

The Address—Mr. Regier

been the basic cause of the now too high price levels that we have in our dominion. We have, as a result of that and for other reasons, lost our world markets. Another and perhaps an even greater cause of the loss of our markets has been the deliberate allying of our economy to the economy of the United States. The United States market is for us an unnatural market. However, during war-time that market was established and re-established during the second war. That was unavoidable. But surely we have reached the stage now where we have to turn our backs on that market and find other markets. We must reverse the trend. We must buy from where we hope to sell and, further, we must take payment in the money of the people who have a natural need for the goods we have to sell.

To talk of convertibility of sterling is nonsense as long as you have one nation with a near monopoly on the gold reserves of the world. In that situation you can never establish convertibility of sterling. I think the sooner we forget about convertibility, the better.

We could also help the situation by letting into our country free of tariff those goods not naturally produced here. All Canadians, when they can afford it, would rather have Canadian-made standard automobiles. However, by our tariffs on the small English and other European automobiles we are denying to thousands of Canadians the right to have any automobiles at all. I do not see where our automobile industry would be hurt one whit by removing tariffs on small automobiles. I have a small automobile and, believe you me, as soon as I am able to afford it I shall sell that automobile and buy a standard car. I think all owners of small automobiles in Canada feel the same way about them.

There are a lot of things which we use in Canada and which we do not naturally make in Canada, but still we must pay tariffs on those things. I was very pleased to see that one of the ministers, speaking about a month ago in one of the cities of the United States, warned that we in Canada would have to come to the adoption of a policy under which we would manufacture only those things that are natural for us to manufacture. I heartily agree with that statement, but I looked in vain in the speech from the throne for some of this liberal—with a small "l"—talk to be implemented by action. I still hope that some action will be forthcoming. If we take that course we will enable those nations which make the things which we do not make to sell them to us and obtain

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money with which they in turn can buy our fish, lumber, apples, wheat, bacon, cheese and other products.

Mr. Speaker, I would plead with this government not to make any further appointments to the upper house. Let the latest appointee, a most able lady, have the last word.

Mr. Knowles: She will.

Mr. Regier: It is my belief that the government should eliminate the agencies that intervene between the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the man who is building homes. If this government is going to continue and extend its underwriting of the cost of house building—and I hope it will—and if the nation's credit is to be used, it is only right that this government should endeavour to get this credit to those who are building homes at as low an overhead cost as possible. Using the chartered banks or insurance companies is not serving that useful purpose; it is only adding to the cost of administration. When the people's money is used to underwrite the cost of homes, let us underwrite the cost of homes and not the cost of profits.

I have looked for an upward revision of family allowances, old age pensions and pensions for the blind and the elimination of the means test from all our regulations connected with pensions. For our senior citizens I think Canadians as a whole would welcome the announcement that this government is prepared to pay \$65 at age 65 without a means test.

I have one observation to make with regard to the last federal election. I have been given to understand that had I been a candidate in some areas in this dominion I would have had to submit my election material to a municipal police officer for his approval. I have been told, what is more, that I would have had to obtain a licence or a permit for every one of my 400 volunteers who helped with the carrying of this literature into the homes. To me, Mr. Speaker, this is a serious matter. It is an infringement of the right of the people of Canada to be Canadians, and it violates the principle of free elections. We do not like the rigged elections that take place in other parts of the world. We greatly deplore them. Surely even a Liberal government will not stand idly by and let this type of election gain a foothold in our free land. When this government conducts an election, I submit it must be a free election. This government was freely elected by a politically free people in a democratic manner, and as such