

called upon to liquidate the public debt, per capita, they would be unable.

It is useless to harbour any illusions in this respect.

Let us frankly admit that we are practically bankrupt, if we are not so officially. And what is true of governments is also too true of individuals. The government is greatly responsible for this state of affairs because of the policy it pursued and of which the last summer conference is a logical sequel.

I again state, if we seek for the causes of this deplorable situation and sad state of things, we must place, for the most part, the responsibility on this administration. Not content, this government still wants to further tie our hands by trade agreements from which we shall derive no benefit.

An alarming increase in the number of unemployed, an inconsiderate expenditure of public money, an extravagant and foolish increase of the public debt—in the millions—a disastrous and discouraging decrease in the prices of farm products, a guilty negligence of all which pertains to the farm, a too high level in prices on manufactured articles—

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): Dismissal of postmasters.

Mr. VERVILLE (Translation): —upsetting of trade, the ruin of property owners in cities and even in rural sections because of an unceasing decrease in the value of property, the closing of natural channels for the sale of our products, these are the evil effects of a regime of exaggerated protection, advocated, inaugurated, enforced and so highly praised by our friends opposite.

Indeed, it is a marvellous result, and one must, I think, be very bold to maintain publicly after such acts, that this government has done its best and has some worthy deeds to its credit.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): They are very cheeky because they are double-faced.

Mr. VERVILLE (Translation): If they contend that they have done their best, they are easily satisfied. This being so, then they give us a real proof of their powerlessness, and they can without fear renounce to others their powers and that would redound to the advantage of the country as a whole.

Mr. LAFLECHE (Translation): Of all party healers.

Mr. VERVILLE (Translation): I shall not be so unfair towards our opponents as to doubt of their sincerity. It may perhaps be that they were sincere and are still so. It may be that they have faith in their policy. It has happened that doctors have killed

[Mr. Verville.]

their patients while endeavouring to cure them. I shall even concede that they are in earnest. They simply made the mistake of advocating a poor policy and of trying to persuade the people that it was the right one.

They imagined that by giving protection to large industries the interests of all would be safeguarded. It is simply a deception, a dream, almost folly, however, one must admit, sir, that many, unfortunately, felt the effects of this disease, especially among those who sit on the opposite benches.

At all events, the leader of the government seems to have realized the failure of his policy, and this is to his credit. Today, he wishes to accomplish something which may induce the public to forget his past errors. He has felt the need of rehabilitating himself in public opinion and wishes to prove that he is really the man, the super-man, sent by Providence, as a number of his followers delight in stating. Hence the conference of August last. He has found in it a cure-all but, especially, a cure for the ills of his party which is in such a bad way.

He has such faith in this panacea to remedy all ills, that he has instructed his faithful followers to broadcast it all over the world.

It has been put on the market in Ontario, but as we are aware, lately, the people refused to subscribe to this fake remedy.

We were favoured, in Quebec, immediately following the Imperial Conference, with the visit of the hon. Postmaster General to the Lake St. John district, the marvellous spectacle of a man who, notwithstanding his title of Minister of Dismissals, in the present government, travels to the remotest part of the largest province in the dominion, in order to sing to those people the broadcasted song of Madam Bolduc "Gentlemen be of good cheer, the event is not yet at hand, but it is coming."

The same circus where there was to be seen more trumping up than elephants, if I am allowed to say so, the same troop proceeded to the county of Dorchester, adjacent to my own, and finally to the island of Orleans, a countryside of enchanted legends, further enriched by another one; that of Mr. Bennett's Imperial Economic Conference, revised edition by my hon. friend, the member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion). Note well, sir, that this theatrical tour took place long before the terms of the agreements entered into at Ottawa, were made public. Thus they praised the results of the Imperial Conference before ever knowing what they were, probably because the master had said to proclaim that they would be wonderful. I have all the respect due to the Prime Minister of my