

tries, and to them a viceregal visit is of educational value, for it brings home to them the relationship of Canada to the other overseas Dominions, all loyal to the Sovereign represented by His Excellency the Governor General. By their gracious and lively interest in all Western matters, Their Excellencies endeared themselves to the hearts of all whom they met. We regret very much that their visit was cut short by the meeting of Parliament, but we shall look forward with great pleasure to another visit.

It would be superfluous for me to offer any further felicitations to the mover and the seconder of the Address. I heartily endorse all that has been said in that regard. Perhaps never again in the history of the Senate will a gentleman who has occupied a seat in this Chamber for so long a time move such an Address. With regard to the seconder, he dealt with his subject in such a sane and businesslike way that I hope he will not feel that thereby he has done his duty to the Senate for some years to come—an impression such as evidently some of us entertain with respect to our own duty. For some years, as leader of the Opposition in the Alberta Legislature, I had of necessity to speak quite frequently—a fault, I think, of opposition leaders; so when I entered this Chamber I felt inclined to sit back and listen to my elders. There are many members on both sides of the House who by their experience and training are well able to discuss any public question that comes before us, and I regret that we hear so seldom from some of those gentlemen. Each one of us has a responsibility to discuss national issues, and therefore I shall make a few observations with regard to some of the subject-matters referred to in the Address.

The question of the Imperial Conference has been ably discussed by both leaders of this Chamber. I have no doubt that the agreements arrived at will widen our markets, especially for the products of the farm, and if as a result our farmers become prosperous every other section of the community will feel the effects of their prosperity. I hope the beneficial results which are expected to flow from the Conference agreements will be felt throughout the Empire. Just how and to what extent other countries will be affected remains to be seen, but the advantages accruing from this new and important departure will presumably help to bring about world-wide economic improvement.

The report of the Transportation Commission deals with a question of vital importance to this country. The St. Lawrence Water-

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way Treaty is another momentous question. But, however far-reaching may be their effect upon the future prosperity of Canada, I do not believe there is at the present time any question so urgent and of such grave national concern as that of unemployment. Those honourable members who have not occasion frequently to travel throughout the Dominion, as have some of us who live farther afield from Ottawa, may not have seen the appalling distress caused by unemployment. Thousands of Canadian fathers are without work and without food for their families, and thousands of young men have travelled from Halifax to Vancouver in search of work, but to no avail. It is distressing to see the hopelessness and the discouragement pictured in the countenances of many of these men whom we meet in Western Canada. At my home we have frequent calls from these unemployed transients asking for food and clothing. Just before the order went into effect forbidding men to ride on freight trains, a great many who were in Western Canada at the time hastened to Vancouver to pass the winter in a milder climate. Daily we read of attempted hold-ups in that city. This influx of the unemployed into British Columbia is no longer merely a municipal nor even a provincial affair; it has become a serious matter affecting the livelihood and the happiness of many hundreds of thousands of people from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

As I have said, the problem of unemployment is the most urgent one confronting Canada to-day. There are two major difficulties which stand in the way of recovery: one is lack of work; the other, lack of money or credit. The latter difficulty has dislocated the price relation as between commodities and money. Many volumes have been written by eminent economists upon the cause and cure of the maladjustment between prices of basic commodities and gold. Sir Arthur Salter, in a book called "Recovery," has suggested a lower ratio between currency and gold. This, of course, as he points out, would necessarily have to be agreed upon by all the leading nations of the world in an international conference. When the gold of the world was largely cornered by the United States and France there was not enough; in other words, for many of the other nations the maintenance of the gold standard became too costly. If as a result of a world economic conference a lower ratio could be established in order to readjust the relation of price of goods to gold, it might provide freer money for the transaction of the world's business.