

development, no more units in a great national plan, but simply the dole—that is all we now have wherewith to meet the unemployment situation.

The policies and measures I have outlined are based upon the firm belief of my government that this country is soon to enter upon a new era of prosperity . . .

Now we come to prorogation, which took place on August 3, 1932, at the close of the second session four and a half months after the delivery of the address in which we were told we were just entering on the new era of prosperity. What was said then?

The development of Canadian industry and agriculture has been further promoted through the measures you have enacted.

Imagine those words being put upon the lips of the representative of the crown in this country.

These troubled times will pass, for adversity is powerless against the will of Canada to regain the happiness and prosperity which are its birthright.

We come now to the third session, which opened February 4, 1932, six months after the words I have just read were spoken, or about eight months ago. The tone in part is a little different:

World conditions are beyond the control of the Canadian people. But I rejoice that their resolute adherence to policies designed for the welfare of the nation has minimized the adverse influence of external economic forces. This period of trial has shown the Canadian situation to be fundamentally sound . . . The provisions made at the last session of parliament for unemployment and farm relief are proving effective.

Then why are they being abandoned now, if they were so effective in the past?

You are successfully meeting difficult domestic problems. Conditions are gradually improving.

That was only eight months ago.

Now we come to prorogation, which took place four months later, or four and a half months ago:

My government's policy of unemployment and farm relief, consistently and vigorously pursued, has already achieved an amelioration of conditions and forecasts steady and continued improvement in both agrarian and industrial communities.

That is the policy that is now thrown to the winds.

Near at hand are the means by which this country, organized and prepared, may hasten its economic recovery. . . . Canada believes that the closer economic association of the British Empire will herald the dawn of a new and greater era of prosperity both for ourselves and for all the nations of the earth.

You could not get language much more grandiloquent than that. Unfortunately it does not make us think more highly of what appears in the speech this year with regard to the improvement of conditions which is said to be taking place.

Perhaps the Prime Minister has heard the story of the man whose wife was very poorly, and who called in a physician who had a number of quack remedies which, he said, if applied would be most effective. The doctor administered his herbs and mixtures from day to day, but the old lady got along in a sort of way. Each day her husband would ask the doctor about her condition and how she was getting on, and as regularly he would be told that the condition disclosed "a slight improvement." Finally, the old lady died. A friend who came round to console with the old man inquired as to what was the cause of her death? The man replied, "I don't know, but from what the doctor told me, I think it must have been 'slight improvement.'" With his patent remedy of higher and even higher protection and his repeated declarations of improved conditions the Prime Minister is rapidly bringing this country to a state of paralysis where some day, when it is all too late and the question is asked as to what has happened to bring the country into its deplorable state the verdict I fear will be "slight improvement" brought about by the high tariff remedies of my right hon. friend.

All hon. gentlemen opposite have been making statements of the kind ever since they came into office. They have been speaking in all parts of the country, saying always that prosperity was just ahead, was just around the corner. In what he has put into the lips of His Excellency, the Prime Minister has been no exception. All his ministers have been doing the same thing. Take the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) who is in such a contemplative mood at the moment. He took a trip to the west shortly after he became a minister of the crown, and what did he say when he came back? Listen to this, in the light of conditions at present. It was said two years ago. Speaking as a minister of the crown, with all the knowledge that a minister of the crown has, my hon. friend is reported in the *Toronto Mail and Empire* of November 8, 1930, as follows:

A cheering message to the east from the prairies and the Pacific coast was brought to Toronto yesterday by Hon. E. B. Ryckman, Minister of National Revenue, returning after a five weeks' tour to inspect customs ports and meet industrial deputations.

In spite of low grain prices, business conditions in the west are improving, the minister