

them was enlarged, giving to Canadian products a preference which has meant an annual increase in exports of over \$40,000,000 and has saved Canadian agriculture from absolute ruin. I need not go over the advantages, for they are felt by everyone living on the land from one end of the country to the other. The benefits are felt by the fur producers of Prince Edward Island as well as by the fruit and poultry producers of British Columbia. They extend to the other primary industries of Canada. The lumbermen of British Columbia exported more lumber during the year following the agreements than they had done in any year since 1921. I am satisfied that the mining interests of old Ontario and Quebec as well as of other parts of Canada fully appreciate the fact that they have trebled their exports to the United Kingdom since the coming into operation of the imperial trade agreements; nor have I any doubt that every one who is interested in Canadian progress at the present time feels that those trade agreements should receive approval, especially in view of the fact that an increase of over 50 per cent in trade has been brought about as a result entirely of the agreements. I am not surprised therefore that those who vigorously opposed the imperial trade agreements when they were presented now reluctantly approve of them in the country.

In the speech from the throne it is true there are many proposals of reform. There are proposals to extend the advantages that have been given to agriculture and as one interested in agriculture I believe those proposals will tend to bring about an all-round improvement. I have always been strongly of opinion that if we are to have any guaranteed insurance for the future prosperity of agriculture, it must be to no small degree through the expansion of the mining, lumbering and industrial activities of this dominion. The survey relative to our debt structure and proposed extension of credit will, I hope, stimulate not only agriculture but industry. I believe the reforms that are proposed will be more equally divided among those who are labouring in those industries so that our whole standard of living may be improved, thereby automatically bringing about an improvement in every industry in this dominion.

I am very much impressed with the fact that in these proposals we have evidence of the sincerity of the government. Some of them are now on the order paper; many are already on our statute books and while some may challenge the right of the present government to bring about the enactment of these reform measures, when one considers that the

present government have had enacted more measures of reform, more advanced legislation, during the last year than any other Canadian government in five years, I think that is a good reason that the present government should have the right to continue.

It is an old and true adage that "the best of integrity is in one's day of adversity." Canada has been severely tested during the last four or five years. In order to review the progress that she had made we should recall the period that immediately preceded the advent of the present government. We recall the period of 1929 when every store-house in every importing country of the world was overstocked with unsold commodities. We remember the great stock market crash prior to 1930 when approximately four billion dollars worth of Canadian securities disappeared and thousands and thousands of fortunes were lost. We appreciate how in that period of world economic depression by 1932 world trade had shrunk to one-third and thirty million men stood idly by looking for jobs. Canada, it is true, had a share in that depression and while the government of the day were busily engaged in meeting those gigantic problems changing from day to day, with new and advanced measures of legislation, there were many in the country who preferred to put the blame for the whole situation on the present Prime Minister or the government of the day. May I suggest that when since 1932 and 1933 we have seen a general improvement, a general incline upwards, when we have seen an unfavourable balance of trade which the government accepted when it assumed office, of \$65,000,000 in 1929 jump to \$159,000,000 in 1930 and then gradually diminish until to-day we find we have a favourable balance of \$140,000,000 in visible trade and approximately \$240,000,000 in trade visible and invisible, if there are still those in Canada who are so blind they will not see, they will surely read with graciousness the report of the League of Nations stating that Canada and the United Kingdom were leading the world back to prosperity. Therefore those who have blamed the present government for conditions prior to 1932 should in fair play extend to the Prime Minister and his government some credit for leading the world back to prosperity.

I know this has not been achieved in any easy manner; I know the credit is not all due to the government of to-day; as one who has been closely associated with agriculture and deeply interested in labour conditions in this country, while the present situation may be considered and claimed by those who support the government to be a tribute to it,