

The Address—Mr. Rowe

grown so powerful, so large, so gigantic that it has almost fallen asleep with its own weight.

We see very little in this speech from the throne. Even the Minister of Finance (Mr. Harris), who helped to prepare it, now laughs at it. This does not present the picture in Canada at all. To get the true picture one must read editorials, talk to men who are connected with labour, talk to the farmer, talk to the housewives. Let them talk to the housewife who says "Jack is out of work"—and the government holds a mortgage for the next 20 years during which they have to pay for the roof over their heads.

One has only to talk to the labour men throughout the country who stand in need of help because they have lost their jobs and who see no hope of solution. They see no proposal made by this government in any shape or form for their relief.

These are realities that hurt. These are realities that are familiar to the men and women who have little children to care for, men and women who have girls and boys of university age, who want to maintain our high standard of living and who do not want to take their children out of universities merely because they have lost their jobs.

No, they do not want that. Despite the lip service we have heard for such a long time about the great problem of national unity, we see nothing in the speech from the throne—no mention or reference whatever—to the long-awaited dominion-provincial conference. The Prime Minister has said that he will study the question asked by the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell). Well, he has been studying it so long that everybody is wondering whether or not his silence is golden.

There is no mention in the speech from the throne of the increasing unemployment problem. There seems to be no concern whatever about our decreasing export trade. There seems to be no worry at all about the increase in our cost of government and at the same time the decrease in our national revenue. Evidently there is no desire even to study the decline in the markets for farm products and the high cost of production.

On the other hand we are told in this speech from the throne that our national economy is in a very healthy condition. Indeed it is now so healthy that it says it is in a very healthy condition. Well, Mr. Speaker, when His Excellency the Governor General read that he must almost have choked—because I am sure His Excellency reads the newspapers. He must have been

greatly surprised when he read in the speech from the throne that unemployment is only regional and seasonal. No wonder the Minister of Finance laughs at that, Mr. Speaker.

Can he rise in his place in this House of Commons and tell me one region in Canada where today there is not serious unemployment? Can any of these cabinet giants rise and tell me now that in his own district there is not serious unemployment? Can any of them rise and tell me that it has not increased?

Mr. Murphy (Lambton West): Can any of them rise?

Mr. Rowe: I had not thought of that. They do not seem to rise to the occasion when these emergencies develop. But occasionally they rise when everything is bright and cheerful.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are told in one paragraph of the speech from the throne that our national economy is in a healthy condition, and that we have a little unsold wheat. We are told the reason our national revenue is not as high as it was is due to the fact that our wheat crop this year has not been as good. Well, Mr. Speaker, they have not sold last year's wheat—and they have even a large quantity of the wheat harvested the year before. Yet we are told that the reason for the little slump is that we had a poor wheat crop this year. If we had had a good crop they would not know what to do with it, because they have not sold even the good crop we had last year.

Yes, we are told that the unemployment is seasonal and regional. Yet, according to the figures issued by the unemployment commission—to say nothing of the thousands not recorded and the further thousands who are on part-time work, as well as the thousands who will be let out within the next few months, if there is anything to this seasonal feature—there are 40,000 more unemployed today than there were at this time last year. Yes, there are 40,000 more. And if the trend continues even at the same rate as last year—and there is no one who will rise and say that it will not do so—we can anticipate keenly that before 60 days shall have passed 600,000 people in this young country will be unemployed—and perhaps even more than that.

But, no, Mr. Speaker. This is only seasonal; this is only regional. It is just a passing phase, like a shadow in the night. Well, a great friend of this most important element in Canadian society—the workingmen—and