

I realize it is also a glowing compliment to the hardihood of the Canadian people. We believe that with their rugged character they have endured hardships in a way that no other people in the world have done. On the other hand we are also aware of the fact that when it was necessary to bring in new measures of reform the government was not sitting idly by, it had not a policy of doing nothing, of letting the law of supply and demand govern, of *laissez faire*, of letting things find their own level, but steadily with one step forward after another, it passed a constant succession of new measures. In 1930 the government passed the tariff reform measure and the relief measures. This was followed in quick succession by an emergency act for peace, order and good government, by the Farmers' Creditors' Arrangement Act, the Natural Products Marketing Act, the imperial trade agreements, an amendment to the Farm Loan Act, the price spreads investigation, and all the other measures that may be of minor concern but are still of great importance. Is it any wonder that the man who has been at the head of the government for four or five years and who was accepted in Canada in 1930 as the man of the hour has since been admired by the world as a man of action?

In this year of 1935 I feel not only is the speech from the throne important because it contains a more favourable report and more proposals for progressive legislation in the future than any other speech from the throne to which I have ever listened, but it is more important because it comes in this year—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. ROWE: —and after all the Canadian people stand behind the government in their authority. I am glad to see my hon. friends still smiling despite their hopeless outlook.

In this country there are three lines of political thought and I know they will be investigated and seriously considered during the coming year. There are two or three, sometimes more, but particularly three distinctive lines of political thought in any country that carries on a similar party system of government. We have that radical line of thought which would suggest inflation, which would socialize industry. In Canada as in every other country there is that radical element that would say in the time of crisis: We will break down the whole structure, we will cast it all aside. Then there is that other element, very often called liberalism, that all through the ages has shown that it sticks to a fixed endeavour, that its followers believe in an endeavour to cling to the old order of things.

[Mr. Rowe.]

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. ROWE: Hon. gentlemen may laugh but if they will read English history they will find that what I say is absolutely true. Having sat in this house for some years I am more convinced than ever that what I say is true despite the fact that my hon. friends opposite may endeavour to smile it off. I know we have been impressed in this house as others have been in the British house, how liberalism has endeavoured to cling to a form of rigid constitutional repose when any reforms are suggested. So far as the other line of political thought is concerned, that which I believe is truly represented by the government of the day, I believe the Conservative party in Canada, as has been the case in the old land has proven that it has to its credit a list of social reforms, regulation of business and financial acts that stands as a credit to its record. I think Lord Tennyson well said:

That man's the true Conservative
Who lops the moulder'd branch away.

I know that at present in this house and throughout the country there are many who would not agree with that idea. May I remind you, Mr. Speaker, of the spectacle we saw in this parliament during the period of crisis; I know that everyone within the sound of my voice will bear me out when I say that from what we saw coming from this side of the house, Tennyson was right. This government has passed more advanced legislation than has been put through in the last twenty-five years. But what has been the sentiment of hon. gentlemen opposite during that time? I well recall when we passed the measure relating to the maintenance of peace, order and good government during those days of emergency. I remember how the leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition, and others behind him, fought for days because they thought the measure unconstitutional, and they said we must not put through that act. I also recall, when the farmers from one end of Canada to the other were pleading for relief, how these same constitutional barriers were brought up. I remember that when the farmers had their backs to the wall and faced insolvency the farmers-creditors relief measure was put through parliament, and I remember that hon. gentlemen opposite called it unconstitutional also. I also recall the Natural Products Marketing Act and, as a farmer, I believe I speak for the most successful farmers in Canada when I express their appreciation for the most advanced, important and beneficial piece of legislation, so far as agriculture is con-