

upon the efforts which they made in moving and seconding the address? Unfortunately I do not understand the French language; consequently I could follow only a portion of the address of the mover yesterday. I did, however, appreciate the remarks of the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Barber). Having in mind the fact that he had only a very slim foundation upon which to build a speech, may I congratulate the hon. member upon his efforts?

I should also like to take this opportunity of congratulating the hon. member for Toronto East Centre (Mr. Matthews) upon his elevation to a position in the cabinet. The department over which he presides I am sure he will find a very strenuous one, and I wish him every success in his direction of it.

Before I discuss the speech from the throne I desire to say a few words with regard to a statement that was made by the leader of the opposition yesterday in regard to the former member for Mackenzie, Mr. Milton Campbell. It will be remembered that the leader of the opposition took a great deal of delight out of the fact that in the recent by-elections all the members returned to this house had been Liberals, and speaking of the former member for Mackenzie the right hon. gentleman stated that he was a former Conservative C.C.F. member of this house. I think that that was a very unfair and very unjust statement for the leader of the opposition to make. In the first place the former member for Mackenzie was not a Conservative, and in the second place, so far as I am aware, I am not sure that he ever was a member of an organization affiliated with the C.C.F. Consequently under those circumstances it is indeed unfortunate that the leader of the opposition should have made the statement that he did. As a matter of fact the former member for Mackenzie was elected in 1921 as a Progressive, and in the elections of 1925, 1926 and 1930 he was again returned as a Progressive. So far as I know, he not only entered this house as a Progressive but also left this house as a Progressive.

I wish now to discuss some of the items in the speech from the throne. The very first paragraph in the speech states that Canada is to be congratulated upon her expanding trade, improving revenues, increasing employment and a more confident outlook upon the future. From the figures given by the leader of the opposition yesterday it would appear that this statement in the speech from the

throne was not altogether correct, but when we take into consideration the figures, and the further information which the Prime Minister gave to-day, it would appear that there is some doubt as to just where the truth lies.

If there is an improvement in this country no one will appreciate it more than myself. I am not one of those who are imbued with pessimism; I am looking forward to the time when there will be some easing in the situation in so far as the conditions which have existed for the last four years are concerned. But I wish to take exception to the last sentence in this paragraph which states:

Canada occupies a leading position amongst those countries where the evidence of a return to permanent prosperity is most convincing.

Whoever was responsible for the insertion of the word "permanent" in that sentence had no regard for economic conditions as they have existed in the past and as they will exist in the future. So long as the profit system remains there can be no permanent prosperity. It would be well for hon. members of this house to recognize that fact. From the beginning of the industrial era right down to the present time we have had swings of prosperity and of depression. In later years the periods of prosperity have become shorter than on former occasions, while the periods of depression have lengthened. I take exception to that word "permanent," and point out to the house that under the profit system there is no possibility of permanent prosperity. If I have time, I shall return to this point later on in my address.

The next paragraph to which I shall refer is in connection with the prices of agricultural products. It is quite true that these prices have increased somewhat and I am sure that every hon. member appreciates that fact. It is quite evident that so long as the purchasing power of the agriculturist is almost non-existent, other industries and professions cannot attain any great prosperity. Therefore, we hope that this price increase will continue for a considerable time.

I should like to say just a word with regard to the last sentence in this paragraph, which reads:

You will be invited to consider legislation designed to facilitate the efficient and profitable marketing of live stock and agricultural products.

So far as agriculture is concerned, I believe that that sentence is the most important one in the whole speech from the throne. For years we in this corner of the chamber have