

the north and it is to bring about, by judicious but courageous legislation, the disappearance of social injustices resulting not from the capitalist system itself but from its defects and deficiencies.

Honourable senators, I am not an economist. I obtained my political experience in a more humble Legislature than this one, where problems such as public education, hospitals, public roads, mothers' allowances and other matters relating to public services were constantly under consideration. However, the opinions I have briefly expressed reflect truly, I am sure, the state of mind of the Canadian citizen who has reached the age of forty. This citizen belongs to a large section of our population which started in active life a little before or during the Great War. A turmoil, the bitterness of which was not lessened by the dance of the dollars between 1926 and 1929, followed the War. We were born under the old regime, but we never have entirely enjoyed the fullness of its development. We belong to a transient generation coming between the old regime and the new one which we are hopefully looking for, ready as we are to set our efforts towards its realization or at least to contribute loyally to it.

Because of the arduous living conditions in which we have found ourselves the men of my generation have made a special study of the chaotic condition of public affairs, they have searched for a formula likely to re-establish order, they have pondered over problems which interested our predecessors but little.

It would be presumptuous to say that the formula is found, but at least, we have our convictions.

And while we are ready to cling to all that is useful and good in the old system, which we received as part of our inheritance, we wish to modify that system, so that it may become an instrument for happiness in the body politic.

I am convinced I am truly describing the state of mind of the honourable members of this House, no matter what their political affiliations may be, no matter what the scope of their experience, when I say that it is with those sentiments that they will undertake the study of the measures forecast in the Speech from the Throne.

I have the honour to move that an address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General, expressing the gratitude of this House for the gracious speech he was pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament.

Hon. RALPH B. HORNER: Honourable members, in rising to second the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, I feel it my duty to thank the right honourable leader of the Government for the very high honour bestowed on me, an honour intended, I take it, not so much for myself personally as for the great agricultural province of Saskatchewan from which I come, as well as for the farming communities generally throughout the Dominion.

I must ask honourable members to bear with me should I fail to maintain the high traditions of these debates.

I am delighted to second this Address, for I believe that the Speech from the Throne will be regarded as an historic document. Were it not that we are supposed to refrain from discussing party politics, I should be tempted to say that the promised social legislation is such as we should expect from the source from which it emanates.

The Speech from the Throne contains this paragraph:

In the anxious years through which you have passed, you have been the witnesses of grave defects and abuses in the capitalist system. Unemployment and want are the proof of these. Great changes are taking place about us. New conditions prevail. These require modifications in the capitalist system to enable that system more effectively to serve the people.

Last session Parliament passed the Natural Products Marketing Act. When that legislation was before this Chamber some honourable members were opposed to it. Now I think I may be able to convince them of the necessity for the Act and the great benefit which has already resulted from its operation. We had felt for some time, particularly in Western Canada, that the primary producer should be assisted to organize in order to sell his own produce at the least possible expense, on a basis similar to that adopted by those from whom he purchased his requirements. Instead, the farmer had to take what he was told his product was worth. On the other hand, when buying his implements, the farmer was told what they cost to produce and what profit was added, and he could pay the price demanded or go without. In other words, he carried the whole burden of loss.

Now, as I say, we have had evidence that those who were selling the primary products were not treating the primary producers fairly. During the past few years of the depression the packers were paying for heavy hogs as low as one cent and a half a pound. Permit me to relate a personal experience. I had a hog that when dressed would weigh