

them some two or three years ago? The hopes they then entertained have been dashed. These cannot be called evidences of prosperity.

Now, may I ask who it is that sees these evidences of prosperity? Is it the farmer? I do not think so. Is it the manufacturers whose factories are running half-time or are closed down altogether in many instances, and who have been coming here through their organizations and making representations to the Government as to the desperate situation they are in? Is it the employees who are out of work and who cannot get employment in Canada, or those who have had to go to the United States in order to gain an existence? I say it is not the wage-earner, it is not the manufacturer, it is not the farmer. And I do not believe it is the taxpayer. Then, who is it? Honourable gentlemen, I have come to the conclusion that this sentiment and this expression was born in the mind of the man who penned the Speech, and that it was simply born of a desire, and not because of any existing facts. I fear that his head was in the clouds, that his wish to have Canada prosperous blinded him to the real situation; and I think he can find throughout the length and breadth of this country very few citizens who will agree with him that there are evidences on every hand of progress and prosperity.

I want to congratulate the mover of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, the honourable member from Lambton (Hon Mr. Pardee) because of the splendid note he struck yesterday, namely, pride of nationhood. There is too little of that sentiment abroad in Canada to-day. This, perhaps, is not to be wondered at, because our population grows more and more cosmopolitan as our Canadian-born citizens are forced to leave their homeland to maintain the standards of living which they think they are entitled to enjoy, and which they can obtain elsewhere, and we exchange them for people from other lands who have not the same inspiration as Canadian-born citizens regard Canadian nationhood as important. But I cannot agree with the suggestion of the honourable member as to the method which should be pursued to bring about that desirable situation, and to bring about the realization of a real Canadian national feeling. I do not think that feeling is to be attained through any tariff adjustment such as the honourable gentleman, the leader of the Government, was planning a few moments ago. He built up a splendid case which leads one to a conclusion which is definite and clear. The conclusion I would draw from the honourable

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gentleman's presentation of the tariff argument is that the greater the British preference is the less the importations will be, and that therefore, if the duty were removed entirely, there would probably be no importations from Great Britain at all. That is the logical conclusion to be arrived at from his argument, because he showed us that as the preference was increased and the tariff reduced the quantity of goods imported declined. I think there is another reason for that situation, honourable gentlemen, and in my opinion it is the fact that the purchasing power of the Canadian people has become so diminished during the past year or two that they are no longer able to purchase or to use the quantity of goods that they would have used had their purchasing power been maintained at the level of a couple of years ago. That may be said to be merely an opinion; but I am bound to point out that there is ample precedent for reaching that conclusion. May I point out that in England in 1922 the revenues derived from taxation through customs was £119,000,000 less than in 1920, while the population increased approximately two million souls; during that period. Because there had been during that period a million and a half workmen deprived of employment, and probably five million more women and children dependent upon them, their purchasing power was so decreased that they were unable to purchase the necessities of life. That very same situation exists in Canada to-day. The textile manufacturers, to whom my honourable friend referred, only about ten days ago filed a brief with the Government in which they pointed out that more than seven thousand of their workmen were now out of employment; that more than ten per cent of that number, especially the highly skilled men, had gone to the United States; and that forty per cent of the equipment of the woollen mills in Canada was to-day idle because of this situation. And in the face of that we get this Speech from the Throne forecasting further tariff reduction.

The leader of the Government referred yesterday at some length to taxation, and told us with great assurance that the Government would during this Session of Parliament take steps to substantially reduce taxes. Well, that is a splendid expectation, but I feel that before the Government can be given very much credit for tax reduction we ought first to know whether or not they propose to bring taxation back even to the level of 1921. If they go far beyond that, then we may begin to feel that they are making some honest effort to decrease taxation; but if they are only going to take off a part of the additional