

I want to say to honourable members of this House, and through them to the people of Eastern Canada, that that situation must be faced if the problem is to be solved. Otherwise the West is going to be bankrupt. What are the facts? For seven years there has been no crop in that country. The story is told that the clerk in the municipal office of the city of Regina one windy day put his nose out and said, "I think that is the municipality of High River going by." When he went out the next day he said, "No; it is the municipality of Calgary." He could tell by the smell. As a result of drought, grasshoppers, or rust, the people have lost all confidence.

How does that affect Eastern Canada? It affects Eastern Canada in one of two ways. Let me give an illustration. A man had 4,000 bushels of wheat, which he was going to sell at 85 cents a bushel. In a moment of weakness I advised him to hold. He did, and he sold his wheat at \$1.25 and made \$1,600. What did he do with the money? He spent \$600 on buying things for the house—furniture, dishes, and so on—and clothes for himself, his wife and his boys and girls. Nearly all that money went into goods that were manufactured in Eastern Canada. That shows how the East is affected.

Now, honourable members, what can we do to solve the problem of debt? I notice that Sir John Aird, until recently president of the Bank of Commerce, and Mr. Wilson, managing director of the Royal Bank, and a number of other men who have connections in the West say that we require an investigation, such as was made in the Maritime Provinces, for the purpose of finding out what are the facts, and of acting upon those facts. The repudiation of debt is a thing that grows. We know the history of unemployment in the United States. At first men or women did not like to go on relief; then they went on relief, and finally they began demanding certain things. It is the same with debt. When a farmer in Alberta says, "I am not going to pay my debt—the Government will protect me," you may depend upon it that the farmers of Saskatchewan and Manitoba will be demanding the same protection. They say, "We shall get more reduction if we hold out." The sooner the situation is faced the better for Canada.

I say to the honourable leader of the Government in this House, with all respect, that his Government is wrong in anticipating that the problem will be solved through increase of trade. It will not. The province of Manitoba last year was behind \$4,000,000, and everybody in that province was taxed

to the limit. Some of the honourable members of this House have just received notice of the taxes, and they will get more.

Hon. Mr. MULLINS: One is enough.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: The honourable senator from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Mullins) says one is enough. They will get more. Although everything has been taxed to the limit, the province has failed by \$3,800,000 to meet its debt.

I ask the Government to investigate this matter. I admit that once you put a commission to work to investigate you are to all intents and purposes bound to accept its report. If Alberta fails it is going to lay the blame on others; it will say the financial interests of Eastern Canada would not allow it to carry out its policies. Therefore I suggest to the honourable the leader of the Government that he ask his colleagues to examine into this matter. The Prime Ministers of Saskatchewan and Manitoba have recently been in Ottawa asking for—I do not know what. Little things will not solve the problem.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STANTON: Will the honourable gentleman indicate how, in his opinion, the problem is to be solved?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: You must appoint men who have the interest of the creditor at heart; men who have the interest of the debtor at heart. You must appoint men who, like honourable members of this House, have no political axe to grind. A commission of such men will find the facts and make a recommendation, and the Government must pledge itself to carry out that recommendation and insist upon the other governments carrying it out. That is the only way in which the problem will be solved.

It is all very well to say that you can let the credit of Alberta go to pieces, or the credit of Saskatchewan or Manitoba, but if you do that you will affect the rest of Canada as surely as the sun will rise to-morrow morning. I want to tell you that the best constituencies in the province of Alberta, men and women from the province of Quebec, purely French Canadians, and men and women from the English-speaking province of Ontario, were just as zealous as any others in electing Social Crediters. They say, "If the men in Parliament do not try to solve our problem, we will try to solve it in our own way." I have no use for Social Credit, but I am convinced that the Social Crediters will conscript everything produced in the province and sell it outside the province, and buy outside goods and sell to their own people, paying you for those goods in Alberta money,