

gained more prestige than any other nation of the world. They feel in their veins flowing the proud blood of a free, prosperous and happy nation.

I know that it is impossible to appreciate exactly at its just value, what is worth to the country the true Canadian spirit which animates the government. However, statistics tell us that crops have been more abundant and our production has increased, as well as our trade with other nations. Everything points out that the Canadian has toiled more and better.

Hence, the prosperity we enjoy; however, one must be most unfair not to acknowledge the government's co-operation, and the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion), in vain may hold contrary views, he will not succeed in rousing the people, by persisting in closing his eyes to light. No doubt, Providence was kind to us and we are glad to acknowledge it, for it is a further guarantee that the destinies of the nation are in good hands. It is a comfort to us to know that our opponents deny us their co-operation and advice. At least Providence seconds our efforts, and as long as it is with us, we can well dispense with their co-operation. But if Providence is with us, who can be with our opponents? Whence comes this unfair and pessimistic criticism? Does the soul of their late leader whine in their sonorous trumpets? Or is it perchance Pluto himself? Why this sad note trumpeted both in this country and abroad, representing Canada like a vast cemetery, where are buried deep the nation's hopes? Why sow despondency and fear? Do they realize the harm done to their country? If mistakes have been made in the administration, why magnify them and then show them up as serious and difficult problems to solve? Are they not aware that all is not perfect in this world but subject to improvement. No government would care to boast of enacting perfect legislation, but it gives proof of a rare gift when it states and invites, like the Prime Minister did in his speech on the address, any suggestion which, by amendments, would improve this legislation.

One can criticize without debasing the character of our public men, without decreasing their prestige and that of the country without preaching (*défaitisme*) "defeatism".

If some of our laws are defective, let us revise them and let us comfort the people by showing them the benefits of the amended legislation. It is this enlightened, broad and constructive criticism which has placed the Prime Minister in the position he so well fills to-day. As long as our opponents will

not endeavour to emulate his example, the people will keep them away from power, as factors of misery and despondency.

The government has always aimed at stimulating enthusiasm and to-day it reaps the benefits: a production per capita which surpasses that of all other countries, the largest trade per capita in the whole world and sufficient revenues to meet all the needs of the administration, and to make allowance for reduction in taxation and decrease in the national debt.

Does this mean that the government has complied with all demands? We cannot satisfy everybody at the same time and our opponents should not forget that it is easier to destroy than to construct. In fact, it is moving slowly but surely and if one considers the difficulties it had to meet: a country divided and discouraged by the phantom of ruin, an unceasing obstruction by the senate and the opposition, when one considers these circumstances, one must admit that a gigantic task has been accomplished. It has restored confidence to all citizens, whether English, Scotch, Irish or French, it has given them a taste of the joys which union brings. It has killed (*défaitisme*) "defeatism", it has made a Canada united and powerful in its freedom, happiness and prosperity.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. AUGER (Translation): The effects of the budget proposals will further activate the agricultural industries of this country. Any decrease in taxation, whether it be excise, customs, income or sales tax, must benefit all classes, but especially the poor and labouring classes.

Some MEMBERS (Translation): Hear, hear!

Mr. AUGER (Translation): Mr. Speaker I wish to join with those who have requested the government to take a greater interest in the humbler classes of this country, in the farmer and workmen. The Canadian farmer and workman are at the base of our prosperity and they deserve our utmost consideration, because the most appreciable wealth of a nation, is that class which depends for a living on manual labour and which is not humiliated by work and does not disdain it.

I agree with the members of the opposition in saying that their lot can be improved, but on the other hand I wish to be fair towards the present administration. A wise revision of the tariff, both of Customs and Excise, had the effect of increasing produc-