

those of a younger country, and incidental to its development. Nevertheless, they can be mastered only by coordinated effort which must be based upon a true realization of the causes from which the ills have arisen.

I could quote another declaration made by the same right hon. gentleman on the first day of January, 1931, to a similar effect, namely that while this country has reached a certain state of depression, that while it has suffered somewhat from the reflex action, may I say, of the world crisis, at least we can congratulate ourselves that, as the Prime Minister puts it, our difficulties are the lesser ones, and if we compare Canada with other countries we find ourselves indeed in a very felicitous position. But another statement which is perhaps even more to the point was given by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) to the Annual Financial Review of the Montreal Gazette which is published in the early days of each year. I read there the following under the signature of the Minister of Trade and Commerce:

While the Dominion has been less affected than most other countries, as is evidenced by the comparative position of our securities on the money markets of London and New York—

But which was very little evidenced by the campaign speeches of the Conservative party.

—yet the country has undoubtedly suffered severely from the repercussions of the world situation. The immediate cause of the depression has been a great and disproportionate decline in wholesale prices throughout the world, affecting more particularly the food products and raw materials which we supply in large quantities to other countries.

I could go on for a long time quoting speeches and official declarations to that effect, showing that at last my hon. friends opposite have a certain sense of repentance and that now when they look upon the ill effects of their own campaigns, they are anxious to try to minimize, ameliorate and dissipate as much as they can the effects of their pronouncements of June and July last.

Even in the speech from the throne we have declarations similar to the ones I have just read, coming from the lips of His Excellency the Administrator, but as everyone knows, really emanating from the government. Possibly some hon. gentlemen may think I stress the point too strongly, but really all these declarations are to the effect—it was hard to prove it to the people during the last campaign—not only that the King government was not responsible for the conditions existing in Canada in June and July last, but that if we want to be just to that government

we should give them credit for the fact that in this world-wide crisis Canada was one of the countries less affected, one of the countries able to come through the crisis much better than most of the other countries of the world.

I do not believe in harping too long on what took place some time ago—the election is lost and we must make the best of it—but the point that particularly interests me now is the promise made by hon. gentlemen opposite that they would cure the situation and cure it at once. What do we hear from the Prime Minister himself? What do we hear from every one of the ministers, these great statesmen, these great economists, these marvelous doctors and magicians who were going to spread happiness over the whole of Canada? Has butter sold at sixty cents since they were elected? Have eggs sold at higher prices so that everyone wants to raise them in this country? My hon. friends wanted power. They said: Give us time; we have been in power only six months; we have been in power only eight months. How much more time do my hon. friends want? How long will it take for them to make good their promises to the electors? Will it be six months more? Will it be a year more? Will it be four years more? They do not know; we do not know, and unfortunately the poor electorate does not know either, but the people are just waiting, selling their butter at a cheaper price than it ever sold at before, selling their eggs for less than they ever before obtained for them, and generally enduring conditions that have not been improved, but that in many parts of the country are worse than they were previously. I suppose after two or three years have passed, in the ordinary trend of events and the normal evolution of business conditions throughout the world this country, notwithstanding the fact that my hon. friends are in power, will again reach the point it had attained two or three years ago, and then my hon. friends will say: We have done it; give us credit for it; we have cured the evil, not at once, but it cured itself without our aid. Give us credit for it. We have at last redeemed our election promises.

My hon. friends opposite are prone to say that they made good their promise to convene a special emergency session during the month of September last. The convening of that special session would be what I would call, Mr. Speaker, redeeming the letter of their promise. As a matter of fact, I fully share the stand taken by my hon. leader that it was quite unnecessary to have a special emergency session merely for the purpose