

*The Address—Mr. W. J. Browne*

member mentioned. What does he say of the government of Salazar in Portugal? He has been in office for 24 years; once when he resigned he was invited by the people to return. What does he say, after the election in Great Britain, when the number of people who voted against the socialist government amounted to 15 million, while the number who voted for it amounted to 12 million? Will he not say they are a political force of some value who stand on guard against communism? "Christian Democrat", which is the term I have used to denote these Christian Democratic parties, was a term that was coined by Leo XIII. It meant that the government was to be guided by Christian principles. As my friend may be aware, the socialist parties of Europe are largely anti-Christian, and have not the same Christian outlook which I presume my hon. friend has.

I shall leave the members of the C.C.F. party alone for the moment, and revert once more to the members of the government. I am sure that many of us listened with amusement as well as amazement to the speech delivered by the Minister of Agriculture yesterday. No one will deny that the minister is a patriotic man. He is the most attentive person in this house. I should like to give him credit for that. He listens to all the speeches, even some which he must find quite uninteresting. I did not think he did himself justice yesterday. In the future, I do not think the minister will be proud of the exhibition he gave us. He knew that he was not giving a fair picture of the situation. He was exaggerating, and he was stating things that were entirely out of proportion. I listened to him speak about the great work which the Liberal party has done. I have no doubt the Liberal party has done good work; it has done wonderful work. During the past ten years trade has flourished under the Liberal government. If it had not flourished during the last ten years, it would not say very much for the intelligence of the members of the Liberal government.

After listening to the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, I went to the library and asked for a book that would give the statistics on world trade. I found the United Nations statistical year book for 1948, and I have here many pages dealing with the trade of the whole world, or of the principal countries of the world. The Minister of Agriculture knows better than anybody else that the picture of trade between 1928 and 1948 was practically the same in every country throughout the world except in Europe during the war; there was a decline certainly beginning in 1929 with the stock market crash of that year when the bonds of some countries plunged down from \$100 to \$10, and the shares of all the stocks

[Mr. Browne (St. John's West).]

on the stock markets went down like an avalanche. For several years following that there was a depression all over the world, and it had not really finished when the war began. In 1939 I remember being in an ordinarily busy station in Boston and seeing the porters playing baseball because there were no people travelling on the trains. I remember travelling from Boston to New York in May, 1939, when there was only one other person besides me in the car on the train. There was a world depression on. I could show my hon. friend the figures for trade in Newfoundland since the war began. We did not have the blessings of a Liberal government in Newfoundland at that time. We had a commission of government; and even a commission of government was able to build up surpluses. I would say this for the benefit of the hon. member. If we had had a responsible government in power in Newfoundland in those days, we would have been able to build up large surpluses, just as the commission of government had done.

The most notable thing, however, about the right hon. gentleman's speech was not what he said but rather what he did not say; and, Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask you and the other members of this house to listen to what I have to say just now. I imagine that when the right hon. gentleman had finished that radio speech there was another voice that came on immediately after, the still small voice of conscience which spoke as follows:

**An hon. Member:** Oh, no.

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** "Listen, folks; I have to tell you a secret".

**An hon. Member:** Quiet!

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** "Mr. F. A. McGregor, the commissioner under the combines act, considered that the flour millers of this country had agreed to put up the prices of flour all over Canada and in September, 1947, he started the investigation which he finished in December, 1948. He put in a report. The Minister of Trade and Commerce was mad about it. He of course has tremendous influence with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), who has great confidence in him; and he persuaded the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson), who is new at the job and did not know much about it, not to publish the report".

**An hon. Member:** Rubbish.

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** The voice went on, "We are not going to publish the report, folks. We did not tell parliament about this report when parliament was sitting. We kept it secret because the Conservatives might make use of it in the election; and the C.C.F., if they ever got hold of