

Western members will recall particularly the year 1922 when the period of suspension of this legislation was about to expire. At that time there was a proposal in this house further to suspend the whole agreement for another term of years, and I am satisfied that had it not been for the stand which the western members took on that occasion the Crowsnest pass rates would not now be in force. I am willing to give credit to the government for everything which they finally did to make that rate agreement effective. The Prime Minister must remember that the committee which was organized to inquire into the question decided that this agreement should be suspended for a further term of years, and it was only after a review of the question again that the committee arrived at the conclusion that, as respects the Crowsnest rate agreement, the rates relating to grain should come into force on the 7th of July of that particular year. It was the western members who were primarily responsible for that agreement coming into force again. We remember also that in 1924, in order to make the agreement effective as regards grain rates, the government brought down legislation for which I will give them credit. They brought down legislation to make the rates effective on branch lines as well as on main lines, and for this the government must be given credit. At the same time, however, we must remind the government of this important fact: in order to pacify the railway companies or other interests, a part of the Crowsnest agreement was abrogated for all time; that is to say, on commodities originating east of Fort William the Crowsnest rate does not now apply at all. That is the situation to-day.

Now I wish to take a little time to go through the speech from the throne and make a few remarks with regard to some of the items therein dealt with. I have not the time at my disposal to discuss every item, but I am going to deal with a few in which I am more particularly interested.

The first question to be considered is that of prosperity. I want to ask the government, where is the prosperity in Canada to-day? Are the working people prosperous? Are the farmers prosperous? I want to say that as far as my knowledge goes there is very little added prosperity among these particular classes, and after all they are the more important classes in this country. I am quite willing to admit that in certain quarters there is great prosperity, but as yet that has not reached the masses. Consequently it is futile for the Prime Minister and his colleagues to intimate to the people that we have great

[Mr. Gardiner.]

prosperity among all classes in this country. I notice one very significant change in the way the part played by Providence in the production of our great crops is dealt with. I remember that in past speeches from the throne Providence was always given the credit for producing great crops in Canada, but now we find that the government has come to the conclusion that the farmers have some responsibility and deserve some credit for these great crops. This year we find the farmer sharing with Providence in the production of the great crops of this country, and with regard to the speech from the throne I think this is a very decided improvement.

Reference is made to the national research laboratories, and I commend the government for pushing to a conclusion this feature of last year's legislation. However, there is one point which I would impress upon the Prime Minister and his colleagues; in conjunction with the research laboratories there should be a bureau of standards. To-day the Canadian people have very little knowledge of what they are buying, while in the United States the bureau of standards gives the people a proper intimation of the different articles or commodities offered for sale from time to time. Under these circumstances the people of the United States are in a better position to judge as to the relative values of the goods offered for sale. I merely make that suggestion; no doubt it will take some time to get these research laboratories started, but I believe a bureau of standards should be created at the same time.

The speech from the throne also deals with the Hudson Bay railway, and calls attention to the fact that the railway is very close to Fort Churchill. I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating the government and particularly the Minister of Railways; since he has undertaken to create a port on Hudson Bay together with a railway leading to it, he has worked very hard. We all trust that when the Hudson Bay railway is completed and the facilities at Fort Churchill are sufficient to handle the business likely to go there, that port will be satisfactory in all respects as far as western Canada is concerned. I particularly congratulate the Minister of Railways for his efforts in that regard.

The next matter I wish to discuss is the question of immigration. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition dealt with this question, but I propose to bring before the house the viewpoint of the western farmer. I desire to read to the house the passage in question from the speech from the throne; the leader