

fell overboard. After a while, let us say, I bobbed up on top of a wave and said to him, "Ha ha, I am not worse off than you are; I am not more wet than you are and I am not in greater danger of being drowned." That would be true, but it certainly would not get either of us out of the Atlantic. So that it is all very well to say that Canada is not worse off than any other country, but that does not lift this or any other country out of the present damnable depression. These are the stereotyped excuses which the leader of the opposition used in the last election and for using which he was laughed at by the gentlemen who are now in power. And it is the excuse which is being used now by the party opposite. Well, I repudiate both; they are excuses which will not be accepted by the Canadian people very much longer.

Now I come to a direct reference which the Prime Minister made to some of the things which have been advocated from this corner, and whether I am right or not I think that his references were particularly aimed at this section of the house. In his usual forceful manner he spoke about nostrums. I thought I knew what nostrums meant, but I looked it up to make sure. The word has three meanings. First, a nostrum is a medicine recommended by its preparer; secondly, it is a medicine the ingredients of which are kept secret by the inventor; and thirdly, it is a quack remedy, and a quack means a pretender.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. IRVINE: I am glad that my hon. friend recognizes his own policy when he hears it described by someone else. I have been going over the Conservative policies and I find that all three meanings of this word can be aptly applied to those policies. First, we have a medicine recommended by its preparers. Take, for instance, the fixing of tariffs by order in council, a medicine recommended by those who prepared it. Well, that has been a failure. Let us take the second meaning of the word, a medicine the ingredients of which are kept secret by the inventor—the Imperial conference, for instance; the whole thing kept a secret by its inventors. And someone reminds me of the government's policy of unemployment, which has so far been kept a secret. The third meaning of the word is a quack medicine. Now, capitalism has been dying for two generations and every government that ever sat opposite has been quacking on it and applying quack remedies. Quack remedies applied have been tariffs, tariffs and more tariffs, all nostrums offered by the govern-

ment. We demand that they put an end to their nostrums and get down to policies that will work. Among these nostrums the Prime Minister referred specifically to sound money as one would refer to the sacred documents upon which the faith of a people is based, or to the golden calf which was once ground up and given to the Israelites in the water they drank.

It seems to me that when he used this phrase sound money in the sense in which he used it the Prime Minister certainly underestimated the intelligence of the Canadian people. I can assure him that, from my associations with the Canadian people—and I have travelled over this country in the last two years a good deal more than he has been able to do, because he has been very busy—the majority of the Canadian people to-day no longer regard money as a divine mystery which must be protected both by church and by state. The public mind has lost some of the reverence which it used to have for the gold basis, for example, especially since Great Britain slipped off that basis and since they have been able to taste some of the fruits which have followed.

I say frankly that the phrase sound money actually stinks with error and fallacy; it has very much more sound than sense. Let me say to this house that sound money is something that Canada has not and never had. Sound money is something which no nation in the world has ever had on a gold basis. The agitation from this corner of the chamber has been to get sound money and bring about the abandonment of unsound money. Let me ask a few questions of my hon. friends which they can answer at their leisure. Is it possible for sound money to be based on gold?

Mr. LAVERGNE: Certainly.

Mr. IRVINE: I warrant that the hon. member who answers first knows least about it. That is usually the way.

Mr. LAVERGNE: It is so easily answered.

Mr. IRVINE: But the answer which comes as easily as that is usually nine-tenths wrong. I ask my hon. friend to let the history of the depressions of the world give the answer. Was it sound money which forced Great Britain to abandon her system? She did not take that action of her own volition, she was forced to do so. Was it not sound money which the Prime Minister declared in his opening remarks at the Imperial conference had broken down? He stated that the sound money system of the world had collapsed. If