

by a very eminent jurist, might enable us to avoid this, without the fuss and fury that sometimes attaches from the obvious effort to make it appear that "Codlin is your friend, not Short." Accordingly an effort was made to let the government be informed of what the difficulties were in the administration of the act so that they might be remedied with the least possible friction and the greatest possible satisfaction to those directly affected.

Then with respect to unemployment, and the references of the right hon. gentleman and others occupying a somewhat different position from myself—for in the very nature of things his duty must be to find fault and criticize, an opposition is measured largely by its willingness to criticize, sometimes fairly, sometimes unfairly. In this instance, however, as far as unemployment is concerned and the promises to which the right hon. gentleman has referred as having been made by myself and by the party which I have the honour to lead, I can only say this: it has been abundantly demonstrated since that what at that time seemed to be a local condition was a world-wide disease. I say a world-wide disease for the simple reason that in the very newspapers from which extracts were read this afternoon it has been said on more than one occasion that the head of this government is absolved at least from those promises by reason of the universal character of the upheaval which has disrupted this world. It is true I see striking evidences every day of a lack of appreciation and knowledge of the fact that the cataclysm is of universal proportions. Nothing strikes one more than to hear, in the bitterness of partisan discussion, an effort made to have it appear that this country is the one country in which we have this disease. Now and then there slips from the mouths of hon. members opposite a reference to a world-wide condition. When it is said that the conditions in this country are worse, when an effort is made by the jeremiads of a Jeremiah to make it appear that all is not well in this country, to paint everything in the darkest possible colours, to have the right hon. gentleman stand in his place to-day and minute after minute for almost half an hour paint the evils of present conditions in this country and deprecate the efforts that have been made by the government to sustain the morale of the Canadian people, I say it is not worthy of a great opposition or of a great party.

What is more, every observation that was made in previous speeches from the throne or in public addresses was warranted by then existing conditions. I pointed out in this

house last year—and a more generous opponent would have recognized and admired it—that when England went off the gold standard this country was struck the greatest blow it has ever experienced, the force of which we have never been able to measure. Every thoughtful man knew that, and Sir Arthur Salter said it involved a second effort. He pointed out how conditions were improving; he pointed out how conditions had changed; he pointed to the gradual and general improvement that was then apparent, and said it was steadily gaining volume and strength. But when that great event happened and Great Britain went off the gold standard, this country, in common with other countries similarly situated, suffered a loss that we have not been able to measure in dollars. Every word that was spoken was warranted at the time, and every man who has studied these conditions carefully, whoever he may be, however warped may be his judgment, however prejudiced may be his attitude, realizes and understands that in great part the cause of present conditions is psychological, the lack of confidence in banks, in individuals and in institutions. All these things have become painfully apparent as the days have gone by, and that lack of confidence on the part of the people must be overcome. It is the duty and function of those who govern for the moment to endeavour by every means in their power to restore the morale of the people and to create confidence in themselves and in their country that all was and would be well.

We plead guilty to having done that; we plead guilty to being optimists in season and out of season. We deny the jeremiads to which we listened this afternoon, which sounded almost like a chapter from the Book of Lamentations. I have nothing to regret or withdraw; this government has nothing to regret in the effort it has made, in season and out, to have the Canadian people feel faith and confidence in themselves and hope in the future, predicated not only upon a realization of our own greatness and our own potentialities but also upon the realization that the lot of Canadians is better than that of any other people in the world. Only the other day a great United States quasi-official newspaper, speaking of conditions in this country, said that if there was one country in the world that had reason to be proud of its position it was the Dominion of Canada. Only a short time ago a friend of mine gave me an insight into conditions as they exist in the great republic to the south. Compare our condition with theirs. I would invite some hon. gentlemen who have been abroad this year to