

If you deduct from that figure the foreign goods shipped through Canada, the adverse balance of trade against Canada was something over \$90,000,000. Those are the facts. That test, if it meant anything applied in days gone by, must be applied again. These are the figures issued by the government itself showing the trade balances for the past four years:

Year	Favourable	Trade Balance Adverse
1926.. . . .	\$275,000,000	
1927.. . . .	151,000,000	
1928.. . . .	151,000,000	
1929.. . . .		\$90,000,000

If you apply that test, this country is not prosperous.

There is one further test to be applied, the test of employment. The government, in the speech they put into the mouth of His Excellency, indicate that seasonal unemployment is now adjusting itself. Of course there is seasonal unemployment in this country. All fair-minded men realize that such is the case. Then the government proceed to point out that last year employment reached the highest point in the history of this country. There was once a gentleman, who, overtaken by a blizzard, died from cold. It must have been great comfort to his relations to be told that six months previously it was the hottest day in the history of the country. What a magnificent sort of nonsense it is to say to the people of Canada that on a given day last year we had the greatest employment in any period in our history; that there were more people employed on a given day last year than on any other day in the history of the country! What about conditions in this Dominion at this moment? What about conditions from east to west? It is true that part of the unemployment is seasonal; but since the beginning of the year I have traversed Canada from Victoria to the far east and in every city of this Dominion, east and west, there is abnormal unemployment, so that men who are accustomed to give, as I have been, to assist those who are unable to earn sufficient to keep body and soul together, have never before seen such distress as I have seen in the communities I have visited. Yet all that the men have sought is the chance to work. What have we done in regard to the situation? While in the United States of America President Hoover was calling together the great captains of industry; while he was asking them to meet with him at the White House in order to determine what steps should be taken that employment should be provided for the men and women of that country, what were we doing? What was the Minister of Labour

[Mr. Bennett.]

doing? What was the Prime Minister doing? Were they calling conferences? The only conferences they were calling were conferences to determine how best they could ward off the blows of an indignant people. The only conferences they were having were as to how they might increase their power and retain their positions. I have received a telegram from the secretary of the Miners' Union at Fernie indicating that their mine is closed because it is owned in the United States by one of the great railway systems and in pursuance of the policy of Mr. Hoover to give employment to the people in that country they are going to mine coal in the United States and shut down the Canadian mine. What is the Minister of Labour doing about the matter? Where was there a conference of Canadian business men? Were they asked to meet together? They were not. When a meeting was called by Mayor Webb in Winnipeg of all the mayors of western towns and representatives of western provinces as well, the minister will recall that he was to attend and it was given out that he was ill and unable to go, but his illness was not so great as to prevent him from attending banquets around but not on that particular date.

We must look the fact squarely in the eye that there has been great unemployment in Canada since the first of the year. During the winter we have entered upon we have seen greater suffering and privation than we have known during the last quarter of a century, and yet this government has absolutely failed to take any steps of any description whatsoever to deal with the problem. Is there any answer to that? Do you mean to say that steps could not be taken? Do you mean to say that the Dominion government should make no contribution to provide assistance to provinces and municipalities in matters of this kind? Who brought many of these men into this country? Certainly it was not the provincial governments, for wherever they have been consulted in matters of this kind they have given their answers in no uncertain terms. Now they are being consulted whereas formerly they were not. Yet the Dominion government says: We have no responsibility in the premises. I do not know whether the Prime Minister is correctly reported or not, but the report of his observations was that if the provinces were too poor to take care of them the government might see what it could do to assist them. That is the sense in which his observation came through the Canadian Press. That is not the performance of the obligations of the central government of Canada.