

time out of that. And no one was hurt, either, while a better example was set for the transaction of public business. The same can be done here. There is a man in Italy, Mussolini is his name, who is tackling the problems of his country man-fashion. He says that, beginning with himself and his government, all those working for the government shall have to work some more hours. Now, I do not want to turn anyone into a galley slave, but at the same time I think that the plain people of this country who are bearing the burdens—for after all it comes down to them, no matter through how many degrees you finally reach them—expect something else at the capital than an exhibition of a waste of time and of funds.

I am in hearty sympathy with every word of the resolution of the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Shaw), not because it is an attack on the government, but because I believe it contains a great deal of common sense that needs to be taught and emphasized in this country at the present time. I am sorry it is mixed up as an addition to the amendment of the member for Springfield (Mr. Hoey). Personally, I am in favour of and shall vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Calgary, with the distinct understanding that I do not thereby commit myself, if it should carry, to vote for the amendment of the member for Springfield, with the amendment of the hon. member for Calgary incorporated in it. This part of the House does not stultify itself: we do not vote for free trade when we are standing under the flag of protection. But we will vote to emphasize the necessity for economy in the public administration, and we believe that the hon. member for Calgary is doing the country a good service, apart from all politics, when he brings his amendment to the attention of this House. It seems strange, however, that it should be necessary to have either the amendment or the sub-amendment. It seems strange in view of the declaration of policy of the Liberal party. It seems strange in view of the fact that men in public life are supposed to have some regard for the spoken as well as for the written word, and that a pledge is supposed to be binding. Honour is not supposed to depart from a man merely because of his entering into the political arena; and if faith had been kept, if honour, instead of the love and the lust for power, had been the dominating factor in the mind of the government, there should have been no need, there should have been no opportunity, for my hon. friend for Springfield to have cursed the barren fig tree, nor for my hon. friend from Calgary to have pleaded for a govern-

[Mr. Baxter.]

ment which, without being parsimonious, would be decently economical.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

### After Recess

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. JOHN EVANS (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, I have listened to several very interesting speeches during the course of this debate, none more so perhaps than the carefully prepared address of the hon. member for King's, P.E.I. (Mr. Hughes) delivered this afternoon, with the main parts of which I agree, especially those passages relating to agriculture.

The Speech from the Throne strikes an optimistic note, but the improvement in our economic condition there noted is due entirely to the increased production and export of agricultural products, and if this year does not bless us with good crops—for which the Speech from the Throne has a prayer—we may find ourselves in a worse position than last year. It is surely plain to all concerned that agriculture is the basis of our national prosperity, and were it not for the many handicaps and unjust burdens placed upon that one basic industry, it would not be long before all classes would again experience increased prosperity. But despite the fact, acknowledged in the Speech from the Throne, that agriculture is in a depressed condition, no government has tightened the screws to such an extent as has the present administration during the past year. Nothing has been done to dispel the doubt and uncertainty in the minds of our agriculturists except in one single instance, the lowering of the freight rates in the West, which has been more than offset by the machinations of a combine among the lake shipping companies. In fact, Sir, I think nothing has been left undone in the way of unjust laws to more completely than ever before deliver our workers over to those who enjoy the privilege of filching the earnings from their pockets.

As to the tariff system, I say it is a system of legalized robbery, more true to-day perhaps than ever before, and is responsible for the stagnation of agriculture and the driving out of the country of thousands of our best farmers. And the shortsighted policy of those privileged people for whose benefit the tariff was instituted has finally shut off their own home market. In last year's Speech from the Throne a promise was made to