

*Relief and Agricultural Distress*

yea, tens of thousands, of these young people in the various provinces who are not employed and are not in receipt of direct aid from the government, but are being supported by their parents. These young people are in a better position to-day than possibly their parents were before them to contribute to the economic development of Canada, but they are prevented from doing so. No opportunities are afforded them.

I suggest to the minister that he should offer something to the youth of this country; that he should bring in some concrete solution of the youth problem. I know that this will take money. I know that when we suggest a program of public works, or the payment of dividends to the people in order that they may have access to the wealth they are capable of producing, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) and other members of the government bring up the bogey of inflation. When we point out to members of the government that scientists and inventors have laboured for years to free mankind from the nature-imposed necessity of toil; that solar energy is displacing human energy; that the machine has largely displaced man's labour, and contend that, because of these new conditions, dividends be paid to the people and money issued for public works, they cry "inflation;" they reply: "You cannot issue money and credit without having something to back it up." Well, we do not suggest that money and credit should be issued without something to back them up. In this connection, I wish to refer to the world conference of agricultural economists which was held at St. Andrews, Scotland, in 1936. I shall quote two or three paragraphs from a synopsis of the proceedings:

Problems of consumption of agricultural products were dealt with by E. P. Cathcart, professor of physiology, University of Glasgow, who treated the problems from the nutritional or physiological standpoint, and by R. B. Forrester, University College of Wales, who attacked the problem from the economic point of view. Those taking part in the discussion included F. L. MacDougal, Australia House, London; E. H. M. Lloyd, Market Supply Committee, London; F. Von Bulow, International Labour Office, Geneva; Hazel K. Stiebeling, Bureau of Home Economics, Washington, D.C.; M. K. Bennett, Food Research Institute, Stanford University, California; and S. Schmidt, University of Cracow, Poland.

The general feeling expressed in the discussion was of the need for increased consumption, both from the standpoint of solving the agricultural marketing problem and from the sociological point of view. Means considered for bringing this about included, (1) increased real purchasing power for the masses; (2) decreased costs; (3) social measures.

[Mr. Landeryou.]

Thus we find that some of the leading agricultural economists of the world, gathered together at St. Andrews, Scotland, have recognized that we have already solved the problem of production and that there is a tremendous surplus of goods in practically every country of the world, and they have suggested that in order to get rid of this tremendous surplus of goods we must increase the real purchasing power of the masses, and by "increasing the real purchasing power of the masses," they meant increasing the amount of money in their possession. For we know what holds true of the world holds true of the Dominion of Canada. We have in this country a surplus of commodities and are capable of producing unlimited supplies if only we will make available sufficient credits for production, if only we will use the idle labour and the unused machinery so that goods can be produced. We know there are no people on earth who have more natural resources per capita than are contained within the boundaries of this country. We know there is no physical reason why there should be in this dominion such a condition as obtains at the present time, no real justification for the paradox of starvation in the midst of plenty. All we suggest is that Canada be developed for the Canadian people, and that the flaws in our economic system which have created the situation that now obtains be corrected. We believe that before reforms in our social or economic life are possible, our monetary system must be adjusted to reflect the truth of our productive capacity; it must really reflect our collective ability to produce and distribute wealth.

I remember that two years ago I directed a question to the Minister of Labour. I asked him whether in his opinion it would ever be possible under the present system to put all the employable unemployed back to work. He read a quotation from a book written by Thomas Carlyle in 1841, wherein Carlyle stated that he had no magic pills to correct the ills of his day, and the minister added, "I will say to the hon. member that I have no magic pills to correct the evils that obtain to-day." I do not place much value on magic pills; but I say that the Minister of Labour should by this time have made a careful analysis of our economic system so that he could tell the people exactly what is wrong; that it is the uncontrolled manipulation of our present monetary system by private individuals which has created these conditions, and that in order to do away with this circumlocutory system which exists we must cease going to private bankers and private money lenders and borrowing at interest money which is paid back to them time and time