

*The Address—Mr. Cournoyer*

Affairs; and everyone will agree that since its creation that department has been managed with tact, dignity and distinction by the right hon. minister entrusted with our diplomacy.

We propose to cooperate fully and at all times with the united nations in establishing a brand of peace fully protected against selfish aims.

One of the finest roles that can be played by Canada and its citizens in the field of world reconstruction after the storm which has just abated, is that of charity. Our country has been favoured by Providence with practically unlimited wealth. It has even earned the title of "the world's granary." And it is by extending a helping hand to war sufferers that it will perhaps best succeed in achieving world solidarity, which remains our sole guarantee of peace and is absolutely dependent on the material wealth and the democratic spirit of North America.

Due to our natural resources, Canada has become an exporting country. The government is well aware that, to ensure the economic welfare of the nation, it is highly important to protect our markets in the commercial world, by taking part in conferences on international trade. They are also aware that Canadians have no right to remain idle and adopt an impassive attitude in the face of the temporary difficulties which confront our potential customers.

It is of the utmost importance that we acknowledge the importance of international problems. But above all, we must take the necessary steps to develop in our country a state of economic stability and social security. Such an undertaking is essential.

The housing problem undoubtedly remains one of the most urgent. The government has practically carried out the programme they had adopted for 1946 regarding the number of houses to be erected.

The crown company, Wartime Housing Limited, has for its part built more than 25,000 houses. Without the strikes which paralyzed production and had their effects in Canada, the success of the company would have been still greater. I hope that with the help of the government, the housing problem will be solved in a satisfactory way.

Many things will be said about controls. It is extremely hard to please everybody. The fable about the miller, his son and his donkey applies at all times. A look at the opposition is enough to prove it. The Progressive Conservatives ask for and insist on the immediate scrapping of all controls, while our friends of the C.C.F. seem to demand their complete maintenance.

[Mr. Cournoyer.]

Surely no one can approve without self-denial, these legislations which I consider as being accidental and which restrain our freedom. They suggest the acts of the surgeon who cruelly slashes and cuts without sentimental sympathy for the patient, but in order to cure him, which evidences a brand of sympathy founded on reason.

The government's policy remains, I think, the best prescription; it consists in eliminating controllers and rationing as fast as the return to a peacetime basis and normal standards warrant it.

Numerous are the suggestions that could be made on this question, but, doubtless, we shall have other opportunities of reverting to it in the course of the session. I have in mind, at this moment, the farmers who are in greater need than ever of encouragement on the part of public authorities.

The speech from the throne has inspired us with a comforting optimism, as it forecasts a very prosperous year. It is highly important that unemployment, with the hardships, worries, misgivings and privations that follow in its wake, should not cause a recurrence of the despair of 1930.

Private enterprise will be afforded all the attention it will have deserved, but it shall be called upon to cooperate closely with labour. Taxes on capital will have to be reduced, but sympathetic consideration will also have to be given to the matter of relieving heads of families and workers.

The government understand their responsibilities as regards social justice. Confidence should be placed in the statesmen who have established old age pensions and family allowances and instituted the Department of Labour, the Department of Welfare, unemployment insurance and a number of other timely innovations which better the condition of the less fortunate citizens. I am glad to note that the lot of our aged people will be improved.

For the attainment of that social security, why should we not hope for the cooperation of provinces which should not retire each one within its sphere, when the welfare of the nation is at stake. Why not avoid taxation involving double costs, why not avoid a considerable part of the cost of tax-collection? Why should we not come to an agreement in order to create conditions more favourable to the transition from war to peace? Let us not run the risk of seeing once again a period like the one which followed the war of 1914-18.

No one wishes once again to go through the crisis of 1930. But then, why should not