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"economic problems confronting us at the present time, namely, the necessity of obtaining a secure and permanent market for Canadian wheat and thereby ensuring a continuous flow to Canada of that purchasing power in the prairie provinces, upon which the prosperity of our country so largely depends."

The words which follow are as true as prophecy could possibly be with respect to what Canada has since witnessed:-

"Travelling as I did, throughout the western wheat fields, less than a fortnight ago, I have been appalled at the danger which confronts the economic life of the Dominion if we do not find the means of securing a market for this greatest of our primary products, and the greatest single source of the purchasing power which provides traffic for our transportation systems and orders for our

factories and business for our retail and wholesale merchants."

The close relationship between the solution of the problem of unemployment and a market for Canadian wheat was further emphasized as follows:-

"The wheat of western Canada is the greatest single source of purchasing power in the Dominion. When this purchasing power is contracted, as was the case last year, it has its inevitable effect upon every link in the series which extends from the consumer, through retail

W.L. Mackenzie King Papers Memoranda & Notes

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