

on the subject and that he gave expression to them in the Walker theatre in Winnipeg on January 18. I have taken the trouble to read carefully the report of that meeting as it is found in the *Western Producer* of January 26, and I find myself very heartily in agreement with many of the statements made by the hon. member, but I find nothing whatsoever which in my opinion justifies either the assertion or the belief that an entirely new social order is necessary in order to remedy such evils as those to which the hon. gentleman referred. I am going to quote two or three of the statements that he made. He said specifically:

Someone asks, tell us exactly what you would do if you were in power. I do not think it is really possible for anyone to answer such a question. Events are moving so rapidly both here and in other countries that no one can tell precisely what should be done at any given moment in the future.

Of course, everyone knows that the hon. member could not tell exactly what he would do, and it would be unreasonable to ask him to do so, but he could and he should tell the members of this house something of the methods that he would employ to effect the improvements he had in view. He might at least give us a broad outline and perhaps some of the major details of his scheme. Among other subjects I would suggest he should tell us how he would proceed with the public utilities at present owned and operated by private corporations. Would he expropriate them? If so, would he compensate the present owners or would he confiscate their interests? If he would compensate, on what basis would he make settlement.

What is his plan with regard to the principal and interest of the bonded indebtedness of Canada? What is his plan with regard to those bondholders resident without the Dominion of Canada as well as those domiciled within? Then, the hon. member proposes, among other things, to take over the ownership and control of natural resources; to guarantee security of tenure of land; in some way to provide for the adjustment of debts; to fix hours of labour and, if necessary, to limit them; to fix rates of wages to some extent, and to provide crop insurance. All of these matters are referred to in the speech made by the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer).

But, Mr. Speaker, if I understand correctly the British North America Act all of those subjects, by virtue of that act, are under the jurisdiction of the provinces. The hon. member should tell us how he intends to imple-

[Mr. Butcher.]

ment his platform in these respects. Especially would we like to know how he would proceed if the provinces, having sole jurisdiction in these matters, decide to repudiate his right to interfere. Would he say, "We will in any event pass laws, and will proceed to enforce them." If he would enforce them, how would he proceed to do so? These are just a few matters in connection with which the house should have definite information, before hon. members are asked to approve of the resolution. A little later in his speech he stated:

First of all there is the growing recognition that we cannot proceed along the old haphazard lines.

With this we must couple his former statement:

Events are moving so rapidly both here and in other countries that no one could tell precisely what should be done at any given moment.

It would appear that under the new system we would merely proceed along new haphazard lines, instead of along old haphazard lines. From what I had heard, I thought the hon. member had proposed to mould and control events, instead of having events control and mould us. If I have read correctly the statements by hon. members we are under their plan to become the masters of our own destiny, not the victims of circumstances. Then the hon. member said:

Before a doctor ventures to prescribe he makes a thorough study of the system and of the history of the case.

I am not a doctor, but I presume his statement is true, as far as it goes. I suggest however that it is not the whole truth. Before a doctor prescribes he very carefully studies remedies as well as diseases. He learns the effect of drugs. I imagine he does not prescribe the use of a new medicine until he has a precedent, that is the experience of others to guide him for so doing. In a prescription of his own compiling, he makes use of no drugs with the effect of which he is not familiar. Then, again, the hon. member said:

Our wheat growing in the west has been built up on an export basis. We cannot possibly consume in Canada all the wheat that is produced. If we market abroad we must meet competition. Obviously the only possible solution is either to cut down the costs or to raise prices or both.

We are all agreed upon that. We must remember however and admit that prices are determined in purchasing countries and are based upon the law of supply and demand. Therefore we cannot control the price. We still have the possibility of affecting it by inflation, and I must state that the hon. member did refer to the possibility of a slight