

the government in the interests of the people and not of the financial interests, whoever they may be?—A. I do not want to go into the causes and all that kind of thing.

Q. No.—A. We are not going into the causes of what happened in 1929. But I would say this. I think it was a clear illustration of where private corporations could not stand the strain. The only way it could have been intelligently handled was by the whole of the people of the whole nation assuming the responsibility that rested with them for the next few years; and administered by an intelligent government, I think they could possibly have stopped a great deal of the stagnation that existed. I think that the policy of the banks has been a retarding factor. When I first came to this country in 1910, if I am not mistaken, there were somewhere in the neighbourhood of between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 people. We had a huge country. The province of Saskatchewan is nearly three times the size of Great Britain and Ireland, and we have less than 1,000,000 people in it. I think that from time to time we have seen that we have had people in administrative positions who have had vision, but there is something that has held the nation back. Had we had the natural increase in population from 1910, our position would be very different today. I remember sitting down in the city of Winnipeg within six months of my being there, because I wanted to envision what would happen. I came here with the intention of staying here, and I wanted to envision what kind of a country I was going to be in twenty-five years from that time. I envisioned the population we would have in the Dominion of Canada, by retaining the natural increase of population; and I was not taking into consideration the influx of new settlers that came in from 1910 on. I did a little figuring, because I like to do that, and I came to the conclusion that we ought to have had by twenty-five years after 1910—that would have been 1935—over 25,000,000 people in this country. Something has held it back. Let me tell you gentlemen that where industrial development does not progress you will not get that. Increase of population will follow where industrial progress takes place.

Mr. FRASER (*Northumberland*): We have not done a bad job in Canada after all.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jaques has the floor.

Mr. FRASER (*Northumberland*): In that twenty-five years.

Mr. JACQUES: I have just one more question.

The WITNESS: For the few people we have here.

Mr. FRASER (*Northumberland*): We have done as good a job as you have at home.

The CHAIRMAN: Let Mr. Jaques continue.

*By Mr. Jacques:*

Q. I have one final question. It sums up what I have been saying. Your quarrel, and I might say mine, and I think I can say the same on behalf of nearly all the farmers in western Canada, is not with the administration but with the general financial policy, which policy should be controlled by the government.—A. That is correct.

Mr. PERLEY: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Slaght asked for the floor.

Mr. PERLEY: May I ask a question of yourself, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. PERLEY: If we cannot conclude with Mr. Bickerton by 1 o'clock, is he going to be available tomorrow?

The CHAIRMAN: I think we will try to conclude by 1 o'clock.