

One hears talk to the effect that people, all of whom were formerly supporters of the government in power, have started a movement for secession from the rest of Canada. Personally I cannot blame them; and if the treatment our producers are receiving is continued, more will be heard of this proposal.

It only remains for me to register the strongest protest I can against the way in which the ceiling on the price of oats and barley was removed. Had this been done before harvest it might have been less objectionable. But what happened was that, while one farmer secured a carload or two of feed at 52 cents a bushel, his neighbour, expecting that he would have time to buy feed for his hogs at approximately the same price, suddenly found the cost of feed increased by 40 cents a bushel. As a result of this action of the government there is anything but harmony in western Canada. I do not know whether it is intended to hold an election in the early future, but perhaps an election would clear the air.

In conclusion, may I say that I do not want any more fun poked at me regarding my views on the tariff: I have never believed in a tariff excepting in so far as it was to the advantage of this country. I, too, recall the election of 1911, and I am sorry I have not at hand a schedule to show what the proposals amounted to. I have seen it; moreover, I have been told that it was merely a scheme to remove protection from the bad Tories and give it to the Liberals.

We in the West want a fair deal, and I do not think that under this government we can get it.

Hon. G. P. BURCHILL: Honourable senators, it was not my intention to make any contribution to this debate, but after listening to the tone of the address of the honourable leader of the opposition, I decided that something would have to be said on behalf of other sections of Canada. The impression which he sought to leave with this chamber is certainly not reflected in the conditions in the part of Canada with which I am familiar, and I am going to ask the indulgence of the house while I make a few observations regarding conditions as they are in the Maritimes.

If this chamber is to make an intelligent appraisal of the nation's well-being generally across the country, there must be made available to it information from all the many sections of this country's varied economy. My own impression is that it is not the producer or the businessman who is suffering today, but the salaried man, who is being squeezed

at the moment by greatly increased costs of living. With the exception of that group, a survey would show conditions generally sound and prosperous, a lot of money in circulation, business planning expansions in many directions, employment at high levels, and the people generally, busy and optimistic—perhaps too much so.

After the events of the past six years, with the dislocation of normal trade channels and the happenings in other countries of the world of which we read in our daily newspapers, I submit that it is a matter for happy congratulations, pride, and thankfulness as Canadians, that this country is so buoyant and that living conditions are as satisfactory as they are. I am not minimizing the problems that exist, or pretending that no mistakes have been made. What man of affairs today in private transactions will not agree that under the uncertainty of present world conditions it is almost impossible to make plans or decisions regarding the future. On the contrary, the prudent businessman protects himself in his commitments, if he can, against hazards which no one can foresee at the moment. So it is with the policies of a government, which are also at the mercy of government policies or strategies in other countries; and solutions which appear adequate today are not sufficient to meet tomorrow's situation. A story is told of a gentleman who, in visiting a hospital, came across a patient whose head and hands were bandaged. Struck by his appearance, he said, "What happened to you?" "Oh," said the patient, "I am in a terrible state. I tried to jump through a plate-glass window." The visitor said, "Tried to jump through a plate-glass window! Why did you do that?" "Well," said the patient, "I thought it was the best thing to do, at the time." I consider, in the light of today's world problems, that a great many things have been done in Canada which were considered to be "the best at the time".

On my way to Ottawa I fell into conversation with a world traveller who had just returned to Canada after visiting many different countries. As he told me of conditions in India, Egypt, France, England and other countries he had visited, and expressed his happiness upon returning to Canadian soil and at the conditions he found here, he remarked that, in comparison with what he saw in other countries, our troubles in Canada were so trivial that he thought we should have a national day of thanksgiving to God for our blessings.

Yes, there may have been mistakes, but if there have been, Canada has survived them; and while paying my tribute to the character