

The Address—Mr. McLean (Melfort)

Mr. COLDWELL: It is a question of truth.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): The hon. member says that in addition to the increased grant, which is now \$30 per school month—and his leader said that this lady teacher received only \$18—coal and other necessities are supplied to the school. This enables the school board to pay over the full amount of the grant.

Mr. COLDWELL: Out of the \$30.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): No; coal supplies do not come out of the grant. My hon. friend spent a great deal of his time in lauding conditions in New Zealand. Ordinarily my answer to that would be, if I wanted to belittle him, to ask him whether he had ever been in New Zealand. I shall not ask him that question; it would not be fair or reasonable. I shall tell him, however, that if he went to New Zealand he would find, taking into account climatic conditions, natural resources, the nature of the people and other factors, that all these circumstances themselves account for the present situation in that dominion, and they have no reference to anything beneficial effected by a semi-socialist government elected a few months ago. As the hon. member for Huron North (Mr. Deachman) pointed out, when a change has been brought about in an economic system after that system has been in operation for a considerable time, and when wealth has been accumulated, it is easy to distribute that wealth and dissipate it, giving some appearance of prosperity for a little while. But that prosperity never lasts unless production is increased and marketing is put on a better basis.

Mr. COLDWELL: As it has been.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): That remains to be seen. Has production been increased?

Mr. COLDWELL: Yes.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): It must be borne in mind that there have not been crop failures in New Zealand as there have been in Saskatchewan, and that is one of the main circumstances which explain the state of affairs in that country to-day. Those are the reasons, and not the ones suggested by the hon. gentleman.

Let me now turn to the remarks of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley). This government, he declared, is known as the do-nothing government. All I can say is, any government that can carry out an alleged do-nothing policy and yet be instrumental in increasing the national income to the extent of

[Mr. E. Lapointe.]

three-quarters of a billion dollars per annum two years after their election is the sort of government that the people want. If, however, the hon. gentleman means by a do-something government that the government should be the sort of one that he and I have witnessed in recent years, with ministers junketing around at political banquets and picnics, burning up the highways at high speed, moving ceaselessly around so as to give one the impression of squirrels in a cage, under the delusion that motion is progress—if that is the kind of government he has in mind, then I tell him emphatically that it is not the kind of government the Canadian people want.

Mr. PERLEY: Tell the house how many trips your ministers made in the last six or eight months.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): If that were the issue I would tell the hon. member, but he can find out. The hon. gentleman did not tell us that he wrote to the departments at Regina responsible for the distribution of relief to inform them of conditions existing in the country if those conditions were not favourable. Oh, no. He confined himself to the details of a single court case in which his friend the leader of the Conservative party in Saskatchewan was one of the participants in the court proceedings, as he had a perfect right to be. Possibly the hon. member has from that source information to which I have not access. I would point out—and it is of the utmost importance—that friends in Ontario and Quebec, in the maritimes and other provinces, have in many instances, either out of their abundance or out of their little, contributed to help the people of western Canada in the time of dire distress which they have experienced in the past few years, and I wish to assure all such friends that what they contributed was not deliberately dissipated either by the government or by any of the authorities. It is true that mistakes were made and wrong was done, but it was as a result of checking up by the authorities that wrong-doing was discovered and some men are to-day expiating their crimes in gaol. It is unfortunate that this is so, but human nature being what it is, such things will always occur. It has been so under past governments and is likely to be so to some small extent in the future.

I wish to call the attention of the house to one or two other matters dealt with by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. With reference to the question of wheat marketing he said:

The farmers of western Canada realize now that there must be some control of production, or at least some control of marketing. I am