DOMINION OF CANADA

OFFICIAL REPORT

OF

DEBATES
HOUSE OF COMMONS

SECOND SESSION—SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT

21-22 GEORGE V, 1931

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CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, March 12, 1931

SECOND SESSION—SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued from time to time to the 12th day of March, 1931, met this day at Ottawa, for the despatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. SPEAKER read a communication from the acting secretary to the Administrator, announcing that the Right Honourable Lyman P. Duff, Administrator, would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Administrator desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

VACANCIES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess I received communications from several members, notifying me that the following vacancies had occurred in the representation viz:

Of George Septimus Rennie, member for the electoral district of Hamilton East, by decease, and

Arthur Bettez, member for the electoral district of Three Rivers-St. Maurice, by decease.

I accordingly issued my several warrants to the Chief Electoral Officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts, respectively.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Administrator this day in the Senate chamber His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I welcome you to your duties at a time when the nations of the world are passing through a period of great economic depression. Canada has not escaped it. But the Canadian people have met the trials of the moment with patience and fortitude, and are facing the future with the courage and faith which must triumph over every difficulty. In prosperity they were united. In adversity that union is made still stronger by the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which is the surest bulwark of the nation's welfare and happiness.

These attributes of Canadianism are national assets of real value, and, upon their possession, I do profoundly congratulate you.

It will be your privilege to consider certain measures designed by my ministers to ameliorate existing conditions, to provide further means by which our people may go forward to achieve a prosperity heretofore unattained and to furnish them with all possible safeguards against a recurrence of the present subordination to world forces.

The fact that in this period of universal distress Canada has been spared the same acute degree of hardship which many other nations have been called upon to bear, will not, I know, blind you to the fact that between this country as it is and as it should be, there is a gulf to be bridged by the industry and zeal of all those who have the welfare of the nation in their keeping. The problems which stand between us and ultimate prosperity are manifold and great. To be effectually met, they must first be understood. Confusion between cause and effect will but delay their solution.

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 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.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The policies and measures I have outlined are based upon the firm belief of my government that this country is soon to enter upon a new era of prosperity, and that the proper development of its vast resources by a people pledged to unity and cooperation, and endowed with courage and industry, will ensure to Canada a leading place among the nations. I pray that Divine Providence, which has made you citizens of this favoured land, may guide and bless your deliberations.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Administrator to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Monday next and that this order have precedence over all other business, except the introduction of bills, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the select standing committees of this house under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Rhodes, Dupré, Simpson (Algoma West), Stewart (Edmonton West) and Casgrain.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Administrator:

The Administrator transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council, appointing the Honourable E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Fisheries; the Honourable D. M. Sutherland, Minister of National Defence; the Honourable T. G. Murphy, Minister of the Interior and the Honourable Maurice Dupré, Solicitor General, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, intituled An Act respecting the House of Commons.

DEPUTY SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that the Sergeant-at-arms, with my approval, has appointed Lieutenant J. L. Williams to be his deputy during the present session of parliament.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 4.10 p.m.

22110—1½

Friday, March 13, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

PRINTING OF SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS AND APPENDICES

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I beg to lay on the table of the house a summary of proceedings and appendices of the Imperial conference of 1930, and to move in that regard:

That 1,000 copies be printed in English and 700 copies in French of the summary of proceedings and appendices of the Imperial conference of 1930; and that standing order 64 be suspended in relation thereto.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask my right hon. friend if these documents have already been printed, and if so, if they will be distributed immediately?

Mr. BENNETT: The usual custom has been followed. They have been printed but not distributed. They have been distributed in England for some time, as my right hon. friend knows, but I understand that the rule here is that they should not be distributed until parliament has given its formal sanction to the motion. Once the motion is passed, copies will be distributed without further delay.

Motion agreed to.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL

RESOLUTION OF REGRET AND CONDOLENCE UPON DEATH OF HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That an humble address be presented to His Majesty to express the deep concern of this house at the loss which His Majesty has sustained by the death of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal; and to condole, with His Majesty and to assure His Majesty that this house participates with the most affectionate and dutiful attachment in whatever concerns the feelings and interests of His Majesty.

He said: Mr. Speaker, death takes its toll from the family circle of the King or from his humblest subject, alike from the ruler and the ruled. Sometimes we are fain to forget that those who sit on thrones have the same human impulses, emotions and sufferings as fall to the lot of all mankind. On this occasion we are reminded that our sovereign king, who is the Crown to us, has suffered a great bereavement through the death of his beloved sister. It is fitting at this time that we should record our deep concern at the loss he has sustained and the sorrow he has endured.

That touch of nature that makes the whole world kin, the hand of death, affords us the opportunity to express our concern not only in this present sorrow but in all that affects the welfare and happiness of our King, who is the sign and symbol of that single authority which binds together a quarter of the world's surface into what we know as the British empire.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I support and am pleased to have the privilege of seconding the motion for an address to His Majesty expressive of the sympathy of this house in his recent bereavement. I have nothing to add to what the right hon. the Prime Minister, in his capacity as leader of this house, has just said. I am sure he has expressed the views of all of us not only appropriately but also felicitously. On behalf of the official opposition which I represent may I say we wish to be associated with those sentiments expressive of sympathy to His Majesty in the loss of his beloved sister.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): On behalf of the Independent group in this house may I be permitted to join with the Prime Minister, the leader of the opposition and all members of the house in expressing to His Majesty our regret at the loss of his sister. We share His Majesty's sense of loss and we desire to convey to His Majesty an expression of our deep sympathy.

Motion agreed to.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

THE LATE GEORGE SEPTIMUS RENNIE—THE LATE ARTHUR BETTEZ

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, sometimes I have thought that the melancholy duty which devolves upon the leader of the House of Commons at the opening of parliament is one which he would like to be spared. We are reminded that since we last met two of our members have been called to their long homes. From this part of the house we have lost the member for East Hamilton, Colonel George Septimus Rennie; on the other side of the house my right hon. friend and his supporters have lost the services of the member for Three Rivers-St. Maurice, the late Arthur Bettez. Colonel Rennie was a Canadian, born and educated in this country. He proceeded abroad to complete his medical education and while abroad he obtained that knowledge which enabled him thereafter to become one of the famous practitioners in that part of Canada in which he resided. He was always interested in military matters and in fact was associated with the batteries of artillery in the city of Hamilton. In the service of the artillery he gained the rank of commanding officer. At the outbreak of the war he offered his services to his king and country and proceeded to England where he was in charge of an area for some time. Later he proceeded to France where he served until the close of the war. Three times he was mentioned in despatches, and he retired bearing the rank of colonel. I am told by those who are well able to judge that the services which he rendered in his capacity as medical officer and his wide knowledge and experience and very superior training in the great universities of the old land, both in Great Britain and continental Europe, enabled him to discharge the onerous duties which devolved upon him with a skill equalled by few and to the complete satisfaction of those with whom he served. At any rate his services were so recognized and his courage was indicated by the three despatches I have mentioned. Returning to Canada he once more interested himself in the artillery, with which he had been associated in his pre-war days, and continued to take an active interest not only in the welfare of that section of the militia but also in the public affairs of the community in which he lived. He was not often heard in this house. His experiences in the war made him think sometimes that there was something unreal in parliamentary procedure as contrasted with his observations and experiences abroad. He loved this country however and was profoundly interested in its progress and welfare. In his passing we on this side of the house have lost a loyal and devoted colleague and his constituents a faithful and conscientious representative.

I offer my sympathy to the right hon. gentleman and his followers upon the death of Mr. Bettez. He was also a Canadian. His interest in his younger days in municipal institutions is familiar to those who have watched the progress of the constituency of Three Rivers-St. Maurice. I learned that Mr. Bettez had a very strong hold upon the feelings of the people whom he represented in this parliament. He had a personal following which was not measured by his political support, and those peoples among whom he lived moved and had his being have lost a very firm and devoted friend. His party has lost a most charming colleague; he was not often heard but his interest was always great in matters touching the life of his municipality, educational institutions and the welfare of his country. We sorrow with those who are left behind.

We believe however that those who have passed from us have not lived in vain and

that the influence of their activities will continue to be felt in the promotion of the interests of our country.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the right hon. the Prime Minister has just given expression to feelings which I am sure will be shared by all hon. members of this house. We who constitute this parliament come from many parts of a large Dominion. The fact is, however, comparatively we are a small company with the result that when one of our number is taken away we feel the loss individually and collectively. There are few places in which there is borne in upon us more frequently or impressively the uncertainty and the brevity of our allotted span than in these halls of parliament where from day to day we contend with each other in debate and then in a moment become silent and united in our sympathy as we think of those whose voices we shall hear no more. It were well were we also reminded of the charity which we do well at all times to accord to those with whom our lot may in different ways and places be cast.

The two hon. members who have passed away since we were last assembled here had been in parliament about the same time, but it was for but a short period. The member for East Hamilton, the late Colonel Rennie, was returned to parliament at the general elections of 1926, and the late Arthur Bettez, member for Three Rivers-St. Maurice, was returned at the general elections of the year preceding. The fact that they were in the House of Commons for but about five years all told doubtless is the reason why they were less known to the public through their activities in parliament than through their activities in other spheres of public service, and particularly their services to the communities in which they lived, where the appreciation of their interest in civic and public affairs won for them the recognition which brought them to this house as the representatives of their respective constituencies.

Colonel Rennie, as the Prime Minister has just said, held a foremost place in his profession as a physician and a surgeon. He was also prominent as a soldier. The services which he rendered alike to his profession and to the army during the period of the Great war won him real distinction. He had close and intimate friends among members on both sides of the house, and I extend to the right hon. Prime Minister and to those who are associated with him my very sincere sympathy in the loss of one who was a personal friend and a loyal supporter of the party to which they belong.

May I also thank the Prime Minister for the sympathy which he has extended to myself and those of us who belong to the Liberal party in the loss which we have sustained through the passing of the late Arthur Bettez. His loss will be felt very much on this side, but by no one more than by myself, to whom at all times he accorded a close friendship and a very loyal support. Mr. Bettez's activities were mostly associated with the city of Three Rivers in which he was born and where he lived throughout his life. He was in 1913 elected an alderman and held that position for nearly a decade. In 1923 and again in 1925 he was elected mayor and continued to hold that office until the time of his death. His capacity for civic affairs and his experience and interest in them caused him to be chosen as vice-president of the Canadian Union of Municipalities. He was returned to parliament three times, on the last two occasions by very large majorities.

As the Prime Minister has said, Mr. Bettez owed the position he achieved in municipal-federal politics very much to his own personality and to the deep and abiding interest which he had in the well-being of the working classes whose representative he was in a very true sense alike in municipal, provincial-federal fields. His political battles were far from easy ones but they won to his side a large personal as well as political following. He will be remembered by all who knew him as a fearless fighter, and sturdy champion of the people to whose cause he gave much in the way of personal sacrifice.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you will convey to those who have been bereaved, to Mrs. Rennie and to Madame Bettez, and also the son and daughter of the latter, the sympathy which this house extends to them.

Before resuming my seat may I be permitted to add, Mr. Speaker, how pleased we all are that Your Honour has fully recovered from the indisposition from which unfortunately you had been suffering until within the past day or two. Also may I say that I am sure that it is deeply gratifying to members in all parts of the house that two of our number who during the period of the recess had had very serious illnesses are being restored to complete health and strength. There was general delight yesterday to see the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe), the ex-Minister of Justice in his seat. May I say I am sure all are equally gratified to know that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) is progressing very favourably, and that we hope that it will not be long before he has

fully recovered and is again able to take his accustomed part in the proceedings of this house.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, it is always distressing that at the beginning of each session we have to record the death of one of our members. May I say that I got to know the late Colonel Rennie very well indeed when as a member of the Conservative party he sat in opposition on this side of the house. Colonel Rennie was seated close to our group and of the two members whose loss we regret to-day, I knew him better probably because of that circumstance. We regret the loss of Colonel Rennie and Mr. Bettez and join with the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition in expressing to the relatives of these deceased members our sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, while there is no formal motion, may I take it that you will convey to the widow of the late Colonel Rennie and to the widow and children of the late Mr. Bettez this expression of the sympathy of the members of this house in their great loss and bereavement?

Mr. SPEAKER: The wishes of the house as expressed by the right hon. Prime Minister will be carried out.

BRITISH EMPIRE TRADE FAIR

ARRIVAL AT BUENOS AIRES OF SIR GEORGE PERLEY AND PARTY

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps members of the house will be pleased to know that at two o'clock to-day we were in telephonic communication with one of our members, Sir George Perley, who arrived at Buenos Aires this morning with his party. He stated they were all in excellent health and spirits, but the weather had been rather hot. As indicative of the remarkable triumphs of science in the field of telephony, I may say that we were able to hear him just as clearly as if he had been speaking to us in this chamber.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF AND CUSTOMS ACTS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, before we adjourn, may I have the attention of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister for a moment. We should like, if it is at all possible, to have at a very early date copies of orders in council which have been passed under the legislation enacted at the last session of parliament. I mention this now because I believe it will expedite the debate on the address if the orders can be brought down at an early date.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): All orders in council required to be published in the Gazette have been so published, and everybody, including my right hon. friend, has access to the Gazette. I apprehend he means orders in council that are not required to be published in the Gazette?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes; such orders as have been passed under the Unemployment Relief Act, and also such orders as have been passed under the Customs Act as amended last session.

Mr. BENNETT: With respect to the Unemployment Relief Act of 1930, the statute itself requires us to lay on the table within fifteen days of the opening of the house a record of the whole administration of the act, and of course that will be done. That record is in course of preparation. Whether or not it can be completed between now and Monday or Tuesday I am sure my right hon. friend knows it would be impossible for me to say. But next week in any event we propose to have the record completed and placed on the table of the house.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 3.35 p.m.

Monday, March 16, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

REPRESENTATION ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 2, to amend the Representation Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Speaker this is a bill which was introduced by the government last year, but it became mixed with other matters of a controversial nature. Its purpose is to extend the franchise to between five and six hundred men located in the Patricia district immediately north of the Kenora-Rainy River riding. The district was not included in the last redistribution and its inhabitants have not the right to vote in any electoral district of the province of Ontario. Before the last provincial election and in consequence of the opening up of new mining areas the legislature of Ontario extended the territory into

the Patricia district. The people there were permitted to vote in the provincial election but because they were left out in the redistribution they were not allowed to vote at the last two federal elections. The purpose of this bill is to extend the privilege of the franchise to the district west of the fifth meridian.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

ALEXANDRA TOLSTOY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Is it a fact as reported in the press that Alexandra Tolstoy the daughter of Count Tolstoy, has been forbidden to visit the Dominion of Canada? According to press reports Miss Tolstoy was refused admission on the ground that she could not obtain a passport from the Soviet authorities. I think we ought to have an explanation from the Minister of Immigration.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Mr. Speaker, the matter to which the hon. member has referred has not been drawn to my attention. If the question is placed on the order paper it will be answered.

VANCOUVER—SECOND NARROWS BRIDGE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): May I ask the hon. the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) if he is in receipt of the report of the commission which investigated the Second Narrows bridge at Vancouver, and if so does he purpose to have it published?

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): In answer to my hon. friend I will say that we have received that report but up to the present time we have not considered it.

CENSUS COMMISSIONERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): I wish to ask the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) if census commissioners have been appointed and if so who are the commissioners appointed for the province of Manitoba?

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): In reply I would ask my hon. friend to put the question on the order paper.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

ADDRESS IN REPLY MOVED BY MR. MAX. D. CORMIER AND SECONDED BY MR. VICTOR C. PORTEOUS

The house proceeded to the consideration of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Administrator at the opening of the session.

Mr. MAX. D. CORMIER (Restigouche-Madawaska) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to move, seconded by the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Porteous) that a humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Administrator of Canada, to thank His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both Houses of Parliament, at the opening of this session.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honour which reverts to the constituency I am proud to represent; a burden which I personally must bear. I hope, however, that the customary indulgence of this house towards new members will facilitate the difficult task with which the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and his hon. colleagues have been kind enough to entrust me.

I believe that this is the first time an Acadian has been so honoured. It was also desired that my first words uttered, as a member of the House of Commons of Canada, should be in the language of my forefathers as well as my own. In my own name and on behalf of my French-speaking constituents of Madawaska and Restigouche, I wish to offer, to whom it may concern my humble token of sincere gratitude.

The hon. members who preceded me in the difficult task which I must fulfil may often have been, and with truth, able to boast of Canada's prosperity and thank Providence for its bounty in this respect. Can I, however, say to-day that the country is prosperous? The speech from the throne mentions the fact that the nations of the world are passing through an economic crisis and that Canada has not been spared.

