

and I know it will be understood that I am speaking solely with the best interests of our country at heart when I suggest that much valuable service could be rendered to Canada if there were as keen interest in work of the kind that I have indicated as perhaps there sometimes is in the date of adjournment. I believe that the people would greatly appreciate a little wider activity by honourable members of this House.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I shall not impose further upon the time of honourable members. As I said at the outset, I had not prepared a speech and I have not a note before me. I sincerely trust that the debate will be continued by a number of honourable senators, for I had no thought whatever of closing it.

Hon. R. FORKE: Honourable members, I was not sure that I ought to address the Senate at this time, although I had prepared a few notes, but after the remarks of the honourable gentleman from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson) I am encouraged to take part in the debate. I trust you will bear with me patiently while I discuss a few matters that I think are of importance at the present time.

May I, first, compliment the mover and the seconder of the Address on the able manner in which they expressed themselves. The honourable member from Boissevain (Hon. Mr. Schaffner) spoke in an optimistic vein, and in that respect I think that all honourable members will agree with him. Notwithstanding the existing unemployment and other problems that confront us, I feel, as does every Canadian who believes in the future of his country, that these will be solved in the process of time.

Right Hon. SIR GEORGE E. FOSTER: Will my honourable friend turn on a little more power?

Hon. Mr. FORKE: I will try to do so. I listened with pleasure to the speech of the seconder of the motion for the address (Hon. Mr. Bourque), who spoke in two languages. I was reminded, as I am every day that I take part in parliamentary affairs—and, indeed, every day that I spend in the city of Ottawa—of the disadvantage to those of us who live in the West in not finding it convenient to acquire familiarity with the French tongue. Perhaps some people will consider this to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness, but I believe that every child in Canada should have an opportunity of learning to speak French as well as English.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: I desire to compliment the honourable senator from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson) upon his interesting address. But if he is surprised at criticisms of the Government for their failure to carry out certain promises made during the election campaign, may I remind him that many people did not know that some of the promises were not to be taken seriously. Of course, some of us who had knowledge of the true state of affairs realized that a number of the pledges were impossible of fulfilment, and consequently we are not now as disappointed as we otherwise might have been.

Since we have been going through this economic depression, the opinion has often been expressed that a period of prosperity always has been and always will be followed by one of depression. So-called experts have undertaken to tell us why we cannot always be prosperous. It has been contended by some that the gold standard is wrong and has had much to do with the bringing about of present conditions; on the other hand, we are told that our problems are largely psychological, and if we practised more Couéism we should soon convince ourselves that everything was all right. I shall make no attempt to analyse the cause of depressions, but I want to express disagreement with the theory that prosperity must inevitably be followed, sooner or later, by depression.

Another school of thought holds that the present state of affairs, economical and other, is as perfect as it can be; that this is the best of all possible worlds. I do not think that people who disagree with that notion should be classed as Reds or Socialists. Methods of production have been developed to a high state of perfection, so much so that there are said to be too much food, too much clothing, and more manufactured articles of every description than can be efficiently distributed. Yet there is world-wide distress, and in every country many people are being inadequately fed and clothed. Surely, honourable senators, there ought to be some way of overcoming a situation of this kind. Unemployment is a serious matter not only for the individual but for the country at large. When a man has a job and is able to provide a home and reasonable comforts for himself and his family, the spirit of revolution has little chance of breeding in him. Contented citizens are in no danger of being wrought upon by Communists or so-called Reds.

I am convinced that such conditions as we are now experiencing will in time be per-