

an act unprecedented in Canadian history, but what gives us greater hope is that governing bodies of industries, both within and without our Dominion, are placing their confidence in this administration as an efficient, stable and protective government, and are planning to build new industries and enlarge those now in operation without fear of sudden changes in the fiscal policy of the country.

The Unemployment Relief Act, passed last September, has done much to relieve distress in many families and, while only a temporary measure, it has served the purpose for which it was passed to the joy and comfort of thousands of Canadian citizens from coast to coast.

In the fall of 1930 Canada was represented at the Imperial and Imperial economic conferences. These representatives discharged their duties despite no small amount of ridicule from parties holding other political faiths and from countries outside the empire. Canada's attitude with regard to imperial trade, was presented in a capable manner, the result of which, we believe, will yet bind together the British Empire by a policy which will be beneficial to all concerned and will create a greater market for Canadian agricultural products and make for a stronger and a better empire.

This government has seen fit to prohibit, by order in council, importations of certain commodities from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We believe that by so doing we not only protect our own social and economic welfare, but will eventually protect the citizen of that country as well, against a system which we do not endorse. We have learned that there are better means of opposing the objects of a country than by warfare.

Through the organization which we have under the Pension Act, we are convinced that justice will be administered and no legitimate claims will be ignored.

In agriculture we have a condition such as we on Canadian farms have never had to contend with before. The prices of agricultural products never before declined to such an extent as they have in the past twelve months. The reason is that in relation to price, agricultural products, like other raw materials, are directly responsive to supply and demand; therefore they are the first to come down. Others will follow, but not so suddenly. We must endeavour to bring about better conditions in the agricultural districts of Canada, both in the east and in the west, which alike are suffering from the depression of the present period. This may be done by different means.

[Mr. Porteous.]

We must try to obtain markets for our products both at home and abroad. This we are endeavouring to do, first, by keeping our people employed at home, and second, by procuring markets in other countries for our products. We must, if possible, lessen transportation costs on agricultural products by using the cheapest means, and to that end we expect the Hudson Bay route to be beneficial. We must cut down the cost of marketing farm products as far as is within our power as a government, and we must cheapen the cost of production as far as possible by using more scientific methods. I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that the cost of production on Canadian farms varies greatly. I believe that in my short period of life production costs have been cut by fifty per cent on many farms by practising better, and more scientific, methods. I believe there is much still to be done along these lines.

We have in Canada the best farm land in the world. We have the best farmers to be found anywhere. We produce farm products unequalled by any other country and we can and we will reduce production costs in competition with any country.

This government is striving to find the cheapest methods of producing quality products which we can sell on the home and also on the foreign market at a profit. To my mind it is not a question so much of reducing production as it is of reducing production costs. If this can be done, it will alleviate to a great extent the depression in agriculture. Then we must strive to relieve the farmer from such high taxation. This is proposed to be done by relieving the municipalities of the burden of the old age pension. When we again bring agriculture to a profitable basis, we will make a more prosperous Canada, both rural and urban.

We must stand together in this unsettled condition, as perhaps we have never been called upon to stand before, remembering that for one class to succeed the other must succeed also. We are a country of diversified occupations and business, but by that diversity we create strength if we all work together. This is no time for one class to try to take advantage of another, or for one industry to try to take advantage of another, or for the rich to try to take advantage of the poor, or for the poor to try to take advantage of the rich; but we must unite in fair competition for the welfare of our country.

Here I should like to quote a verse from Edgar A. Guest's poem *Our Country in The Path to Home*: