

nearly two and a half billion dollars is to be reduced. I would urge the government to formulate a plan whereby something definite and concrete may be done in the way of reducing this debt.

Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen, I thank you for your very kind attention.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Centre Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, there are certain points in the Speech from the Throne upon which I should like to comment from the standpoint of labour. When I came into this building I had rather a curious sensation of how far removed the concerns of this assembly are from the actual life of a large number of people of Canada. During the recess I have had the opportunity of moving back and forth, and talking to a great many of those whom the hon. leader of the Progressives has called the common people of Canada; and I think I would agree with him that they are the most important people in the Dominion. And yet in the Speech to which we have listened there is comparatively little that bears directly upon the welfare of that great mass of people. It is now more than four years since the great war came to a close. Conditions the world over are in a bad way. We know the horrible conditions in Europe; and I think no thoughtful man, or no student of economics but must realize that very fundamental changes are necessary if we are to be able to solve even our local problems. And yet, I submit, there is very little in the Speech from the Throne which would indicate any thoroughgoing changes in our policy. Some of the same old policies are brought forward that we have been familiar with since our childhood. We are told again, that now the war is over we are to bring in more people; as if we had not had a progressive immigration policy fifteen or twenty years ago. We are told that we have to arrange for foreign markets; as if the old national policy of Canada was not very largely built up on securing foreign markets. We have had these things; they have gotten us nowhere.

I think, perhaps, I am rather glad in many ways that the tariff was left out of the Speech from the Throne. It is possible that we are getting down to a rather more serious consideration of the actual situation—

4 p.m. the recognition that, after all, the tariff is not fundamental in our economic solutions.

Although we have been running behind to the extent of some \$45,000,000 there is no indication in the Speech from the Throne that we are to have any lessening of the taxation on the great mass of the people. Nor is

there any scheme proposed by which this great debt may be in any wise reduced. Sometimes I think that those responsible for the policies of this country almost resemble a cornered rat, as he darts first into one corner and then into another in order to try a way of escape, and then even after he has been the rounds he starts again and darts into the self same corners.

It has been given out very generally that we have comparatively little unemployment in Canada and I think that this year, at least, as representing a section of the people largely interested in this question, I shall have to deal first of all with this subject. May I read an excerpt from the Daily Mail, of London, bearing date December 15, 1922:

An appeal for more British emigrants to Canada was made by the Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, Mr. Rodolphe Lemieux, at a luncheon given in his honour by the Empire Parliamentary Association at the House of Commons restaurant. He said: "There is no unemployment in Canada. There is work for all those who are anxious to do work—to work more than eight hours a day. We are anxious to increase our population of labourers and farmers, and we expect that that stock will come from the British Isles."

I trust that the speaker has been incorrectly reported; but the point is, that the information is going out very widely that we have little or no unemployment in Canada. I notice that in the Speech from the Throne reference is made to the diminution of unemployment. May I read an advertisement that appeared a few weeks ago in the Manitoba Free Press of my own city:

Public Notice

The Council of the city of Regina have by resolution declared that the policy of the city will be one of utterly refusing relief to any person. Notice is further given that there is not sufficient work during the winter months for the present residents, and the public are warned against coming here in search of work.

JAMES GRASSICK,  
Mayor.  
GEO. BEACH,  
City Clerk.

In commenting upon that the Manitoba Veteran says:

We read and hear a lot about the various brands of "red" isms, which seek to undermine our freedom, our constitution, and our civilization; but if any thing more anarchistic can be found in all the red propaganda than this "starve and be damned" pronouncement of a constituted body, we would like to hear of it.

Let me now read a letter that was forwarded by the Mayor of the city of Winnipeg to the Prime Minister:

This winter it has been necessary for the city to open up a special emergency unemployment relief office similar to that opened during the winters of 1920-21 and 1921-22. There are being relieved at the present time,