

of life and in that way we will overcome two of the greatest obstacles confronting us to-day, one the lack of markets and the other, over-production. In that way we would increase markets instead of trying to steal them from each other. I submit that is more like the ultimate solution than building up a favourable trade balance and hoping and praying that the other fellows will not have brains enough to do the same thing.

I was very much impressed by the opening remarks of the Prime Minister when he told us with almost bated breath that we were in the midst of a world crisis, how solemn, how serious the condition was, what a strain it was upon the government, what long hours it entailed and what a serious condition confronted them. Yet, sir, that impression was rather dissipated later on when I found that, in spite of this world crisis, the Prime Minister of all Canada had time to condescend or shall I say, to descend to discuss at considerable length such a petty matter as a supposed organizer of the Liberal party, a matter which surely is one entirely concerning the Liberal party and no one else. I was listening, expecting to hear him reveal next the source from which I buy my milk or to whom I sell my potatoes. There was also an attempt made, somewhat unworthy, I think, to fasten upon the supposed organizer some propaganda that had been picked up somewhere and an effort made to connect it up with the Liberal party, which was exploded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), who announced it had been published months ago and was the propaganda of a society which had no connection with the Liberal party or with Mr. Massey. If those are the matters that engage us in this serious crisis, perhaps it is not so serious, or else it is not being taken in the right spirit. That is all I have the time to discuss in connection with the remarks of the right hon. gentleman.

I was going to remark in rising that I was refused three minutes yesterday and I shall take forty minutes to-day. I should like to make just a few remarks—and very few will suffice—to answer the observations made last night by the hon. member for Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Plunkett). The situation as regards the relief condition in British Columbia is very simple. A committee of the house was appointed to investigate it, there being seven Conservatives and four Liberals on that committee. The whole and obvious purpose of the investigation was, as I told the house, when speaking here on March 1, to whitewash

[Mr. Neill.]

the government. That was achieved in abundant measure, pressed down and running over. The whitewash was put on so thick that for a moment it almost concealed the truth and the facts. But whitewash is a powder and it needs to be mixed with some liquid. Instead of the liquid of truth, they used the slime of political expediency. Then when the air and sun of popular opinion got at it, the slime evaporated and the powder blew away and revealed the dark, damning facts as black as ever they were before.

Much comment was made regarding a gentleman called Major H. Brown, in Vancouver, who dared to be a Daniel, who dared to stand, not alone, as he has many friends, but aloof from his party friends and to say that the whole proceeding of the investigation was a farce, which, indeed, is the fact. I may say he is a very reputable citizen, president of the board of trade and manager of a big steamship company. This is my comment on Major Brown:

Major Brown in saying his say, and in standing by his guns when challenged, acted the part of a good citizen. In speaking as he did, he was merely giving voice to the thoughts and suspicions which have been turning over and over in the minds of scores of thousands of British Columbia people during the past weeks. Mr. Brown was making public opinion articulate, and in censuring him the members of the legislature merely passed a vote of censure on a very large number of their constituents.

I said that those sentiments are mine, and so they are, but I have merely adopted them from an editorial in the Vancouver Province from an extract which I have read word for word. That newspaper is taking a broad and timely stand in this matter. I am not going to say any more on the subject; I am satisfied to leave it to the people of British Columbia, each in his respective district, who, I am aware, know the facts and who, I am equally assured, will remember them.

The hon. member for Victoria dug up a couple of cases of fraud with an insinuation or suggestion that this was quite common among the idle men. To cite the cases of two out of 30,000, 40,000, or perhaps 50,000 men is not a very conclusive argument; but why did he not tell the house of the waste of thousands and tens of thousands of dollars on the road foremen, and straw bosses, who by reason of their political affiliation were given big wages, men well fixed and comfortably off, some of them employing men at home on their farms and getting wages running from \$8 to \$10 a day, this meaning simply that so many more destitute men had to go without work on account of the large