

What I have just said applies to this paragraph; until these measures are presented to the house, we will not be in a position to offer any comment thereon.

This is the legislative program. I must express surprise that at a time when unemployment continues to play the part which it does, and particularly after listening to the remarks of the mover and the seconder of the address with regard to the importance of this question and the course pursued by the government in dealing with it, there is nothing in the speech from the throne with reference to any further provision for unemployment or any expression of an intention to deal with the great question of unemployment insurance. I am inclined to feel that unemployment is still the most important question before this parliament and the country at the present time, and that the time of parliament should be devoted to discussing all aspects of it very fully. But no reference is made in the speech to any proposed consideration of matters pertaining to unemployment.

There is another omission. When we consider the importance which is being attached to-day to a consideration of banking and credit, to depreciated and appreciated currencies, it is significant that we find no mention of anything at all suggestive of a forward looking policy with respect to the improvement of our banking and credit systems. No consideration is suggested of the questions of currency which are so all-important. I had assumed that the government would be giving the fullest consideration to matters of this kind and would have had something to place before parliament for its consideration. I notice that my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, speaking in Toronto the other evening, was very strong in advising the people to be sure to keep their investments in banks and insurance companies. That may be sound advice, but there are people who are investing their lives in industry; there are people who derive all they have in the way of a standard of comfort from the value to be attached to what they may have in the way of purchasing power. These people are interested in seeing that questions which affect banking and credit and currencies are considered carefully by their representatives in parliament.

Perhaps it is a blessing that the legislative program is so brief. If legislation were to be of the character of that introduced at the last session and at the special session of 1930, then I think the country should be thankful that the program is so brief. If there is a

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

single factor which has helped to contribute to the difficulties of the present time, it is the extremes to which the ministry has gone in the matter of tariff legislation and its administration. As we know, the extensive revision upwards of the tariff and the continuous interpretation of the legislation in connection therewith in a manner to make it not merely restrictive but in many directions prohibitive of trade has been an outstanding feature of the work of this parliament and of the government since the new ministry came into office. The public should be thankful that it has been spared further legislation of that kind.

Much more important than legislation itself is the opportunity to be given the people's representatives to discuss in this parliament questions which are all-important in the minds of the people themselves. During the last two sessions there has not been provided the opportunity which should have been provided to discuss great national problems. By one device or another the government has sought to prevent this House of Commons from discussing at length the most important questions which were before it. The first special session was called to deal with unemployment but instead of being presented with unemployment measures we were faced with a most extensive revision of the tariff, and we were told that unless the Prime Minister was able to get that legislation through in the course of a fortnight, which was all the time available for discussion, he would not be able to attend the imperial conference. We were told also in one of his public addresses that the imperial conference was of great importance to the future of Canada and that it was necessary for him to be present if Canada's interests were to be safeguarded. That session, as I say, was deliberately framed so as to render impossible any discussion by the people's representatives in this house of the question of the tariff, which was the most important question with which any parliament could be concerned.

As regards unemployment, we were presented with a bill asking for \$20,000,000 to be used for unemployment relief. No opportunity was given for discussing the general question of unemployment. Very little was said by the government of how they intended to use that \$20,000,000. No statement was given to the house of the basis upon which they had asked for this amount. It was simply a case of: We must have \$20,000,000 to do with as we please. And that \$20,000,000 was voted. I shall refer a little later to what I think the effect of that method of