

I have cut my remarks short, and I am afraid they are rather disjointed, but it could not be otherwise in the brief time at my disposal. May I say, however, that so far as the speech from the throne is concerned, I see no real hope in it for the masses of the Canadian people. As I stated earlier this afternoon, we have in this country to-day all the natural resources we require for our sustenance. We have the machinery of production and men and women who are ready to go to work to produce, if only the system would permit it. But the system will not permit our people to go to work on our natural resources, using the machinery of production which we have for the provision of food and clothing and shelter required by the masses of our people. We have everything in abundance and there is no reason why we should have starvation or lack of food, clothing or shelter in any form.

Just imagine a country that had a surplus of wheat to the extent of 130,000,000 bushels at the end of the grain year, with another crop in sight of from 435,000,000 to 450,000,000 bushels, making a total of at least 550,000,000 bushels. Imagine a country with that quantity of wheat having approximately one-fifth of its population on the verge of starvation. All the ballyhoo in the world will be of no avail unless we are willing to get down to the real problems that face us and to deal with the economic situation as it is—not as we imagine it but as it actually is. There will be no hope for the Canadian people unless this parliament is willing to take the proper measures to deal with the system.

So far as the speech from the throne is concerned, I repeat, I see no hope in it except in the one paragraph which states that other measures may be introduced later in the session. That does not offer very much hope, but it is a thin thread upon which we may hang a little hope. I trust that the government and this house will endeavour to tackle the real problem that faces us. My good friend and colleague the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) introduced a resolution, which was accepted last year with some amendment, providing for an economic research council, but the excuse of the government was that there were officials in government departments who would do the work. I should like to hear from the Minister of Trade and Commerce some time what progress they are making in looking into these economic problems with which we are faced at the present time. This house can no longer evade the issue; and the issue as I see it is this: Are the Canadian people to starve in the midst of plenty?

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lisgar moves that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. SPENCER: Mr. Speaker, the government whip had an arrangement with me whereby the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) should have the floor.

Mr. BENNETT: No; the government had no arrangement.

Mr. BROWN: If that is the arrangement—

Mr. CASGRAIN: I was not aware of any arrangement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) wishes to withdraw his motion he may do so, but it must be with the consent of the house.

Mr. BROWN: If I am to be handicapped in withdrawing my motion, then I must insist upon my rights. But if it is understood that I reserve my right to speak I will withdraw the motion; only on that condition, however.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Agreed.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. BENNETT: So far as we are concerned, we have no objection.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to rule.

Tuesday, October 11, 1932

The house met at three o'clock.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I have pleasure in laying upon the table two copies of the report of the royal commission to inquire into railways and transportation in Canada. The French copy is not yet completed, the translation is in process of being made; it is hoped that if there is no interference with the present rate of speed it will be completed in a few days.

I desire to move, seconded by Mr. Guthrie:

That six hundred copies in the English language and two hundred copies in the French language of the report of the royal commission