

*Speech from the Throne*

My government has explored the origins of our difficulties and is firmly of the belief that many of our problems do not arise out of world wide depression, but are antecedent to it; and that domestic factors have also largely determined the degree of economic distress from which this country is suffering.

It was this belief which impelled my ministers at the emergency session of parliament held in September last to remove one of the root weaknesses in our industrial system by effecting such then possible changes in the tariff as would, in their opinion, provide substantial security against harmful world competition. Although in the interval world conditions have changed but little for the better, this tariff legislation has resulted in a marked improvement in the domestic situation through the strengthening of established industries, and in addition many others, formerly exporters to Canada, have now become producers in Canada.

The operation of The Unemployment Relief Act, 1930, has proved equally beneficial. While the grant authorized by this act could not immediately have checked unemployment arising from causes of which you have full knowledge, yet its careful administration by my ministers, ably aided by the provincial and municipal governments and the two great railway systems, has resulted in the institution of a nation wide program of public undertakings, each one a unit in a scheme of national development, which have collectively provided work for the greatest number of men who have ever been employed through the direct efforts of the federal government.

Since the last session of parliament four of my ministers attended the Imperial and Imperial economic conferences in London. Several constitutional questions, arising largely out of the resolutions of the Imperial conference of 1926, were fully discussed and, in principle, approved. My ministers, however, held the view that before certain constitutional changes embodied in these resolutions should be made effective by a statute of the parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the provinces of Canada should be given an opportunity of further considering them and of satisfying themselves that these proposed changes do not in any way restrict their constitutional rights. Unanimous concurrence in this view having been given by the representatives of Great Britain, the Irish Free State and the other dominions, my ministers have called a provincial conference to be held at Ottawa in the month of April for the consideration of the proposed changes. Following the conference you will be asked to take appropriate action.

Exhaustive consideration of the means most likely to ensure a lasting and mutually advantageous scheme of empire economic cooperation was also commenced at the Imperial conference, and many matters preliminary to a final conclusion were then disposed of. Searching investigation into the merits of alternative schemes by the governments concerned is continuing, and it is confidently hoped that, at the adjourned conference to meet at Ottawa during the ensuing summer, agreements will be concluded for closer empire trade, which will strengthen still more the bonds of empire and bring to every part of it great and enduring prosperity.

Pursuant to the fixed policy of my government to combat all influences which are inimical

[Mr. Speaker.]

to the social and economic welfare of this Dominion, an order in council has been passed prohibiting the importation of certain commodities into Canada from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

My ministers have completed the organization approved by legislation at the last session of the sixteenth parliament for administering the Pension Act as amended, and have taken steps to ensure that every care shall be exercised to obtain the just and equitable satisfaction of all legitimate claims.

My ministers have had under anxious consideration the means by which an orderly marketing of the wheat crop of western Canada may be assured, and have already taken such effective action towards that end as the circumstances appear to justify. My ministers are aware that changing conditions in the world's markets may necessitate further intervention by my government, which is prepared to render whatever additional assistance may be deemed advisable in the national interest. The present situation has emphasized the necessity of effecting a reduction in the costs of production and marketing of the wheat crop and of providing more stable markets, as the welfare of all parts of Canada is involved in satisfactory returns being received by the grain growers.

The broad outline of the general scheme of national development undertaken by my government, including provision for old age pensions, aid to agriculture, technical education and highway construction, has already been made known. My ministers are persuaded that this general scheme cannot advantageously be altered. Careful consideration has therefore been given to the progressive stages by which it will be carried out, and you will be asked to consider measures sanctioning such action as the current economic situation warrants, and such as can be undertaken without undue demands upon the national exchequer.

You will be asked to consider such further revision of the tariff as may be carried out with but incidental adjustments to the British preference schedules now in force.

You will have before you for consideration a bill to create a tariff board, the purposes of which will be to ensure stability of trade, opportunities for the development of our home market by Canadian producers in fair competition with those of other nations, and the protection of our consumers from exploitation.

Amongst other measures to which your attention will be invited are bills for the more effective control of national finance; for the revision of the existing provisions for government purchases; for amending the Naturalization Act; and for amending the Copyright Act.

The reference to the Supreme Court of Canada of the respective jurisdictions of the Dominion and provinces over radio broadcasting necessarily postpones any definite legislative action being taken until the opinion of the court of last resort has been obtained.

Members of the House of Commons:

The public accounts for the last fiscal year and the estimates for the coming year will be submitted at an early date. The estimates will manifest my ministers' resolve that, until the revenues of the country reflect a definite improvement in the economic situation, every economy compatible with the proper administration of the state will be exercised.