

particularly debts within our own country, we are not going to have any very great improvement in conditions. It is indeed impossible to have that improvement until something is done with regard to this debt situation.

The next paragraph in the speech is a very important one so far as agriculture is concerned. It says:

My ministers have under consideration a commercial treaty with the Dominion of New Zealand.

I am sure that hon. members on both sides of the house who represent agricultural constituencies will anxiously await the production of this treaty to see what its terms may be. I do not envy the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) the position he occupied in trying to negotiate this treaty, bearing in mind particularly the debates that took place in this house on former occasions with regard to the Australian treaty as applied to New Zealand. It is quite true that treaties between nations cannot be made unless there is give and take, and we are wondering just how much Canada has had to give in order to secure this treaty arrangement. We are wondering what class of producers in this country are going to be called upon to give the most. As I said before, the Minister of Trade and Commerce had a very ticklish job on his hands in negotiating this treaty, remembering past debates in this house with regard to the importation of agricultural products from New Zealand, and I am sure that the house will anxiously await the production of the treaty to see just how far the minister went, remembering those debates to which I have referred and the statements made by his colleagues on his own side of the house. It would appear to me that the minister is rather more fortunate in negotiating this treaty to-day than he would have been had he arranged it some years ago. The great question under the Australian treaty as applied to New Zealand was butter, and incidentally I believe that question was quite an influence in the last general election. The minister of Trade and Commerce is in a much better position to-day than the minister would have been in negotiating a treaty with New Zealand at that particular time because Canada is now on an export basis so far as butter is concerned. That would give the minister more leeway in dealing with that commodity and in negotiating the treaty.

Next I wish to make reference to that paragraph in the speech from the throne which says:

[Mr. Gardiner.]

A Canadian delegation is participating in the disarmament conference, which was opened at Geneva on the 2nd of February. I join with you in the prayer that the representatives of the nations there assembled may reach an understanding which will put beyond peril the cause of enduring world peace.

I believe that every member of this house will heartily endorse that sentiment. Personally I am not very sanguine of the outcome of the conference, but I am hoping against hope. My judgment is that the peace of the world in the final analysis is inherent in and a part of our economic system, and until such time as we are in a position to eliminate the terrific competition between nations for world markets and other factors that arise out of our present economic conditions, I am afraid that there is little hope for permanent world peace. However, we will hope for the best and our hope in this corner of the house is that this disarmament conference will achieve at least some measure of success and mark some progress.

The balance of the speech from the throne is made up of the program of legislation which the government will bring before the house. As I said before, it is meagre and not very important, and it is hardly worth my while dealing with it, particularly as my time is limited.

The speech from the throne in the final analysis is remarkable for what it leaves out rather than for what it contains. There is not one word in it with regard to unemployment, not one word with regard to the primary producers of this country and the conditions under which they are working, including agriculture. There is not a word with regard to these two very important questions. It may be that the government have plans which they will submit to this house later, but, sir, in view of the tremendous depression that we are passing through and the tremendous hardships that many of our people are suffering we expected that the government would give at least a passing notice to these great and important problems, and therefore I believe that the people of Canada will be tremendously disappointed in this speech from the throne. We do not blame His Excellency for this situation; he merely reads to parliament what his ministers advise him to read. Therefore we must put the responsibility where it belongs, and that is upon the government.

I should like briefly to deal with the condition of agriculture, because in the final analysis I represent a purely agricultural constituency. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that in my judgment agriculture to-day in western