

doing to solve the problem. Well, I may tell him that in 1930 active steps were taken by the Federal Government to meet the emergency, and large sums of money were provided for the purpose. Those moneys, I believe, were honestly spent; at least no one has ever suggested that one dollar of the appropriation voted in 1930 was misspent under the direction of our esteemed colleague from Welland (Hon. Mr. Robertson). And a great deal of work has been done. Ever since 1930, if I am correctly informed, the Federal Government has been furnishing each provincial government—and there are nine of them—large sums of money to assist it in dealing with unemployment. In addition to making these substantial grants to the provincial authorities, the Federal Government has been safeguarding our fiscal system by strengthening our tariff walls. Why? Because it is anxious to keep our own factories going and to prevent foreign countries from flooding our markets with their products and so forcing our workmen out of employment. Finally, the Federal Government engaged itself in the great work of the recent Imperial Economic Conference, with the objective of developing and increasing our industry and thus ensuring greater employment. Now, I think that is a pretty good record.

I listened very attentively to my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Lemieux) who preceded me. He is a public man of long experience, a former Cabinet Minister, and prominent in his profession. Time and again in the course of his speech he asked, "What is the Government going to do to relieve unemployment?" But I waited in vain for a single suggestion from him as to what ought to be done. Although he has been a representative of the people for thirty or forty years, he sat down without making even the scintilla of a suggestion to help the Government deal with the situation. Unfortunately we hear too many speeches like that in and out of Parliament; reams of them are printed, broadcast, and spoken from platforms and from pulpits everywhere; conferences are being held and various organizations are passing resolutions. But have any of them made one practical, concrete suggestion as to what ought to be done? If so, I should like to be informed. Up to this moment I have failed to hear anything of the kind, except the one suggestion of my honourable friend that we cut down the tariff. What does he mean? That we should go out with a steam roller and break down all our tariff walls? Well, if we adopted his suggestion what would happen? What would the people do who are employed in the industries of this country? If the

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United States, if France, if Italy, if Czechoslovakia, if Germany—if all the countries that are now trying to push their goods in here found our tariff walls broken down, why, this country would be swamped with their products, our factories would be compelled to shut down, and instead of having 500,000 we should have 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 unemployed walking the streets.

As I say, that is the only suggestion I have heard. True, the honourable leader of his party in another place has said that we should have a conference. We have nine provincial governments; we have one Federal Government. I have observed on the part of my honourable friend and a great many who think as he does a distinct and positive attempt to fasten upon the shoulders of the present Federal Government sole responsibility not only for the dislocation of trade and business throughout the world, but also for relieving all unemployment in Canada. Is it to be suggested that the Government at Ottawa should take over from, we will say, the provincial governments in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia the administration of provincial affairs? If I understand him aright, that is his suggestion. But there is more than that suggested in the arguments which he and other honourable gentlemen have been addressing to us. There is the suggestion that the citizen has no responsibility whatever; that the sole responsibility lies on the shoulders of the ten or eleven men who happen to compose the Government at Ottawa. I submit, honourable senators, that this is a time when the individual citizen, the churches, and every other organization throughout the Dominion should realize their duties and responsibilities instead of attempting to shift them on to the shoulders of the few Cabinet ministers here in Ottawa. Every citizen and every organization should be hard at work collaborating and assisting in this work of looking after the unemployed. I conclude what I have to say in this regard with the remark that I feel confident the attempt to fasten all responsibility, not only for unemployment but for the causes of unemployment, upon the shoulders of one government will not appeal to the better sense of the people of this country.

My honourable friends on the other side, particularly the honourable gentleman who immediately preceded me, referred to the Imperial Economic Conference. The honourable leader opposite stated that in 1897 the Imperial preference granted by the Government