

that if the Peace Pact pronouncement had been uttered in Paris or London, it could not travel far beyond the confines of France and Britain, but when it was uttered in Geneva, in the presence of the assembled representatives of fifty different nations, it reverberated around the entire globe and became for all time a part of world literature. He then proceeded to say that Canada's voice at the League of Nations, without which this Peace Pact would not have the same influence, was therefore very much the voice not alone of this continent, but, to express it in another way, of the New World.

I want honourable gentlemen to remember that within a very few days following that utterance the President of the United States was moved to make a public pronouncement, the real meaning of which, in my humble opinion, was that the United States was speaking for itself, and that the Premier of the Dominion of Canada was not making a pronouncement of policy with reference to armaments and peace for any other country than that which he represented. In considering all that has passed I think it is but right that we should have the complete picture before us.

After all that was said in 1920 by the leader of the present Government with reference to the importance and tremendous necessity of substantial decreases in the cost of living, and so forth, I regret that no mention is made of that subject in the Speech from the Throne, and that apparently nothing has been done during the past seven years to afford the relief in that direction which, at that time, was said to be so sorely needed. May I quote the right honourable gentleman?

If there is any question which is paramount in Canada to-day, and which transcends all other considerations, it is the important question of the high cost of living. . . . Instead of alleviating the high cost of living as it affects the great mass of consumers they have added to it. . . . Instead of caring for and protecting the consumers the Government have left them to their fate. . . . Again, the more you export out of the country, the less there is for the consumer. . . . To increase production you must take some of the duties off necessities and thus lower the cost of living.

Those are utterances made on June 1, 1920. The cost of living at that time, according to the Government's own tabulated statements, stood at 231, the highest peak reached during the war or after, 100 being the standard index number as of 1913. There was no change of government for a year and a half. In March of 1922, a month or two after the new Government came into power, the cost of living had receded to 144. Then an opportunity occurred by which those promises might be given effect to; but in December 1928 the

index was 154, or 10 points higher than it had been in 1922. Therefore I think the absence of any mention of that subject, which is so important to millions of people in our country, deserves some comment or explanation on the part of the administration of this day.

At that time also legislation was brought forward and passed that gave great promise of curbing mergers and combines. It appeared that the millennium had arrived, that in future the common people would be protected from the spoiler. But what do we find? Never in the history of this country have there been so many or such large mergers and combines as have taken place during the past four years.

I bring these matters to the attention of the House and commend them to the consideration of our friends who administer the affairs of Canada at this time. I respectfully say to them that I know the people of Canada, especially those hundreds of thousands who are supporting families on earnings of \$970 a year, are hoping for—indeed expecting—some pronouncement by the Government, and some activity on its part, in the important matter of the cost of living.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Honourable gentlemen, as I have very little to say, it is perhaps well that I should take time now to offer my few remarks. When I contemplated the Speech from the Throne, as implemented by the remarks of the honourable leader of this House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), and of the mover (Hon. Mr. Logan) and the seconder of the Address (Hon. Mr. Tessier), I could not help thinking that to all the brilliant colours that had been laid on the picture of the prosperity of this country it might be wise to add a few somber and sober touches, so that it might more nearly resemble the original. If this is not done, I am rather afraid that many of our people who are not benefiting by the much vaunted prosperity will fail to recognize the picture.

There is no doubt that Canada is marvelously rich. It has been blessed with greater wealth than probably any other country in the world. It is true that times have not been bad; but it is equally true that the present condition has been brought about through the exploitation and at the expense of our natural resources. Consider the enormous quantity of wheat grown and shipped, the increase of mineral production by the opening of new mines, the tremendous output of paper. All these products are drawn from the natural wealth of this country and offered with a lavishness that has probably never been known in the past in any country in the