

too far. It states that to keen observers of the business barometer the worst is over, that the year 1921—which I have just compared with the year 1911—was the year of greatest deflation, the year of heaviest reaction. That prediction placed alongside the assertion of fact as to our present condition, should bring comfort and cheer to us all.

I wonder if hon. gentlemen opposite would recognize any comparison between this very frank acknowledgment in the Speech from the Throne and some of their literature and speeches in the late campaign. Was it a picture of confidence that they drew? Was it a comparison favourable to Canada that they made with other countries of the world? It was not. I have before me some of the speeches made and pamphlets issued by the hon. Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin). I understood that until he reached this House he was in a state of exceeding doubt, not to say irremovable despair, at the awful position into which this country had fallen. He was associated in those feelings with the present hon. member for St. Antoine (Mr. Mitchell), who felt that the condition of the country was so desperate that he should resign his post in the government of his Province and devote his capacities to the rehabilitation of the Dominion financially and commercially. I have before me some utterances of both these hon. gentlemen. In a manifesto, issued at, I fear considerable expense, and appearing among other publications, in *The Montreal Standard* of the 5th November last, the following is given as a description of our plight—I would like it placed alongside of the paragraph that I have just quoted from the Speech from the Throne.

"Our country," said Mr. Mitchell, now hon. member for St. Antoine, "is passing through a crisis."

After passing through four years of war and sacrifice which did it credit, Canada to-day is reeling under a burden which would crush many nations less courageous than ours. With a war debt unparalleled in the history of this land or any other with a population the size of ours;—

This land that is now acknowledged to be the best of any in its relative position in the world.

—with a gaping wound in the body politic which only the best physicians gathered together in counsel can heal;—

And which I assume, this Speech from the Throne is designed to heal even in this present session.

—with a railway deficit which would rock to its very foundation; with a merchant marine, the national credit of any land with a population

of nine millions; with a national revenue which is declining day by day while our burdens and liabilities increase, Canada to-day is looking in this direction and in that direction to find a way to meet the terrible storms that are ahead.

An hon. MEMBER: And they have found it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They have found the way, and the way is designated in this Speech from the Throne, which, as hon. members will see in a few minutes, promises to do in every regard just what they found the late government doing, and insofar as it does not promise to do what they found the late government doing, promises to think about the subject. The manifesto continues:

With these huge undertakings, either one of which alone is sufficient to cripple Canada, this Dominion is sick commercially and weakened financially.

I will refer to other portions of this address when I come to other subjects treated of in the Speech from the Throne.

The hon. member who is now the Minister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin) speaking in his province also in the course of the campaign, gave utterance to sentiments that painted an equally doleful picture. He seems to have declared even that our population was diminishing. I see he gives mute indication of dissent, but I have the declaration attributed to him before me now. He stated as well that trade was falling; that unemployment was rampant; that bankruptcy was at hand; and that, indeed, we were going to fall into the hands of the United States unless the people arose to a sense of the appalling condition they were in,—in other words, unless they elected him and his party to power. On the 3rd of December he is thus reported in *Le Soleil*:

Sir Lomer Gouin received an ovation when he entered the hall. He warned the electors against the stratagem of the Conservatives—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I paused there purposely in order that the opportunity for applause might come. I will wait now for the applause that will finish the sentence:

—the stratagem of the Conservatives, who, once elected, will take away from us our railway shops and managements, thus depriving at least 50,000 of our workingmen who would be compelled to exile themselves.

In which the hon. member, now the Minister of Justice, deliberately associated himself with the most disreputable political roorback that ever disgraced the politics of any country.