

we believe the destiny of Nova Scotia is linked with that of Canada, and I can assure the right hon. Prime Minister that if he gives us the full measure of the Duncan report—nothing less—the province which gave to this country Howe, Tupper, Fielding, Borden and Thompson, will go on to play her part as she has in the past and will be a contented and integral part of the great dominion that is to be.

Mr. JOHN EVANS (Rosetown): Mr. Speaker, there is still a remnant of the Progressive party in this part of the House—that is even if you do not include under that name those who have been elected as an economic group and now bear the name of the United Farmers of Alberta. After the capitulation of a number who were elected in Manitoba who used to sit with us, and another member in Saskatchewan who was similarly situated, we certainly have been reduced in number, and occupy now a fourth place in this chamber, but a party nevertheless. Last year, under this name, we supported this government on a programme of legislation. We intend doing the same thing this year, and while we are sorry that a number of our former Progressives have now taken their seats on the Liberal side of the House I want to say that the spirit of Progressivism in western Canada is as strong as it ever was. The word stability no doubt had something to do with the division of our group this time, but I wish to say a word regarding stability. We must realize that stability cannot be maintained unless all classes together have found a common ground for stability. Before stability can be attained in government there must at least be equality of opportunity among the different sections of the country and the different classes that exist, even if we may differ as to policies of the administration. The member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) in his speech this afternoon mentioned some of the chief of those discriminations which mostly affect us in western Canada.

I was indeed very much interested in listening to the speaker who has just resumed his seat (Mr. Ernst) in his description of the maritime provinces and what he considers their rights. The Duncan report is now before the House. After thirty-five years in western Canada, trying to make a living under the same conditions as the people of the maritime provinces, I think I know something of the needs of that part of the country. The class discrimination and class privilege are responsible for the most of it, and any subsidies or bonuses that may be given are not going to remedy the situation. What the maritime provinces need to-day is exactly what western Canada needs—a chance to

[Mr. Ernst.]

make their own living. That is what we must have. A cut of 20 per cent in railway rates is advised. Who is to bear that 20 per cent? Will the maritime provinces themselves benefit by it? They may for a time, but only for a time, and very little at that. Again, I wonder if the maritime provinces are willing to be reduced to the status of paupers in this Dominion and become wards of this nation? I do not think self-respecting men are willing to be reduced to that status, and I am sure that western Canada will never submit to such a status. What we want is a chance to make our own living.

Now, evidently the hon. member who has just sat down is labouring under a false impression regarding the statutory regulations of freight rates. No doubt he referred to the Crownsnest pass agreement. That agreement was an attempt on the part of the Laurier government to remove the terrible discrimination in freight rates which the west since confederation has laboured under. But even the Crownsnest pass agreement has only partially removed that discrimination, and even when the agreement was operating to its full extent on commodities hauled west we were paying higher freight rates on similar commodities over similar distances in western Canada than were being paid anywhere in eastern Canada; and although the government two or three sessions ago put through a bill for the equalization of freight rates, no attempt has yet been made to put its provisions into force, and some of the grossest discriminations in freight rates still exist in western Canada. Neither bonuses nor bounties will do any good either to wheat raising or to the production of steel. What we want, I repeat, is a chance to make our own living.

I intend to deal with the speech from the throne for a very short time. It is pleasing to me to see that the legislation which failed last session to be placed on the statute books will be reintroduced this session. That legislation failed to become law last session because of the undignified and, I might say, the disorderly break-up of parliament.

The Canada Grain Act is to again come up for amendment. As far as the act itself is concerned, western Canada hopes, in fact expects, that the government will remove every obstacle to the co-operative effort of the farmers to market their grain in their own way. We have started a co-operative movement there with the purpose of trying to retain in our own hands a part of what the speculators used to take. We want every discrimination removed, but we found last year that those who have had the privilege