

"poverty in the midst of plenty." Thus he agrees that there is "plenty" in Canada. He says there is "starvation and unnecessary suffering," and again he refers to a land of "abundance." He says there is "discontent" and "distress," and then he refers to Canada as a country more blessed by providence than any other on the face of the globe. The Ontario minister of health, according to the Toronto papers of January 11, reports that there are thirty thousand more people on relief this month in Ontario than there were in January, 1938, and that the relief expenditures will be a million dollars more this year than they were last year. How can there be health and peace and sweet content when the average farmer in Canada has to live on \$474 a year; when 895,000 workers, or 36 per cent of all Canadian workers, receive an annual average wage of \$202; when 65 per cent of the workers receive an annual average wage of \$360; when 84 per cent get an annual average of \$506; when 93 per cent get an annual average of \$592, and when 98 per cent get an annual average of \$664? How can there be health and peace and sweet content in the hearts of nine thousand young western Canadians, both boys and girls, who are working for less than \$10 per month, out of which they must pay for their own clothing? How can there be health and peace and sweet content in the hearts of hundreds of thousands of honest, decent Canadian citizens who are compelled to endure the heart-breaking degradation of public charity, who are denied the right to labour creatively, to produce useful and beautiful things for themselves and their children, their every legitimate and normal aspiration crushed and strangled by the fantastic veto which this system has clamped down upon their lives?

Surely these people know the Prime Minister was speaking the truth when he said Canada was a land of abundance, more blessed by providence than any other on the face of the globe. The people are becoming more fully aware every day that, to use again the words of the Prime Minister, "starvation" and suffering are unnecessary in a land of abundance. At every session of this parliament I have referred to the Loeb Survey of Potential Product Capacity, a United States government commission, which proved four years ago that without altering their industrial equipment the people of the United States could produce \$4,400 a year for every family in that country. Now the Prime Minister says Canada is more blessed by providence than any other country on the

[Mr. P. J. Rowe.]

face of the globe, and this must mean that we could actually have more than \$4,400 a year per family. How long does the Prime Minister think the people of Canada are going to idle in semi-starvation because the rules of an archaic, obsolete system demand it; when they know that the good things of life are theirs for the taking—and, mind you, the working. I am not suggesting that there should not be work. How long, I wonder, does he think that is going to last? They are not going to submit very much longer to the conditions imposed by this fantastic situation.

No wonder one of his own followers, the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Fleming), driven to exasperation by the complete failure and ineptitude of the government, burst forth in this house only last Thursday with such language as this. He said.

I begin to wonder how long it will be before the government will be willing to face fairly the fundamental issues.

Later:

Production for need has become all mixed up with exploitation for profit. In Canada we see poverty and desperation when we have nearly a million people on relief and the granaries are filled with wheat. Do we take the wheat and put men to work, making bread for those who have none? No. We plunge the country further into debt by borrowing money to get the bread. Goods are sacrificed for profit, not only in this country but in others.

Then a little later on he said:

We would be better advised to spend less time criticizing the Hitler regime and more time in bolstering up our own weaknesses. The best criticism anyone can give of a dictatorship is a perfectly functioning democracy.

I quite agree with that. After denouncing exploitation for profit, and goods being sacrificed for profit, he goes on to say:

If some way cannot soon be found to make the implement manufacturers toe the line, the government will have to set up manufacturing plants under the control of the government, or some other arrangement.

May I congratulate the hon. member for Humboldt upon his repudiation of the profit system. I want to suggest to him that consistency now demands that he vote for the subamendment proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) because it involves planning.

His closing words, as they are reported at page 160 of *Hansard*, struck me as a ringing challenge to democracy and a plea for the new world order. This is what he said:

The people of Germany turned from democracy just as the people of Canada will turn from democracy if the government of