

ment will have some measures to present to the house in addition to those mentioned in the speech from the throne.

The next paragraph deals with the extension of bank charters, and the Prime Minister has given his reasons for the delay in taking up the decennial revision of the Bank Act. He states that a world economic conference is to be held, when this question of currency and banking will be discussed, and he therefore feels it advisable that instead of revising the Bank Act at the present time we should have the benefit of the deliberations of the world economic conference. There is a good deal to be said for that proposal. But in dealing with the whole question the Prime Minister made some references which I think merit attention. He pointed to the greater number of bank failures in the United States, as against no bank failures in Canada. I think if the Prime Minister had been absolutely fair in this matter he would have mentioned that this large number of failures in the United States was of individual banks, with no government credit behind them, consequently standing upon their own feet entirely. When we turn to our Canadian banks, taking into consideration the privileges granted to them by the Bank Act and by the Finance Act, we must recognize that there is no reason why Canadian banks should fail, in view of the fact that the total credit of Canada is to all intents and purposes behind our banking institutions. The banks in the United States have not the credit of the country behind them in the same manner as our banks have.

The Prime Minister also made the statement that as far as he and his colleagues are concerned we should have in this country a currency system that is real money. He stated that the printing press would not be used for the purpose of printing money to meet our obligations, and he eulogized the efforts of the government to keep the credit of Canada good in the money markets of the world. That is all quite right and proper, but may I point out that there are two countries in the British commonwealth of nations which are off the gold standard, namely Great Britain and Australia. He instanced the fact that Australian securities were worth only fifty per cent of face value. But may I direct the attention of the house to this, that as far as I am aware, while both these countries are off the gold standard, neither of them has defaulted in any of its payments. And if Australian securities are worth only fifty per cent of face value, it is not because of default of Australia, but rather because of the manipulation of those securities in the New York money markets.

It is also intimated in the speech from the throne that the acuteness of the depression is past. I wish I were as optimistic. Candidly, Mr. Speaker, as far as I have been able to learn, while it is true that because of the large crop of wheat in western Canada and the necessity for harvesting and moving that crop there has been a little more money in circulation, outside of that I see no reason to say that the acuteness of the depression is past. Indeed, I am rather afraid for the future, more particularly the immediate future, the coming winter. Later in my remarks I will take further opportunity of dealing with this matter.

As I stated, with the exception of one paragraph in the speech from the throne, paragraph 8, there is very little hope held out to the Canadian people of any measures that will really improve the economic condition of the country and place within the reach of the people of Canada the food, clothing and shelter to which they are entitled.

May I take a few moments to deal with agricultural conditions in western Canada? The crop in western Canada this year is larger than last year. It is estimated that the return as far as wheat is concerned will be 435,000,000 to 450,000,000 bushels. The harvesting and moving of this crop to the head of the lakes has put in circulation a little more money than a year ago. But how does the farmer come out on that deal? To-day according to Winnipeg prices, that is wheat delivered at the head of the lakes, a farmer at points where a twenty-six cent freight rate per hundred pounds applies, is getting twenty-eight and a quarter cents a bushel for No. 1 northern wheat. It costs from eight to nine cents a bushel to get that wheat threshed, including the feeding of the crew. It costs so much for binder twine, so much for cutting and harvesting. I doubt, Mr. Speaker, whether the farmer on that freight rate will be able to secure a return that will pay for the harvesting operations, including threshing and delivery of that wheat to the elevator, let alone the time and money spent in preparing the seed bed, and seeding the acreage that he cultivates. Then on top of that they have taxes to pay. In many municipalities of the west very large portions of the area are to-day being offered by municipal councils at tax sales. That does not, in my judgment, show much improvement in economic conditions, especially as affecting the western farmer.

Recently there appeared in the Commercial Intelligence Journal published by the Department of Trade and Commerce of this country a statement by our representative in