

heard no broad statement of economic policy. There has come no ray of hope from Liberal ranks, but merely criticism and sniping. I have heard an attempted description of Conservative policies, and having listened to them I have only this to say, that if my hon. friends across the aisle were no more successful in describing their own policies to the electors of Canada than they have been in describing Conservative policies to this house, I do not wonder that they sit to the left of Mr. Speaker.

There is no doubt that conditions in western Canada are not as good as they might be, but it is also true that they are not as bad as they might be either; and they are far from being as bad as my hon. friends have been painting them. Western Canada is not whining about blue ruin or talking in desperation. Western Canada is not starving. But western Canada to-day realizes that it is up against an economic struggle and its people, with their backs to the wall, are digging in and making the best of the situation. Things are not so bad in the west as you might expect them. They are bad in spots it is true, because there are areas in southern Saskatchewan where there were crop failures in two successive years, where the farmers had not a bushel of grain and had no feed for their cattle. These conditions are beyond the control of any government; they were beyond the control of the government of my hon. friend. But no guaranteed price of wheat would be of advantage to people who had no wheat, and this constituted a large part of our trouble in Saskatchewan. After all, the question is not exactly what are conditions in western Canada but, to some extent, whose responsibility is it that conditions in the west are as they are. And, after that, the question is, what steps shall be taken to remedy these conditions. Personally, as representative of the capital city of Saskatchewan, I am listening anxiously for any word from any side of the house that will point a ray of hope and progress to this Dominion, and I have heard nothing at all from my friends across the way except the suggestion of the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) that we should have a depreciated currency in this country.

What has happened to our markets in western Canada, and under whose dominion have these things occurred? I have in my hand a table showing what happened to the exports between 1920 and 1929. There was a decrease in exports of mutton and lamb of 340 per cent; in butter, of 240 per cent; in eggs, of 140 per cent; in sheep and lambs, of 90 per cent; in hog products, of 80 per

cent; in dressed beef, of 61 per cent; in live cattle, of 52 per cent, and in cheese, of 12 per cent. And the fact that we have had a decrease of over 100 per cent in certain items—

An hon. MEMBER: How could there be?

Mr. TURNBULL:—is explained by the circumstances that we went off an export basis and heavily on to an import basis.

Mr. RALSTON: Now for production.

Mr. TURNBULL: That net result of the reduction in these items was an unfavourable balance against us of \$257,000,000 a year; and, as my hon. friends say, markets once lost are a little bit difficult to regain. Now it was between 1920 and 1929, under nine years of Liberal rule, that these markets for farm products were lost. We lost our markets for wheat. We had a declining price for wheat. But the price of wheat did not start to drop on the 28th of July; it dropped twice as much in the preceding year as it has done since. However, the price of wheat started to drop as a result of a gradually increasing piling-up of surpluses not only in Canada but in other wheat producing countries in the world. While these wheat surpluses were piling up, the Department of Trade and Commerce, which should have been interesting itself in our markets, was not paying any attention to what was happening to the farmers of Canada. Other countries of the world were alive to this situation, and back in 1927 a conference was called in Rome by Benito Mussolini as a result of which the vineyards in Italy were torn up and planted with wheat, and what Mr. Mussolini called the battle of wheat began. It extended into France and Germany, and while we had a trade treaty with France this department stood supinely by and allowed France to shut our wheat completely out of their markets. The same thing took place in Germany and other European countries. During nine years of Liberal rule fifty-three trade treaties were entered into, but not one sold a single bushel of wheat. The Liberal party told the farmers of western Canada how interested they were in their problems and how much the Conservative party was the friend of the big interests. That "farmer against big interests" cry has been part of the history of western Canada for many years. The Department of Trade and Commerce allowed our markets one by one to slip from our grasp.