

was 40 cents and oats nine and ten cents a bushel. I have driven wheat and oats twenty miles for those prices myself. I drew dressed pork a distance of twenty miles for a price of four cents a pound. Yes, we have seen these low prices before, but our produce at that time had a greater purchasing power than it has to-day. The difficulty lies in the fact that the prices of the goods we produce have gone down enormously while there has been comparatively little decrease in the prices of things that we buy. Let me give another illustration of that disparity. We members who come from the farms feel that we have to get spruced up a little before coming to Ottawa. So I went to get a shave and a haircut, and I found that it cost me about ten bushels of barley to get a shave and a haircut. That is too big a price to pay, even if the trimming is good enough to win the congratulations of the Prime Minister.

The speech from the throne is only one of the many disappointments which the country has had to experience recently. The first disappointment, of course, was the barrenness of the Prime Minister's trip to England, which has already been referred to at sufficient length. Perhaps I should explain what I mean by disappointment. Of course, all patriotic Canadians regret that the Prime Minister was not able to do more in England to bring us out of the depression from which we are suffering. Doubtless many of his most ardent supporters were also disappointed for the reason that they did expect him to do something. One of the most ardent supporters of the Prime Minister said: "Mr. Bennett believes that he is divinely commissioned to lead Canada out of the wilderness, and I believe it too." Naturally a man like that would be disappointed. Some of us had no such illusions. We did not believe that the course which the Prime Minister intended to pursue in England would be productive of results, and so in that sense we were not disappointed. We had simply the satisfaction of the tenth beatitude "Blessed are they who expect little for they shall not be disappointed."

Another great disappointment to the west was the Regina speech of the Prime Minister. He came west, and the stage had been very carefully set for his coming. The meeting had been announced some weeks beforehand, and the whole country was kept on the edge of expectation, hoping that great things were to come from that Regina speech. Well, the Prime Minister came, and spoke. I listened to his speech over the radio, and even over the radio you could sense the

feeling of disappointment that passed through that audience. "The mountain laboured and brought forth a mouse." That speech was received with intense disappointment throughout the west. It was then that the people of the prairie provinces realized how completely they had been humbugged, just as the people of England were humbugged—at least they thought they were.

There is, of course, in the speech from the throne a recognition of the importance of the marketing of wheat. I am glad that the government does recognize its importance, for I know that some of the members of the government have refused to recognize the importance in our national economy of the marketing of wheat. In this connection I should like to refer to the statement that was made by the former Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm), which has been commented upon. When a statement is made and criticized one must always consider the circumstances prevailing at the time it was made. May I say that until the first of February of last year there was very little indication that the wheat markets were in a serious condition. I think I may say that up to that time if there had been any move on the part of the government to interfere with the marketing of wheat it would have been very keenly resented by the farmers.

Mr. CAHAN: Is that February of 1931?

Mr. BROWN: No, 1930, because it was then we began to recognize that wheat was piling up in vast quantities. As I say, up to that time the farmers, who had been led to believe both by the pool and by the regular grain trade that prices were going to be high and continue to be high, would have resented any move on the part of the government to interfere with the marketing of wheat. I think there is no question about that. About the time this house met in session last year conditions were beginning to assume a different aspect, and then it was that the party in opposition began to criticize the government for its negligence in the matter of the wheat trade. Hon. members on this side of the house regret the absence of the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens). I hope the government will convey to him our best wishes for a speedy recovery, because while we may differ with the hon. minister we recognize in him a fair fighter. I refer to the hon. gentleman because he paid a visit to my constituency substituting for the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion), the present Minister of Railways and Canals. For certain reasons that hon. gentleman was not allowed to speak in my constituency.