

*The Address—Mr. Harris*

he has broken down partly under the task. He has been recovering his health and I hope he will regain it completely and that he may live long to serve this country in many capacities.

I excuse also in part the Prime Minister. We were all sorry to hear of his illness, but he seemed to be in robust health last night. His mind seemed to be running quite clearly; nevertheless I want to say that I am sorry he was laid aside for a month during the summer because of illness. For the rest of the ministry I have not much of commendation. Most of them sat on the platform in Maple Leaf Gardens or were listening to the radio when certain promises were made to the people of Canada. Hon. gentlemen opposite promised action. They promised unity. They promised leadership. The people took them at their word. They got power. Then they introduced the 1936 speech from the throne and made some more promises:

1. To cooperate with the provinces and municipalities in an endeavour to provide work for the unemployed; to increase the opportunities for gainful employment.

2. They would immediately amend the British North America Act.

3. They would restore parliamentary control over taxation.

4. They would substitute stability for uncertainty in the administration of customs laws.

I note that the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ilsley) is in his seat, and I hope he remains in the chamber until I deal with the last item.

5. They would amend the Canadian National Railways legislation to give a greater measure of governmental authority and responsibility to parliament and cut out some of the losses.

6. Radio broadcasting would be the subject of inquiry by a special committee.

7. Parliamentary secretaryships would be submitted for consideration.

8. Parliamentary responsibility would be restored.

9. A trade treaty would build up rather than undermine living standards.

So the government said in 1936. Those are the general headings. I will read in a little more detail the reference to unemployment:

In 1936 unemployment continues to be Canada's most urgent national problem. While there is an increase in the number of persons employed, the number of those on relief shows no abatement.

As a means of dealing with present emergency conditions, you will be asked, with the approval of the governments of all the provinces of Canada, to make provision for the establishment

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of a representative national commission, which will cooperate with the provinces and municipalities in an endeavour to provide work for the unemployed, and the supervision of unemployment relief. The commission, which will be assisted by a representative advisory committee, will aim at effecting nation-wide co-operative effort toward increasing opportunities of gainful employment.

Where is that representative advisory committee to-day? In fact, where is the commission itself to-day? And what did that commission do? And what did the government do with the recommendations of that commission? Practically nothing. The commission started work and gathered some statistics, most of which we already had; and then in the night they folded their tents and silently stole away. That is all they have done, and to-day the morning paper tells us that some hon. members are annoyed because young men are begging from them on the streets. There are more young men begging on the streets than at any previous time that I can remember. At the hour of twilight more men come to my door and to the doors of others asking for a hand-out than at any other time that I am able to recall. Panhandlers are on the increase. The government has had four years to deal with this matter, and what has it done? Practically nothing. "Oh," they say, "we have passed some trade treaties." I shall deal with that in a moment, but I should like at this time to make a general observation based on the Purvis report which was placed before us some months ago. When the government entered into these trade agreements it forgot the very important fact that nine hundred thousand of our employable people find their place of work in secondary industry whereas only one hundred thousand find a place in primary industry. That is shown in the government's own report; yet little by little they are paralyzing secondary industry and taking away the opportunity of gainful employment which is provided by that type of industry, hoping that they may absorb some of the men who wish to go to work in the primary industries.

The speech from the throne in 1936 also states:

A conference between the dominion government and the governments of the provinces of Canada was held at Ottawa during the month of December. Continuing committees have since carried on consideration of the more important subjects discussed.

What have these "continuing committees" accomplished? Nothing. The government is directly responsible for the charge which the man in the street is making, namely that it