

ping back to the old order—the order of unemployment, the order of low prices, the order of insufficient food and the other evil things which were the lot of hundreds of thousands of men and women who suffered during the depression years, under the so-called achievements of a free economy.

I am going to remind the Minister of Justice of something. In 1935 he was a member of a royal commission which investigated conditions in Canada which had developed through the years, and manifested themselves during the depression. That commission on price spreads issued a report which was signed by W. W. Kennedy, Chairman, and by H. H. Stevens, J. L. Baribeau, Thomas Bell, O. L. Boulanger, A. M. Edwards, Samuel Factor, James L. Ilsley, D. M. Kennedy and Mark Senn.

There are only two of the signers of that report now in the house. Before the Minister of Justice rises to correct me, let me point out that he, along with three other Liberals, dissented from some of the findings. Nevertheless he put his name to the report. I shall read briefly from it to indicate the free economy to which the government is to bring us. At page 5 I find this:

The depression has furthermore demonstrated that the strong and the organized are attaining an ever-increasing position of dominance in our economic life, that economic power is becoming concentrated. With this concentration old theories of economic control are proving inadequate.

I will tell my hon. friends that the concentration they observed in 1935 has made considerable progress in the twelve years since then. And what was bad in 1935, what was oppressing the people then, is much worse in 1947.

Then, turning to page 6 I find this:

Fundamentally the problems which confronted the commission are those of a transitional economy in which simple competition still prevailed in some parts, monopoly had succeeded it in others, and monopolistic or imperfect competition characterized the rest.

There is not much of free economy there. Quoting again from page 9 of the main report:

It is, furthermore, a tragic delusion that the solution for these economic problems can be left to automatic forces—

Automatic forces are the regulators in a free economy; do not let us forget that.

It goes on:

—because the conditions which once permitted the easy and equitable operation of such forces have ceased to exist.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Then at the bottom of the page I find this:

From 1929 to 1933 farm prices fell 50 per cent but the production of farm crops actually increased 4 per cent. This is "simple competition"—

One would almost say, with simple people taking part in it.

—with flexible prices. On the other hand the prices of agricultural machinery and implements were allowed to fall less than 7 per cent, but their production in number of physical units decreased as much as 91 per cent.

That is the world in which we are living today; only it is much more so now than it was in 1935. What nonsense to talk about going back to a free economy, something that does not exist and has not existed for a good many years!

I have here some of the literature issued by the national Liberal federation during the election campaign of 1945. This particular leaflet was used in the election of the present Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton). It is not badly got up. The title on the front in large letters is, "Building a new social order in Canada". That was in 1945. Now in 1947 we are going back to a free economy. I find in this leaflet several quotations from the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). Here is one:

... we intend to see that the new order expresses a new social concept altogether of industry as being in the nature of social service and the obligations and rewards that grow out of that conception.

Is there any suggestion by my hon. friends opposite that today we are planning to make industry a social service? No. Industry today is just as much a profit-making cut-throat system in so far as it is competitive, and an exploiting system as it ever was.

Here is another election leaflet which was used in the election of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell). It has the same title; only in this case it is at the bottom of the page instead of at the top. Whether that signifies anything I do not know. The title again is, "Building a new social order in Canada". On the back page I find more quotations from the Prime Minister. Here is one:

Next to the fear of war the greatest fear today to most men is the fear of unemployment. It is one of the bitter ironies of our time that full employment has been achieved only as the result of war.

When I have mentioned that in this house I have heard groans. But the statement is correct. We have had two periods of full employment in this country in my time, and in both of those periods we were at war. The quotation continues: