

under section 91 of the British North America Act. They are in charge of the tariff, the banking laws, the transportation laws, the immigration laws and are responsible for the exodus of Canadians from Canada; and the blame for the present condition of unemployment rests on the federal government. Instead of the government dealing with this problem, they say nothing about it in the speech from the throne. They are not ready to go as far as they did years ago when they were prepared to pay one-third of the cost of unemployment relief, the provinces and municipalities to pay the rest of the cost. It is all very well for them to make a football out of it. The responsibility is with the Dominion government of the day to see that the people of Canada do not suffer, to see that some remedial legislation is introduced into the House. I regret to observe, however, that no such amendment for the benefit of the worker has been mentioned in the speech. Parliament has legislated for the benefit of the trusts and combines, the bankers' association, the railways and others, but when it comes down to a question of doing something for the unemployed in the urban centres of population, the government is content with a policy of drift, and will do nothing to try to remove the burden from the working classes of this country. The first duty of a government is to look after the health and condition of its people.

It was charged in this House last session and the session before that the Conservative party was the servant of the big interests in Canada. I have some speeches of the Prime Minister made in the country to this effect. I say that the Conservative party serve no big interests in this country, I can speak for myself. Personally I do not serve any big interest, and some of us have suffered in the battle against the big interests and are prepared to suffer again in defence of public rights against these same interests. The speech from the throne should have announced some social legislation to redress the grievances of the people who are suffering from the terrible disease of unemployment. In England the Prime Minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, although a Conservative, is an advanced radical regarding the solution of this unemployment question and also regarding the solution of other social questions. He has been content to apply a measure of protection to help the coal and great ship-building and steel industries weather the storm, by subsidies, subventions and protection, and in that way to help the working classes. But to-day unemployment in this country is a political football in the hands

[Mr. Church.]

of the government. It is all very well to send an envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to Washington. I like and have the utmost regard and respect for the hon. gentleman personally and wish him well, but I will oppose on principle the granting of one dollar for the opening of an office in Washington while thousands of Canadians have to go to the United States as ambassadors to try to get a living there that they are denied in the country for which they fought. Apparently all the government can do to relieve unemployment is to give a lot of politicians jobs as ambassadors in Berlin, in Pekin, in Constantinople and in all the other capitals of the countries washed by the seven seas. A modern Shakespearian quotation would read:

Regions Caesar never knew
Kings' ambassadors shall know,
Where his Eagles never flew.

A few favorite Canadians are to be appointed ambassadors at the public expense, while other Canadians have to go as ambassadors at their own expense to search in a foreign land for the jobs that they cannot find in their own country. Many of them returned men who fought for Canada in the Great war, at the hazard of their lives.

The great industrial system of the United States was built up on the principle of protection and solved unemployment. Nero never fiddled while Rome burned the way this government is fiddling in appointing a tariff commission to solve the economic problems of this country. The tariff is not a party question, it is a matter of economics that concerns our farmers and toilers in the various centres of population. But instead of announcing in the speech from the throne some measure of protection and safeguarding legislation that would solve our economic ills, nothing is being done by the government to relieve our unemployed who are asking for a job that they may get bread. Many industries are closed up altogether, others are working only 50 per cent, and even the great agricultural industry of the west is suffering.

If one industry in this country should be protected it is the grain growing industry. It is not a north and south industry; it is an east and west industry and an oversea industry to the markets of Britain and Europe.

I can tell the Minister of Immigration that his ideas of filling up the west are all wrong. As a specialist in filling up the United States the minister can point with pride to the result his policy has achieved in driving Canadians away from their own country to seek jobs in a foreign land. As a would-be