If we cannot thank Providence for the difficulties with which we are beset, we can and must sincerely thank Providence for having assisted us to place at the head of the affairs of this country an administration which will take the necessary measures to relieve the situation and provide in the future against the return of present conditions.

His Excellency also tells us that, although Canada has not felt the pangs which other nations have, the situation of our country is

not what it should be, and that many of our problems are not the sequel of a universal crisis.

If Canada had had, since 1921, a cautious administration, a government determined to toil for the welfare of the people rather than seek the support of a group whose vision did not embrace all parts of Canada, a young country like ours, immensely rich in natural resources of all kinds, with a population less than ten millions, could have passed through this world crisis without difficulty. Theorists, of the old schools, however, setting aside the lessons of our tariff history since 1878, despising the post-war example of almost every country of the world in tariff matters, swerved and began the wilful destruction of the Canadian tariff. The consequence of this fatal policy was soon felt. The closing of mills, foreign purchases, an unrest among the working classes, a decrease in the purchasing power of our currency and the decline of the home market for our farmers. These are a few immediate results of the policy of a government that the people has punished and which they will not soon forget.

Abraham Lincoln once spoke in this strain. I know very little about tariff. I do know, however, that when we purchase rails from a foreign country, we have the rails and the foreigner has our money; but when we purchase rails in our own country, we have both the rails and the money. This is the simple but clear explanation of a great economic principle. This principle can be applied to all products manufactured or not that the Canadian people purchase abroad and which should be produced and bought in our own country.

That is why, as soon as legally possible, the right hon. Prime Minister, in less than a month and a half after the general elections of July last, called an emergency session of parliament, in keeping with his pledge; tariff changes were enacted and put into force and immediately an improvement in domestic conditions was felt; foreign industries were invited to establish themselves in Canada; the people's morale rose, and the country began anew its ascending march towards progress.

Owing to its geographical situation, Canada needs an adequate protection for its industries and various products. The speech from the throne intimates that changes in the tariff will be submitted at this session of parliament, that a bill providing for a new tariff commission will be brought down, and that this commission will undertake to stabilize trade and give the Canadian producers a chance of developing our domestic market under loyal competitive conditions towards foreign producers while protecting the consumers of this country against all exploitation. I feel certain that the whole country will applaud these statements of a lofty political order, and that the house will enact these measures which aim at developing our industries, thus relieving unemployment and bringing back to the Canadian fatherland happiness and prosperity.

The unemployment relief measure adopted at the session of September last, has proved beneficial. This emergency and purely charitable legislation, with the aid of provincial governments, municipalities and our two great railway systems, was the means of providing the daily bread to hundreds of thousands of citizens during the winter. In my own riding this wholesome and providential measure gave to numerous families the necessities of life which had been denied them owing to the decrease in lumbering operations.

I do not wish to take up the time of the house in quoting statistics, but I want to draw your attention, sir, to a report of the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson), published on the 11th inst. in the Ottawa Journal. The report states that 231,351 people had benefited from the help given the unemployed, that the days of work secured by the joint assistance of the federal and provincial governments and railways, amounted to 3,975,355, that these outstanding figures did not include the report of the Quebec government. Moreover, there had been direct assistance given to families and individuals in all parts of the country.

When the final report is made public, the figures which I have just quoted will be greatly increased. The pledge given by the right hon. Prime Minister, to take immediate steps after the elections to relieve unemployment, is in striking contrast with the dilly-dallying policy of the late administration which contended that the unemployment crisis existed only in the imagination of the then opposition, and continued blindly to fill the country with immigrants to the number of about 100,000 annually.

The present government has shut the door against all those who cannot provide for themselves and, as regards certain countries, it has closed the door definitely, so long as present conditions do not entirely disappear. This sound legislation has received the approbation of the Canadian people. The house knows, and so does the country, that when an illness is aggravated by the lack of proper care the convalescence is slow. The opposition, through its speakers and press, rebukes the new administration for not having cured, in a few

months, the ills from which the country is suffering. They are not in earnest. The late government should have foreseen this. To govern is to foresee. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This lack of foresight is the direct cause of a great number of our difficulties and the Canadian people have already and will continue to place the blame where it belongs.

The speech from the throne mentions the imperial and economic conferences held in London last autumn. Constitutional questions were discussed and agreed upon in principle; however, the resolutions approved will not be put into force until the provinces of Canada have had the opportunity of studying them. An interprovincial conference will be held in the capital, in April next, with the view of considering these constitutional changes and making sure that the rights of the provinces are not violated. The Canadian people are happy to learn that the representatives of all the Dominions of the Empire will meet in Ottawa, in th course of next summer, to discuss the problems already broached at the London conferences, to settle upon plans for closer trade relations between the various parts of the empire and to thus assure a lasting and advantageous policy for Canada and the empire. The Canadian people will closely follow these various conferences which, we hope, without infringing on provincial rights, will result in more happiness and prosperity for our people.

The speech from the throne also mentions the order in council prohibiting the imports into Canada of certain products having their origin in the socialistic and sovietic republics, in other words, the Russian embargo. This measure was so favourably commented upon throughout Canada that it is unnecessary to debate it at length in the house. This order is dated February 27, 1931, but it had its source in an Act passed at the special session of the Dominion parliament in September last. Let it suffice to state that the Quebec legislature, by a motion, has shown its appreciation to the Dominion government for having prohibited the importation of Russian products which compete with those of this country. Since the Quebec legislature has deemed proper to congratulate the present government on its action, the measure enacted must be of the utmost importance for all classes of the community.

The Pensions Act adopted at the last session of the sixteenth parliament will be amended. The act as it exists is not satisfactory. The federal treasury pays 50 per cent of these pensions to the provinces which undertake to pay the other half. Seeing that the financial state of many provinces does not allow the carrying out of this act, those governments which are not in a position to benefit by it are forced to-day to pay their quota, without receiving any advantages. An amendment was necessary. The provinces of Canada will be relieved of a heavy load and those whose infirmities of old age preclude from earning their living will bless the hand that assists them.

The grants to technical schools will be highly welcomed by the people. Technical training deserves to be encouraged by this house. In my own riding, at Edmundston, we have a technical school which justifies its existence. We expended a considerable initial capital believing that the Dominion government would continue the grant already voted. When we learned that the late government had decided to discontinue this grant, there was almost a panic in our town. This meant the closing of this institution which is almost indispensable to our young people who wish to learn a trade in order to better earn their living. I must therefore congratulate the government on taking measures to continue these grants to technical schools.

Time precludes me from dealing with all the measures enumerated in the Speech from the Throne; however, these measures herald a period of great prosperity for this country. Among them we find: tariff revision, the appointment of a new tariff commission, economy in our finances, amendments to the Naturalization Act and the Copyright Act; amendments to the Pensions Act, assistance to agriculture, technical education and Trans-Canada highways; assistance in the sale of our wheat crops, interprovincial and imperial conferences at Ottawa; better control of government purchases. It is a policy implying, that the pledges given to the people were given seriously, not mere vote-catchers, but pledges which were destined to be carried out, ensuring a return to prosperous conditions which should exist in this beautiful and vast country.

The other day, in Quebec, a veteran of our Canadian politics, the Hon. Thomas Chapais, stated: On July 28 last, the electoral verdict has placed at the helm of this country that eminent statesman, Mr. Bennett, one of the greatest that Canada has produced. And mind you, he added, such will be the verdict of history. That distinguished statesman, beloved and respected by those who will long sit on your right, Mr. Speaker, can depend, in this house and throughout the country, on the support of a united and loyal party. He

may also depend on the votes of the people of Canada. The province of New Brunswick, his native province, is proud of him and the Canadian people now realize that they have found a saviour.

It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that history was in the making when last week, for the first time since confederation, His Excellency the Governor General was not present at the opening of parliament.

If my information is correct, it is also the first time since confederation that an Acadian has received the honour of moving the resolution in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The event may be of little historical importance to the rest of Canada. Acadians, however, an important element of our eastern population, will long remember the occasion and the broadmindedness of the right hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues in this behalf. Permit me to say that the Acadians are law-abiding citizens, proud of their ancestry, proud of their customs and their language, but prouder still of their connection with the British crown. Any move to weaken the ties which bind them to the mother country would be deeply resented. I appreciate to the full the honour conferred upon me. The honour is not due to me personally, but is due to my electors for the loyal support they gave our party on July 28th of last year.

The electoral district of Restigouche-Madawaska is inhabited by citizens of mixed racial origins and mixed religious beliefs. I am pleased to say that we live happily together; we are friendly and neighbourly; we mix socially and in business affairs; the race problem there has long been eliminated, if it ever existed. The county of Madawaska, mostly French, for years elected to this house the late Hon. John Costigan. In the local legislature we have had as representatives Mr. Thomas Clair and Colonel Jesse W. Baker. In the town of Edmundston, 85 per cent French, since our incorporation, we have elected as mayor, Mr. Burpee, Mr. Hall and Mr. Lawson. In the county of Restigouche, about 65 per cent French, we elect for the local legislature a member of English origin and one of French origin. In the town of Campbellton, English-speaking in the majority the mayor is of English origin whilst the president of the local board of trade is of French origin. In the last federal election the English-speaking sections of my constituency gave me a most loyal support, although my opponent was English-speaking.

This harmonious working together of different races and different religions is most worthy of commendation, and it is in deference to the English-speaking members of this House and in appreciation and gratitude to my English-speaking constituents that I make these few remarks in the English language in this my first address in the House of Commons, an address which, by custom, is delivered in the French language.

Moderation in all things is a virtue. The principle of give and take in a mixed community makes for good understanding. If we would only follow the golden rule and the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount, how much useless rancour and strife would be eliminated from the face of the earth!

I said a moment ago that history was in the making. When the political history of Madawaska county is written, it will be recorded that it voted Conservative from 1867 to 1900; then in 1900, unfortunately for itself and for the rest of the country, it went wrong and until 1930 supported Liberal candidates by very large majorities. It went so wrong that in 1908 it gave our party only 84 votes. Last July the difference between the votes given the two parties was 87, in spite of base appeals promiscuously scattered throughout the length and breadth of the county by our opponents at a time when such appeals could not be met. Mr. Speaker, the prodigal son is coming back home and will never leave it again!

I have said that moderation is a virtue. When the political history of Canada is written, if it is written according to the facts, it will record that in times of national crisis the moderates, and therefore the virtuous of both parties in Canada joined together to defend political principles which made for the betterment and the happiness of the people. It happened in 1854, and the result of that union was confederation. It happened again at the election of 1878, when hard times had come over the land. It happened again in 1911, when reciprocity with another nation threatened the economic life of Canada. It happened again during the great war when the moderates of both parties joined together for the common good. And it happened in 1930, when starvation was staring us in the face; again the moderates of both political parties in Canada joined hands to give the country one of the ablest statesmen it has ever produced.

The energy, the courage, the determination shown by our beloved leader, since he accepted that elevated position are so well known to Canadians and so fresh in their memory that it is useless for me to dwell upon the subject. Let me assure this house, however, that in spite of newspaper talk from sources very well known to us all, in the words of the Montreal Star:

. . . . he will have the support of a loyal and united party, and he may be assured that he enjoys in the country a popular confidence won by his courageous enunciation of a national policy and the demonstration of an unmistakable determination to prosecute such policy to the end that greater economic development shall set the Dominion's course to new advancement and hasten material prosperity, and in lines that will be parallel and in unison with a sound and broadminded plan directed to increase trade with the empire. With the Prime Minister's great capacity for work goes an equally great capacity to get things done. He does not move in a circle, but marches direct to the goal. Depending upon these qualities, Canadians have a firm belief that Mr. Bennett will accomplish successfully and in due season the great task that lies in front of him.

Mr. V. C. PORTEOUS (North Grey): Mr. Speaker, on rising to second the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne, if you will permit me, I would like first to touch briefly on a few matters which affect me personally. The first intimation I had that I would be associated with this motion, was that I would be the mover, but I am indeed pleased to have the opportunity of stepping aside to give to the French speaking members of this house and the French speaking people of this Dominion, whom I most highly respect, their just and proper rights according to our customary procedure.

I appreciate to the fullest extent the honour the government have conferred on me in having chosen me to be associated with this motion and, while I feel entirely unworthy, I will try to perform my duty to the best of my ability having had from both sides of the house the assurance of a patient hearing. I am proud to be the representative of North Grey and to be able, as such, to pass on to that constituency any honour that may result from the fact that for the first time in Canadian history a representative of that riding has been chosen to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

We have in the constituency of North Grey a riding which, while not rich in the traditions of any one party, has sent many honest, upright representatives to both houses, from both parties. It is a constituency which has at heart the welfare not only of North Grey but of the entire Dominion and which has contributed of its manhood and womanhood to the upbuilding throughout Canada, especially in the western provinces, of agricultural, industrial, marine and business life. I share with the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) the honour of representing what is in many respects the leading agricultural county in the province of Ontario.

I am proud also in this capacity to represent the farmers of this Dominion, for while we are at present in a period of depression and feeling it keenly, we are not downhearted. We all know that whatever may happen in the future, agriculture is still the basic industry of Canada. I am glad to have been chosen as a farmer because it goes to show me, and the people of this Dominion, that the farmers will receive just recognition from this government.

We have been welcomed to our duties, Mr. Speaker, at a time of great world economic depression. May we fulfil those duties having ever in mind the hardship that is evident, especially among our labouring classes and our farmers; may we discharge those duties having the welfare of our Canadian citizens at heart, particularly those citizens who at this time and as a result of the depression, are feeling distress, hoping that by sane measures and just administration Canada may be restored to that condition of prosperity which a country so rich in natural resources, should enjoy. We will be called upon to consider means and measures which we believe will bring back prosperity to Canada. We believe there are measures which may be put in force that will have the desired effect; we believe in a country such as Canada, with its agricultural, mineral, transportation, power and industrial wealth, there should not be the depression that exists at the present moment.

For the purpose of dealing promptly and effectually with the situation the government called a special emergency session of parliament last September when tariff measures were passed which we believed would improve conditions. The action taken was not merely a revival of the historic national policy of Sir John A. Macdonald, but rather it was the fulfilment of that policy. Never during the lifetime of Canada's great Conservative prime minister did protection receive the wholesale test which parliament gave it last September. The result has been the revival of industry. Many industries which had closed their doors have again commenced to operate, and many others which were running only part time are now operating to capacity. The restoration of buying power to people who previously had been out of the market has reacted on Canadian industry, which feels not only the stimulus from without due to the elimination of foreign competition, but also from within, due to the increased purchasing power of Canadian workmen. This has been done without increasing the price to the consumer,

an act unprecedented in Canadian history, but what gives us greater hope is that governing bodies of industries, both within and without our Dominion, are placing their confidence in this administration as an efficient, stable and protective government, and are planning to build new industries and enlarge those now in operation without fear of sudden changes in the fiscal policy of the country.

The Unemployment Relief Act, passed last September, has done much to relieve distress in many families and, while only a temporary measure, it has served the purpose for which it was passed to the joy and comfort of thousands of Canadian citizens from coast to coast.

In the fall of 1930 Canada was represented at the Imperial and Imperial economic conferences. These representatives discharged their duties despite no small amount of ridicule from parties holding other political faiths and from countries outside the empire. Canada's attitude with regard to imperial trade, was presented in a capable manner, the result of which, we believe, will yet bind together the British Empire by a policy which will be beneficial to all concerned and will create a greater market for Canadian agricultural products and make for a stronger and a better empire.

This government has seen fit to prohibit, by order in council, importations of certain commodities from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We believe that by so doing we not only protect our own social and economic welfare, but will eventually protect the citizen of that country as well, against a system which we do not endorse. We have learned that there are better means of opposing the objects of a country than by warfare.

Through the organization which we have under the Pension Act, we are convinced that justice will be administered and no legitimate claims will be ignored.

In agriculture we have a condition such as we on Canadian farms have never had to contend with before. The prices of agricultural products never before declined to such an extent as they have in the past twelve months. The reason is that in relation to price, agricultural products, like other raw materials, are directly responsive to supply and demand; therefore they are the first to come down. Others will follow, but not so suddenly. We must endeavour to bring about better conditions in the agricultural districts of Canada, both in the east and in the west, which alike are suffering from the depression of the present period. This may be done by different means.

[Mr. Porteous.]

We must try to obtain markets for our products both at home and abroad. This we are endeavouring to do, first, by keeping our people employed at home, and second, by procuring markets in other countries for our products. We must, if possible, lessen transportation costs on agricultural products by using the cheapest means, and to that end we expect the Hudson Bay route to be beneficial. We must cut down the cost of marketing farm products as far as is within our power as a government, and we must cheapen the cost of production as far as possible by using more scientific methods. I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that the cost of production on Canadian farms varies greatly. I believe that in my short period of life production costs have been cut by fifty per cent on many farms by practising better, and more scientific, methods. I believe there is much still to be done along these lines.

