

The Address—Mr. Kellner

We do not ask for independence or closer legislative union, but the right to work out our own destiny, with Canada taking a leading part in that galaxy of nations that will forever surround the British throne.

It is not by lip loyalty that we shall retain our attachment to the Old Land. We must show ourselves capable of shouldering the responsibility which devolves from that independence which we have. For

Whilst the language, whilst the arts
That mould a nation's soul
Still cling around our hearts,
And between, let oceans roll
Our joint communion, breaking with the sun.
But still from either beach,
The voice of blood shall reach
More audible than speech,
We are one.

Mr. D. F. KELLNER (East Edmonton): As a representative of one of the constituencies which were honoured with a visit from Their Excellencies last summer, I am glad to know that our poor efforts at hospitality were appreciated. Before I say anything further, Mr. Speaker, I would tender a word of commendation to the mover of the Address (Mr. Putnam). Unfortunately, I cannot do the same so far as the seconder is concerned, for I do not understand his language. I was just a little bit surprised at the tenor of the address of the hon. member for Hants (Mr. Martell). That hon. member devoted himself particularly to a criticism of the Progressives for their attitude towards the two old parties. While I listened the other afternoon to the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) in his very brilliant address, it occurred to me that the right hon. gentleman endeavoured to prove to the House that the present administration are incompetent, unreliable and unfit for office. I think you will agree that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) came right back. He claimed that in any instance where the present government had failed, it was because of some hopeless and impossible policy which had been wished upon them by the past administration; and he emphasized the fact that his government had done all that could reasonably have been hoped for, so far as anything they had personally undertaken was concerned. He also tells us that we are criticising the government.

Well, if the claim is advanced that both governments have been as good as could have been expected, it seems to me that no one will deny the truth of the statement that, in spite of this claim, Canada to-day is in a worse condition than it has ever been before. I believe that the rank and file of the people are finding it harder to get the necessaries of life than they have ever done at any

[Mr. Martell.]

previous stage in the country's history. However, I am not one of those who blame either the present or the past government for this. I think they both largely follow the same policy; their course is to a great extent dictated from the same sources, and the results would be much the same, regardless of what party might be in power. The present state of affairs, in my opinion, is due to the culmination of an impossible, a false, and an unfair fiscal policy; and I sometimes think that we take rather a short-sighted view of the situation when we go back only to the years of the war to get an angle from which to draw our conclusions regarding present conditions.

In order to understand the present situation correctly, we should go back over a period of about forty years to what might be termed the inauguration of the industrial epoch. At that time, practically throughout the English speaking world, a new method of business was being introduced. New machines were invented, expert mechanics were contriving devices for expediting commerce, railroads and transportation companies were extending their activities, agriculture took on a new impetus, with improved machinery to replace the old and worn out systems of production. The result was an increase in production in many ways. At the same time there sprang into being a large number of financial institutions to finance these increased operations. Now, I believe that these financial institutions had a dual purpose to perform. It was necessary for them to organize and build up their own business, and it was necessary for them also at least to look after the credit standing of those to whom they were lending money. The result was that early in the game, if one may so refer to this development, it was realized that if competition went on to its logical conclusion many of these financial institutions would be ruined. They therefore encouraged the system of fixing prices in order to eliminate competition; and to-day, in consequence of this price fixing, we have a spread between the cost of manufactured goods and their selling price which is perhaps greater than it has ever been before in the history of the world.

No doubt this is a topic that has been largely dwelt upon by previous speakers, so I will not do more than cite one instance in this connection. Recently in the city of Edmonton a farmer brought four horses to market, and there was no doubt that they were good horses, the kind which the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) tells us ought to fetch good prices. The auctioneer brought out the first two, and