

Having mentioned His Majesty the King and the royal tour, I should perhaps say something about the recent general election in Great Britain. I think that those of us who know anything at all about events over there will not only congratulate the new Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Winston Churchill, but will also extend to him our sympathy in the great task that confronts him and his government in endeavouring to rectify the results of the six years of what I would call experimental rule. During those six years many British people were living in a false heaven, so to speak. They were certainly living mostly on borrowed money, and I doubt whether they could have carried on but for the help received from the United States and this country. Although approximately \$3 billion a year was paid out in Britain for subsidies, the cost of living could not be kept from rising. I think that should be a lesson to those people who contend that our government should take steps to reduce the cost of living by controlling prices. If I remember correctly, it was a member of the Social Credit Party in my own city who said that the new government in Great Britain would not bring about any change. To my way of thinking he was entirely wrong. For one thing, we are going to hear now the voice of Britain in the councils of the nations; and I believe no one will contradict my statement that Britain's voice has not been raised there very loudly in recent years. There are times when it is necessary for a country's representatives to use strong words, and I have no doubt that Mr. Churchill will use them when necessary.

One of the speakers in this debate dealt with conditions on the Prairie provinces and spoke about wheat. He mentioned the weather on the Prairies and its effect on the growing of wheat. Of course we have a great deal of sympathy for the farmers, who depend on favourable weather for the growth of the crop which gives them their livelihood.

In passing, I may say a word about the weather in British Columbia during this past summer. There was a period of one hundred days of sunshine without rain. It was the driest summer I have seen since I went to that province in 1909. The government sent some scientists by plane from the city of Ottawa with a view to bringing rain. Well, I thought the people of Alberta had learned a lesson about rainmakers, when they hired a man by the name of Hatfield, and paid him, I think, \$3,000.

**Hon. Mr. Horner:** More than that.

**Hon. Mr. Reid:** I should like to warn the government against taking such action.

Previous to the arrival in British Columbia of the so-called rain-makers, a man from the south of us came and offered to bring rain for a certain sum of money. Immediately this was announced the cherry growers notified him that if he was successful they would sue him, because rain would spoil their crop. It is indeed dangerous for the government to attempt to interfere with the weather. God knows, the government has enough trouble these days, and it gets blamed for most things, quite apart from the weather.

When one person wants rain, another may want dry weather. An incident occurred in the United States last year involving two states, one of which sent up some airplanes to drop dry ice to make rain. While I do not think this action had any effect on the weather, rain did fall, and the other state launched a lawsuit against the rain-making state, complaining that the rain fell on the wrong area and not where Nature intended. From time immemorial attempts have been made to solve the lack of rain problem. As good a solution as I have heard of is one that was offered by a man living in the city of Calgary. He wrote and said that if the provincial government in my province would pay the fares to Vancouver of a club consisting of eight persons, of which he was one, they would guarantee to bring rain. He pointed out that this club had observed that every time they decided to go on a holiday it always rained, and he was quite sure that if they arranged a holiday in Vancouver rain was sure to fall. That rather amusing formula compares favourably in so far as results are concerned with that of the so-called rain-makers. But I specifically wish to warn the government that it should not participate in such activities, for the good reason that there are some people who do not want rain, and it would lead to trouble.

I wish now to return to the subject of wheat. My information is that in spite of the unfavourable weather conditions on the prairies, many elevators are bulging with wheat. Just before leaving British Columbia to attend the present session I bought some wheat—I keep a few chickens—and I paid \$3.95 for one hundred pounds of grain that in former years would have been discarded. I am perplexed to know why the people of my province should have to pay such a price for small, shrunken and generally poor-quality grain. It is time that some investigation was made to clear up this question. Of course there are those who will say that the cost of hauling affects the retail price. Let me point out that as far as freight rates are concerned, the Dominion