

*The Address—Mr. Archibald*

society will go back to that condition which brought about riots and upheavals.

That is the position the government faces. They dare not allow unemployment to increase to any degree, because the nations around us—New Zealand, Australia and Great Britain—are operating on a planned basis. The day is not far distant—it is already here—when we will have unemployment. In Great Britain they might be on rations, but they are working and they are receiving meals three times a day. In this country our workers on the Pacific coast are once again going back on rations because they produce too much. Surely that is a pitiful state of affairs.

That is what I have to say on the economic side of the picture. I believe the government would be well advised to begin thinking in terms of a general over-all trade policy which would be along the lines of barter. Granted, it would not solve our difficulties today or tomorrow, but the general tendency would be in the right direction, inasmuch as the rest of the world is also going in that direction. Now I would like to deal with the attitude of the government as expressed in terms of dealing with human beings in this country.

Last fall the weather conditions on the Pacific coast were rough; it was the worst year on that coast experienced in this generation. On the northerly part of the coast line we had what could be described as an accident. A storm came up and destroyed a lighthouse. I should like to go through the history of what happened after that lighthouse was destroyed. I read about it first in the Prince Rupert *Daily News* of November 8, under the heading, "Gale Blows Lighthouse Away", and the subheading, "Harrowing Experience for Family". Then it goes on to say that Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins of Egg island are safe in a hospital at Bella Bella.

Then, on November 13, the full story was printed in the *Daily News* and goes on to say this:

Window Smashing Wave Was Life Saving Signal  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilkins Reach City After  
Terrifying Experiences Following Lighthouse  
Destruction

Uncertain as to what the future holds and still shaken and unsettled after their arduous experiences following the destruction of their lighthouse home by a tidal wave which suddenly swept stormy Egg Island in the middle of Queen Charlotte Sound in the dark and early hours of the morning of November 3, Robert L. Wilkins, the lighthouse keeper, his pretty auburn-haired wife, Marie, their ten-year-old son, Dennis, and the latter's six-month-old cocker spaniel pup, Boots, reached Prince Rupert safely this morning with Captain Norman McKay aboard the lighthouse tender *Birnie*. A week ago today they were still huddled in a crude shelter on their

lonely island lashed by gale winds, driving rains, hail, thunder and lightning, gradually being worn down by near starvation and exposure.

The article goes on to say that they were on that island completely exposed to the elements for four days, at the end of which time they were picked up by a passing fishing boat which took them down to the hospital at Bella Bella. This one experience alone is sufficient to show the necessity for a coast-guard on the British Columbia coast.

However, let us go on with the story. The family left the hospital at Bella Bella after the boys around the Namu cannery had taken up a collection to help them. They went up to Prince Rupert, and were on charity. The women's auxiliary of the Canadian Legion voted them \$50, and the I.O.D.E. voted them a like sum, or even more. They were driven to going to the Red Cross to get shoes for their little boy, but were turned down on a technicality.

When I left home on December 27 the rumour was going around Prince Rupert that they had been asked to make out a list of the belongings they had lost, with the approximate value; then they were to cut that amount in half. That was the general rumour among the citizens of Prince Rupert, those who were interested in looking after the family.

During this same period of time the Minister of Transport (Mr. Chevrier), under whose jurisdiction this department comes, was over in Europe making speeches about the horrors of a communistic dictatorship as compared with the glories of democracy. I must say he left a profound impression upon the fishermen and loggers of the British Columbia coast—a most profound impression indeed. That is one sample of outright brutality and disregard of the individual—and an employee of the government at that. I believe action could still be taken to rectify the situation. I have never met these people; I do not know them. I just took the story as I read it in the press from day to day—and it does not make pleasant reading.

Then another case I should like to bring to the attention of the house has to do with the injustice in connection with the Premier miners. I asked the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) for an outline of the developments which took place in that mine. I should like to place on record the details as they were set out in the letter to me:

1. The strike vote took place on July 12, 1948.
2. The local union 694 of the united mine, mill and smelter workers advised the company that it would call a strike on Monday, July 19.