

3. Adjust consumption to income and earnings. Many of us are still maintaining an inflated standard of living, which must be deflated.

4. Get rid of much hampering legislation.

5. Adjust wage scales in harmony with the other eliminations of maladjustments. Since 1914 the cost of living has increased by about 40 per cent, while wages have been more than doubled, so that workmen, if on full time, are actually obtaining an advantage by the depression. The income that is necessary to encourage the co-operation of capital and to induce business enterprise to function is unduly reduced. Then industry as a whole suffers, including the workmen themselves.

It goes without saying that unavoidable economic suffering must be relieved, and we must all be prepared to contribute within our means to a large amount of charitable work which will have to be carried on during the next few months. This, however, should for the most part be regarded as a local and temporary expedient. The fundamental thing is to promote efficiency, encourage the readjustment in commodity prices, and restore the balance between consumption and production. Through such processes we have always recovered from depressions in the past.

Hon. N. A. BELCOURT: Honourable members, may I crave the indulgence of the House while I follow rather closely the notes that I have prepared on the subject that we are now discussing. I am constrained to do so because, unlike wine, my memory is not improving with age, and because I wish to avoid repetitions and redundancies.

The economic conditions of the world, which since, and mainly because of, the World War, have been getting worse and worse, and have now reached the present depressing, alarming and for some almost hopeless stage, have compelled and must continue to have the most earnest, keen and anxious consideration of both the statesman and the man on the street all over the world.

The distressing picture exposed to the universe at large is made up of universal depression, mass unemployment, national deficits (even France expects for the year 1932 the largest deficit in the last fifty years), financial collapse, disquieting contrasts between colossal wealth and poverty, of egotistic and ever grasping capitalism and insecure and anxious employment. Considerations of justice to humanity and solidarity between individuals and nations have been ignored, or deliberately cast aside to make way for gross materialism and purely selfish interests. The

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logical and equitable conduct of affairs—international, national and even domestic—has become greatly hindered and in many instances rendered almost impossible, because of fear, envy, greed, mistrust and jealousy, because of the dominating selfishness of individual, class and nation.

The world is floundering among conflicting remedies suggested for the solution of its ills. Never before have there existed so much unrest and anxiety. The expenditure on war armaments has increased more than fifty per cent over what it was before the Great War. For the past or future wars, out of every dollar appropriated in the budget, there is an expenditure of 70 cents in the United States, 65 cents in Great Britain, and 69 cents in France. Many, in fact, think that the fate of modern civilization is really involved. No doubt the present situation cannot be long continued without the gravest consequences.

Any relief or remedy to the present situation, whether temporary or permanent, and especially if it is to be permanent, must be, in my view, of a world-wide character, which I may describe in the one word, democratic—internationally democratic. I mean that such remedy must be one acceptable to, and susceptible of gradual application by, nations individually and by all collectively, subject, of course, to such modifications as local interests or conditions may require or permit. The evil is not merely domestic or national, it is world-wide; the remedies must be sought and applied in each national domain and extended internationally in so far and as soon as that is possible. The responsibility for the present depression rests upon each of the contemporary nations, and upon all of them collectively. The world is economically, socially and politically very ill. Its return to normal health will require long, radical, and sustained treatment.

Modern science, its discoveries and applications in practically suppressing time and distance, have brought the peoples of the earth much nearer to one another, rendered their relations much more frequent, intimate and interdependent, and tightened their bonds and their solidarity. The amazingly rapid extension of mechanical development has radically altered all industrial activities regarding production, transportation and distribution. It would be utterly futile to attempt to arrest that development, and it would be folly. Readjustment, co-ordination and regulation, nationally and internationally, conceived and achieved in good-will and restored mutual confidence, will relieve world depression.