

by an economist of the situation in Canada as compared with that in other countries, instead of being prophets of blue ruin as my right hon. friend is, going about decrying Canada from the housetops, decrying his country, belittling the effort of the Canadian people, belittling the effort of the Canadian government to save the situation, they will realize that they would be much better employed in making some attempt to lead people to believe that the Canadian people have rallied and have met the difficulties imposed upon them in the greatest testing time in the world's history.

Let me take one illustration. Last session I was challenged upon the subject of silk. I should like some hon. gentlemen opposite to recall their observations then. Will the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) listen to this story? There are substantially fifteen silk mills in Canada, and the number of employees is as follows:

1930	1,388
1931	1,973

This is an increase of 585, or 42.1 per cent. That was a direct result of the legislation enacted by the house last session.

Mr. McINTOSH: What about agriculture?

Mr. BENNETT: I would think the hon. gentleman's interest in that is the same as his interest in other things—purely academic.

These are the figures in regard to the entire hours of labour in the silk industry:

	Hours
1930	3,411,714
1931	5,145,199

An increase of 1,733,485, or 50.8 per cent. The production increased 79.1 per cent in yards of one form of silk, and in all others, 55.7 per cent, and the expenditure on plants since September, 1930, was \$877,500, these figures not including the office or sales staff. I put this to the house, to every reasonable hon. member: Will they tell me any method by which this could have been accomplished other than the method employed? Then why shrink from it, when by doing it you are going to accomplish that benefit? Why shrink from a duty when you know that the issue is the welfare of your country itself? Although it may mean some little disturbance for the moment to the merchants, although it may mean a little unsettling—and I admit that—I say that we would be recreant to our duty if we did not use the means entrusted to us by parliament to effectuate the purpose I have mentioned.

The leader of the opposition calmly says: I agree with the Prime Minister as to the neces-

sity of equality of opportunity and of having fair competition. I wonder if some hon. members have seen some of the competition. I wonder if any of them have studied the competition to which this country has been subjected during the last twelve months. I wonder if hon. members realize that the surplus products of every country in the world have been thrown at us in the desire to get money to convert into gold, in order to meet international balances and obligations; practically any price being accepted. There was submitted to me an article laid down in this country at \$3.60 a dozen, when the cost of the labour alone in Canada amounted to much more than that; the successful exploitation of this market with that commodity would have closed down every Canadian factory engaged in its production. I ask: What would any member of the house do in such a case?

Mr. YOUNG: What was the article?

Mr. BENNETT: I do not care to mention the article. If the hon. gentleman desires to see it I shall show it to him, but for reasons that are international in character I am not mentioning articles or countries at the moment. I ask the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) whether, if confronted with that situation, he would have shut up the Canadian factories. I do not think he would.

Mr. YOUNG: I should like to know all about the case.

Mr. BENNETT: I give that only as an illustration. Day after day at the Finance department men have confronted us with those conditions and we have met them with the power which the house has given us. That is what we have done. I have a letter from the little button industry in Montreal stating that their employees numbered fifty in 1929, sixty in 1930, and in 1931, they are eighty odd; and he thanks the government for what it has done. Is that right or not for this country in this world crisis?

Mr. YOUNG: What is the industry costing us?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman asks: What is the industry costing us? The buttons are being sold at this very moment cheaper than they were before.

Mr. YOUNG: That is not the answer.

Mr. BENNETT: The only question that I am putting before the house is: Are you prepared at this moment to sacrifice the industrial life of Canada?