We have in Canada the best farm land in the world. We have the best farmers to be found anywhere. We produce farm products unequalled by any other country and we can and we will reduce production costs in competition with any country.

This government is striving to find the cheapest methods of producing quality products which we can sell on the home and also on the foreign market at a profit. To my mind it is not a question so much of reducing production as it is of reducing production costs. If this can be done, it will alleviate to a great extent the depression in agriculture. Then we must strive to relieve the farmer from such high taxation. This is proposed to be done by relieving the municipalities of the burden of the old age pension. When we again bring agriculture to a profitable basis, we will make a more prosperous Canada, both rural and urban.

We must stand together in this unsettled condition, as perhaps we have never been called upon to stand before, remembering that for one class to succeed the other must succeed also. We are a country of diversified occupations and business, but by that diversity we create strength if we all work together. This is no time for one class to try to take advantage of another, or for one industry to try to take advantage of another, or for the rich to try to take advantage of the poor, or for the poor to try to take advantage of the rich; but we must unite in fair competition for the welfare of our country.

Here I should like to quote a verse from Edgar A. Guest's poem Our Country in The Path to Home:

God grant that we shall never see
Our country slave to lust and greed;
God grant that men shall always be
United for our nation's need.
Here selfishness has never reigned,
Here freedom all who come may know;
By tyranny our flag's unstained!
God grant that we may keep it so.

And in conclusion, sir, the people of Canada may feel assured of the future progress of our country, under the able policies which are being carried into effect by the sagacity and determination which have characterized the present government and won the confidence of the people in the short time which they have had for the introduction of their principles.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the House of Commons always listens with great interest to the maiden speeches of its new members, particularly so when they are the mover and seconder of the address to His Excellency the Governor General, who in this instance happens to be His Excellency the Administrator, thanking him for the speech which he has delivered to parliament.

Speaking in the House of Commons is not an easy matter at any time. It is a particularly difficult one to those who come into the house for the first time, and the difficulty increases where the occasion is, like the present, an important one having relation to the particular resolution which has just been moved and seconded. Parliament allows the fullest latitude in discussions on the address, but distinct limitations are placed upon the mover and seconder. They are expected to have regard primarily to what appears in the address itself and they are chosen because it is believed they will endorse everything the address contains and that they will say nothing but good of the administration. These are very distinct limitations, particularly with respect to the address which this year has been given to parliament by His Excellency, as I think I shall be able to show when I come to point out the extent and more particularly, the nature of the legislation which is set forth as that for consideration during this session.

Having regard to these circumstances, I can say, and say with all sincerity, that those of us who sit on this side of the house, though we do not agree with much that the hon. gentlemen have said, nevertheless can accord to them very warmly our congratulations on the manner in which they have presented their views.

The hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) has set an example such as we get, I think, only, certainly mostly, from those of this house who are of French descent and all of whom seem to be able to speak with equal fluency in the French or in the English language. I think he is to be congratulated and commended for having made use at this time of both languages. He has had much experience as a public man and in the administration of affairs also in his profession at the bar as well as in other ways, and it was to have been expected that he would present his argument in an able manner. I wish he had not read his speech although that is perhaps quite excusable in the circumstances; but I hope it is a precedent that will not be followed. I believe in his case, it was unnecessary, because after listening to him I am sure there is every reason to believe that had he attempted to speak without notes he would probably have been even more eloquent than he was with the aid of manuscript.

May I say to my hon. friend from North Grey (Mr. Porteous) that while he may not have had the experience which the mover of the address (Mr. Cormier) has had in public affairs, he has the advantage of youth and he will find that to be more and more of an asset as he continues to play a part in the affairs of this house. We congratulate him very cordially, especially on many of the sentiments to which he gave expression.

In listening to both speakers I could not but be impressed with the sentiments, with the aims and with the object which they have in view. We on this side of the house can give to many of the sentiments expressed most hearty assent and accord. I fear, however, cherishing the sentiments they do, they will have to get their leader to change more than one of his policies or they will never be able to see their ideals realized.

With these words, Mr. Speaker, may I repeat how cordially we of the opposition congratulate the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska and the hon. member for North Grey on their maiden addresses.

Reference has been made in the speech of the mover of the resolution to the circumstance that this year parliament was opened by His Excellency the Administrator, in the person of one who is a distinguished citizen of our own Dominion. That calls to mind the fact that this is due to the approaching appointment of His Excellency Lord Willingdon, who still is our Governor General, to possibly the most important office in the gift of His Majesty's government in Britain, namely, that of Viceroy of India. I am sure that all citizens of Canada, irrespective of party, will

realize that the appointment is being made because of His Excellency's exceptional abilities as an administrator, his qualities of heart and mind, his great career in the public service, the part already played by him in India as Governor of Bombay and Madras, and the manner in which he carried out the duties of the high office of representative of His Majesty in this Dominion. We in Canada who cherish constitutional self-government and who wish to see it developed to the full in all parts of the British Empire feel that it is fortunate for India that His Excellency Lord Willingdon, has been chosen as viceroy of that country. We believe that at this critical time in the affairs of India no better choice could have been made for the high and responsible position of king's representative in that part of the empire. I am sure I speak in the name of all parties and all classes in our country when I say that Lord Willingdon in entering upon this great responsibility carries with him the heartfelt good wishes, the hopes and the prayers of the Canadian people.

I shall come at once to the address which has been presented by His Excellency the Administrator. It falls into five subdivisions which are easily distinguishable. The first subdivision relates to economic conditions throughout the world and in Canada; the second to the legislation passed at the last session; the third to the Imperial conference and the Imperial economic conference which met last year in London; the fourth to certain legislative enactments since the last special session, and the fifth—taking a corresponding proportion of the whole address—to the proposed legislative program of this session.

I will comment briefly upon these different divisions. The first, which relates to the economic condition of the world and of Canada, is partly in the nature of a sermon and partly in the nature of a diagnosis. How good a sermon and how good a diagnosis will depend upon the meaning to be ascribed to certain of the phrases in that part of the address. I am assuming that the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has put into the lips of His Excellency the Administrator the phrases which appear here, and I am therefore in no way reflecting upon the Administrator in commenting on the wording of the address. With this in mind, I wish to draw the attention of the House to one or two passages in the address. As I said before, how good a sermon it is will depend upon the meaning to be attached to certain phrases appearing therein. For example, referring to economic conditions the address contains this paragraph:

> It will be your privilege to consider certain measures designed by my ministers to ameliorate existing conditions, to provide further means by which our people may go forward to achieve a prosperity heretofore unattained and to furnish them with all possible safeguards against a recurrence of the present subordination to world forces.

What is meant by "subordination to world forces"? Does the Prime Minister intend that to mean that Canada is to be put in a position of isloation, a position so completely self-contained as to exclude trade with other countries so that no matter what happens in other parts of the world Canada will not be affected thereby? When we consider the policies which he has presented to this country and which he inteneds further to present to parliament, there is reason to believe that he believes he can make of Canada a self-contained, non-trading country. During this session we will have to consider very carefully, assuming that such an end could be reached, whether it would be in the interests of this country, either immediately or in the long run.

In another portion of the address my right hon. friend speaks of the gulf which has to be bridged between conditions as they are at the present time and conditions as he hopes they will be in the course of time. As regards the conditions existing to-day in Canada, I think we all recognize the fact that a very large gulf will have to be bridged if Canada is to be started on the way to prosperity, but whether or not that gulf will be bridged successfully will depend very much upon the policies of the administration. I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that if hon. gentlemen opposite continue to put into effect the policies which thus far they have tried to put into effect, then the gulf will come more and more to resemble the gulf between Dives and Lazarus, on the one side, we will have the rich becoming richer, and on the other, the poor becoming poorer, to the great detriment of the future well-being of our country.

My right hon. friend goes on to say in the speech from the throne that many of our problems arise out of world conditions. It is interesting to notice the stress that hon. gentlemen opposite are putting to-day upon world conditions. They are contending that the situation in Canada is to be expected, that it is a natural result of world influences and that world conditions are affecting this Dominion. We did not hear that kind of statement from the lips of the present Prime Minister or other of his supporters when they

were appealing last year to the country for support. They were not telling the people at that time that world conditions had anything to do with the situation then existing; it was all put upon the shoulders of the government of the day, which was blamed wholly and exclusively for conditions as they were. But hon. gentlemen had not been in office five minutes before their whole tune changed, and they began to talk about world conditions being responsible for the situation they were about to face.

My right hon. friend speaks about certain conditions antecedent to the world-wide depression—

> . . . . 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.

Here again we must ask ourselves what is meant in that particular paragraph by "antecedent conditions". What are the antecedent conditions to which my right hon. friend refers? If I am to judge by some of his correspondence which has been shown to me by different persons, I would assume he is there referring to the great load which he says he is carrying at the present time, a legacy the like of which except in war time no prime minister of Canada has heretofore had to carry. I have seen correspondence of that kind signed by my right hon. friend, but I notice—

Mr. BENNETT: Will my right hon. friend produce it and read it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think I can produce some of it.

Mr. BENNETT: If my right hon. friend refers to it he should produce it and read it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think I can get permission to produce some of it.

Mr. BENNETT: If it is personal correspondence, reference should not be made to it; otherwise if he refers to correspondence, he is bound to produce it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I said that I was referring to certain correspondence which had been shown to me.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not sufficient. I rise to a point of order. We might as well have a thorough understanding that the amenities of debate are to be observed in this house, and one of them is that no hon. member can paraphrase what someone else says if it is in writing, unless he produces it, because he puts on it his own interpretation and not the meaning of the writer. This anonymous letter business should not be heard of in this house. Let the correspondence be produced or not referred to.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let my right hon. friend wiggle as he pleases at this particular moment—

Mr. BENNETT: I am not the wiggler.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is quite apparent that my right hon. friend is fully conscious of certain of his correspondence which was marked "personal" but which was shown to me by the one to whom it was addressed.

Mr. BENNETT: There is a rule of the house on that point. What does the house think of a leader of the opposition who reads a personal letter which he had no right to see and talks of it? In a court of law, any counsel who did that would be dealt with by the judge, and the rule holds good in any decent society such as this house surely is. It is wholly out of order for any hon. member to refer to personal correspondence which someone has shown to him but which he should not have seen, and try to paraphrase what it means.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If the Prime Minister had sent me a letter and marked it as "personal" I would have regarded it as such. In reply to a workingman in this country who was complaining about the failure of my right hon. friend and his government to make good their pledges to labour, my right hon. friend took upon himself to write to this man an effusive communication which only helped to add insult to his injury and the man showed the letter to me.

Mr. BENNETT: I ask for a ruling on a point of order. May any member refer to correspondence written to some other person by another member and marked "personal", without producing it? The rule is that no member should put his interpretation upon another man's words without the writing being produced, because the other members are quite as capable of understanding what is meant as is the hon. member speaking. I think the rule is quite clear. It is frequently acted upon in the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the right hon. gentleman will admit that correspondence such as that to which he refers should not be quoted unless the intention is to produce it. If it is a public letter it should be produced. If it is a private letter, it should not; but I think the right hon. gentleman will agree in principle that quotations should not be made from letters unless they are to be produced.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I was giving the house my reasons for saying that my right hon. friend has a way of taking the whole load upon his own shoulders, of telling people that the load is all on his shoulders. He never refers to any of his colleagues; you never hear any mention of the cabinet; it is all of the burden that has fallen upon the one individual who for the time being has a more difficult task than has fallen to the lot of any other citizen of Canada. If he would take less of the burden on himself and distribute more amongst his colleagues and the government generally, he would be better playing the part that is expected of him as leader of the administration; because after all, it is government by cabinet and not government by an individual that we are expected to have in this country.

I shall not pursue that point further at the moment, but may I come back to what I was about to say as to this supposed burden, this legacy that my right hon. friend is so fond of telling the country is upon his shoulders and that he has to carry? He seeks to have it appear that this comes as an inheritance of the years during which the administration which immediately preceded his was in office. How are we to judge of the success of a government in the administration of a country's affairs? If matters have been so conducted that the country has not been prosperous, that will be made fully apparent by certain well-known indices. For example, there are the figures with respect to trade; there are the statistics with reference to the public debt; there are the figures with regard to surpluses and deficits; there is the record with regard to taxation. There is all that pertains to unity, harmony and progress to which reference can be made in seeking to discover whether any assumed legacy is what some hon. gentleman would have it believed to be. Just in case my right hon. friend should, when he follows me, or during the course of the session, say that his difficulties are due to what has happened in the past, may I put on record a few figures that will illustrate the position of Canada under the previous administration?

First of all, let me take the figures relating to trade, because the great question in the course of this session and this parliament is going to be whether the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite will serve to promote or to cripple the trade of the country. I believe it can be shown that the most serious of all the results of the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite will be the very certain contraction in trade that we shall find on all sides, a contraction that will affect all classes; whether they be employers of labour or employees, whether they be the heads of large industries, transportation companies, financiers, wholesale merchants, retail merchants or others, all are going to feel the effects of the contracted trade of this country as a result of the policies hon. gentlemen opposite are putting into force. Let me give the figures in regard to trade. When the Liberal administration, of which I had the honour to be the head, came into office in 1921, we found the country facing a position very similar to that which at present exists. Trade was in a state of stagnation; the industries of the country were running part-time, there was general unemployment and a very serious business depression. Then gradually came a marked improvement. The total aggregate trade of Canada for the fiscal years ending March 31, is as follows:

Fiscal year ending March 31	Aggregate Trade
1922	$1,502,000,000
1923	1,748,000,000
1924	1,952,000,000
1925	1,878,000,000
1926	2,256,000,000
1927	2,298,000,000
1928	2,360,000,000
1929	2,655,000,000
1930	2,393,000,000

Hon. members will notice how greatly the aggregate trade of the Dominion increased while we were in office.

The most important part of these statistics is that which refers to export trade. Let me examine the figures with regard to that phase of the matter. I shall give in a moment the figures dealing with that portion of the export trade which was purely domestic. Export trade in Canada for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1922, amounted to $754,000,000; in 1923 it was $945,000,000; by 1924 it had jumped to $1,059,000,000, and so on. The table is as follows:

Fiscal year ending March 31	Total Exports
1922	$ 754,000,000
1923	945,000,000
1924	1,059,000,000
1925	1,081,000,000
1926	1,329,000,000
1927	1,268,000,000
1928	1,251,000,000
1929	1,389,000,000
1930	1,145,000,000

Let us now consider the domestic exports which relate to our surplus production. Here, Mr. Speaker, may I emphasize the importance which is to be attached to the export of surplus products from Canada? That is a business on which about

2,000,000 of our population are dependent. Whatever adversely affects surplus exports adversely affects all classes in our country. The domestic exports are as follows:

Fiscal year ending March 31	Domestic Exports
1922	$ 740,000,000
1923	931,000,000
1924	1,045,000,000
1925	1,069,000,000
1926	1,315,000,000
1927	1,252,000,000
1928	1,228,000,000
1929	1,364,000,000
1930	1,120,000,000

Hon. members will notice that there is an increase from $740,000,000 in 1922 to $1,120,000,000 in 1930, and higher even than that in the four years preceding. That is one indication of the prosperity in Canada in the period immediately preceding the present one.

May I refer to another phase of the matter which illustrates whether or not there was satisfactory administration of public affairs during that period. I refer to the public debt of the country. Public debt increases where there are deficits and decreases where there are surpluses. For years preceding the regime of the previous administration Canada had deficit after deficit. The public debt had enormously increased. There was the most serious problem with which we had to grapple, but what was the result? The result was that in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1924, instead of a deficit there was a surplus of $35,993,594, and from then on till our last year of office there were surpluses each year. The surpluses which I shall now read indicate the extent to which the public debt of the country was reduced from 1923 to 1930:

Fiscal year ending March 31	Decreases in Debt
1924	$35,993,594
1925	345,589
1926	27,706,587
1927	41,896,729
1928	50,984,137
1929	71,345,528
1930	47,740,746

These figures go to show that in seven successive years out of the eight and a half years during which the Liberal administration held office we had surpluses instead of deficits. These surpluses moreover total the enormous sum of over $275,000,000 I ask, Mr. Speaker, whether or not that is a favourable legacy to leave a succeeding administration? May I further draw the attention of the house to the fact that these surpluses were effected not by any system of borrowing; during the entire period the Liberal administration held office the capital as well as the ordinary expenditures were met out of current revenues. These surpluses were over and above all that had been spent on capital and current account.

Another indication of our success is shown by the reduction in taxation imposed.

