

richest agricultural land in the world is of no value until it is cultivated and producing crops; the richest mines in the world are of no value until they are developed. Therefore, while it may be quite true that we have great natural resources, they are of no use to Canada until they are developed.

I should like to have said a few words about the minerals of Canada, but I am not going to take up the time of the House. Not long ago I listened to a speech delivered by Professor Wallace of the University of Manitoba dealing with the great pre-Cambrian shield which occupies about sixty-five per cent of the whole area of the Dominion. He pointed out the fact that the Sudbury mines were discovered only by the building of the Canadian Pacific railway; that the Cobalt mines were only discovered during the building of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railway through the finding of a lump of silver in a rock cut. The fact was also pointed out that it was highly probable that riches just as great existed throughout that great area if only they could be discovered. Let me say here that for three hundred miles along the shores of lake Winnipeg, and for a distance back of some four hundred and fifty miles, there exists the same pre-Cambrian shield which is supposed to be rich in mineral wealth and which can be developed when the Hudson Bay railway is in full operation.

It is my desire to see Canada a land of happy homes and of moderate wealth widely distributed; I do not want to see it a land of multi-millionaires and poverty-stricken people living side by side. This ideal is what I stand for, as far as it lies within my power to bring it about, in any public policy I advocate. I have no quarrel with any sections of our population; I believe that to some extent at any rate there will always be rich people and poor people. At the same time, however, I do think that there should be equal chances for all, and I certainly do not think that riches should grow like a rolling snowball with some while others have to struggle to secure a bare existence. I hope that in the days to come our country will prosper and that this nation will be a people happy and contented in every sense of the word.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Centre Winnipeg): Whatever else may be said with regard to the Speech, it probably indicates fairly well the policy of the government—a policy which we must say consists very largely in the enunciation of some vague generalities rather than in the bringing forward of concrete proposals; a policy which perhaps gives the

[Mr. Forke.]

appearance of activity while actually marking time; a policy which resorts to the use of catch words without advancing any definite solutions for the new and pressing problems that face us at the present time. Indeed, I think we might go further and say that this policy even fails to recognize these new and pressing problems. It is interesting to note that a conference is being suggested to deal with the question of the Senate, and possibly to consider wider revisions of the British North America Act. Whether this conference between the Dominion and the provincial governments will achieve any further results than have been attained by other conferences of a similar character, remains to be seen. There is not the slightest doubt, however, that, as we tried to point out last year, there is an urgent need of a revision of the British North America Act. This has been brought very forcibly to our attention by the recent decision of the Privy Council touching the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, which decision must have very far reaching effects indeed. Much of the Dominion legislation as it now stands on the statute books may well be called in question; an appeal might show that it is ultra vires of the Dominion parliament. Further this decision may handicap us in this House in trying to place any progressive legislation on the statute books, inasmuch as we are at an utter loss to know what is and what is not within the power of the Dominion parliament at the present time. Without laying blame on any one government, the fact is that our constitution, which was drawn up nearly sixty years ago, was framed at a time when conditions differed very fundamentally from the conditions that exist to-day. I am not reflecting in any sense whatever on the Fathers of Confederation when I state that some change is necessary. There is no doubt at all that they did the best they could to provide for the needs of their day; but their day is not our day, and if we wish to be true to them we must do in our day what they did in theirs—make such necessary changes as shall provide for the needs of our own times. It would be absurd to imagine that private business could be conducted to-day in precisely the same way that private business was conducted sixty years ago. When we think of all the modern inventions that have been instituted, the modern complicated organization of industry and commerce and finance, it is absurd to think of going back to the methods of sixty years ago. Yet we in Canada in the conduct of public business are practically confined to an instrument that was created so long ago.