

*The Budget—Mr. Shaver*

would be grabbing to see who could get the most out of the dominion government's pocket. I was pleased to see that the mayor of a city located in my own constituency, the town of Cornwall, was one of two mayors who stood up in Montreal and said that they were not in favour of that sort of thing. The mayor of Cornwall said that it was not a fair or businesslike thing to suggest, and that so far as he was concerned he stood for the principle of the municipality paying a portion of the relief. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that if Mayor Parisien of Cornwall, who is a self made business man who has made good on his own initiative and energy, had been selected as one of the men to address us at the meeting last night, it would have made a greater impression on the members there assembled than the addresses of some of the impractical spellbinders who did speak.

The next question, Mr. Speaker, which the electors are asking is this: Has the government adopted adequate safeguards, so far as possible, against another depression? We know that the channels of foreign trade have been opened. We know that progressive measures of social justice have been introduced, and many of them, put through, to a greater extent than at any other period in Canada's history, in order to meet the needs of to-day; for instance, the Bank of Canada Act, the marketing act, the Canadian Farm Loan Act, the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Eight Hour Day Act, the One Day's Rest in Seven Act, the federal Minimum Wage Act, the setting up of an economic council, the price spreads investigation and the legislation which undoubtedly will arise therefrom. All these are measures to assist in securing social justice for all the citizens of our country. I approve of these measures, particularly because they seek to assist the farmers and the working people who are the very backbone of our national existence.

While it is true that the electors will ask questions concerning the government that will demand a clear and definite answer, they will also ask questions about the opposition. Do not let the opposition members any longer think, as they did a few months ago, that the people of Canada are going to accept them holus-bolus, and allow them to slip into office without considering their record at all and without their placing before the people a definite plan. The first question which the electors will ask of the opposition is what action did the government of the Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King take to

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avert the depression that was rolling over Canada for nearly a year before his government gave up office. As I said before, they took no action at all. They left our country exposed as a dumping ground for every other nation of the world, as the trade figures I have given indicate. For a considerable period of time they even denied that a depression existed, and in the setting up of relief measures the Prime Minister of that day refused aid to provinces which might happen to have a Conservative administration. The Canadian people passed judgment on the government of the right hon. gentleman opposite on July 28, 1930. The people considered their record; they looked at what they had done to assist our country in that crisis, and decided that the government should be turned out of office.

The next question they are going to ask is this: Has the Liberal opposition during the intervening period done anything to cause the electors to change their minds or alter the verdict they rendered on that occasion? What has the Liberal opposition done to assist Canada during the past four years? I think that every member will agree that the responsibility rests on every citizen to do his share, and from the individual standpoint every member of the opposition has done his share just as much as every member on the government side of the house. We are all interested as individuals in the welfare of our country, and we all do what we can. But what have hon. gentlemen opposite done as a party? They have had very many opportunities, headed as they are by a leader with long political experience, with a wide economic training, a training which entitled him to write a book on certain social questions which some claim is a masterpiece, and supported by many men sitting behind him of wide business training and long political experience. But what have they done? Those who have been present in the house during the last four years know how they have hampered and delayed the passing of legislation.

When tariff changes were brought in to assist the agricultural industry, they were opposed by hon. gentlemen opposite. When the empire agreements were brought into the house, one of the best measures which was introduced on behalf of the Canadian farmer, for two months hon. gentlemen opposite opposed them. When the marketing act was introduced, one of the most advanced pieces of legislation to assist the Canadian farmer ever introduced in the House of Commons, they opposed it. This has been their record all the way through.