Mr. HANSON: (York-Sunbury): Six per cent.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think my hon. friend will find that the six per cent will return before very long. In order to place the finances of the country in a position that would make it possible to meet the obligations that had arisen from the administration preceding ours and to balance the budget we were obliged for a time to levy additional taxes. I ask hon. gentlemen opposite to remember however that we faced the situation squarely and that we met our obligations by taxation and not by borrowing. The country will expect the present administration to do likewise. It will expect that the obligations incurred so readily to serve the ends of a general election will be met out of taxation and not from additional borrowings which will entail a further baneful legacy upon the country.

When we found that it was possible out of existing revenues to balance our budget we began immediately to reduce taxation. Hon. members will remember that we reduced the indirect taxation in connection with customs duties. I shall not refer to that particular reduction in the figures I am about to quote at this time. It is estimated that the revenue remitted by the reduction of taxation in other forms amounted in the year 1026 to $25,000,000; in 1927 that the reduction amounted to $27,000,000; in 1928, to $19,000,000; in 1929, to $25,000,000 and last year, 1930, to $22,000,000. A conservative estimate of reductions of taxation in the last five years shows that there has been a remission of taxation which now amounts to the vast total of $116,000,000 a year, because the reduction which was made each year was a reduction which continued for and applied to each successive year.

The figures in tabular form are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Estimated Taxation Reduction (other than Customs)
1926-27	$25,000,000
1927-28	27,000,000
1928-29	19,000,000
1929-30	25,000,000
1930-31	22,000,000

Those, Mr. Speaker, are figures which speak for themselves. Those are the indices by which the country will find it possible to estimate whether or not the business of the country was being satisfactorily administered under the government which preceded the present one. These are the indices which tell whether the policies which were being applied were wise, right and helpful. Under the policies of the Liberal administration we had this vast increases in trade and this decrease of public debt. In seven out of eight and a half years we had a surplus. There was a steady decrease of taxation, and all was accompanied by a spirit of harmony, unity and good will between the governments of the provinces and the government of the Dominion, a spirit such as had not prevailed for many years previously. Unquestionably we have not that spirit at the present time. In addition, Mr. Speaker, we had a spirit of unity and good will between this country and other parts of the British Empire and particularly between Great Britain and Canada. That also is something which cannot be said to exist at the present time.

Let me come now, Mr. Speaker, to the references in the speech from the throne to the legislation passed at the special session. I shall not go into that at any length at the moment except to direct attention to the fact that even the government itself has not ventured to assert that it has in any way redeemed the pledges and the promises which it gave to the electors at the last general election. My right hon. friend opposite came into power in virtue of certain definite and distinct promises which he then made to the electorate. He said he would end unemployment, he said he would end rural distress; he said he would do all of these things, or perish in the attempt. He has not ended rural distress; he has not ended unemployment; and he has not yet perished in the attempt. He has not ever fulfilled that promise, but I tell him he will perish in the attempt before the other promises are ever fulfilled, because he will never be able to fulfil them.

The address says:

> 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.

Market improvement! Where is the market improvement! I am not going to take up the time of this house by endeavouring to tell hon. members and the country what they all know. It is not necessary for any one to assert that conditions have not improved, that they are worse than they were, because every man, woman and child knows that to be the case. The mere putting of these words into the lips of His Excellency the Administrator will give little in the way of comfort and satisfaction to those men and women in all parts of Canada who to-day are still seeking employment, who are still trying to meet the obligations on their farms, who are still trying to avoid placing mortgages on their homes, who are seeking a bare livelihood and trying to get free of being obliged to resort to the good offices of the Red Cross society and other charitable organizations for whatever sustenance they have. I say, Mr. Speaker, that conditions are apparent and well known by the country generally. Everyone who has studied conditions in Canada at all to-day knows that unfortunately it is only too true that so far as certain parts of our country are concerned—and I refer more particularly now to the middle west—matters are in a desperate plight, that many people there are on the verge of destitution. In short, a condition exists in this country at the moment the like of which, fortunately, it has not witnessed at any time heretofore in our history.

An hon. MEMBER: When did you notice it first?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Notice it? It has been noticed by everyone since this administration came into office. Now, Mr. Speaker, may I say—and I wish to make this point very clear, for it helps to answer the interruption of my hon. friend—the government can in no way say that they have been impeded in any of the policies that they have put forward, that they have been in any way obstructed in the carrying out of the pledges or promises which they made to the electorate. I think I can say without fear of contradiction that with the exception of what it became necessary for me to say publicly in the short period of two weeks during which we had the special session of parliament, I have not raised my voice publicly in criticism, or with one or two exceptions, by way of comment, from the day the present administration took office until this afternoon. What I am saying with respect to myself is equally true with respect to the great body of members of this house who belong to the party which I have the honour to lead. We have given to hon. gentlemen opposite the freest possible hand. We have done that in order that they might demonstrate, if they could, what their policies were capable of doing. May I say this also, Mr.

Speaker, that we have recognized the seriousness of conditions in Canada. We recognized them throughout the campaign, we spoke of them and of their causes, world and domestic causes, in the course of that campaign, and we indicated policies that we believed would help to relieve the situation. When the electorate decided that it preferred to accept the promises and pledges of hon. gentlemen opposite, we said, "All right, it is for the electorate to make its choice; we will not interfere in the least with the putting into force of any policies which hon. gentlemen opposite wish to put into force; we will give them a fair chance to show what they can do." They have had now nearly eight months; they have had a special session of parliament where they were free to bring down whatever legislation they pleased, and no restriction was placed upon them whatever in voting the money they asked for, or in amending the customs tariff in the way in which they desired to amend it, or the Customs Act so far as they desired to amend it. They were free to bring in whatever legislation they wished. They were given a free hand at the Imperial conference. They have had everything their own way, and if today conditions in Canada are worse instead of better the fault lies on the shoulders of my right hon. friend and his colleagues and followers. From this time on, I think he can no longer claim exemption from criticism by the opposition.

Mr. BENNETT: He has never claimed it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend says he has never claimed any exemption from criticism. What was the substance of the speech he made at Regina when he began to talk about the extent to which those who ought to know better were putting obstacles and difficulties in his way?

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend is very quick to say he never claimed exemption from criticism, but there is not a man living who is so sensitive to criticism as my right hon. friend. If, Mr. Speaker, you want evidence of that fact you have only to notice the way in which my right hon. friend has risen to the bait two or three times already.

Mr. BENNETT: I rise as a matter of common decency.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There my right hon. friend is biting again.

Mr. BENNETT: I rise as a matter of common decency.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not wonder at hon. members laughing at my right hon. friend's sensitiveness.

Mr. BENNETT: As a matter of common decency personal letters should not be published.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Is my right hon. friend still biting?

Mr. BENNETT: No. He is hurt to think that an ex-Prime Minister is capable of such a thing.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the matter?

Mr. BENNETT: Nothing in the world. I simply said, and I repeat it now, there is nothing I have seen in the history of parliament that quite equals an ex-Prime Minister giving the purport of a letter marked "personal."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, that shot must have gone pretty deep. It wounded my right hon. friend twenty minutes ago and he is still licking the wound. May I come now to the next clause of the speech from the throne which refers to the Unemployment Relief Act. Here we are told that this also has proved "equally beneficial." Well, I think "equally beneficial" is probably accurate when you compare the beneficial results of that enactment with the beneficial results that came from the other legislation then passed, but it does not say much for the extent of the benefit in either case. But, curiously enough, in that very paragraph the administration admits the extent of unemployment to be greater than it has ever been at any time in Canada. Take the last half of the paragraph:

> —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.

In other words, there never was a time in the history of Canada when the federal government had to come to the relief of so many men. This appears in the speech from the throne itself, confirming the very view which, we have all along contended was the correct one.

May I now refer to the third subdivision, which has to do with the Imperial conference. I intend to speak at perhaps a little greater length with regard to the Imperial conference

than with regard to any other subject this afternoon, so I shall pass over that for the moment except to draw attention to the fact that there were two conferences, the so-called Imperial conference and the Imperial economic conference. It is of the Imperial economic conference I intend to speak this afternoon, because I assume that with regard to the other conference, and in fact with regard to both, we will have an opportunity for discussion in this house at a later day. One feature with regard to the Imperial conference to which I wish to refer, however, is the fact that in the speech from the throne the government states that it has approved in principle all that was done at the conference of 1926. The speech reads:

> Several constitutional questions, arising largely out of the resolutions of the Imperial conference of 1926, were fully discussed, and, in principle, approved.

Hon. members who were in this house after the conference of 1926 will recall that the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and others on the opposite side denounced my colleague the then Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and myself because we ventured to contend that the conference of 1926 had asserted a certain status for Canada and that as a result certain changes would have to be made to get rid of some anachronisms in existing statutes. They ridiculed and belittled the whole business; they said it was an outrageous boast that we should come back and contend that anything of a substantial nature had been accomplished. Now we have the present Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative party saying, in a speech from the throne that will be of record for all time to come, that in principle his government has endorsed all that was done at the 1926 conference.

The fourth division, Mr. Speaker, refers to certain administrative actions of the government since the last session. The first is a reference to an order in council which was passed prohibiting the importation of certain goods from Russia. I imagine we will hear a good deal of discussion with regard to that matter during the course of the present session. I may refer to it a little later on in my remarks this afternoon, but if I do not do so at that time I will do so later on.

The next reference is to organization having been completed under the Pension Act. That is true, but in the speech from the throne my hon. friends have not told us that although the amendments to the Pension Act were drafted and supported by representatives of all political parties in this house, in the appointments which have been made the government have appointed virtually only members of their own party.

Let me come to the next reference, which has to do with the situation in the west. The speech from the throne contains the following words:

> 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.

I hope that when the Prime Minister gets up to speak he will tell us what the effective actions were, whether he means the instructions that were given in writing by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) to all the trade commissioners in different parts of the world to do what they could towards helping Canadian trade; whether it is the trade with Bolivia upon which we are to enter shortly; whether it is the credits that are to be given to China for the purchase of Canadian wheat. I hope the Prime Minister will tell us whether those are the effective measures. If not, perhaps he will tell us what they are, because I believe up to the present time the country has been looking and searching in vain for anything which indicates a measure that will be at all helpful to agriculture and western agriculture in particular. The other day I believe the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) did undertake on certain conditions to pay the transportation charges on cattle from one part of Canada to another, out of the public revenues derived from taxation. I suppose that is all right so far as it goes, but if that is the extent of the effective legislation looking to wider markets I am afraid the farmers of Canada will be far from satisfied with the record of the government.

Now I come to the legislative program. In the speech from the throne my right hon. friend says:

> 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.

That is true; heaven knows it was made known often enough, but what was not made known was what appears in the next paragraph, that these things will only be proceeded with, when?

> 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. . . .

Mr. HANSON: Surely.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend says "surely." In the last campaign he and others continually said that the current economic situation required that these things should be done at once, and not only at once but regardless of expense. We were to have a national highway running all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific by an all-Canadian route; we were to have a St. Lawrence waterway, also by an all-Canadian route; we were to have the Peace river outlet to the ocean; we were to have other routes to Hudson bay. Everything was to be done at once. There was to be more in the way of aid to agriculture, technical education and old age pensions. Every old man and old woman who had a vote was made to believe that he and she were going to get full pensions as soon as this parliament met, but now they are told that they will get pensions as soon as the current economic situation warrants. Then listen to the next words:

. . . . and such as can be undertaken without undue demands upon the national exchequer.

When the late Liberal administration was in office, Mr. Speaker, that administration had control of the exchequer of this country. If we had wished to play in the campaign the part which was played by hon. gentlemen opposite we could have said, "Here is the exchequer in our hands. We will take the moneys out of this exchequer to provide old age pensions for everyone, aid to agriculture for every one, more in the way of technical education for everyone and highways across the country for everyone. We will do it immediately and out of the money of the people of this country." We could have said all that and we might have achieved the result which was achieved by hon. gentlemen opposite.

Mr. COTNAM: Are you sorry?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should say not, but I should think hon. gentlemen opposite might well be sorry, and I think they will be still more sorry before they have been in office very long. What I want to make perfectly clear is that we understood what these obligations amounted to. We knew what would be required in the way of taxation to do these things, and we were honest with the people.

Now may I refer to what is said in regard to the revision of the tariff and the establishment of a tariff board. I assume that the revisions will be of the character of those made at the special session, more revisions upward, and I will have something to say in that regard a little later on. With regard to the tariff board we will naturally wait and see what functions this board will be expected to exercise before pronouncing upon it. The first act of my hon. friend, after coming into office, was to dismiss the existing tariff board, which had collected a great deal of most valuable information and which had given satisfaction to all classes in this country, industry, agriculture, labour and others. So far as it is humanly possible for any one organization to reconcile differences of opinion and find common ground to help keep groups and parties united, this was done by the tariff board under the administration of Mr. Moore. But my hon. friend abolished the board immediately upon his assumption of office. Now he proposes to establish another tariff board. Was the abolition simply for the purpose of placing partisans on the board, simply to get a new board composed of those who were of his own political persuasion, or is the tariff board to be another instrument designed to wrest from parliament its authority over taxation and the control of tariffs and hence also of moneys of the people? If my hon. friend has in mind giving to any board the power to adjust the tariff at its will, without the consent of this parliament in the first instance, I will tell him now that he will have to fight pretty hard before he will succeed in a step of the kind. May I remind my right hon. friend this is not a special session of parliament. Let me tell him further that we assume the postponed conference is going to take place, and that he had better fix the date of that conference at a period when he may be expected to have leisure to deal with it. Do not let him think that because last year he succeeded in using the Imperial conference as a reason for proroguing parliament and getting through the business of this house in a rush, he is going to succeed by any device of that kind this year. We shall get through the business of the house in an orderly way or the country will know the reason why.

The next measures mentioned are those that refer to the control of finances and to the Naturalization Act and the Copyright Act. We shall have to wait until those measures are down before saying anything about them. That concludes the program with the exception of the reference to public accounts, which contains this interesting statement:

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.

I wonder what is to come after the revenues begin to improve, should they ever improve, if that is to be the condition laid down. Are we to have economy compatible with the proper administration of the state only until such time as the revenues of the country will allow them to do something different? We shall wait and see what is meant.

There is in the speech from the throne one paragraph to which I wish to call the attention of parliament. May I say it is a paragraph with which I for one am in entire agreement. The paragraph which I am about to read has been inserted, I have no doubt, like many of the paragraphs that appear in statements of my hon. friend, for the purpose of window dressing; it is an assertion of fact with which I think everyone will agree. It is made however, to look like something in the nature of a policy. I believe that anyone who studies the present condition of Canada will conclude that what it asserts is correct. It is as follows:

> 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.

That paragraph, to my mind, states the crux of the situation not only as it is to-day but as it has been for some time past. It states the situation exactly as it was when parliament was in session this time a year ago. Let me read it in reference to the situation as it was in Canada this time a year ago so that hon. members may judge whether it was not equally applicable then:

> 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.

That was the contention of the government of the day a year ago—that the most important of all facts in connection with Canada's economic situation was the position of the grain growers in this country. How was a market to be found for western wheat, to express it in small compass. The outstanding economic problem of Canada, the problem of problems, is summed up in that one question: How are markets to be found for our western wheat? Enlarge that question and ask how markets are to be found for our surplus agricultural and other natural products, and you have a still broader aspect of the trade question. Enlarge it still further so as to include not only natural products but manufactured products as well, and ask how markets are to be found for our wheat, for our other surplus agricultural and natural products, and for the surplus manufactures of the country, and you have the trade problem of Canada in its broad aspect and outline. That is the situation.

I am happy that hon. gentlemen opposite and those who sit on this side are in agreement—I think I am right in saying that we are in agreement—as to what the problem is. That, after all, enables us to get somewhere in the process of debate.

May I say that my remarks this afternoon, from now on, will be directed not so much by way of criticism as criticism, as by a sincere desire, in a constructive way, to point out wherein I believe the situation as outlined can best be met, and wherein I fear the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite, instead of meeting, will defeat it.

Let me say to my right hon. friend, and say it at once: I believe he is thoroughly sincere in his motives with respect to his policies; I believe he thinks the policies which he has laid down will be best for Canada now and in the long run. I think he is thoroughly sincere in that. And I hope he will give to us on this side credit for like sincerity when we say that we cannot see the matter in the same light as he does, that we think his policies are wrong, that his methods are wrong, and that, instead of improving conditions, the policies he has put into force, and is putting into force will lead to a worse state than we have at the present time.

