

*The Address—Mr. Rowe*

colourful parliamentarians that this country has known. I regret his absence greatly because he could go into these problems much more deeply than I can. When he is fit he has unbounded energy, and his untiring industry has fitted him for the task. He has a background of experience in government, both municipal and provincial, and now in the opposition as well. In fact, one can learn about as much sitting over here and watching the government weaknesses as by performing the functions of government. We miss his experience, ability and energy today. I thank the Prime Minister again for his kind words in this regard, and I know we all hope he will soon return.

These are some of the reasons why, Mr. Speaker, and he would have named many more, last fall he thought we should have had a session of parliament. When he called upon the government to consider convening a session of parliament, I am sure he did not expect that unemployment would be called regional and only seasonal, or that there would be no constructive policy towards the solution of the problem. He did not expect that now, after he had urged the calling of a dominion-provincial conference for so long in order to find a better and more clearly defined division of taxation between federal, provincial and municipal governments, and after hearing the Prime Minister say, even though he did not think there was any need for one during the recess but we might have one sooner than we expect, today the Prime Minister would say he will tell us whether or not he has changed his mind again.

However, I do wish to say that, despite these signs of declining export markets, despite our increasing unemployment, which I hope can be recovered, our decreasing national revenue and our increasing expenditures, I have absolute confidence that with a sound fiscal and taxation policy and the development of our resources in our own country, we shall continue to go forward. By that I do not mean, Mr. Speaker, that all the resources we have must be developed here. We have iron ore that the United States will need in far more volume than she does now, and probably for the next quarter of a century. We have an abundance of raw products to sell.

We would be glad to sell our wheat, whether it is in the form of flour or pancakes. We want to sell it. There are no raw products, of which we have more than we need right now, that we in this party would not be prepared to sell. This should not be misrepresented by those who go out on the highways and byways as meaning that

[Mr. Rowe.]

we are a party that believes every pound of our raw resources should be developed in Canada; that has never been our policy, Mr. Speaker. We believe in the development of our resources in this country to give employment to our own people. It is a matter of equalizing conditions, and there are many ways by which that can be brought about.

Our whole taxation structure needs re-organization. The government talks about lowering the costs of industry, and we might do that by lowering the cost of government. You can talk about being competitive, getting out and finding business, but you can help the manufacturer to be more competitive by reducing some of these taxes. You can help the labourer to hold his job, if you look carefully at what is happening. I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that this government and the hon. members who sit to your right who are responsible for the management of our affairs today, in their private thinking and after careful consideration, will look deeper into these matters than the speech from the throne would indicate they have done.

Again I say that we have the potentialities here; we have the resources to create great opportunities for thousands of young Canadians as yet unborn as well as the millions of people who may come here from other lands. We need a fiscal policy that is sound and a taxation policy that will be fair to our different classes. We have to give consideration to the equalization of conditions between us and some of these foreign countries that are producing these cheap products. We should equalize conditions so that the lot of the Canadian farmer will be better. When our population increases as it should increase, then our home market will be worth something to the farmer and to the manufacturer. The mass production to the south should not be allowed to interfere with the market to the degree it has in some cases.

I have no brief for any particular class. Basically, I am a farmer; I believe that the farmers' interests are best served by a sound fiscal policy that will give us a healthy industry and develop our home markets for the farmer. An industrial development will give us thousands more of homes to buy our products. Then, as the units get cheaper we may be able to compete in the markets of the world.

I move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), that the following be added to the address:

We regret that Your Excellency's advisers have failed to take or to recommend the necessary measures:

(a) to retain and expand Canada's markets abroad for our production, particularly of wheat and other products;