

ensure the interest which we do undertake to pay, that we have leaned toward such extreme measures as in some respects we have taken in Alberta. What further could they possibly have done? What further could any government, be it Liberal, Conservative, U.F.A., C.C.F. or any other brand, have done? What could be done if a new government were elected?

Now let me deal for a few minutes with what Alberta needs. I quote again from the bank's report:

The revenue and capital receipts anticipated for 1937-38 will be sufficient to cover all ordinary expenditures, all capital expenditures, and the province's share of unemployment relief costs.

It then goes on to say:

We find that Alberta can maintain its governmental services on a favourable basis as Manitoba or Saskatchewan without receipt of additional assistance.

Right here a mistake has been made in the bank's report. The author of the report has assumed that the new budget has functioned until it has produced results; which is not so, for the new budget is not yet passed. What we must have is sufficient to carry on with until the new budget begins to function. Alberta might be able to supply her own needs after her new taxes begin to yield revenue; but she needs money now. If that money is denied, she will suffer. This point should be brought to the attention of all hon. members. The reduction of the interest rate is not helping people as individuals in Alberta. By that I mean it is not helping the farmer to put in his crop or to supply the needs of life; it is a financial consideration of the government. It is not helping the people individually; it is helping the financial position of the government. If we deny Alberta the assistance she asks for, we shall injure the people themselves, who, according to every standard by which you can measure men and women, have done the best that lay in their power to get themselves honourably out of the debt situation in which they have unfortunately been placed.

Now whence is Alberta to get the money? She must get that money from the federal government. There will be many people, as there already have been throughout this country, who will say: Yes, Alberta comes to us and asks for Canada's money. As though Alberta were not a part of Canada! But the people of Alberta have been paying revenue to the government of Canada. These many years, they have been paying their full share of the tariff levies, amounting to perhaps \$19,000,000 a year more than they are getting out of the tariff directly. Alberta has been paying her full share of the excise levies, the

levy on sugar, on matches, on wines, on toilet preparations, toilet soaps, cigars, and so on up to the full limit of the twenty-two items listed in the return given to the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) on January 28 last, sessional paper 125. Alberta has contributed the money under these items just as much as the people of any other part of the country. When she asks for a share of that money back, she is asking only for what she has a just right to. And she is asking it of the government to which the money was paid. She pays her full share of the dominion sales tax, of the revenue from stamps, and many other items of revenue which are collected regularly in this country. To the federal government the people of Alberta must look for protection from depressions. It may be argued that the depression is beyond the power of any government to deal with, but if any government is to deal with depression at the present time, it must be this dominion government. She has to look to this government, which should be her protector against discrimination in regard to price spreads, which are onerous indeed in their effect upon a province producing mainly primary products. To whom can she possibly go for assistance if not to this government; and who in justice can deny such a request?

There is one more point that should be borne in mind. The money which Alberta has saved by cutting down the interest on her bonds is going to help that province pay her relief costs, and to that extent it is relieving this government of a certain portion of its burden. If that is not so, I am subject to correction.

Considering the fact that a careful review of the financial history of Alberta shows that the main causes of Alberta's troubles developed between 1905 and 1922; remembering the further fact that the present government of Alberta is in no way responsible for the deplorable conditions that had come into existence in that province by 1935; bearing in mind that the present government has ably, earnestly and honestly striven to check the growth of debt in Alberta, surely every hon. member must find that there is being rapidly dispelled from his mind any predisposition he may have had against the Aberhart government. And there are other matters we must not forget. The present economic system is breaking down. Debts are becoming intolerable, yet they continue dangerously to increase. We must find a way out. Who can be sure social credit is not that way out? We believe it is. Certainly he is unwise who obstructs the development of social credit, and the government that obstructs that development will be unwise also.