That is the ground of difference between us. We are agreed as to the need for an export trade for our surplus products, and my right hon. friend has certain policies which he believes will help to improve the situation. We believe those policies will work injury instead of helping matters. The debate on that question did not start to-day; it is one that has been going on in different forms, off and on, for a long time past. But it took very concrete form in the last session of the last parliament. At that time we all recognized the position as set forth in this paragraph. In what way did we recognize it? In the first place, we saw—and there was agreement on this point—that the former markets for Canadian wheat were being lost, that some countries, for example, Germany, France and Italy, were putting up tariff walls and making it more difficult for our farmers to compete in those particular markets and

sell their grain there. Not only did we agree that the available markets were becoming fewer, but we were also in agreement that the British market was the best that Canada could possibly have, that Britain was our best customer, and that to secure, in the British market, something that would maintain our position and expand and develop it was after all the great objective at which we should aim. We were further agreed as to this: that the problem of unemployment would be solved in the last analysis only by solving the question of Canada's export trade. I think I am right in that, though there was not the same emphasis laid on that phase by hon. gentlemen opposite. We on this side stressed that point; hon. gentlemen opposite maintained that unemployment was mainly due to the policies of the then administration. They did not say, as we said and still contend, that the reason there was unemployment in Canada, and the reason there is to-day, is that agriculture in this country is not getting an opportunity to export its commodities to the extent to which it should, that the grain growers have not the markets they should have. As a consequence there is not the purchasing power in western Canada to afford a home market for many of our manufactures, because the home market is not a locality; it is purchasing power. It is a fund of purchasing power. A large part of that fund, in the first instance, has to come from the sale of wheat and agricultural products. We were in agreement on one further point, and that was that the Imperial economic conference which was to be held in October had an important bearing on the situation. That conference was called to discuss economic conditions and questions of inter-empire trade, and that was the reason, among other things, why the appeal was made to the country when it was—so that the people might have an opportunity before the conference took place of pronouncing on the respective policies of the parties. When we were in office we realized that if we obtained the endorsation of the people of Canada to the policies as set out in the Dunning budget, we could go to the Imperial conference armed with the support of the people and that in all probability we would get out of that conference something which would mean a good deal to western agriculture and indeed to all agriculture in this country. I do not intend to go over the ground as to why we did not succeed in that appeal, but the fact remains that we put our policies before the people and we gave as our reason for them a desire to get more largely into the British market.

That being the agreement all along the line, where does the difference arise? The difference arises not over any question as to what the situation is, but over the method of approach and policy. If hon. members will be so kind, I am going to ask them to pay a good deal of attention to what I say this afternoon with respect to the difference of methods of approach on these important subjects, because there is a fundamental difference in the attitude adopted by the two parties. There is a real difference between my right hon. friend and myself in this matter of approach, and I do not think he will deny it—he will perhaps correct me if in this I am in error. In approaching these questions he has a certain belief in what he calls bargaining and in action which is in the nature of coercion. Personally, I do not believe that that method of approach, the method of coercion, gets anywhere in the long run. It may win for a day, it may win for a week or for a year, but it brings very strange results and reversals after a time. I believe that the method of conciliatory approach is much better than an approach by means of coercion. I believe that the method of creating an atmosphere of good will and discovering if possible common ground will do more in bringing about agreement than will talk of might, power and force, whether it is economic force or any other kind of force that is to be used. There is the difference between my right hon. friend, and those who sit around him, and myself and those who sit on this side of the house. We differ as to the method of approach, and in fact, as a result, there is a difference also in our policies. The policies of hon. gentlemen opposite are based on this method of approach, and our policies are based on the methods we believe in and have always followed.

Having in mind the Imperial conference and knowing the questions which were to come up, we shaped our course accordingly. We sought to prepare the way for creating a favourable atmosphere in Britain towards what we might seek at the Imperial conference. We sought by the legislation which we passed in this parliament to create through the voluntary giving of preferences a situation which would in the natural order of things place Great Britain and other governments of the empire under certain obligations to this country. If we did not succeed with that method there was still time for parliament to deal with the matter in some other way, but we believed that that was the correct method of approach and we proceeded along those lines.

So that there may be no doubt as to that matter, I will quote the concluding words of

the then Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) in introducing his budget. What was the nature of that budget? In a word, we sought so to arrange trade as to favour in our trading those who traded with us. The country to the south had by an act of its own, which was within its own right, raised tariffs against Canada and made it more difficult for us to trade with them. Britain had been our best customer and had taken no similar action. We said: We will seek by means of legislation to transfer to Britain certain purchases that are now being made in the United States so that what has to be purchased outside can be purchased from Britain rather than from the United States. That was not working an injury to any interest or to any industry or class in this country. During the discussions in parliament, on the hustings and through the campaign you never heard anyone come forward and say, "My business is being injured by the Dunning budget; my business is hurt by the steps being taken in connection with the preferences being given to Britain." The matter was so arranged that what we were doing for Britain was being done in a way that would create a helpful atmosphere in that country, and would in turn prove immediately helpful to the consumers in this country and those manufacturers who later on hoped to get their home market through what might come from sales of our own across the sea in return for what we were buying from them. The whole purpose of the approach was to create that atmosphere and to help if possible to get that additional opportunity of trade.

In order to be clear as to the purport of the Dunning budget in reference to what it was hoped might be accomplished as a consequence of the Imperial conference, let me as already said, quote the concluding words of the then Minister of Finance. They will be found on Hansard of May, 1, 1930, at page 1631, and are as follows:

> These tariff favours to those who favour our products are not the result of any bargain with any other country but of an attitude in international relations which we believe to be mutually beneficial and are an expression of the spirit in which Canada will approach the Imperial economic conference in a few months time. In other words we do not intend to meet the other countries of the British commonwealth of nations in a spirit of party bargaining but rather in the broad spirit of willingness to become in ever increasing measure good customers to those who treat us in like manner. This is the spirit in which we desire to meet all nations, but we believe that within the British community of nations lies the greatest measure of opportunity for mutual development of trade because of our common heritage, kindred institutions and a common patriotism.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

That was the statement of the Liberal position. It is quite true that in parliament at that time my right hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) did not say very much against the preference features then announced. He did say something against them in the last hours of the campaign, and his action at the special session was altogether in the direction of wiping out those preferences. Of this entirely different attitude I shall have something to say later on. The position while parliament was in session was as set forth by Mr. Dunning. When we went to the country that was the attitude which hon. members on this side of the house supporting our policies took from one end of the country to the other. We made it perfectly clear that the Imperial conference had an all important bearing on the question of the sale of western wheat, and we stressed over and over again how all-important to Canada was the question of which party was to represent this country at that conference. We stressed that, not merely in relation to individuals, although the names of individuals were mentioned because there was reason to believe that from the part they had taken in previous conferences they would be the best qualified to obtain beneficial results; but we stressed it because we believed the policies we had adopted were going to be helpful to Canada. We stressed those points with emphasis right up to the very close of the campaign.

In order that I may do no injustice to my right hon. friend by any possible misrepresentation of our respective points of view, I would ask the house to allow me to make reference to speeches made during the campaign which related to this question of policies and methods of approach. I ask hon. members again to keep in mind the Liberal point of view as expressed in voluntary preference, and the point of view, if I may say so, of the Conservative party as expressed in bargaining, and consider these opposing points of view. Our attitude was in the nature of a conciliatory approach; the attitude of hon. gentlemen opposite was in the nature of economic coercion. If I quote from my last address of all in the campaign, perhaps I shall be setting forth more emphatically than in any other way the policies upon which above all we were making our appeal to the people. The last address that I gave in the course of the campaign and which was broadcast from one end of Canada to the other, contained mention of our policies, our methods and of the significance of the right policy in regard to the great economic problem Canada was facing and the problem

of western Canada in particular. It was largely a repetition of what had been said from every platform, but it gained emphasis, perhaps, as being the last appeal of the campaign. These are the words as they were reported in the press on the day of the election itself:

In the life of every nation, there are moments when its people are called upon to make a great decision, affecting not merely the immediate present, but the whole trend of its future development. Such a moment, I believe, has come to the Canadian people at this time in relation to the all-important question of inter-empire trade. In this situation, the people are entitled to expect their political leaders to deal with them fairly and frankly, to meet the issue without hesitation, and to enlighten them as to its true significance in relation to their interests.

A little further on, with special reference to a market in Britain for Canadian wheat, I said:

The Liberal budget of 1930 is not only a forward move in the direction of inter-empire trade and a new influence towards the great object of closer cooperation between Canada and the other members of the British commonwealth, it is also intended to meet one of the greatest economic problems confronting us at the present time, namely the necessity of obtaining a secure and permanent market for Canadian wheat and thereby ensuring a continuous flow to Canada of that purchasing power in the prairie provinces, upon which the prosperity of our country so largely depends.

The words which follow are as true as prophecy could possibly be with respect to what Canada has since witnessed:

Travelling as I did, throughout the western wheat fields, less than a fortnight ago, I have been appalled at the danger which confronts the economic life of the Dominion if we do not find the means of securing a market for this greatest of our primary products, and the greatest single source of the purchasing power which provides traffic for our transportation systems and orders for our factories and business for our retail and wholesale merchants.

The close relationship betwen the solution of the problem of unemployment and a market for Canadian wheat was further emphasized as follows:

The wheat of western Canada is the greatest single source of purchasing power in the Dominion. When this purchasing power is contracted, as was the case last year, it has its inevitable effect upon every link in the series which extends from the consumer through retail and wholesale merchants, back to the manufacturer and transportation companies, the greatest employers of labour throughout the country. Apart from the world-wide depression, with its resultant drop in commodity prices, the chief cause of unemployment in Canada was the short wheat crop of last year and the curtailment of export of Canadian wheat to Great Britain.

I also said:

The great proposals for empire trade which are laid down in the Liberal budget of 1930 constitute the only real and permanent solution of this great problem of unemployment.

Let me come now to the Conservative attitude in the campaign. I referred to it also in the broadcast of which I have spoken. Here may I again draw attention to the fact, already pointed out, that in the campaign very little was said by hon. gentlemen opposite in respect of the economic conference. I feel they were hardly fair with the electorate of Canada in that particular. I think they knew or they ought to have known, and they ought to have explained the bearing of their policies and what they had in mind on the economic conference. I would also draw attention to the fact that very little was said at the outset of the campaign about any changes in the tariff. The special session that was going to be called was to deal with unemployment. Unemployment was what was stressed throughout the country. There are hon. gentlemen sitting opposite from western constituencies who would not be seated on that side of the house to-day had their leader told the people throughout the campaign that he intended to deal with the tariff last session. May I pause to say this word to my friends in western Canada: I hope the people of western Canada will realize that they have the remedy in their own hands. I hope they will realize that parliamentary institutions have a great background; that, after all, what we have in parliament is something that has come into being, not in a day, but through many years of struggle to give to men the right of freedom of expression and to secure the laws they wish to have. If western Canada feels the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite are not suited to the needs of western Canada, then it is not for the people of western Canada to talk about secession or anything of that kind; it is for them to demand of those who sit in this house that they will support only policies that are in the interest of western Canada. I do not say to hon. gentlemen opposite who come from western constituencies which are suffering at the present time and which are going to suffer still more from conditions as they will become under these policies, that they must desert their leader. I am not for a moment putting that suggestion to them, but they have not only a right but a duty to point out to their leader wherein the policies that he has adopted and that he proposes to enact at this very session of parliament are going to work a further injury to the people

of the west, and to plead with him, in the name of the party to which they are giving support, that he modify his view so that it will not work the harm that we believe it will.

Mr. IRVINE: Would the right hon. gentleman kindly indicate in what way he thinks a different approach to the British people would have resulted in their paying a higher price for Canadian wheat than that at which they could purchase wheat from any other country?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What I am interested in is that the people of Britain should feel it to be not only to their interest but a privilege to buy Canadian wheat in preference to any other, provided that the price is the same as can be obtained elsewhere. I believe that if the policies laid down in the Dunning budget had been accepted by the people of this country, the people of Great Britain would have so viewed their obligations, and that as a result of the last Imperial conference we would have had, either through a quota or in some other way, a means whereby Canadian wheat would to-day have a favoured position in Great Britain.

Let me give the Conservative position as I referred to it on the last night of the campaign:

> Now in the closing days of the campaign, Mr. Bennett has announced his intention to summon a special session of parliament to bring about an all-round increase in the tariff, which means, so far as the Conservative party is concerned, they propose to reject this great movement towards empire trade, and deal with the mother country only as they deal with foreign countries, upon a basis of hard bargaining, and upon the condition that the people of Great Britain must change a fiscal policy which they have maintained for almost a century.

That was a pretty good forecast of what has since taken place. That was a statement made in July, 1930, to the electorate of Canada at large. I will say this in regard to my right hon. friend, that before the end of the campaign he made it plain that he intended to introduce higher tariff policies, and to ask Great Britain to change her fiscal policy. I would not for a moment say that my right hon. friend has been inconsistent. He has been consistent, but his very consistency is leading him nearer and nearer to destruction.

Mr. SPENCE: Surely my right hon. friend is not worrying about him?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am worrying about the condition of this country. I wish to state to my right hon. friend that I do not in the least distrust his sincerity, but I do distrust his policy. I do distrust his methods, because I do not believe in them. I think he makes a mistake when he relies too exclusively upon his own judgment and is not prepared to accept the judgment even of his own ministers. I say, Mr. Speaker, that cabinet government as it applies in British parliamentary institutions was devised to prevent the will of any one person dominating an entire situation. Cabinet government has come into being through the belief that out of collective wisdom the best judgment may be formed. There is no collective wisdom in the formation of judgment in the government of my right hon. friend. Ask any minister of the crown how far his opinion goes when it is in conflict with that expressed by my right hon. friend.

Mr. RYCKMAN: Where does my right hon. friend get that information?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I get it on every side, and from the look in the face of my right hon. friend (Mr. Ryckman) when he comes out of the council chamber. May I say to my right hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) that I do not believe he is acting fairly either by his colleagues or the country when he takes to himself all the responsibility. It was never intended that there should not be a Minister of Finance other than the Prime Minister; it was never intended that the Prime Minister should function in that office. Surely there must be somewhere in the Conservative party at least one member whose abilities could be usefully employed at the head of the Department of Finance. Under present circumstances when a difference of opinion arises between the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, how is it settled? If I am not mistaken my right hon. friend told us at the last session that the reason he did not appoint a Minister of Finance was that he did not want any minister to have the burden of the measures he intended for the session. He did not think it would be fair to any other man to ask him to put through all those important financial measures. I ask my right hon. friend if that is not correct.

Mr. BENNETT: No, my right hon. friend is not quite correct, but it is as near correct as he can get.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We have passed the special session and we have now reached the general session. I say that my right hon. friend is not fair to himself or to others and is not doing what is right when he attempts to fill so many offices himself; I say that he should without delay bring into his ministry, if he can be found, someone well qualified to serve as Minister of Finance.

An hon. MEMBER: Hurry up.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I draw the attention of this house to one fact: For over six months I have left hon. gentlemen opposite entirely to themselves to say and do as they pleased. Surely they will now have the patience to let me have at least an hour or two to myself to say what I please. I repeat my right hon. friend should enlarge his cabinet to the extent indicated and also should give to hon. members of his cabinet a little more say than they have had in the shaping of policies.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): My right hon. friend should learn to run his own party.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: To return to the position taken by my right hon. friend during the campaign, may I set forth the manner in which he dealt with certain matters. In opening the campaign for the Conservative party at Winnipeg on June 9, 1930, my right hon. friend the present leader of the government, at that time leader of the opposition, made his coercive attitude perfectly plain. He made perfectly clear that it was by the method of "fighting" and "blasting" that he intended to find markets for Canadian wheat and surplus products generally. The language he used is all the more remarkable because my right hon. friend told us that the speech was written out, and that in most part it was read. The part of the speech from which I wish to quote was in the nature of a direct appeal to the farmers of our country and to the west in particular. Here are his words:

> Listen you agriculturists from the west and all the other parts of Canada, you have been taught to mock at tariffs and applaud free trade. Tell me, when did free trade fight for you? Tell me, when did free trade fight for you? You say tariffs are only for the manufacturers. I will make them fight for you as well. I will use them to blast a way into the markets that have been closed to you.

Then, after making further promises of what would be done in the nature of drastic adjustments and improvements, he made the following pledge, couched in language of the greatest tenderness:

> You will have broader markets, and will have them for all time. You have known suffering and have been patient. Let us end it. Take heart.

Another promise, not to relieve, but to end distress! I wonder what the agriculturists of all Canada, and of the west in particular, are saying to my right hon. friend to-day about their suffering and their patience!

The assurance given with respect to "blasting" was repeated at Victoria on June 17 without being restricted to agricultural products.

I quote these extracts because they are not chance phrases. When I refer to "blasting" my hon. friend nods his head in approval. The method he proposes represents one entirely opposed to that which those of us on this side of the house have employed.

