

in that part of the country and which must somehow or another be reconciled. Ways and means must be found of establishing and maintaining equitable and stable prices and wages and dependable and adequate markets as a fundamental basis for confidence in industry. Everywhere in this country to-day there is a loss of confidence. Just what are the causes we can only conjecture, but certainly something serious and earnest must be done. That is the way we feel about it.

I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) upon the excellent way he presented his case and upon the courage he exercised in bringing the whole matter to the attention of the house. I wish to assure him and all our fellow citizens in British Columbia that we from Alberta are with him.

Mr. T. J. BENTLEY (Swift Current): I do not profess to deal in any knowing way with the situation at British Columbia, but I did like the presentation of the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank). I want to point out how the situation in British Columbia affects us on the prairies. It does not affect us as vitally, of course, as British Columbia itself. Nevertheless in the part of the prairies from which I come we depend almost entirely for our fruit supplies on imports, chiefly from British Columbia; and in a year like this, when a great many parts of Saskatchewan have been visited with frost which is likely to destroy our crops of wild fruit, our fruit supplies from outside are more important than in ordinary years. To get our fruit from British Columbia we must get it in containers, so that we in Saskatchewan are much concerned to see that the proposal of the hon. member for Fraser Valley is carried out in the terms proposed.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MacINNIS: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) would make a statement before the hon. member for Fraser Valley closes the debate?

Hon. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (Minister of Labour): I have no objection, although I have nothing to add, because I think hon. members have covered the waterfront already. But if the house thinks it necessary I shall make one or two observations.

I have not changed my opinion from the day I answered the question addressed to me by the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Pearkes). I think it was a fair and reasonable settlement, and I hope even at this late date the leaders of the men will have the

good sense to accept it, in the interests of organized labour; let us put it in that way. I have seen the development of that organization in British Columbia. It had its genesis during the difficult period of the war. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Gibson) has said that there is a group of so-called leaders in this country who, prior to Russia coming into the war, were not greatly concerned about what happened to our way of life. I think that is a bald statement of fact and the country should know it.

Mr. MacINNIS: You should have known before the last election. You were so friendly.

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not know whether they voted for my hon. friend but they ran a candidate against me. My hon. friend, like myself, knows the game.

Mr. MacINNIS: That is right.

Mr. MITCHELL: There are people in this country who do not want settlements of disputes; they prefer disorganization and agitation all the time.

I think the Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Ilesley) made a reasonable request to the men's leaders. It would not have prejudiced their position at all if they had accepted his very sensible suggestion; the strike in the other part of the industry might have continued, but a service would have been rendered to the farmers who, under this present situation, are absolutely helpless. I do not wholly agree with what was said by, I believe it was the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Archibald). I do not think men in public life render any service to their people or to the nation by discussing a dispute of this description in the language he used this afternoon. Let us be perfectly honest about this; there is no attempt on the part of the operators to destroy the men's organization; what is in question is the wage structure of the industry. I sometimes wonder what kind of world we are living in when I listen to some debates in this House of Commons. I appreciate that you have to talk to the boys back home. Yet the statement cannot be challenged that never in the history of Canada has the income of the farmers been so high or have the wages and salaries of people engaged in industry and commerce reached the plane they are on to-day. I am very glad of that condition.

Mr. COLDWELL: Or the profits of the corporations. Put in all three.

Mr. MITCHELL: I shall come to that: I am glad the hon. member mentioned it. My mind goes back to 1919. I do not think we have now such war profiteers as emerged from