

force. Two or three years ago, just after the war was over, we were all buoyed up as it were with the great hope of a new social order that was to dawn in the world. There was much talk of reconstruction, but the years have gone by and there has been a great disillusionment in the minds of many, and the reconstruction has somehow or other settled down to be more or less a reconstruction along the old lines. Yet there are many men, and I think among the younger men in Canada, who are still looking forward to a new type of life here on this North American continent and in the world as a whole. I hope that idealism has not quite gone from our midst, but as we look forward to this new world we see that there are going to be radical changes in our social system. I have sometimes said as I looked at the unemployment and the desperate straits to which thousands of my fellow-citizens were driven, that if this kind of thing went on very much longer there would undoubtedly be an outbreak of bloodshed of some kind. I am making no threat, but the whole of the warnings of history point to the fact that unless men and women and children are cared for, the whole nation inevitably suffers as the result, and my thought at this time, as we enter upon the sessions of a new Parliament is this: that as the war and the policies of the war have been swept aside, we have in this Canada of ours a wonderful chance for the working out of a great new policy. I like the spirit of some of my friends here, the Progressive members, who are determined not to play parish politics and not to play party politics any more, but who are here rather with the idea of the welfare of the country as the dominating motive in their public lives.

Mr. Speaker, we are too small a group to have very much effect in this House, I fear, but I would like to tell you that behind the divisions and, often, the crudities, of the Labour people, who are at the very foundation of the great industries of this country, there is an intense idealism, a looking forward to the period of world brotherhood, and I would not be true to that group did I not stand here at the very beginning of our parliamentary sessions and express the hope that as we work out these detailed policies for our own country, we will not lose sight of that larger hope which is inspiring at least very large numbers of the workers the world over.

Mr. R. J. WOODS (Dufferin): Mr. Speaker, in rising to address the House for
[Mr. Woodsworth.]

the first time, I wish as a member from the back concessions of rural Ontario to make clear the attitude and conditions of the farmers in this province. I shall not detain the House at any great length. It is not my intention to discuss any question pertaining to the provincial government of Ontario, I shall not enter upon a discussion of the Hydro policy of Sir Adam Beck. But for a brief space of time I wish to deal with a few matters that have come under my observation which are of interest to the farmers of this province.

I have listened with delight, as a newcomer to this House, to the debate as it has progressed so far. With some of the questions that have been brought forward I am heartily in sympathy; there are others, however, that do not meet with my approval, but I shall not take up the time of the House to discuss any minor questions that have been brought forward during this debate.

It is gratifying to me, and I believe to a great many people in this Dominion, to know that in the election campaign which terminated on the sixth day of December last the women of this country had an opportunity to cast their ballot. I think we in this country were long in coming to the point where we recognized the worth of the women of our land. I think we were very slow in granting them the franchise and according them their proper place as citizens of this great Dominion. They contributed no less a part than the men in the construction and pioneer life of this country. Many of them came to Canada from the Old Land when this country was a wilderness, and they helped their husbands hew out a home, and raised families which were a credit to this Dominion. They contributed their part in the home life, and also in the social and religious activities of the community. And yet for years and years they were deprived of the franchise. But at last the women have been accorded their proper place as citizens of this country, and I join with previous speakers in expressing gratification that this House is to-day honoured with the presence of a lady member, the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail). Personally I feel somewhat honoured by having the privilege of occupying the same desk as our hon. lady member. I do not know whether that honour has been conferred upon me because of my good looks, or whether it is because I am a close neighbour of the hon. member for Southeast Grey. What-