

respect. Because of the innate good judgment of the people of Canada, few minority problems have arisen.

I come from the province of Nova Scotia, as does my honourable friend from Digby-Clare (Hon. Mr. Comeau), and I agree that the relations between the majority and the minority there are of the happiest. I frequently visit the province of Quebec, and in Montreal where I have many friends, I have never heard of one person of English descent being discriminated against by the French majority. This too, is a living example of the good judgment and the common sense of the Canadian people in dealing with racial problems.

I am happy to welcome my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Comeau) as a colleague from the province of Nova Scotia. I am a very much more recent arrival on the political scene than he is, with his forty-two years' experience. My experience is about half that. He has had a most creditable career. He, the honourable senator from Queens-Lunenburg (Hon. Mr. Kinley) and I were elected members of the legislature of our province in 1928.

I have one or two matters to which I should like to refer this afternoon, and then, with deference to my honourable friend the leader opposite (Hon. Mr. Haig), it is my intention to adjourn the debate until Tuesday evening next, when I shall deal more fully with some of his arguments.

In passing, I wish to point out that my friend is a little out in his chronology of events. He took considerable pride in saying that the subject of the trans-Canada highway was mentioned at the recent Conservative convention in Ottawa and that the Liberal party acted accordingly. I would point out to him that two months before the Conservatives met there was a very well-attended convention of the Liberal party in Ottawa and that the Conservative group paid us a compliment by copying in almost every detail, improving where it was possible, our convention scheme. I have no doubt that my friend's party read carefully the report of our convention proceedings, and then advocated the completion of the trans-Canada highway. I attach no great importance to the point, but one must remember that there is no difficulty in spending money as long as our finances make the spending possible.

The honourable leader opposite expressed himself most emphatically on what he believes to be an injustice to the wheat growers of the West because they were not allowed to sell their product at the highest market price. I am not prepared to answer fully my friend's arguments this afternoon, but it appears to

me that the conditions he referred to do not apply only to wheat growing. For instance, the Dominion Steel and Coal Company of the province of Nova Scotia felt that the government had done them a great injustice in not permitting them to sell on the best markets at home and abroad. The company contended that they should be compensated by the Dominion Government for the difference between the price for which they sold their product and the price which they at one time could have sold it. I do not know that their claim would have involved the astronomical figures conjured up by my honourable friend as applying to wheat, but the principle is the same. I am quite sure that my friend from Northumberland (Hon. Mr. Burchill) would feel that the same argument could be made on behalf of the lumbering industry. The price of lumber both on the local and export markets has been constantly controlled. In fact, I scarcely know of a single article of commerce in this country that has not been affected by government regulation for the purpose of keeping down the price to the consumer. Should the party of my honourable friend opposite come into power, and should they attempt to settle the proposed claims of the Western farmers, they would find a great many other people making claims for losses sustained by reason of the fact that they could not take advantage of the best markets. It should also be pointed out that on the basis of need, the farmers in western Canada, in fact all the Canadian people, are better off today than when wheat was selling at \$3 and \$4 a bushel. Never in the history of our country has business been on a sounder basis than it is now.

My honourable friend has been consistent in his opposition to rental controls. I am not sure that he speaks for his party in that respect, but I have no doubt that if the claims of the wheat farmers were met, every landlord in the country would claim from the government the difference between the rent he was permitted to charge and that which, under the circumstances, he could have obtained. Such claims would be just as legitimate as those of the wheat farmers. My honourable friend from Peterborough (Hon. Mrs. Fallis) shakes her head, but I say that without controls the whole price structure would move up thirty or forty per cent. It must be remembered that we are all consumers and are all interested in what is best for the economy of Canada.

I do not think the argument advanced by the leader opposite on behalf of the western farmer is very sound. It may appeal to the people in his section of the country, but I would remind him of what happened during and after the first World War—the farmers received top-notch prices for wheat during the