An hon. MEMBER: My right hon. friend is a peaceful man.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not ashamed of having the desire to use peaceful methods. We have passed through a devastating world war; hon. gentlemen opposite apparently think that by now starting an economic war they are going to make conditions better. My hon. friends have a mistaken idea however of what is required for prosperity. To illustrate the intent of my right hon. friend when dealing with the question of markets I shall quote from the Victoria Colonist of June 17;

> It is true we must have foreign markets, and as I said the other evening, we will blast a way to those markets on a world-wide basis with any exportable surpluses. Wo do not have to worry about that.

And at Vancouver, on the same day, resort to the same method was promised as a cure for all troubles and difficulties. I quote from the Montreal Gazette of June 19:

> So will I, when the government is mine, continue to blast a way through all our troubles and difficulties.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, to note that statement, "So will I, when the government is mine, continue to blast a way through all our troubles and difficulties." In that quotation my right hon. friend was speaking of a time when he might become Prime Minister. Well, that time has come. Now the government is his, and the fighting and the blasting have commenced. Those operations commenced the moment it was his. He might have been a little happier in his choice of words, although it is true we get the truth often in most unexpected ways. My right hon. friend speaks of the government as "his." He might, having regard to what he owes to others, have referred to the government as that of the Conservative party or the government as being that of himself and his colleagues. He might even with propriety have referred to it as the government of His Excellency the Governor General, of whose ministers he was one, primus inter pares, the first among equals. But no, the government is his, he is the first

and the last, alpha and omega—all. Well, again I say my right hon. friend is quite sincere.

And the government being his, the blasting has commenced. It commenced at the special session. I am reviewing the situation as I am because the methods which have been adopted are going to continue, and the country will have to make up its mind whether such is the way it wishes to be governed, whether it wishes to have its affairs so conducted in relation to other countries of the world. No longer is there an opportunity for saying that "blasting" is a chance phrase used in the heat of a political campaign or debate. It is a method deliberately selected and that is believed in by my right hon. friend, a method which he intends to pursue in his policies, a method which he has shown us already he intends to pursue even in this parliament as far as he can, namely, the method of coercion. Because that in a word is what it is—not the conciliatory method, but the method of coercion, the getting things done by force of economic might—that is the method he intends to adopt.

Having the opportunity and the power he started at once to use that method in the special session. As all know, the special session of parliament was called for the purpose, nominally, of relieving unemployment. We were no sooner assembled than we discovered that the relief of the unemployed was a mere subterfuge, that the session in reality was to revise tariff schedules upward and to amend the Customs Tariff Act so as to give powers to the governor in council to do what council pleased with respect to many matters affecting the tariff. Throughout the campaign it was never thought that at the special session there would be changes of any extent in the tariff. My hon. friend made use of the session as he made use of the Imperial conference—as an instrument of coercion—the use he made of the forthcoming meeting of the conference was as effective as any form of closure. Hon. members know that.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We met here nominally to pass a vote for the relief of unemployment. As was repeatedly said, that could have been done by a governor general's warrant. A governor general's warrant could have been issued for $20,000,000 without a word of criticism in the circumstances.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say without a word of criticism for this reason, that in the campaign over and over again I said that the money if necessity demanded it could be taken by governor general's warrant for that purpose pending the assembling of parliament immediately after the conference. What criticism could I have directed at the administration after having made that perfectly clear? But in my heart I knew very well that my right hon. friend was not thinking of the unemployed primarily in connection with that session. He was thinking of the special interests that came to his rescue towards the end of the campaign and helped to put him where he is at the present time. It was not until the very last days of the campaign that he uttered any expression which gave the country the slightest idea that he intended to put up the tariff against Britain. The campaign had then about run its course and this phase passed unnoticed by the public at large; it was not unnoticed by those who expected to profit by it. But he did make this representation in the very last days of the campaign, and I drew attention to it in the speech to which I have just referred. It was necessary to wait until almost the last night of the campaign to draw attention to this statement, because my right hon. friend had gone up and down the country appealing to the necessities of the people, making their needs the excuse for the promises and pledges that he then made, and it was not until the very last days of the campaign that he told the people what in his own mind he was determined to do, namely, to raise the tariff at the first opportunity in a way that would serve to their great advantage certain special interests in this country. So he called the special session to force those measures through. Supposing we of the opposition at the special session, had said, "We do not intend to allow this arbitrary and high-handed method of procedure. We are going to stay here and see that every item in this tariff program is discussed as it should be and its bearings properly considered." Supposing we had taken that position—a position which many think the opposition ought to have taken—what would have been the result? My right hon. friend made it plain the first day of the session when he said, "I will not go to any Imperial conference unless I get every bit of this program through." But in Toronto only a few days before he had said that the question of the solution of unemployment and the wheat situation hinged largely on the Imperial conference. Well, if we had taken a step of that kind, and my right hon. friend had not gone to the Imperial conference, we would have been told to-day that wheat was not going from Canada into Great Britain on any im-

proved basis because we had prevented the leader of the government from being present at the Imperial conference. We let him go. The point I wish to bring out very clearly is this, that his whole attitude was one of coercing this parliament into passing those particular measures. Usually when large sums of money are to be spent a supply bill is brought down and is discussed in committee of supply. No supply bill was brought down at the special session, but in orded to limit discussion, a special bill appropriating this $20,000,000 was introduced. Usually when the tariff is being changed the Minister of Finance brings down a budget and shows the bearing of the changes upon the revenues of the country and the taxes of the people. There was no budget brought down at the special session, but my right hon. friend brought down special measures, which he drove through in a certain time by his threat not to go to the Imperial conference until he had witnessed their enactment. Under that form of closure, by those coercive methods he put through his legislation.

And what was the nature of it? There were three bills, one relating to the relief of unemployment, one to amend the Customs Act, and another to amend the customs tariff. The most extraordinary thing of all is that on the eve of going to an Imperial conference my right hon. friend should have put up the tariff against Britain herself. I wish he would give us his explanation of that particular action when he gets up to speak. Let me come back to what I said at the outset. We were agreed that the selling of Canadian wheat in the British market was the most important of all objectives, as it is still the most important. How can he possibly reconcile with that objective his action at the special session in putting up the duties against Britain, wiping out the preferences that were granted under the Dunning budget? Not only that, but raising the duties to a point that in many cases prevented any inflow of goods from Great Britain into this country. I hope my right hon. friend will give some explanation of his action in that regard. I should not like to think it was simply because he had made promises to certain interests that if he were returned that was what he would do. We all know that there are certain selfish interests in this country that would like to shut out all competition from Great Britain. We know that they are afraaid, from the point of view of their monopoly, of British competition even more than of competition from the United States. I hope it was not from motives of that kind that my right hon. friend made the changes he did make. And I hope that it was not from a belief in his power to coerce the British government. Did he think when he raised the tariff against Britain that he was going to find it possible to coerce the government of the United Kingdom by such a step? Was that what he had in mind? If he thought anything of the kind he should have been fair to this parliament and told us.

I want to say to my right hon. friend that he did not treat parliament fairly with respect to the Imperial conference. I asked him politely at the beginning of the special session to give us a statement of what he intended to do at the Imperial conference, to make known his policies. He was also asked by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Garland) to advise parliament. He spoke on the Imperial conference two or three times, but he never told this house what he had in mind. I say that was not fair to parliament and it was not fair to the country. I think we all assumed that my right hon. friend was busy and that he had little time to think of these matters, and naturally we did not press him. But if he had in mind going to Britain to coerce that country; if he had in mind going to Britain to put up to the British government a proposal which he knew could not be accepted by any government in that country he should have told us.

I say he should have made known to parliament what his intentions were, and here again may I say I think it is worth considering whether it is consonant with procedure under British parliamentary institutions for any individual or for that matter any cabinet to promote policies with respect to great imperial matters, policies that affect the whole future and development of the British empire and to launch those policies publicly before the world without any discussion in the first instance either in parliament or throughout the country. After all, public opinion is a factor in government quite as much as anything else, and it is part of the system of government under British institutions that there should be the fullest discussion of policies on the platform, in parliament and certainly also in the cabinet. I do not know what has transpired in the cabinet, but I have very grave doubts in my mind as to whether my right hon. friend ever told his cabinet what he intended to do when he got to London. If he did so, I am amazed to see certain hon. gentlemen sitting beside him to-day. I believe, with respect to one or two of them at least that if they had known in advance that this was the approach that was to be made to Britain, they would have

been manly enough to say, "I will resign before I will remain in this cabinet and be a party to that procedure." If that is not the case, then they were all parties to it as indeed, they are under our theory of the collective responsibility of the cabinet. It is my belief that the policies of my right hon. friend were not revealed to his own government. Certainly they were not revealed to this parliament; certainly they were not disclosed to the country, and in all those things I think he has offended against the best traditions of parliamentary procedure and government.

But the serious part is this, and I come back again to the question of the selling of Canadian wheat in Britain. We do not need to go to the conference in London to find out why the Prime Minister failed; we do not need to discuss what took place in London to see why there has been no enlargement of the market for Canadian wheat in Britain as a consequence of what took place at the conference. The Prime Minister was doomed to failure before he left this country, if he had in mind the particular policies which he subsequently proposed; he was doomed to failure when in this parliament, on the eve of going to England, he forced through those increases in the tariff which changed the whole feeling and view of the British public mind in relation to this country. I repeat that I am at a loss to understand his action or the motive behind it. I have asked myself this question: Can it be that promises were made which he had not expected would have to be redeemed and that, being a man of his word, he felt bound regardless of consequences to see they were carried out? I have asked myself this question: Is it because he believes in coercion and because he thinks he will be strong enough to carry that policy even against the government of Great Britain? I have come back to this thought, and perhaps he will tell me if I am wrong. I believe that what he had in mind was a desire to further his conception of a Canadian economic unit, as he calls it; to make out of this country a self-sufficing economic unit, non-trading, beyond its borders, a country that will work exclusively within itself and confine its trade to itself; that in his heart of hearts he believes that this is going to be in the interests of Canada, though how he can believe it surpasses human comprehension. How this country, made into an isolated economic unit, is to prosper and develop along with the other nations of the world, is something indeed very difficult to understand, but the more I follow his actions here and at the Imperial conference the more I come to believe that this has been the actuating motive, that the proposals he made were made with a view to their being rejected so that it would be a little easier for him to put up the tariff again against Great Britain, if need be, in order to avoid trade from that source and so further to secure monopoly to those special interests already protected behind the highest of tariff walls. If that is not the case, I hope my right hon. friend will so inform the house when he gets up to speak.

I will give to the house one or two references which bear out what I have just said. The change in front with respect to the British preference is remarkable in view of what my hon. friend said during the last session when the Dunning budget was introduced. At that time the preferences were there; they were known to my right hon. friend; we were discussing the Imperial conference, and at that time in this House of Commons, standing where I am standing at this moment, my right hon. friend told this parliament that as an expression of affection and goodwill towards the mother country he approved of these preferences. What transpired between that moment and the time when my right hon. friend went to England to rid him entirely of that feeling of affection and goodwill towards the mother country? Perhaps he will answer that question. Let me read his words, which will be found in Hansard of May 6, 1930, at page 1833. They are as follows:

> In order that there may be no misunderstanding as to our position with respect to British preference, I wish to say the following: As an earnest of our affection and good-will, as an expression of the hope we all have that some day a closer economic alliance of empire states may find being, I commend the measures for British preference which the minister proposes.

That speech was made here; it was made to do duty for the Conservative party throughout the campaign. When my hon. friends were speaking in parts of the country where there were those who were known to be favourable to the British preference the words of the present Prime Minister were read as favouring the preference as an expression of goodwill and affection towards the mother country. I ask my right hon. friend, when he gets up to speak, to tell this house and the country what transpired during the course of that campaign which caused him to alter his whole view in that particular and, at a special session of parliament, to wipe out these very preferences which he said should stand as an earnest of affection and good-will in connection with our relations with the mother country.

I need not remind hon. members of what I said during the course of the short session as to what would be the effect of my hon. friend's action at the Imperial conference. Inasmuch however as some of his remarks and the comments of others have been capable of being taken as meaning that it was due to some action or lack of action of the present British government, the Labour government which is at present in office, that my right hon. friend was unable to get anything done at the Imperial conference, I feel I ought to read to the house exactly what I said to him before he left for England as to the fate of any course such as the one he in fact adopted. The Prime Minister I repeat was doomed to failure as far as the Imperial conference was concerned, before he left Canada at all, having in mind his proposals and the methods which he intended to adopt. The quotation which I am about to give will be found in revised Hansard for September 9, at page 37, and in the unrevised Hansard at pages 41 and 42, where I am reported as having spoken as follows:

My hon. friend seems to have very little faith in voluntary agreements. Let me say to him that when he goes to London I think he will find that the only things he will be able to accomplish or that any government will be able to accomplish in the matter of trade as between the different countries of the British Empire will be by voluntary agreement, by cooperation. He will find it very difficult to get very far along on any other path.

Does my hon. friend believe he has a mandate from the Canadian people to-day to blast his way into the British market? Is that the mandate he has? What is the position? Is he, in the measures he is about to bring down, to increase the tariff against Britain as well as against other countries? That was the statement he made, that he was going to put up the tariff against Britain as well as against other countries. Is that the step he proposes to take in advance of proceeding to an Imperial economic conference? Does he believe he is going to strengthen his hand in that fashion?

After making his speech about blasting his way into the markets of the world, my hon. friend when taken to task said that after all it was not blasting he meant so much as it was blazing, that it was not the warrior attitude so much as the crusader attitude which he was adopting, that all he was claiming was to be first in the long line of great men who have helped to blaze the path of Canada and of the empire. Then when he went on to explain what he meant by "blazing," he came to the term "bargaining," and said that some bargaining process was the only way he was going to trade, whether with other parts of the world or with other parts of the British Empire.

What does that mean? According to his own statements it means putting up the tariff in this country, to begin with; that is to be the first part of it. And then on the other hand, so far as the other countries of the British Empire are concerned, it means that they are to be obliged to change their fiscal policies in order to make them accord with the fiscal policies of this country. My hon. friend knows very well that the British Empire is founded on self-government, and that as far as self-government is concerned, it means autonomy in everything and in nothing more than in the matter of fiscal policy. If he is proceeding to England with any idea of trying to influence the parties in Great Britain in the matter of their fiscal policy, his time would be very much better spent at home. If he expects to make a bargain counter out of the council table at Downing street, he will not get very far in serving the interest either of Canada or of the British Empire. I say he should tell us very plainly what his particular policies are going to be, and his attitude with respect to the questions which may come up at the Imperial conference.

When that statement was made to my hon. friend, when, as leader of the opposition speaking to the leader of the government, I indicated that we at least believed that if he were going to make a demand which involved a change of fiscal policy in Britain, if he were going to try coercive methods, he would get nowhere, I say that if those were the things he intended to do, he should have taken parliament into his confidence and given the house and his own followers an opportunity to express their views on a procedure of that kind.

On September 17 I again referred to the futility of hoping to extend trade within the empire by tactics such as the raising of the tariff against Britain on the eve of the conference, or of extending the market for Canadian wheat by any process of bargaining or "blasting." I think what was prophesied at the time has turned out to be true, pretty much to the letter. These were the remarks I made to my right hon. friend; they will be found in the unrevised Hansard for September 17, 1930, at page 340, and in the revised Hansard at page 315:

I have only one further word, and that is to repeat with emphasis what I said a moment ago about this legislation being introduced on the eve of the Imperial conference. The Prime Minister well knows that there is no problem quite so serious for Canada at the present time as that of the marketing of our western grain and of surplus farm products generally. He knows that the purchasing power of the middle west, in the last analysis, will determine the extent to which other branches of industry will thrive, and that this depends in very large part on the degree to which we can secure a market overseas for the grain of western Canada. He knows that many of the markets which we formerly had are closed or are being closed against us to-day, for instance, the markets of France, of Germany and of Italy. He knows also that protection is no cure for unemployment. He has only to look across the border in the United States, the most highly protected country in the world and see how extensive unemployment is there, to know that protection

is no cure for unemployment. One would have felt my hon. friend, at least on the eve of a great economic conference which is to consider matters of trade within the empire, would have thought it desirable on the part of his government, and on the part of this parliament as representing the people of Canada, to have maintained toward Great Britain an attitude of a character calculated to meet a hearty response from the people of the British Isles to such demands as he might reasonably make for the improvement in trade between the two countries. How can he expect to get from the British government or the British people any response in the way of opportunities for increasing our markets in Great Britain when his last step before he leaves Canada is to raise the duties against British goods coming into this country, and his first word when he reaches the British Isles is to announce the extent of the increases which he has made? This is a most extraordinary proceeding on the part of my hon. friend. It may be he has in mind blasting or blazing or bargaining as a result of the steps he has taken, but I would like to repeat to him what I said before that I think he will find those particular methods are of very little avail as within the British Empire itself, and that only through voluntary cooperation and an attitude of friendship and good-will are we likely to achieve much in the way of permanent development of inter-imperial trade.

