

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) is worthy of our congratulations upon his choice of a Minister of Finance. There could hardly be applied politically to the province of Nova Scotia that old biblical quotation: "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Once more the maritime provinces have made an invaluable contribution to the administration of our dominion. The Minister of Finance, personally, politically and in every other respect, must be considered as worthy of his present position in public life, but his best claim to the praise of this country is in the budget which he submitted to this house with a view to restoring our national affairs to a more favourable financial condition.

In supporting the financial statement of the minister I am only following in the footsteps of the leading men in the industrial life of Three Rivers, which I have the honour to represent. These men have had no hesitation in declaring publicly that the budget recently brought down was a sound one and will be the means of meeting the requirements of our country at the present time. In making this statement I refer particularly to Mr. Thomas J. Tebbert of the Tebbert Shoe and Leather Company; Frank I. Ritchie, manager of the Wayagamack Pulp and Paper Company; C. Brownley Smith, superintendent of the Canada Iron Foundries, and W. G. E. Aird, manager of the Wabasso Cotton Mills. The opinions of these prominent business men have been given in the *Nouvelliste*, a newspaper published in Three Rivers. The hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Baribeau) has quoted these opinions, and I shall not repeat them.

I should like now to express myself in the language with which I am more familiar.

(Translation):

Renowned economists have burnt the midnight oil in an endeavour to fathom the causes of the economic depression which has spread throughout the world and, especially, in what is commonly known as the leading nations.

The causes—which were mentioned here in the house—can be summed up as follows:

1. The world war which upset everything.
2. Overproduction.
3. The credit crisis.

It might be proper to add the hostile attitude taken by Soviet Russia against capitalists the world over; Russia having decided to use all the means at her disposal to become self-supporting. Then we must not forget the disturbance created in England's economic system by the Pan-Indian agitation. The study of the causes which brought about this

[Mr. Bourgeois.]

economic unrest, the effects of which are felt in Canada as in other parts of the world, although, perhaps, not to the same extent as in other countries, was necessary to consider the means to be taken to wipe out or at least attenuate the acuteness of this deplorable situation.

Authorities, better qualified than myself, have pointed out, without, however, being unanimous, what would be the means to relieve this crisis, and more particularly, unemployment. Useless to say that I do not flatter myself with the idea of having discovered a panacea, a cure all for the ills from which our economic system suffers. However, I would deem it unfair, in all respects, were I to omit congratulating the Bennett government, on the measures which it has taken to relieve unemployment. It is no reason, because they have not overcome all the difficulties, of which a number were probably insuperable, because, here and there, errors may have been committed, to deny or underestimate the very great and meritorious efforts made by this government.

They, first, realized—may it please the hon. member for St. Denis (Mr. Denis)—that owing to the condition of our markets, the lack of work, the decrease in wages, it was a matter of great concern that we should not be flooded by immigration, foreigners; that it would be ridiculous to relieve our unemployed, while exposing them to foreign competition. Bearing this in mind, they, by an order in council passed in 1930, took the necessary measures to stop the flow of immigration. The main provisions of this order in council can be found at pages 7 and 8, of the pamphlet "Report of the Department of Immigration and Colonization, fiscal year ending March 31st, 1931."

Similarly, they protected our farmers, by adopting an appropriate tariff and thus prevented an unfair competition from outside, as for instance, the competition carried on by New Zealand against domestic butter. This protection which was urgently needed, was extended to our industries. I have already, in this respect, quoted statements of manufacturers whose factories are located in the county I represent. Let me but add or rather repeat what I stated, when moving the address in reply to the speech from the throne, that, since the Conservative party assumed power, there was established in my county a new industry, the Cellophane Co., and that moreover the Canada Iron Foundries Limited, have since enlarged their plant.

It must, however, be admitted that the paper industry, in that district—we have at