

have nothing to give the farmer in exchange for it. Do hon. members in the corner believe that the farmer should be required to give his wheat away and receive nothing in return from those who happen to be unemployed?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: They are nearly doing that now.

Mr. YOUNG: We have every sympathy for the unemployed, but we know that thirty cents a bushel does not pay for the growing of wheat. With 30 cent wheat we cannot pay our taxes; we cannot pay for our seed or the interest on our mortgages. These are our difficulties, with wheat at thirty cents a bushel. Yet hon. gentlemen say: Why should not the unemployed help themselves to all this wheat? The answer is that they have nothing to give in exchange for it. What is money, anyway?

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): I have not seen any. Show us some.

Mr. YOUNG: I think we can agree that money is a medium of exchange, a means of exchanging goods for goods. We do not want money for its own sake, but we do want the goods we can buy with money; that is what it is for. When you go into a market to sell goods, what are you doing? You are selling the product of your labour, and you are expecting to receive in exchange for it the product of some other person's labour. One does not carry the product of his labour with him, he cannot. For that reason money was invented to represent such products. A man entering the market to sell the product of his labour for money has a right to expect that the money he receives represents an equal quantity of somebody else's labour.

What is the true basis for money? What is the basis for currency? Labour. I am quite willing to admit—I believe everybody will admit that a skilled labourer is worth more than an unskilled labourer, that the labour of a man who applies himself assiduously to his work is worth more than the man who does not. But, making due allowance for all that, when one enters the market to exchange his labour with that of another man such exchange should be on an equal basis. In other words one day of your labour should be equal to one day of another man's. I believe it would not be humanly impossible to determine the exact value of a day's labour, and for that reason a standard has been set up to represent as nearly as possible the average value of such labour. In arriving at a stan-

dard the question was asked: How much labour does it take to produce a certain commodity? What commodity was chosen as the measure? That commodity was chosen the amount of labour in the production of which varies less than in the production of any other commodity known. I refer to gold. The amount of human labour required to produce gold has varied less than the amount required to produce any other commodity. When Sir Josiah Stamp was visiting Canada he stated that the time had not yet arrived when the world could get along without a metallic basis for its currency. What did he mean by that? He meant that gold represents the most accurate measure we can get of the amount of labour required to produce a given quantity of it. That is why we state that gold is the best standard we have. We do not say it is perfect, but it is the nearest we can get to perfection because the amount of labour required to produce it is more constant than that required to produce anything else.

The statement is made that the gold standard is not functioning. Why is it not functioning? What determines the price of gold? the law of supply and demand determines the price of gold, the same as it determines the price of anything else. The amount of gold in the world has not varied greatly, but hon. members know what happened.—There was a war. During the war certain nations placed other nations in their debt. After the war those debts had to be paid, and war reparations had to be made. The creditor nations receiving the greatest amount of these payments said, "We want payment in gold." The normal way to pay such debts would be payment in goods. After the war however those creditor nations said, "We will not take goods; we want gold." The debtor nations said, "We have not any gold; we cannot give it to you." In reply the creditor nations said, "Sell your goods on the world market and get the gold for which we are asking." Following that there was a scramble for gold throughout the world. Debtor nations did their best to get the gold to give to the creditor nations. The creditor nations took that gold, hoarded it, and removed it from the market with the result that there was an artificial scarcity of that commodity. The ultimate result was that the price of gold went up and the price of everything else went down.

What was it that made it possible for these nations to corner all the gold in the world, or the larger part of it? It was the tariff. The gold was cornered because those creditor na-