

relief. But everywhere about me as I travel around this country—and I have travelled over it twice this year with that object and others in view—I have heard, in places, where I did not expect to hear it, a tale of pessimism and despair that I find difficult to understand, and of poverty that I believe we can conquer if we have the will to do it. I do not believe we are so bereft of statecraft, of courage and of enterprise that we cannot do it.

There is another point, and it is a vital one just now. There is no recurring depression in sight, but depressions move in cycles and with rapidity. We know what happened in the United States. We have seen its reactions in curtailed exports in November and December, and I doubt not we will again see in January, with, of course, the consequent reductions in revenue. But what are we doing to prepare ourselves to meet such a situation when it comes.

I have travelled about the British Empire in the last two years and have been struck with what has been done in other parts of the commonwealth to deal with these problems. It is true that conditions are different in each dominion, and what is true in one cannot be said to be true in another. It is true that the conditions which prevail in Australia do not necessarily prevail here. But when I studied the way in which they dealt with these matters, notwithstanding that they depreciated the value of their pound to \$4, I realized, as those who have read Professor Copland's report, or The Fight of the Plans, must realize, that in that dominion they faced the problem with courage. Surely we have the same courage. Some people say, "Look at what is being accomplished to-day in New Zealand." Well, I shall not discuss that because there was a deficit there last year despite all their efforts to the contrary. In South Africa we find an abnormal condition, that country being extremely rich in gold. I realize, therefore, that differences exist in the various parts of the empire. But I am convinced that there are methods which might be resorted to, even though they might be experiments, that are worthy of the consideration of the Canadian people; and I believe that if the government took a strong lead with respect to these and commanded, as they would command, the support of men in every part of the house, they would be amazed at the results that would follow.

I know the difficulties that men are experiencing in understanding problems connected with monetary policy. Every day someone asks me questions with regard to monetary problems. When the Prime Minister was appealing to the people of the coun-

try, what was it he said he was going to do? He was going to wage a great battle against the money power. That was his statement. I did not make that statement; it was his. Well, even the most violent partisan will find it difficult to-day to discover the field of activities, to locate the terrain in which that war is being carried on. And there is no emulation here of the Japanese, because here we have not a war without declaration; there has been a declaration, but I have not seen any sign of hostilities.

We remember the occasion on which the British delegation was here in 1932, and I have no doubt most hon. members have read the reports of the speeches made at that time by Mr. Chamberlain, and by the representatives of India and other parts of the British Empire. In 1933 we saw the same thing—and always, running through it all, there was the idea that something should be done whereby conditions would be in some degree improved. But what are we doing about it? Is export trade going to bring about the improvement? Well, we have had a very heavy export trade, and I am sure the Minister of Labour is saddened when he looks at the numbers on relief, and the numbers receiving assistance from the state.

Mr. ROGERS: There has been a very great improvement.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly there has; otherwise the country would be relieved out of existence. But there has been no improvement in the last two months; there are eighty thousand more unemployed to-day than there were a month ago.

Mr. ROGERS: That is explained largely by the seasonal decline.

Mr. BENNETT: But there has been always a seasonal decline; this is not a new season, 1938, that has come about especially for the Liberal party. The hon. gentleman would no doubt say:

Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York.

At any rate we have always had a seasonal decline. But is there anything that this parliament can do? Are we incapable of making progress in monetary reform? Are we incapable of progress in relation to security? What does lack of security mean? I read the other day that the president of the Board of Trade in England had made this statement, that no longer were English people worried about ownership, but only about the question of security. What about labour? What about the conditions that exist in the markets in the United States? What we have to face is lack of certainty—insecurity. That applies every-