

We find in this rich young country thousands of our people unemployed, living on the dole, receiving charity, denied the right of a gainful occupation. Thousands of our young children are under-nourished, with lack of proper medical treatment, not because there are not enough doctors but because there is not sufficient money to pay for their services and so these young people face life with handicaps,—handicaps which will never be overcome. But perhaps one of the saddest things of all is the fact that approximately two hundred and twenty thousand of our young people leave school every year, fitted, ready and anxious to make their contribution to life, and what are their prospects for a gainful occupation? As Tennyson said, "Every door is barred with gold and opens but to golden keys."

Of course, if they are not too "choosy" they may eke out a miserable existence in a relief camp, or by doing some laborious work which could be done much cheaper by a machine, and so after a few years of this sort of thing they lose hope, they lose ambition, they lose courage, and finally have to be carried on the backs of those who are privileged to get a job.

How long is this sort of thing to continue amongst a so-called civilized and Christian people?

We may have so-called sound money, but money exists only by law and we are the people responsible for the law. Is there no one in the state competent to manipulate its bits of metal and paper so that those who can and do make things can buy them?

Two years ago, when speaking on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I made the statement that I believed there was no man in Canada who had such a wide grasp, such a thorough understanding of the financial question as the present Prime Minister and that he had the ability and the courage to grapple with this great question if he could only make up his mind to do so. So far he has not acted. He still clings to the moribund policies of the past and, frankly, I am disappointed, as are many people in Canada who were looking to him for leadership. I believe that, had he stayed away from London and followed his own judgment, it might have been different. Our Prime Minister seems to be following the same advice as did the Right Hon. Winston Churchill in 1925, when as Chancellor of the Exchequer he put England back on the gold standard, which he has since frankly and courageously admitted was wrong.

[Mr. Lucas.]

Let me quote in part from a speech on the budget which Mr. Churchill delivered in the British House of Commons in April, 1932:

When I was moved by many arguments and forces in 1925 to return to the gold standard I was assured by the highest experts, and our experts are men of great ability and of indisputable integrity and sincerity—that we were anchoring ourselves to reality and stability; and I accepted their advice. I take for myself and my colleagues of other days whatever degree of blame and burden there may be for having accepted their advice. But what has happened? We have had no reality, no stability. The price of gold has risen since then by more than 70 per cent. That is as if a 12-inch footrule had suddenly been stretched to 19 or 20 inches; as if the pound avoirdupois had suddenly become 23 or 24 ounces instead of—how much is it?—16. Look at what this has meant to everybody who has been compelled to execute their contracts upon this irrationally enhanced scale. Look at the gross unfairness of such a distortion to all producers of new wealth, and to all that labour and science and enterprise can give us. Look at the enormously increased volume of commodities which have to be created in order to pay off the same mortgage debt or loan. Minor fluctuations might well be ignored, but I say quite seriously that this monetary convulsion has now reached a pitch where I am persuaded that the producers of new wealth will not tolerate indefinitely so hideous an oppression.

Those are pungent words. That was a courageous utterance, Mr. Speaker. Would that more of our public men would as frankly admit their mistakes and face the cold, hard facts. Mr. Churchill commenced his speech with these words:

As I left the politics of yesterday for those of to-day, I now leave the politics of to-day for those of to-morrow.

In other words, Mr. Churchill recognizes that we are living under changing conditions, and that what may have been good enough for yesterday will not meet the needs of to-day. Would that our government could grasp that idea. I am afraid the scales have not yet fallen from the eyes of the Prime Minister. He is still following the stern lights of the ship, which light up only the past. He came out west last fall and instead of bringing a message of hope he left a feeling of gloom. There was to be more tightening of belts, more sacrifice, and then almost with tears in his eyes he told what a terrible calamity had happened when poor old Britain was forced off the gold standard.

Well, thank God that in the past hundred years learning has spread to the people, and never were they so well supplied with information, by press, radio, and so on. And what are they being told? What do they read in almost every paper? Most of it is about the wonderful recovery which is taking