

The Address—Mr. Drew

battle. It is not a particularly attractive kind of peace: it is a peace of mutual terror; but, certainly, it would be a peace much better than war. At least the thought does offer us the hope that the military strength we are building is not for inevitable war and it also offers encouragement to keep our minds on the pursuits of peace, so that we preserve through these years of strain the great principles of our free society.

With that thought in mind, and having discussed in general terms these matters raised in the speech from the throne, I now propose to deal with domestic affairs. The speech from the throne refers to a number of interesting subjects but tells us very little about what the government intends to do. The revision of the Criminal Code and the Bank Act will call for careful and extended consideration. It is hoped that the procedure to be followed will be indicated as soon as possible, so that members on both sides with special qualifications to deal with these subjects will be able to make their plans accordingly, and may perhaps contribute their own suggestions as to the manner in which these very important acts may be dealt with most expeditiously.

It is the omissions from the speech which are most noticeable. We are told that "there are some sectors of our economy which have been faced with difficulties". That is indeed an understatement. Nothing is said about the textile industry, the cheese producers, the dairy farmers, the cattle breeders, or other producers who are looking for some information as to what they may expect. There is a very noticeable silence about the critical situation resulting from the vast accumulation of unsold grain on the farms of the prairie provinces.

As this subject was not mentioned, I asked the Prime Minister on Friday whether the government is considering legislation to deal with this situation. He made it clear that he is not ready to give us any information on this subject. I do hope that the Prime Minister will agree to set aside a day, within the next week—and I make this proposal today—when we may discuss this subject. It is one which affects all Canadians, and not merely the prairie farmers or those whose daily activities are associated with them.

The facts of the situation are well known. More than five hundred million bushels of wheat and substantial quantities of other grains are now on the farms of western Canada because the farmers are unable to sell that grain.

That is not simply the result of three bumper crops. It is in large measure the result of the government's failure to respond to repeated requests in the house and elsewhere

to take the initiative in reopening the United Kingdom and sterling markets for grain and other primary products. When the time came to sign the new wheat agreement last spring this government refused an offer of an agreement with the United Kingdom placing a maximum figure of \$2 a bushel on wheat. They held out for \$2.05. Now they are selling it at less than \$1.95. They have no agreement with the United Kingdom because of their obstinate position, and no information has been presented to us indicating that there is any likelihood of an agreement in the near future.

In this situation prairie farmers have a right to be told what the government intends to do. The government has assumed full control of the marketing and selling of our wheat. It has, in fact, denied to the western farmer the opportunity, either personally or through his farmer organizations, to do anything about it. The western farmer, therefore, with no adequate local markets for his products, is entirely dependent upon the government.

Because the government has failed to keep open the traditional export markets, the elevators are full, and there is no place for the farmer to deliver his grain and realize on a substantial part of his current crop. In some cases he is not able to realize on any part of it. Consequently, he is unable to obtain money for the current daily requirements of his family and his home. This, in turn, affects the merchants and all those performing the many services which he requires. It affects not only his own province, but right across Canada.

The farmer, the merchant, and everyone else in western Canada whose work is related to agricultural production—yes, and the industrial and other producers in other parts of Canada who supply him—all have a right to know, and to know without delay, what the government proposes to do. If it proposes to do nothing, then let the government say so. Plans then would be related to the decision of the government. If the government does intend to do something, then let us know what it intends to do. After all, we are not dealing just with the problem of accumulated wheat. We are dealing with the daily needs of people whose production is related to this great crop, and who can only carry on their daily activities with the money which may in some way be realized from the crop they have grown. Time is running out. The situation is more than critical. If legislation is contemplated, then let us know what that legislation is.