

at a price that will give producers a reasonable profit. Personally I believe we should do everything possible always to keep agriculture, our basic industry, in a sound, healthy, prosperous condition. I am glad to note from His Excellency's address that some attempt is going to be made to stabilize prices. I believe that all our farmers expect prices to come down, but at the moment the farmers are being squeezed because, as always happens, the prices of their products are the first to fall.

I am glad also to note from His Excellency's address that attempts will be made to remove trade barriers, so that we may have a freer flow of trade. Such attempts are helpful. I believe that expenditures which help to keep agriculture prosperous are never wasted but, on the contrary, are a good investment, because agricultural prosperity is reflected in increased business in other industries, and this in turn means more employment and more prosperity for all. On the other hand, falling agricultural prices could easily start an undesirable recession, with all its far-flung ill effects.

I know, honourable senators, that during the past decade there has been a good deal of controversy about the prices at which our farm products have been sold and the methods adopted to sell them. I do not think we should complain against people for engaging in such controversy, if they believe some political advantage can be obtained by doing so, because, after all, constructive criticism is necessary and in the interest of our whole national life. But no useful purpose will be served by spending too much time on these arguments. We should remember that during the same decade much water has passed under our bridges, and to try to undo what has been done with regard to prices obtained for agricultural products or with regard to the methods of selling them would be just as futile as it would be to try to push back all that water. I personally believe that those who were charged with responsibility towards our agricultural industry did try to do what they believed to be in the best interest of all concerned. One thing is sure, they had the endorsement of parliament, and they have had the endorsement of the people themselves.

I feel that Britain would be glad to purchase our products, if she were in a financial position to do so. I therefore hope most sincerely that no unkind words will be spoken by Canadians against Britain or by British people against Canada. It should always be remembered, and especially by those of us who are trying to give public service, that unkind words once spoken can never be recalled, and usually they serve no useful purpose.

Honourable senators, I do not know just what the prevailing opinion across this country is, but it seems to me that those who in any way represent the public cannot but view with alarm the constant and ever-increasing demands for more and more government services and government assistance of all kinds.

Hon. Mr. Duff: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Golding: This growing tendency of our people to expect the government to solve all their problems, individual and otherwise, is gradually developing into the most serious situation that our governments will have to face. I may be wrong, but it seems to me that in the younger days of most of us in this chamber that was not the attitude of the people. As a matter of fact, our forefathers, did not, in laying the foundation for the building of this nation, hope or expect that the government would meet all their requirements and solve all their difficulties. They believed that it was their duty and their responsibility to provide for themselves and their families, and they had faith and confidence in their ability to do that job better than anyone else could do it for them. That confidence in themselves gave them the courage, the initiative, the will and the vision to lay the sound foundation on which they expected our nation would continue to build. It seems to me that that spirit must be reborn in our people if we are to build the vigorous nation of independent people that our forefathers envisioned in their day and generation.

In these times the government has to meet many demands and many complaints. On the one hand, people are demanding more and more control and more and more government action on this, that and the other thing; while, on the other hand, people are complaining about government regulations, control, interference with business, and so forth. Some of our people seem to forget that the government has been trying to carry out a policy of orderly decontrol. As a matter of fact there is an almost continuous file of delegates and delegations appearing before our government or some of its members day after day. These delegations represent various groups, organizations and individuals, and in the main all are asking for government assistance, concessions or protection of some kind or another. Unfortunately for the government there is a great diversity of opinion between these different delegations. For instance, today representatives of the employees of our great railway systems may be asking for increased wages and additional concessions, with fewer hours of work, and tomorrow representatives of the patrons of the roads may protest vigorously against any increase in freight rates or