

regret that this type of rule existed, saying he feared that young men and women might become inured to it and forget the kind of government that we had prior to rule by order-in-council. I recollect that he grew sufficiently eloquent in the matter to quote the words of Pope:

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,  
As to be hated needs but to be seen;  
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

I was impressed with the aptness of the quotation as well as the truth of the expression at that time. It would be some satisfaction to me to know that in the interval the government had made some progress in dispensing with that kind of legislation, and it would be useful to know also how much of it is still in force.

We must of course vote for the extension; there is no question about that. It is only a short extension, and the real debate will no doubt take place later on when the session is resumed and the measure comes before us once more. But I repeat that it would be some satisfaction to know right now that some progress has been made along the line I have indicated.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I am sorry that I have not that information at the moment, but I think I could readily secure it. I know that a considerable number of orders in council which were in force when the legislation was passed have ceased to function, and I shall endeavour to find out for my honourable friend just how many have been dropped and how many are still in effect.

Hon. Mr. ROEBUCK: I think it would be worth while to have that tomorrow.

Hon. JOHN T. HAIG: Honourable senators, like the honourable senator from Toronto-Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) I feel that we have no option but to vote for the extension of this Act. I do not intend to say much just now, but I wish to refer to one or two things that worry me. In the first place, I am wondering why the government called us into session at this time. I have been asking myself that question ever since I received notice that parliament was to meet on December 5, and so far I have not been able to answer it. If the session had not opened until late in January this resolution would not have been needed, for the Act would automatically have remained in effect for at least sixty days from that date, or until about the end of March.

Here is another thing. For the last eight or nine months or more a fierce struggle has

been going on between several elements in the community as to prices and controls. People who are on wages and salaries want no control on such incomes, but they do want controls on everything that they buy or use. Another group think subsidies should be paid in order to keep down the prices of certain foods, such as milk and bread. Of course, there is a subsidy on bread now—paid, not by the people as a whole, but by the poor old farmer. Still another group contend that there should be controls on all primary products, but not on things that the primary producers buy. And finally, the primary producers themselves are waking up to the fact that the prices that they receive for their commodities are held down, while everything they buy keeps on going up. I want to warn the government that the primary producers have begun to find this out.

I am old enough—though I should not mention age—

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Especially today.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I am old enough to remember how prices soared after the First Great War. But they did not soar very long; after a year and a half or so they dropped, and there was a return to normal conditions.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: There was a pretty good government then.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I do not believe that commodity prices will go back to their old levels, because it is easier to keep prices up than to reduce wages and salaries to what they were. This situation creates special hardship for people who are on pensions and fixed incomes. A good many people depend upon the income from the small capital that they built up by long years of thrift. They placed their savings in bonds, mortgages, houses or something of that kind, and on retiring from active work they figured that they had enough to give them a competence. When I was a young man starting in to study law, \$20,000 was considered a good amount of money for a man to leave when he died; it would take care of his widow. But now the income from that sum is about \$550 a year. An old age pensioner gets \$360 a year—in my province \$420—so he is pretty nearly as well off as anyone who has put by savings of \$20,000.

We have been trying to do something that no country has ever yet succeeded in doing, namely, to control economic forces. It may be possible to maintain a certain control for some months or even years, but finally the dam will break. Press reports indicate that Russia, which is said to be a master-mind at