

fess some jealousy of his ability along those lines, but I would also say that it was most pleasing to listen to him.

In the short time I have at my disposal I shall endeavour to express my views, the views of a common person, one who has never experienced poverty, who has never enjoyed luxury, who has always had plenty to eat, plenty to wear and plenty to do. I have always, however, understood the positions of those who have not been as fortunate as I have.

I am inclined to the view that our Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), my distinguished leader, has taken his present attitude because of his memory of things which might have happened in his early family life. Only recently I had occasion to look into the early history of Canada, particularly as it relates to the Indians in my constituency, and the manner in which those who held legislative positions in the country at that time, a time when my leader's grandfather was endeavouring to champion the rights of the common people to responsible government, filched from the Indians \$160,000. That was the same group which probably was responsible for the exile of the grandfather of our present leader. Because of that, the birth of his mother took place in poverty-stricken conditions, and under circumstances which almost cost her life. Had that happened we would not have had in Canada to-day this distinguished Prime Minister. I am inclined to the view that the fact we all cherish championing contributions our forefathers have made in the past prompted him to give consideration to that which is so near to him.

I mention this because, in my duty as a member of parliament, I discovered these things. That is what prompted me to think this legislation is the product of that experience, and I believe it is what prompted my leader to advance it. From the point of view of the farmer, as the hon. member for Rosthern has pointed out, this legislation is something which the farmers, and those others who obtain a good share of their living in kind, but not in money, will accept readily. It will enable them to secure for their children some of those better things in life, and possibly make it possible to give a more balanced ration, and thereby to develop healthier children.

I am inclined to think this is one of the first measures in which the farmer has been permitted to share and share alike with urban folk. I was interested in the comment of the hon. member for Saskatoon City (Mr. Bence). Had I been a Conservative, myself, I think I would be opposing this legislation on the grounds of paternalism, charity, and all the things that go with it. Fortunately, however,

I do not happen to be a Conservative, and I cannot accept the view of a former speaker to the effect that a division has been closely drawn in orthodox thinking. I still say that Liberalism is a state of mind, and I do not think it can be changed. It is, in fact, a progressive state of mind, one of those things with which we are born. We all have in us the positive and negative sides. At times there are places for Conservatism, times when we must consolidate the ground won by advanced Liberal thought.

But in these times we are looking for further advancement. When the hon. member for Saskatoon City made the claim that the solution of our problems was to be found in increasing wages—

Mr. BENCE: I said one of them.

Mr. WOOD: Well, all right, one of them. I have not been able to accept that view. It would be a very nice one to accept, of course, because everybody likes to have more money either in wages or from the sale of his produce. But we must remember that increased wages increase costs of production and the purchasing power of the dollar is immediately destroyed. There is just so much national wealth, and when one person gets more than his share the other fellow has to do with less. If we are to compete in the open markets of the world in the disposal of our surplus products, we must remember that we have to consider costs of production. People who are buying our produce are not going to consider our standard of living. It will be a clear-cut business proposition, and we would be wise to keep that thought in mind. After all, if the labouring man can buy the necessities of life at a lower price, he is already enjoying an increase in wages by virtue of that increased purchasing power.

Another reason for my acceptance of this legislation is the encouragement it must give to Canadian-born children. It has been my experience that men born and reared in this country generally enjoy a certain standard of living and of ideals. Those who come in through a method of immigration import with them many of those characteristics and ideas which infect the country to-day. It might be wise to make an analysis of our parliamentary guide. I believe, if we did that, it would be found that my statement is borne out to a very great extent.

Those old pioneers, people who thought in the orthodox fashion, came to this country and cut down the stubborn forests. They did not ask for any special privileges; they did not ask to have things other people had. They took over their land, and produced those things