

has been condemned; but prices to-day are higher than ever before, and independent competitors find organization and development impossible. On this question also the speech from the throne makes precise statements which will doubtless prove very tiresome to the masters of finance, but which will surely bring rejoicing to the common people who want freedom and honesty in business.

The royal commission instituted last year and which, since that time, has pursued a relentless inquiry into the spread between production and consumption prices, has enriched the government of this country with a mass of substantial and fruitful evidence. With prejudice toward no one, but also without fear or favour, this governmental commission has done its utmost to discover the deep-lying causes of economic unrest, to bring to the searching light of day the why and the wherefores of the faulty distribution of wealth, and to provide the authorities of our country with all the information necessary for the emendation of our social and economic legislation, which thus will be brought more in consonance with the dictates of justice.

On this point, as on many another, reforms have already been instituted, reforms that our Canadian public have promptly taken advantage of. The Natural Products Marketing Act met with an enthusiastic reception from all classes of our population, but more particularly from the farming community, the members of which have up to now been the victims of parasitic enterprises, promoted against the interests of both producer and consumer, which strove to widen the gap between the two, and kept the cost of living abnormally high at a time when prices paid the producer were relatively low. To these reforms the Conservative government intends to add another by putting the benefits of these laws within reach of a still greater number of our citizens.

At a time of trying stress like that through which we have just passed, when nations everywhere put aside temporarily all internal dissension, we have witnessed in Canada the shocking spectacle of a narrow-minded, obstinate and, at times, senseless opposition to every governmental proposal. There must be criticism, opposition, destruction, at all costs. As was so eloquently recalled by the Prime Minister, those who under their administration had allowed the development of a false and artificial prosperity, the growth of a disgraceful and unwholesome capitalism, pushed their impudence to the extreme of trying to prevent the application of the

[Mr. Dorion.]

remedies that their very own policy had made necessary.

Mr. Speaker, if we had not had to face a faulty distribution of wealth; if wise enactments had made the organizing of trusts and monopolies impossible; if as early as 1920 the doors had been closed to immigration; if the whole system of legislation initiated by the honourable leader of the Conservative party in 1930 and continued since had been established just after the war; when the honourable leader of the opposition came into power; in short, if honourable gentlemen opposite had been equal to their task, instead of being so lavish of vain words and thoughts about the happiness of mankind or universal disarmament, I sincerely ask you: Would the depression subsequent to the crash of 1929 have occurred? Would we have had, in so rich and so vast a country in relation to its population, to suffer so severely from the crisis?

As a matter of fact our Liberal friends are prone to forget that it was in 1929, under their own regime, that illusion started to vanish. It was indeed in 1929 that the masses became frantic, that business suddenly diminished, and that the plague of unemployment started to show its effect. The evil was done when the Conservative party came into power in 1930. However, thank God, the Canadian people had understood how serious the conditions were and called to their bedside a doctor possessed of remarkable strength and intuition. He set about the task with vigour and fully determined to overcome the evil, sparing neither his time nor his health, leaving aside all that was not in the sphere of his public duties, and risking, if need be, his popularity, better to accomplish the task which had been entrusted to him.

Commenting on the speeches which he delivered early this month, a newspaperman from L'Action Catholique, of Quebec, Mr. Eugene L'Heureux, wrote these most significant words: "Since he presides over the destinies of this Dominion, Mr. Bennett appears to us as a man uncommonly well gifted with intelligence and courage. Our sympathy for Mr. King and some of his colleagues does not prevent us from considering the present prime minister as a man uncommonly well fitted to govern in these very hard times." To those who may reproach him with his policy, we need but point out its benefits and excellent consequences in every field of national activity. If we are at last recovering; if the economic condition of the dominion improved to an unexpected degree, more especially since the last eleven months; if our farm production has increased by more