

ing for the prosperity and giving the exact proof of it. Some of these tests are set out in the speech from the throne itself, and I shall draw my hon. friend's attention to one or two of them:

—the year 1929 was the most productive year in the history of Canada.

The extent of production is a fairly good test of prosperity; it is a test which has been put forward in previous speeches from the throne, and this year it is possible for the government to state that from the point of view of productivity in this country, there was last year a greater productivity than at any previous period in the history of Canada. Another test is that of employment. The speech from the throne states:

—that employment reached the highest point on record.

There can be no dispute on that point. The statistics furnished by the government make it quite clear that there was more in the way of general employment than during any other year in the history of Canada, and yet my hon. friend this afternoon says that he has discovered a dire condition of privation in the country that, to use his own words, has not been equalled in a quarter of a century. Surely that is the language of exaggeration if ever there was such.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I just want to keep my hon. friend to that statement; if I understand him rightly, he says that there is more in the way of privation in Canada at present than there has been for a quarter of a century past.

Mr. BENNETT: I say that in travelling over this country I have seen more privation than I have seen for a quarter of a century.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend is now limiting it by his own sight. We all know that his vision is very much circumscribed, and that is what I am trying to bring out.

Mr. BENNETT: I will put it more clearly, then; I have found more of privation than I have seen in a quarter of a century, more bread lines and soup kitchens.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let us understand the position exactly. The party led by my hon. friend opposite states that the conditions to-day from the point of view of dire need and distress, as far as the people are concerned, are worse than they have been for a quarter of a century. My hon. friend nods his head and says yes. I think we will just have to let the people of the country

judge as between my hon. friend's views of conditions and conditions as the country generally knows them to be. Going back not a quarter of a century but a matter of only a few short years ago, six or seven, I well remember that we heard a great deal about whispers of death, the ruination of the country generally, the numbers of people who were leaving this country to go to the United States, the industries that were languishing and so on, and yet I suppose my hon. friend's statement is to the effect that to-day conditions are worse in Canada than they were at that time.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not say that.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: It is all right to laugh, but that is not what I said. I said there was more privation in Canada, that I had seen or come in contact with more privation than in a quarter of a century, more bread lines and soup kitchens and dire want on the part of the people.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is getting back again to my hon. friend's limited vision to which I directed his attention a moment ago; and he stated then that it was not his own limited vision but the actual record of facts. Now I am going to give the record of facts as the country knows them and I will give my hon. friend statistics in a moment or two which I hope he will regard as perhaps more authoritative than what he has seen personally.

Let me give another test set out in the speech from the throne:

. . . . new construction was the largest known.

There is a test which will enable us to ascertain whether or not conditions are prosperous, and that is a statement which cannot be refuted, that in this country last year the extent of construction was greater than was ever known in the history of Canada previously. Then the speech from the throne states:

Mining production was of unequalled value.

That is another statement which I challenge any hon. gentleman opposite to refute.

Manufacturing production surpassed all previous records.

If hon. gentlemen opposite know of any test of prosperity it is the condition of manufacturing, and I challenge them to deny that as far as Canada is concerned the manufacturing of this country was more prosperous last year than it ever has been in the history of Can-