

That does not quite agree with what the speech from the throne has to say. Naturally I have abbreviated the statements made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce. However, there was one thing that I missed in his statement. According to a statement put out last night, the pulp and paper business, part of the backbone of the industrial life of our country, is down twenty-eight per cent this year as compared with last year.

It is rather strange that the hon. gentleman did not mention the drop in total trade. According to my figures, which I believe are correct, the total trade of Canada, that is our imports and exports, was down \$336,000,000 in 1938 as compared with 1937—quite a drop.

Only one industry in Canada seems to have improved, at least from the standpoint of production, and that is agriculture. I am not discussing prices now; I am referring only to production. Perhaps the mining industry may be up also, but I did not get the figures. Practically every line of agricultural production is up. It is a strange coincidence that this is the only industry with which this government has had nothing to do. In other words, providence has helped agriculture. The acts of this government have had an effect upon every other industry in Canada. Agriculture alone depends upon providence, and I think that industry ought to thank providence that it was not interfered with by the present government. I point this out because last year and every year since the right hon. gentleman and his government came into power he and his government have taken credit for the improved conditions.

An hon. MEMBER: Sure.

Mr. MANION: One of my hon. friends says "sure". All right, let him say "sure" when I finish this sentence. If they take credit for the improved conditions up to last year, then they must take the discredit for the adverse conditions of last year. I do not hear the hon. gentleman saying "sure" now.

When the hon. member for Brandon spoke this afternoon he made some comparisons between 1933, when we were in power, and the present time. The right hon. gentleman can do the same, but it is a most unfair comparison to make. We were in power for two years after 1933; we were in power until 1935. The great depression, perhaps the greatest that the world has ever known, certainly the greatest in a hundred years, started a year before this government went out of power in 1930 and continued until about the middle of 1933. It

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was not a Canadian depression, it was a world depression. According to the best statistics of the League of Nations, thirty million people were unemployed in the industrial countries of the world. There was a decrease in world trade of two-thirds; in 1933 world trade was only one-third of what it had been during the peak in 1929. I was in the house until 1935, and I well remember the right hon. gentleman and his supporters getting up over and over again to blame us for the depression. They did not give us much credit. Unfortunately for us we were in power only for three years or less after there had been an improvement, and then the right hon. gentleman and his government came into power in 1935. Conditions continued to improve for another year or year and a half, and then they turned back in 1937.

I point out that if the government of the present day is to take credit when conditions are good, it must take some discredit when conditions are bad. Since 1937 conditions have not been good in this country. But I intend to adopt a different attitude. I do not say that this government is totally to blame for the change in conditions in Canada. These conditions are world wide, as was the depression of 1929, which continued for two years and a half or three years during our regime from 1930 to 1933.

Apparently my hon. friends opposite feel a little guilty about taking the credit for the pick-up in business, because they are putting out excuses. I notice that four different statements have been issued. One was by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning), an old and true friend of mine whom I am delighted to see back in his place and looking as well as he does; I hope his health continues to improve until it is once more one hundred per cent. But I want to say that even he put out a statement making excuses. The Minister of Trade and Commerce put out one, as did the Minister of Labour. These excuses for conditions were made I suppose because of guilty consciences for having taken credit for the pick-up in business.

This government is very strong on excuses. This government is very strong on propaganda. I mentioned before the fact that ten or a dozen of its ministers—there may be many more but all I could hunt up was that number—have made statements which were broadcast across the continent over the radio stating what good fellows they were. Floods of ballyhoo have issued forth about all kinds of matters. The people have been practically drowned in it. For example, take this trade