

*The Address—Mr. Millar*

own minds what that part should be; we may make blunders and we may make mistakes; but the possibility of blundering and of making mistakes does not relieve us of the obligation, and I heartily agree with what the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) said yesterday, that we cannot consistently criticize, as we have done, and I think rightly done, the people of the United States for their vain attempt to remain aloof from world-wide problems, if we ourselves should take the same position. On the principle involved in that matter my mind is clear, in spite of the fact that as regards some phases of the problem we have not yet found the correct solution.

Another principle is equally clear to me, namely, that what we do must be determined by ourselves alone. Therefore, I must heartily endorse the position taken by the government when the situation arose last autumn, namely, that the representatives of Canada must be the responsible body to determine what we shall do under any set of circumstances that may arise. I know there is no such thing as a perfect analogy; but perhaps Kipling's words express the idea as well as anything else can: "Daughter am I in my mother's house, but mistress in my own." As I say, there may be difficulty in solving some of our problems and deciding on a course at any given time; but to my mind our course under any set of circumstances must be decided in harmony with those two great principles, namely, that we cannot escape from obligations, and that the part we shall take in fulfilling those obligations must be determined by the Canadian people.

Mr. J. MILLAR (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a small contribution to this debate, I should like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I was pleased indeed to note the remarkable ability shown by those members in that regard.

I have noticed that in the addresses that have been given several suggestions have been made of a constructive nature; but I believe in some cases there was more of criticism without anything of a constructive nature. I have listened to addresses in various places, sometimes from pulpits, sometimes from professors of colleges and from the man on the street, and while all agree that something is wrong with our economic system, I note a great dearth of suggestions that will give any assistance or direction in the solution of those problems. I believe anyone who is able to tell what is wrong has rendered a service;

[Mr. Brown.]

but the one who can tell how to remedy those evils and how to solve those problems has rendered a greater service. I do not hope to be able to perform that task, but I may make some suggestions as I go along.

Let me touch briefly on the unemployment question. A short time ago I heard an address in which the speaker remarked: "There is something wrong when we have so much unemployment, and I think our government should find out what is wrong, should try to find a solution." I wondered if it struck that gentleman or any of his hearers that possibly our unemployment problem may be so complex that no simple formula will furnish a solution. It is possible that as regards unemployment Canada, at the present time, is in need more of a great moral leader than of a great political leader. Let me go back a few years, in fact, two decades. I can remember the time when the law of supply and demand seemed to operate well, almost unrestrainedly. Then there came a time when some wise person said to his fellows of the same craft: "In so far as the law of supply and demand affects us adversely, we will evade it; we will profit by it so far as it assists us." They put their heads together, and they prevented the law of supply and demand from affecting them. This has been carried during the last two decades to its logical conclusion. Almost everything we buy has its price fixed by arbitrary means. Combines have been formed in almost every industry. The time came when labour learned a trick from its masters. They learned to combine in order to set aside the law of supply and demand, to set aside competition, and they have been able arbitrarily to fix the remuneration which they shall receive **for their work**. They are so numerous and powerful that they have been able largely to block our economic machine. As soon as we remove an important part of a machine, we need not be surprised to see that it does not run smoothly; and when we begin to wonder why it turns out that things are not right, the fact is simply that the governor of the machine has been removed. You know what happens if you remove the governor of an engine—it goes crazy and runs away, and that is about what happens when the law of supply and demand ceases to operate. I have wondered if labour has been able to recognize the fact that it is in part responsible for unemployment. While organization of labour has been wise; while they have been able to remedy many abuses; while they are quite justified in organizing, yet I believe they have abused their powers, and the fact remains now that some in the ranks of labour are unemployed