* * *

May I say this. We heard in a previous election a good deal with respect to "the parting of the ways." We heard something of it in the last election. It was my hope that, as a result of the attitude which the government previously in office took, we would so far as the different parts of the British Empire are concerned discover ourselves at the meeting of the ways, in the matter of inter-imperial trade, when the Imperial conference is held in London, and that Canada's example would be an example which would be followed by all other parts of the British Empire. But I am afraid that the stand which my hon. friend has taken to-day has put us, so far as inter-imperial trade is concerned, not at the meeting of the ways, but I greatly regret to say very much at the parting of the ways so far as the further development of trade within the empire is concerned.

I have covered the situation up to the time when my right hon. friend left for the Imperial conference. I hope I have made clear the line of difference between us—the method which my right hon. friend proposes to take and has taken, the method of blasting, of economic coercion and the method which we would have taken, one of conciliatory approach; an endeavour to create an atmosphere of friendliness with a view to discovering common ground. I believe I have made it clear that my right hon. friend was not fair with the country when he spoke of having a special session for the purpose of relieving unemployment and, on the plea of relieving the necessities of the poor, came to this parliament and enacted legislation which makes wider than ever the gulf between the rich and the poor; the gulf between those who have plenty and those who lack many of the necessities of life. I hope I have made it clear that he was equally unfair to this parliament, holding as he did views of the character here described not to have told us of his intentions; also, that by talking of blasting a way into the markets of Britain and by contemplating proposals which could not be entertained, he was taking, before leaving for England, and before the conference was under way, an attitude which he must have known was bound to change the feeling in Britain towards Canada. I believe I have made it clear that before he left Canada at all he had made impossible any success for himself or his party, or for our country, at the Imperial conference.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, before I refer to the Imperial conference and to the attitude taken by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister at the conference, may I say to him what I have heard him say at different times speaking from the position I now occupy, as leader of the opposition, that nothing could be more embarrassing than the duty which is sometimes placed upon the one who holds this office of saying things which, while unpleasant, must, in the public interest be stated. To me personally it would be much more satisfactory and agreeable to be able to compliment my right hon. friend on the part he had played at the Imperial conference. Indeed when he left I hope I manifested the desire I sought to evince at the time, namely that he might succeed, and I hope that by withholding any comments while he was at the Imperial conference I had made it clear that I wished in no way to embarrass him. Indeed it was my desire to save him from all embarrassment in the matter of attaining what was, according to his own statement, the great and main object that of maintaining and enlarging the market for Canadian wheat in Great Britain.

The Prime Minister must be judged with respect to his action at the Imperial conference by his attitude of approach, by his utterances and by his policies. For a short time this evening I intend to review these three features of his presentation of Canada's case at the Imperial conference. We will judge the outcome of his mission by its results. It is fair to ask: are conditions better

to-day in this country than they were when my right hon. friend went to the conference, and are they better as a result of his having participated in it? Are the relations between the government of Canada and the government of Great Britain better to-day than they were in the past? These are fair questions and we are entitled to judge of the results of his visit to London by the answers to be given to them.

The house is well aware that there is a well-known method of procedure followed at all Imperial conferences. This was not the first Imperial conference, nor was it the first Imperial economic conference. If I am not mistaken there have been altogether some twelve or fourteen different conferences during the last thirty or forty years. In that period of time public men belonging to different political parties have met and discussed the affairs which they went into conference for the purpose of considering. In that period of time there have grown up certain methods of procedure, certain practices and certain precedents, all of which have a bearing upon the work of Imperial conferences. These practices and precedents are well known, and the business of conferences is so arranged as to meet the difficult and perplexing situations that arise, particularly inasmuch as the business of conferences has to be conducted in relation to the possible opinion which foreign countries may get of the empire from the discussions which take place in the attempted solution of the different problems. In order to facilitate the work of the conference considerable preparation is made in advance. The different governments to be represented make known to each other what subjects they wish to have taken up; and the order in which the subjects are to be taken up is set forth in an agenda. The conference opens in a manner intended to help to create a favourable atmosphere for discussion. The first meetings are intended for informal discussion and for the making of such statements as can be given immediately to the public expressive of the attitude towards each other of the different governments represented at the conference. It is important to keep in mind that conferences are exactly what they are termed to be—they are conferences. They are neither cabinets laying down Imperial policies, nor are they parliaments in which members meet to discuss in public matters of mutual concern. Unless it were understood there was to be a certain method of approach and a certain amount of privacy thrown around the proceedings at the outset, it would be impossible to get governments to go into conference with each other. If my right hon. friend says that all that is to be discussed at a conference ought to be proclaimed from the rooftops right from the outset, that all should be made known, I would say that if that is to be the known procedure, governments will refuse to go into conferences with each other. They must be secured to a certain extent, at least until all positions are known, against having their positions publicly criticized. Let me make myself plain by saying that I am the last one who would sympathize with any proposal that whatever is done must be done wholly in camera, or that policies should be made is secret. A conference has no power to lay down a policy. The different representatives at a conference may present to one another their own points of view; they may present views which in their opinion will be of the greatest service, but they are expected to do so in a manner which will not embarrass the governments to which they are speaking or which are there represented.

It has always been understood at Imperial conferences that any member of the conference is free to state to his own parliament when he returns the position that he took and the objections, if any, which were offered to his attitude and proposals. He is perfectly free to make to his own parliament whatever statement he pleases, so that every phase of the situation may be well known; but he is not expected to embarrass all proceedings by talking publicly at the very outset an attitude which makes all conference impossible.

So obvious are these things that it is extraordinary that one has to mention them. In an Imperial conference, just as in all conferences between governments, each government must of necessity respect what it knows to be the known policies and domestic affairs of another government. No government has any right in a conference to criticize the domestic affairs of another, to take up matters of domestic policy, or to find fault with the policies of the governments with which it is conferring. It may seek to bring about a change but not to force a change. When in conference governments have to respect the position of the other, they have to respect the point of view of the other. If a Conservative government is in office in Great Britain and a Liberal government goes there to represent Canada, as was the case in 1923 and 1926, it would be highly improper for the

head of the Liberal administration to find fault at the outset with the Conservative government for having certain Conservative policies with respect to taxation, tariffs, and the like. It would have been extremely resented by this parliament if, when my colleague the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and I were at the last conference, we had at the outset stated that we were not in sympathy with the policies of Mr. Baldwin and his government and that unless those policies were changed there was possible a dismemberment of the empire or something of the kind. I say it does not matter what the particular political complexion of the government of the day is, that government has a right to have its policies respected.

Moreover, the government in office represents the people of the country. It may in some instances be unfortunate that such is so—I think it is very unfortunate that such is the case as respects hon. gentlemen opposite—but they do represent the country. When my right hon. friend went to England to speak at the conference he expected that he would be regarded as speaking in the name of the country. Unfortunately, his party feeling got a little the better of him. He told the conference at the outset that he represented the Conservative party, rather an extraordinary statement to make to any conference of governments; but if we set that aside, the point that will be clear and self-evident is this, that each government must respect the governments of the day represented at the conference and have respect for their policies. The position, so far as the recent Imperial conference is concerned, was the more critical in that Great Britain was the hostess, so to speak, on this occasion. She had invited to the conference the governments of the different dominions and she was in a position where the whole procedure had to be shaped accordingly. In the same Canada will be the hostess at the conference that is to take place later in the year when the procedure no doubt will be arranged not to have Canada the first to speak and to lay down her proposals but to hear the others first. Great Britain's position was, as I say, that of the hostess of the conference and matters were so arranged as to give to the Prime Minister of Canda, as representing the oldest dominion, the first right to speak. Under those circumstances the Prime Minister owed it especially to the country he was representing to proceed in the proper way, in a courteous way, in a way that would have regard to the precedents that had been laid down and for the procedure that had been adopted at previous conferences. He was at fault many times, but one of the worst mistakes he made was in ignoring altogether the precedents and procedure of preceding conferences. In his rough-and-ready fashion he simply swept to one side the whole accepted method of procedure, went into the conference and laid down the law to everyone present before anyone else had had a chance to be heard. He made no reference to the governments which he was addressing, no reference to the British government, no reference to the governments of the other dominions, no reference to the Prime Minister or the other prime ministers present. The first and only reference was to himself as the Prime Minister of Canada and the policies which he stood for and was going to stand for at the conference.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hon. gentlemen opposite say "hear, hear" and applaud. I hope the country will notice their attitude—they are running true to form—an attitude of assurance and arrogance, the like of which has never been known in Canada before.

I am going to discuss the Prime Minister's attitude and actions from four points of view. First of all I intend to speak of his method of approach, to which I have already alluded. Then I intend to refer to the proposals he made to the conference, then a word or two about his petulant and childish outburst against the mild form of criticism of his proposal in the British House of Commons and lastly I should like to say something about the interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, the taking of sides with political parties in other countries, when one is supposed to be representing one's country as a whole, not any political party, and to have regard for all the amenities that pertain to public life and affairs in any land.

As to the method of approach, may I say that my right hon. friend in his very first remarks said that in the course of a day or two he would give to the conference his reasoned views. This shows that evidently, when he was here at the special session of parliament, he had in mind the line of procedure which he was going to take, the policy that he was going to lay down. Every step was calculated, was carefully worked out. He took the position that he did, presented his proposals as he did, in order to help to draw attention to them publicly, notwithstanding that, as he must have known, they were pro-

posals extremely embarrassing to the government that he was meeting in conference in the old land. I do not know that I can do better than to take the words of my right hon. friend and read to the house from his speech. I will not read the whole of it; I will read parts that will illustrate his method of approach.

This method of approach, if I may pause for a moment to say so, resembled nothing more closely than the presentation of an ultimatum to an unfriendly nation on the eve of war. That was the nature of it. It was a proposal which the Prime Minister must have known was impossible of acceptance. It must have been presented deliberately with a view to having it turned down. That is the way in which quarrels are deliberately made between nations, the way in which trouble has been bred at all times in international relations—proposals made which are known to be in the nature of an affront to the government to which they are directed, proposals which it is known are bound to meet with rejection, and then action taken as a consequence of their rejection. That was the method of approach, accompanied by all of the extreme of language that usually goes with an ultimatum presented in that way. Mark you, this is Canada's way of getting a market for her wheat in Britain. What I want hon. members of the house and parliament and the country generally and hon. gentlemen opposite who are applauding this method of procedure, to keep in mind is that the Prime Minister himself stated that his object was to get a market for the sale of Canadian wheat. This is the way he went about getting in Britain a market, and a preference that other countries would not have. Let me read what he said. As I have already pointed out, no reference is made to any prime minister present other than himself, whom he introduces as the great "I am."

Mr. GOTT: Childish.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is not childish. They are the exact words used by the Prime Minister. I intend to quote them in a moment.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The right hon. member will be sorry for this.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I ask you to note the remarks of my hon. friend who says I will be sorry for this. He is following his usual practice of making threats across the floor of the house. Everyone knows the arrogant tongue that my hon. friend has. He may until doomsday tell me that I will be sorry, but I am going to stand here and say what I believe the people of Canada desire to have said at this time. Let me quote the words of the Prime Minister, his pleasing words of introduction. This is taken from the text and if in any particular I err, I hope my right hon. friend will correct me.

> Before offering to this conference the plan which, once effective, will in my opinion make for greater prosperity in all parts of the empire, I shall briefly state the fiscal policy of the Canadian administration, of which I am the head.

There are the words "I am." He then proceeds in the name, not of Canada, or of the people of Canada, or even of the government of Canada, but of the Conservative party of Canada:

> The Conservative party—

This is in England at the conference.

> —of Canada believes in, and employe the principle of protection of the home producer of agricultural and fabricated products from harmful interference by foreign competitors.

Note these words:

> This policy of the Conservative party has come to be known as the policy of "Canada first." In approaching the economic problems of our empire, I stand four-square behind that policy.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall ask the house to watch the applause of my hon. friends opposite when for sake of illustration a little later on I use similar words and language coming supposedly from the lips of the British Prime Minister, The quotation continues:

> The primary concern of Canada to-day is profitably to sell its wheat. We believe that we shall be reaching towards a solution of that problem if we can establish a better market in Great Britain. This market we want, and for it we are willing to pay by giving in the Canadian market a preference for British goods. . . .
>
> And so, I propose that we of the British Empire, in our joint and several interests, do subscribe to the principle of an empire preference, and that we take, without delay, the steps necessary to put it into effective operation.

Note those words, "the principle of an empire preference."

> First, we must approve or reject the principle. I put the question definitely to you, and definitely it should be answered. There is here no room for compromise, and there is no possibility of avoiding the issue. This is a time for plain speaking, and I speak plainly when I say the day is now at hand when the peoples of the empire must decide, once and for all, whether our welfare lies in closer

economic union, or whether it does not. Delay is hazardous; further discussion of the principle is surely unnecessary. The time for action has come.

Projects other than the one I propose have been placed before you. They have been carefully canvassed by our delegation, and, while we would avoid anything which might savour of premature condemnation, we are constrained to state that none of them can be accepted by Canada as alternatives at all likely to achieve the purpose we have in mind.

Until this principle is accepted it would be profitless to discuss the application of it in any great detail. . . .

Then follows the so-called "offer" to "the mother country and to all other parts of the empire"—"based upon a 10 per cent increase in prevailing general tariffs or upon tariffs yet to be created," and the Prime Minister's conception of the manner in which the principle may be employed, and the method of its application. Emphasis is laid upon the fact that "the basis of the proposal is the adequate protection to industries now existent, or yet to be established," and this is further emphasized by the statement:

It follows, therefore, that this proposed preference should not be considered as a step towards empire free trade. In our opinion empire free trade is neither desirable nor possible, for it would defeat the very purpose we are striving to achieve.

Of the "offer" I shall speak in a moment. Then follows:

But whatever modifications may be found necessary, these will not adversely affect—nay, they cannot but make more beneficial and lasting—the broad principle of empire protection. . . .

Consistent with the fullest inquiry into the application of the principle of an empire preference, our deliberations must be governed by the time factor. If this change in our economic relationship is to be made, it must be made without undue delay. . . .

Here the suggestion is made to the conference, "if it approve the principle, to constitute such committees as may, with the greatest expedition and thoroughness, consider the various questions incident to its operation." The Prime Minister adds:

I am satisfied that whatever modifications in the general plan Canada may have to suggest will be ready for submission within a period of six months. I assume that you are all capable of a like measure of expedition.

Then follows an invitation to the conference to meet at Ottawa early this year, and the following as a final word of warning:

I have said that the time is now at hand when the doctrine of closer empire economic association must be embraced, if we would not have it slip forever beyond our powers of recall. Once again it were vain to suppose that lesser existing empire agreements will long outlive it, and, that being so, the day will come when we must fight in the markets of the empire the countries of the world shorn of that advantage which it should be in our individual interest to secure and maintain.

To me that is unthinkable, and I appeal to the national representatives here assembled in conference to forget, each one, those prejudices which forbid the realization of that empire-building plan by which we all may advance to greater prosperity.

I await your decision with confidence.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what possibly could be the result of approaching the British government in that manner? There is no reference whatever to any policy of that government; there is no reference to their views and no reference to the views of the other dominions. It refers only to the Dominion of Canada and to the Conservative party of this country. With that policy the entire conference must be content. The conference was told it could not proceed with its deliberations until it had approved of the principle set out by my right hon. friend.

What reception would Mr. Ramsay MacDonald have received from my right hon. friend if the conference had been held in Ottawa instead of in England as it was originally hoped it might be, and if Mr. Ramsay MacDonald when first called upon to address the conference had proceeded in the manner adopted by my right hon. friend? Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has as much right to his views as has my right hon. friend as to what will bring about empire unity and prosperity. Let us suppose Mr. MacDonald had said that the government in office in Great Britain, the Labour government, believed in the policy of free trade, and that he thought the British Empire had become great by virtue of the policy of free trade which has existed for a hundred years in the British Isles; that the policy of free trade had led to an extension of the empire. Supposing Mr. Ramsay MacDonald had gone on to say: "That is the policy of the Labour party in England; I stand four square behind that policy and I am not prepared to consider anything until this conference endorses the principle of free trade, the principle our government has adopted. This is the time for action; this is not the time for words. Time is slipping from us. There will be no use discussing the situation unless you will agree to the policy I have laid before you." What kind of reception would my right hon. friend have given Mr. Ramsay MacDonald? Supposing Mr. MacDonald had then gone on to present certain proposals to the government of which my right hon. friend is the head; supposing he had suggested proposals in accordance with his views to reduce or abolish tariffs. Supposing Mr. MacDonald had said: "We want to sell

our goods to Canada. We are prepared to pay the price for it. We are prepared to give you a chance to trade in the British market but we tell you that before you consider the matter we want you to subscribe to the principle of free trade. We want you to agree to reduce your tariff or to abolish it altogether. Unless you will do so immediately there is no use of our discussing the matter any further."

