

with cabinet positions. The Prime Minister also seemed to resent the imputation that this was a one-man government. I have no doubt he believes he has been consulting his colleagues and that he is not the autocrat that the public think him to be, but while he was making that statement it was very interesting to look across the floor and see the stolid countenance of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and the sickly smile that passed over the face of the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman).

The Prime Minister expressed indignation at being asked to fulfil his promises and pleaded for more time. If the Prime Minister had been more modest in his promises we might have been more modest in our demands, and it is because of the lavishness with which he made those promises, in a spirit almost of irresponsibility, that the country is now demanding that his promises be fulfilled. In illustration of the attitude of the Prime Minister during the whole campaign, I want to read an extract from one of his speeches. Although this has already been placed on Hansard, it is well that the attention of the house should be drawn to it again as indicating the temperament—I will put it in that way—of the Prime Minister. Speaking at Vancouver on January the 8th, he said:

If Mr. Mackenzie King thinks I will not so build up our agricultural and industrial life that its strength will drive our products into the markets of the world, then he is wrong. For that I will do. If he thinks I will not establish new markets for these products, strive with all my heart to retain them, drive our products with all my power into new markets, into old markets, into reluctant markets, he is wrong. For that I will do.

There were other promises made. The hon. Minister of Justice when we met in the short September session, repudiated the statement attributed to him in the Manitoba Free Press, that the Bennett government would cure unemployment in three days, and explained that he did not say that, but what he did say was that in three days the House of Commons could pass legislation which would cure unemployment. Well, even if we accept his revised version, I think we are entitled to ask: Are conditions any better to-day than they were eight months ago? Has the government done anything to fulfil their promise?

Listening to those promises that were made so lavishly by hon. gentlemen opposite in the late campaign, I could not help recalling a very interesting story of an old stage coach driver, who owned a female dog that he valued very highly, and as he travelled

[Mr. Brown.]

along the road he promised one man after another a pup. Finally a passenger remonstrated and asked him how he could expect to carry out his promise. "Oh well," he answered, "it is a pretty mean man who would not promise a fellow a pup." When men go through the country claiming to be miracle-men, when they claim to be able to do something that no reasonable men expect them to do, something that every reasonable man knows they cannot do, they cannot wonder very much if we demand the fulfilment of their promises. The fact is that the country is now demanding the pups, and we have seen no sign of them as yet.

Mr. SPENCE: Give them time to grow.

Mr. BROWN: It is contended in some quarters that the difficulty in the west is purely a matter of psychology. The hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) yesterday undertook to tell us that things were not as bad as they might be, that they might be worse; but, of course, he admitted that they might be better. I am sure that the people of the western provinces will not thank him for placing the situation in the west before the people of the country in that light. There is no question that things are bad. It is all nonsense to say that we have just turned the corner, and that the present conditions are just a matter of psychology. Nothing of the kind. The farmers realize very keenly that they are up against the greatest depression that has ever struck them. The hon. member for Regina is somewhat like the man of the peculiar religious persuasion that holds that disease is all of the mind, and who asked a boy one day how his father was. "He is very sick," the boy replied. "Oh no," replied the man, "he only thinks he is sick." A week later this man asked the boy again how his father was. "Well," the boy replied, "he thinks he is dead." The undertaker thought so too, for he took him away and buried him. I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that some of the farmers will be dead financially before the hon. member for Regina wakes up to the fact that distress does exist in the west.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the chief difficulty lies in the fact of that wide disparity between the prices we receive for the things that we sell and the prices we have to pay for the things that we buy. Already many illustrations of that disparity have been given to the house. We have passed through a period of low prices before. Those of us who have been in the west now for almost half a century know that in the early days prices were low. I can remember when wheat