

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, that will also be considered.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Can the Prime Minister inform the house whether it is the intention of the government to have a Minister of Labour sitting in this house?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The intentions of the government will be made manifest by its actions.

Mr. HEAPS: I did not hear the answer.

Mr. BENNETT: I said, the intentions of the government will be made manifest by its actions.

Mr. HEAPS: They are not very manifest at the present time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Wednesday, March 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. H. E. SPENCER (Battle River): I trust the hon. member who preceded me in the debate will not consider me discourteous if I do not refer to the very able address he gave us yesterday. The time limit on speeches in this house has its disadvantages as well as its advantages, and as I shall not have any more time in the forty minutes allowed me than to put forward what I wish, particularly in regard to the condition of western Canada at the present time, it will not be possible for me to engage in those courtesies I should like to in referring to the hon. gentleman who has immediately preceded me.

When I arrived in Ottawa a short time ago someone said to me, "I trust that when the House of Commons does open we shall not have a lot of speeches with regard to blue ruin in different parts of Canada." I replied: "If the poor condition of any part of Canada or of any particular industry is well known to the whole of Canada and therefore understood by the House of Commons, it is certainly not necessary to lay stress on those individual

cases. But where any particular industry is in distress, where parts of Canada, very regretfully, at least so far as I am concerned, do not understand and probably wish to understand the conditions prevailing in other parts, then I think it is very important that the facts should be laid perfectly bare regarding the conditions in those parts of the country which are suffering distress."

I am not by any means a pessimist, Mr. Speaker. I believe that Canada has a great future, and particularly do I think so if we take every possible advantage of science and invention to produce the goods we need. But at the same time we must bring about a sane, safe and just economic system which will make it possible for the people of this country to buy the goods that are produced.

It is not a pleasant duty to come into this House of Commons and lay before it conditions which, certainly, to many members, will not be very welcome. At the same time I do not think I should be doing my duty to my constituency or to that part of Canada from which I have the honour to come, if I did not lay perfectly bare the conditions as I left them. Knowing the conditions as I do, knowing the privations which people are enduring, knowing the dark future which is before them, I certainly was much disappointed in reading the slight reference to agriculture in the speech from the throne. The first reference I see reads:

My ministers have had under anxious consideration the means by which an orderly marketing of the wheat crop of western Canada may be assured, and have already taken such effective action towards that end as the circumstances appear to justify.

When one considers the bankrupt condition of western Canada—I say bankrupt because the only reason it is not actually so, is that creditors are not pressing—and the fact that stock and crops have been sold below cost of production; the suffering, privation and hardships that have to be endured; and the infinitesimally small amount of help that has been given by the Dominion government, the above seems to me to be neither more nor less than a hollow mockery. And continuing from the speech from the throne, I read:

My ministers are aware that changing conditions in the world's markets may necessitate further intervention by my government, which is prepared to render whatever additional assistance may be deemed advisable in the national interests. The present situation has emphasized the necessity of effecting a reduction in the costs of production and marketing