

So, judging by all the tests that we may reasonably employ to determine what the condition of the country is, we must be driven to the conclusion that either one of two things is true: either the tests employed in former days by the government were erroneous or false, or the same tests imposed to-day leave this country in no prosperous condition.

From that aspect it seems to me it might be well to consider the speech from the throne. I do not propose to go into figures with respect to the trade balances, even during the last month, when it was adverse, to the depleted gold reserve by some \$13,000,000 as compared with the position at the end of January last year, to the fact that this country, whether rightly or wrongly, is regarded by strangers and foreigners as being off a gold basis although it was put there on the first July, 1926. We will leave all those problems aside and consider the speech from the standpoint of the statements that are made in it.

Let us look at the speech. It proceeds to say that the year was a great period except for agriculture. Agriculture has been and will be for many years the greatest wealth producer that we have in the Dominion. Why? Because the efforts of agriculture can more readily be converted into new wealth than almost any other effort that man can make. What has the government done about agriculture during the last twelve months? What has been done in respect to agriculture in western Canada in the last few months, indeed, in the last few weeks? Let us consider that question and answer it. With respect to agriculture in western Canada we did not have as large a crop as we had in preceding years and despite what the speech from the throne says we have some 114,000 fewer milch cows than we had in Canada some two years ago, although the speech says that the quality of our herds and cereals is better than ever before. Probably if we get down to half a dozen prize winners that will be a source of rejoicing!

But what has been done by this administration with respect to agriculture? During the last few months there has been propaganda carried on against Canada, falsely representing the position in the markets of the world with respect to the great wheat growing industry of this country. Some weeks ago I picked up a paper and I read statements that were allowed to go uncontradicted indicating that in Great Britain certain great purveyors placarded their waggons and drays with words indicating that they did not use Canadian wheat. I felt that was untrue;

that no such propaganda was being carried on in Great Britain against this country's wheat, yet days went by and the days went into a week before any steps were taken by this administration to deal with that report. In the meantime Alberta, speaking through Herbert Greenfield, who is the representative of that province in England, tried to right the wrong that was being done. It was about that time the federal government moved in the matter. It was the function of the federal government, of the central authority at the heart of the empire, where they have the great facilities they have as compared with those of the provinces, as soon as that statement appeared, to have taken immediate action to see that the wrong that was done to this country was undone. Any reasonable man would say that was what should have been done. I repeat that the papers indicate that it was not done for days after. The first statement issued from Canada House was days late and in the meantime the provinces were endeavouring to grapple with the difficulty that confronted them. Why should not a statement have been made by the government of this country on behalf of the people of Canada stating just what the real situation was? I wonder how many members of this house realize that of the entire wheat production of last year less than 55 per cent was pool wheat controlled by the cooperative pools of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the other 45 per cent being non-pool wheat? I wonder how many members realize that the Winnipeg grain exchange was from day to day recording the fluctuations in the price of wheat. There was a free and open market with respect to at least 45 per cent, if not 48 per cent, of the entire western wheat production of last year. I ask the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Euler) who is so anxious and solicitous in connection with frauds in the sale of mining and oil stocks, if there is any difference in selling wheat short by millions of bushels and selling mining and oil stocks short. Let him make a speech with regard to that, instead of shutting his eyes to the real situation in the great grain growing industry of western Canada. Where was the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Crerar), the past president of the United Grain Growers? Where was the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning), who formerly was interested in the grain trade? Where were they when the farmers of western Canada were faced with this situation? The situation required someone, speaking for this country as a whole, to make it clear that less than 55 per cent of the entire wheat production of