I cannot always follow him in some of his views, nor can I endorse his policies, but we can all agree that he is at all times most earnest in the advocacy of whatever views he happens to hold.

The hon. gentleman somewhat severely arraigned the government for its dereliction of duty in the carrying out of its pledges to labour. I think he has done the government in this regard a slight injustice, which I am sure they will welcome my hastening to rectify. If the hon. gentleman had read carefully the remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), or if he had listened with keener attention to the right hon. gentleman's speech as he delivered it, he might have observed that the Prime Minister does set forth what the government proposes to do for labour. As a matter of fact, it is the only reference to the subject which I can find, and I hasten to give the government full credit for it, even though it is nothing very substantial. The Prime Minister said:

We have taken steps to improve the labour situation as regards the development of the natural resources by strengthening our immigration programme.

I think my hon. friend (Mr. Woodsworth) ought in justice to the government to give

[Mr. Woodsworth:]

them credit for what they are attempting to do: they are going to cure the unemployment evil and appease the dissatisfaction in regard to short hours, and all that, by bringing in more labour. That is the government's policy, and as far as it goes it deserves recognition. I shall have something to say later on however, concerning the wisdom of this policy.

I followed with a great deal of care and interest the speech of the Prime Minister yesterday. The right hon. gentleman spent, I think, about two hours placing on Hansard long lists of statistics to demonstrate that the conditions in the United States were worse than they are in Canada, in some regards at least. He quoted copiously from *Iron Age*, *Dun's*, and *Bradstreet's* and other periodicals of that kind, including certain government publications. In my opinion the Prime Minister may quote from now until Doomsday without once persuading the people of Canada that conditions here are at all liquid—I am not referring to the province of Quebec but to the whole country. To put it more positively, so far as industrial development is concerned the conditions in this country are stringent and there are difficulties facing the people which they are most anxious to see tackled, with some solution in view. But the present pressing problems apparently are receiving no attention from the government from the practical standpoint of providing such a solution, and the lengthy quotations of the Prime Minister certainly will not convince the people that things are as happy as he tries to make out. I do not intend, however, to follow the Prime Minister's example and quote endless lists of other statistics to disprove what he has said. Rather, I shall endeavour to place before the House certain major problems which I believe the House should consider and which I conceive it to be the first duty of the government to take hold of and if possible remedy, at least so far as they can.

There are three main problems which, I think, should receive consideration and which I shall examine in some detail. These problems are: First, the question of taxation; second, the great problem of transportation; third, the paucity of credit and capital and the alarming depopulation of Canada. I purpose following these questions with some care and I trust I shall be able to offer to the House some suggestions of a practical nature. I am, of course, not so foolish as to suppose that either this government or any individual or group of individuals is capable of at once offering a policy that will remedy all these conditions, but I do think that we should