

time we are quite ready to take the Scandinavian or German either, for that part of it. I do not know whether I should say that in this House, but I think it is all right. They are good farmers; we can get along with them, anyway. There is a class of immigrants we can get, and I am sure they would be a valuable asset to this country. Agricultural labourers from the British islands can be got by the hundreds—yes, by the thousands, and there is employment for them to-day right here in Canada. I do not know what the conditions are in Ontario and the eastern provinces, but I do know that there is a place for that kind of farm labourer in western Canada just as soon as he lands on this side. That is the only system of immigration that is any good—get the immigrant and have a place for him when he lands so that he can go right to work. I have no doubt that the Minister of the Interior has given this matter a great deal of consideration, so that I shall not deal with it further. I reiterate the statement, however, that I would like to see this class of people gone after, and I believe they can be got if they are sought in the right way.

It has struck me as very strange—I think the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) also referred to it yesterday—that in the Speech from the Throne no mention is made of the tariff. I do not know that I have quite recovered from the shock I received on hearing that speech and realizing that the word “tariff” had not been mentioned in it. I have lived in Canada for forty years, and it is a word that has never been out of my hearing during all that time; yet here in the most important assembly in this Dominion the matter has evidently entirely escaped notice. I sincerely hope, however, that the face of the government is still in the right direction, and that with a little encouragement they may take another step forward.

I noticed that before parliament opened the government was receiving delegations from various interests protesting against certain methods of raising taxes. Their representations may have been right or may have been wrong, but I could not help wondering what delegation had waited on the government in the interests of the common people, who, in the final analysis, actually pay the taxes. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that at least in some parts of the House the interests of the common people will be as well looked after as possible.

I have mentioned the tariff. I do not think that in this part of the House we are going to give up the fight for a reduction of

[Mr. Forke.]

duties. I do not refer so much to ploughs or farm machinery—you know, we are sometimes accused of being a little selfish;—but we would like to see the duties reduced on all the necessities of life that have to be purchased by the common people. I say that we are not going to give up the fight until we reap some reward for our endeavours.

The decennial revision of the Bank Act is due at this session. I have noted with some alarm—I do not pose as a financial authority, but I believe the matter is worthy of some examination at least—the condition under which so many financial interests in this country are concentrated in a few hands, in a few institutions. Whatever is done in regard to a revision of the Bank Act, I hope that the interests of the common people will be well protected.

I notice also that in the Speech from the Throne reference is made to the proposed appointment of a committee to inquire into agricultural problems. I understand from that that a parliamentary committee is contemplated. Now, I do not know that a parliamentary committee can go into this question just in the way that it ought to be gone into. The inquiry will have to be a real one; the matter will have to be gone into from a great many different points of view. The difficulties which have arisen in the West have been accentuated—matters affecting grain marketing and transportation—but these are not all the difficulties we have in Canada to-day. We have fruit industries; we have dairying; we have the difficulties experienced by the people down in the Maritime provinces. When I listened to the delegation that came from there the other day to interview the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) I came to the conclusion that the Maritime provinces were in just as difficult a position as we were in the West. I only hope that if a committee is appointed there will be a real investigation and that some practical solution of the problems involved will be arrived at.

I have listened to a great many speeches during the last few weeks, some of them delivered by professors of economics who have spent a good deal of time elaborating upon the different movements that have led up to the present state of agricultural depression. With bated breath I have waited to hear what the suggested solution would be, but these gentlemen generally led you up to the brink and left you there. I do not know what our professors of economics are paid for if they are only able to show us that we are in trouble and are not able to show us the way out. However, I believe that agricul-