

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE: Hear, hear.

Mr. FOURNIER: If our civilization threatens to become synonymous with depression and misery, it is probably because it has called up more problems than it could solve; and the great error of the government which preceded the present one was to believe itself capable of solving them all at once and in a short time. Time has worked its revenge upon those who would proceed without its aid and, to-day, everything has to be begun all over again.

Among the problems that we are faced with to-day, the most important and most urgent one, to my mind, is the economic problem. The speech from the throne announces the government's determination to facilitate, in an effective manner, the economic recovery of the country in every sphere of activity, while taking into consideration all requirements of a natural, economic, social and political order.

The natural order requires that nations have economic relations with each other; that is why, I believe, they have invented and are constantly improving their methods of production and their means of communication and distribution.

Commerce has ever been the livelihood of peoples, a universal provider of employment, a valuable source of revenue for the state, as well as a serious guarantee of peace and prosperity. This theory is not a dream of things that are to come; it has borne the test of time and has become truer than ever. Prosperous years are always attended by great economic activity.

The treaty of reciprocity which the dominion government has just concluded with the United States the settlement of our difficulties with Japan and the negotiations which the government intends entering upon with other countries are steps that cannot but produce good results and that prove the perfect agreement to be found between what is said and what is done on the Liberal side of the house.

(Text) The government, Mr. Speaker, understands that if we want to keep Canada busy, if we want to realize that most marvellous formula of the Conservatives, "Canada First," the first thing we have to do is to step on business and do business with everyone who wants to do business fairly with us. This is the very condition on which we shall succeed in finding the proper solution of most of our national problems—unemployment, railways, trade and commerce, revenues and taxation, and so forth. And to make it easier and safe, as the speech from the throne indicates, the government is providing for the organization of the national

condition on which we shall succeed in finding of Canada a national institution.

(Translation). But it would be truly regrettable, Mr. Speaker, that the government's efforts to insure increasing welfare to the population should redound to the exclusive advantage of a group of individuals who have no need of them. The government is guarding against this danger by warning all shameless exploiters that it will use the power of the state whenever it may become necessary to do so to protect the interests of the weak against the encroachments of the powerful. For its courageous and timely intervention in that regard, it deserves special congratulations.

Why should there be so much misery in the world at this time when the only change in the quantity and quality of goods has been for the better?

It is because too many of those who monopolize production and distribution commit grave abuses which they should hasten to correct, because to-morrow, should the misery that has existed in this country for five years continue, it will be too late; and that to-morrow is perhaps nearer at hand than we think it is.

It is not the government that threatens, it is circumstances that warn—circumstances that could easily be dispelled by the good will of those who create them if they would refrain from abusing the liberties provided for them by the system, if they would moderate their thirst for profit, if they would declare to the state their total income and pay to the treasury all they owe in taxes, in order that others may not have to pay in their stead; if they would be content with moderate profits, if they would pay reasonable salaries to their employees, in a word, if, instead of seeking power and admiration, they tried to make themselves better liked. It would be an honourable sacrifice, and I ask it of them in the name of the youth of my country; for if there is in our society at the present time a class of people who are to be pitied, it is the young people. The past has left them practically nothing but debts and obligations, and their future outlook is not much better. Most of them do not know what to do with their time. They stand before life mistrustful of everything, with nothing to hope for, somewhat as if they found themselves at the brink of a river waiting for it to dry up in order to cross it. We follow a generation that has done great things, but that has made serious mistakes, the most memorable of which is a war, a war, as some one has said, in which "man almost lost his name of man," a war that was more costly