That was the attitude taken by my right hon. friend. I do not hear very much applause from the other side of the house.

What kind of reception would Mr. MacDonald have received in Canada if he had made statements such as those which were made by the Prime Minister of Canada in Great Britain? I ask my hon. friends what kind of reception would representatives from Australia, New Zealand or South Africa have received in this dominion if they had spoken in the manner adopted by my right hon. friend? I wonder what would have happened to the object of their respective missions? In case I have done the Prime Minister the slightest injustice may I read as if it had come from the lips of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald a statement as nearly identical as it can be made with the statement which was made by my right hon. friend to the British government. I have substituted of course the policy of free trade which has been adopted by the MacDonald government for the policy of high protection adopted by the government of my right hon. friend. Let us suppose for the moment that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is speaking. We will have to assume the fact because nothing could be more remote than the possibility of any other person on earth but my right hon. friend using such language. Let us use as if used by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald words as nearly as possible identical. He would then have said:

> Before offering to this conference the plan which, once effective, will in my opinion make for greater prosperity in all parts of the empire, I shall briefly state the fiscal policy of the administration of Great Britain, of which I am the head.
>
> The Labour party of Great Britain believes in, and employs, the principle of free trade as of most advantage to the home producer of agricultural and fabricated products in world competition.
>
> This policy of the Labour party has come to be known as the policy of "Great Britain First." In approaching the economic problems of our Empire, I stand four square behind that policy. . . .

Where is the applause from my hon. friends opposite? This is the kind of utterance of the Prime Minister which they applauded a few minutes ago. Why do they not now applaud?

> The primary concern of Great Britain to-day is profitably to sell her manufactures. We believe that we shall be reaching towards a solution of that problem if we can establish a better market in Canada. This market we want, and for it we are willing to pay by giving in the British market a preference for Canadian goods. . . .
>
> And so, I propose that we of the British Empire, in our joint and several interests, do subscribe to the principle of empire free trade, and that we take, without delay, the steps necessary to put it into effective operation.
>
> First we must approve or reject the principle. I put the question definitely to you, and definitely it should be answered. There is here no room for compromise, and there is no possibility of avoiding the issue. This is a time for plain speaking, and I speak plainly when I say the day is now at hand when the peoples of the empire must decide, once and for all, whether our welfare lies in closer economic union, thus secured, or whether it does not. Delay is hazardous; further discussion of the principle is surely unnecessary. The time for action has come.

No wonder the Prime Minister himself will not applaud even his own sentiments!

> Projects other than the one I propose have been placed before you. They have been carefully canvassed by our delegation, and, while we would avoid anything which might savour of premature condemnation, we are constrained to state that none of them can be accepted by Great Britain as an alternative at all likely to achieve the purpose we have in mind.
>
> Until this principle is accepted it would be profitless to discuss the application of it in any great detail.

Then would follow the so-called "offer" to "Canada and to all the other parts of empire" —"based upon a 10 per cent reduction in prevailing general tariffs or upon tariffs yet to be created," and the Prime Minister of Britain's conception of the manner in which the principle may be employed, and the method of its application. Emphasis would be laid on the fact that he proposed free trade, and that it followed that what was proposed could not be considered as a step towards empire protection, that in the opinion of Great Britain empire protection was neither desirable nor possible, for it would defeat the very purpose they were trying to achieve. Mr. MacDonald would then have proceeded:

> But whatever modifications may be found necessary these will not adversely affect—nay, they cannot but make more beneficial and lasting—the broad principle of empire free trade. . . .
>
> Consistent with the fullest inquiry into the application of the principle of empire free trade, our deliberations must be governed by the time factor. If this change in our economic relationship is to be made it must be made without undue delay.

Here the suggestion would be made, "if we approve the principle," to constitute such committees as may, with the greatest ex-

pedition and thoroughness, consider the various questions incident to its operation. The Prime Minister of Britain would then have added:

I am satisfied that whatever modifications in the general plan Britain may have to suggest will be ready for submission within a period of six months. I assume that you are all capable of a like measure of expedition.

There would follow an invitation to the conference to meet at London early this year, and the following as a final word of warning:

I have said that the time is now at hand when the doctrine of closer empire economic association, based on free trade within the empire, must be embraced, if we would not have it slip forever beyond our powers of recall. Once gone it were vain to suppose that lesser existing empire agreements will long outlive it, and, that being so, the day will come when we must fight in the markets of the empire the countries of the world shorn of that advantage which it should be in our individual interest to secure and maintain.

To me that is unthinkable. and I appeal to the national representatives here assembled in conference to forget, each one, those prejudices which forbid the realization of that empire-building plan by which we all may advance to greater prosperity.

I await your decision with confidence. . . .

I ask, Mr. Speaker—and I take the silence of hon. gentlemen opposite to be more eloquent than all their words and all their applause—I ask you, Sir, what would have happened had Mr. Ramsay MacDonald come to this country and addressed the right hon. Prime Minister and his government in that fashion? I venture to say there would have been an explosion the like of which we have not experienced in our time. My right hon. friend would never have stood for anything of the kind, and the people of this country would have backed him up in his resentment. But when we consider that this was done for the alleged reason of securing the market in Great Britain for Canadian wheat, it becomes impossible to conceive of how my right hon. friend thought he was going to succeed in that way. Supposing I had gone to the conference and had made a statement of that kind?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not wonder at my hon. friends opposite saying, "Oh, oh." If I had spoken as the right hon. Prime Minister spoke at that conference, every hon. gentleman opposite would have been down at the seaside to prevent me from landing on the shores of Canada. We certainly would have had a full chorus.

In all seriousness I ask the house if human nature is any different in Great Britain from what it is here; whether the people of Great Britain are any less sensitive to the manner in which they are approached than are the people of Canada. They have shown very fine restraint in the old land in the way in which they have accepted this attitude on the part of my right hon. friend—a restraint, I am obliged to say, very different from what he would have exercised had anything similar taken place here. But we must not be deceived by the measure of restraint which has been exercised by the people of Great Britain. That has been done out of courtesy, out of a just regard for the relation of the different parts of the empire, one to the other and in an endeavour to help preserve their right relation. It has not been done out of any acquiescence in the particular kind of thing which the Prime Minister has proposed, or in the way in which he went about it.

Again I come back to what I said this afternoon: I cannot attribute my right hon. friend's action as related at all to the sale of the wheat of Canada in Great Britain. The only explanation that satisfies me, having knowledge to some extent of the working of my right hon. friend's mind, is that he wanted this offer refused for reasons best known to himself. Whether it was he thought he was thereby going to help along the idea of an empire economic unit I do not know. But we all know that there is a strong suspicion that my right hon. friend does not find the Labour government of Britain congenial, that he would much rather see the Conservative party in office there; and there are some who have had in mind that my right hon. friend's action was due to the fact that he was becoming, secretly or openly, as you care to put it, an ally of the political party in Great Britain that holds views somewhat similar to his own, that he was anxious to create a prejudice against the Labour government and put them in a position where they would appear to have refused the offer of Canada, to have been unwilling to accept such a simple principle as that of preference and the like. That opinion has become very general. Personally I do not entertain it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, I may be wrong. After all, my hon. friends understand the Tory mentality better than I do. They certainly gave away their hand when they made that interruption. I will leave it, Mr. Speaker, to the public to draw its own conclusion, and perhaps my right hon. friend can give us his statement of the position. But I say that when under the ostensible reason of finding a market for Canadian wheat, the government in office in Great Britain was

approached in such a manner we have to look for other explanations, and that one seems to many, the most plausible of any.

I come now to the proposals themselves. The method of approach was bad enuogh; the proposals were even worse. The proposals were of a character that could not possibly be entertained by the government in office in Great Britain to-day, or by any government that might be formed there at the present time. I think I shall be able to make that clear. I hope this country will get a true appreciation of what these proposals were. Up to the present time the people for the most part, do not understand just what it was my right hon. friend proposed to the British government, because he sought to befog the whole matter with the use he made of the acceptance of the so-called principle of the preference.

One point I hope I have already made clear, with respect to my hon. friend's proposal is that they were peremptory in their character. Let me quote a few of the phrases that appeared in the presentation of the proposals to the British government: "This market we want," "subscribe without delay", "must approve or reject", "a time for plain speaking", "the day is now at hand", "decide once and for all", "further discussion .....is .....unnecessary", "time for action", "deliberations must be governed by the time factor", "change.....must be made without undue delay", "the time is now at hand when the doctrine must be embraced", "I await your decision." These are samples of the persuasive methods adopted by my right hon. friend in his now-or-never, take-it-or-leave-it attitude at the Imperial conference.

Let me give the exact terms of the proposals. I wish to do my hon. friend full justice, and therefore I will read the proposals in his own words. They are very simple; to understand them aright there are three paragraphs which must be read together. The proposal first of all was to grant a preference in the Canadian market by an increase in the tariff of 10 per cent; on condition of a similar increase in the British tariff. Next, the basis on which the proposal was made was adequate protection for all industries in Canada. The Prime Minister went on to explain elsewhere that by "adequate protection" he meant that anything that could be produced or manufactured in this country should be produced and manufactured here and in no way subjected to competition from without. In the third place he laid down the doctrine that the principle of preference must be accepted. That, as it stands, sounds very plausible. But when one examines his words, it will be seen that what he meant by the principle of preference, what the public understood he meant and what most of the hon. members of this house even now understand, I venture to say, as having been meant by "preference" is not at all what my hon. friend had in mind. He had reference to a brand of preference of his own, fashioned deliberately in a manner which made it wholly impossible of acceptance by the British government.

In order to give the Prime Minister's exact words let me quote the proposal:

> I offer to the mother country and to all the other parts of the empire a preference in the Canadian market in exchange for a like preference in theirs, based upon the addition of a 10 per centum increase in prevailing general tariffs or upon tariffs yet to be created. In the universal acceptance of this offer, and in like proposals and acceptances by all the other parts of the empire, we attain to the ideal of empire preference.

Now, as to the basis on which the offer is made, the paragraph immediately following amplifies and explains the offer. It is as follows:

> I amplify and explain this offer in the following ways. In the first place, the rate I have mentioned cannot be uniformly applied. The basis of the proposal is the adequate protection to industries now existent or yet to be established. Because of this we must ensure a certain flexibility in the preferential tariff having regard to the fundamental need for stability in trade conditions, and must take account of such prevailing preferences as are now higher than the general one I suggested.

Then the principle of preference is to be approved of. The offer thus amplified is conditioned upon the acceptance of an empire preference, the nature of which is more or less apparent from the offer as explained. It was referred to at the outset as acceptance of the principle of preference, and I have already read the language in which this condition was set forth. I shall not repeat it in full but will extract the essential paragraphs:

> And so I propose that we of the British Empire, in our joint and several interests, do subscribe to the principle of an empire preference and that we take without delay the steps necessary to put it into effective operation. . . .
>
> First we must approve or reject the principle. . . .
>
> Until this principle is accepted, it would be profitless to discuss the application of it in any great detail.

The offer, therefore, reduces itself to three simple propositions or terms, each of which must be taken in conjunction with the other. Here is the whole offer in a nutshell: it is an offer of a preference in the Canadian market, first of all in exchange for a like preference, based upon the addition of a 10 per cent increase in the prevailing general tariffs or upon

tariffs yet to be created. The basis of the proposal is the adequate protection to industries now existent or yet to be established. Parties must first subscribe to the principle of an empire preference meaning by "empire preference" what my right hon. friend desired it to mean.

The first thing to be noted about the offer, Mr. Speaker, is the ambiguity of every section of it. The offer is ambiguous with respect to the meaning of the 10 per cent increase; it is ambiguous as to what is meant by adequate protection; it is ambiguous as to the principle of preference which my hon. friend says must be subscribed to at once and first of all. Let us take those three and examine them for a moment. The offer was that of a preference in the Canadian market based upon a 10 per cent increase in existing tariffs or tariffs yet to be created. When that proposal was made the public in England, the public in this country, and indeed the Canadian Press correspondent and others who cabled despatches to this country gave the impression, which was generally prevalent, that the 10 per cent increase meant 10 per cent in addition to the existing tariff, not 10 per cent of the tariff already in effect. To use the words used by the Prime Minister himself, in interpretation it was to be a 10 per cent increase "of" and not "in" the tariff. In other words, if a tariff stood at 30 per cent then the preference was to be created not by raising it to 40 per cent but by making it 33 per cent. The general public was under the impression that what my hon. friend meant was that as against foreign countries the tariff was to be increased by an additional 10 per cent. That was the impression that led so many tariff reformers in Great Britain to hail his offer at the outset as meaning something to Great Britain. As I have said, that offer did not mean an increase of 10 per cent; it meant an increase of only about 3 per cent when the actual facts came to be known.

The point to notice carefully, however, is this: the preference was not to be a preference created in the manner in which heretofore all preferences have been created, by reducing an existing tariff in order to give an advantage to another country to get into the market by a reduction in the tariff; it was a preference created only by additions to tariffs already existing. That kind of thing has never been considered heretofore, in any part of the British Empire, in any discussions of the matter, as the way to create a preference, and that is where so much confusion has arisen with respect to my right hon. friend's offer. In all previous discussions, when Canada talked of giving Britain a preference she meant that if, for example, her tariff stood at 30 per cent against other countries it would stand at some lower per cent, say 20 per cent, with regard to Great Britain. That was not what my hon. friend was suggesting; he said, "My preference is going to be made in this way: I have put up the tariffs already against Great Britain and against every other country as high as I can. Now my offer is this: If you will give us a chance to sell our wheat in the British market, give us a preference here, we will, as against foreign countries, add another 10 per cent to this high tariff we have already put up."

That was the offer. Do you wonder that the people of Great Britain were against it, and indignant, into the bargain, in having a proposal of that kind made to them? Again I ask the house, how could my hon. friend expect to add to the market for Canadian wheat on a basis of that kind? What did it mean as far as Great Britain was concerned? I will come, perhaps a little later, to how much Britain was going to get out of anything of that kind. But notice, first, that the preference was of necessity to be of a reciprocal nature; it could be carried out only by each country doing the same kind of thing. That meant that Britain had to put up a tariff first of all, and only when she put up a tariff was it that Canada would get the preference in her market. It meant a change in the whole fiscal policy of Britain, and that change was to be made in relation to food and raw materials. That change was to put a tariff on wheat and other commodities of that character going into the British market.

The fact must always be taken into account, that Britain had to consider not only the request of my right hon. friend, but what, under the circumstances, would have to be done for the other dominions as well. If Canada's wheat was to get a special advantage, through a wall being put up in Britain against wheat coming from other countries, then Australia being interested in some other commodities, New Zealand and South Africa being similarly interested, and tariff walls would have to be raised as well against other countries in respct of the particular commodities in which those Dominions might be interested. So that what my right hon. friend was proposing to the British government was that Britain should change her whole fiscal policy, putting up a tariff wall against all other nations, while he in return would give them a preference, not by reducing a wall already so high that they could not get their goods

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

into Canada, but by raising still higher the wall against all other nations in the world. That was the offer.

My right hon. friend emphasized very carefully, so far as Canada was concerned in relation to goods coming from Britain, the prohibitive nature of the tariff proposals which he was making by saying that it must never be forgotten that they were based on the idea of adequate protection to Canadian industry. And he was to be the judge of what constituted adequate protection. He has told us that his policy was to make Canada an economic unit, to see that whatever was produced or could be produced or manufactured here should be produced or manfactured here and should not come from anywhere else. It is only after that wall has been created, after Canada has been made an economic unit in this way, that Britain is to be allowed to try to get over that wall with any commodities she may have to sell. In other words, his offer was that Canada should have the right to sell her wheat in the British market, but Britain was not to have the right to sell her commodities in the Canadian market. That is the position.

Now let me go a step further as to what was meant by subscribing to the principle of the preference—because, in my opinion, that is most important. It is most unfair to the British government, it is most unfair to other governments that were present at the conference, to have it appear that anyone of them was seeking to reject the principle of preference. The British government made it perfectly clear that, with respect to certain commodities on which to-day there is a tariff in Britain, a preference is being given to Canada by Canada having her goods admitted at a lower rate. The Right Hon. Mr. Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, undertook that the preference should be maintained for three years, at least so long as the tariffs themselves were maintained. All other dominions had preferences existing in their tariffs, so that there could be no question that every government there was prepared to subscribe to the principle of preference. Yet my right hon. friend makes his statement, his appeals to the country, in a manner that would have it appear that the British government was not prepared to accept the principle which all other dominions wanted. He will probably tell us that he was joined by all other dominions in the demand for preference. Certainly; because all those other dominions have protective walls around their countries at the present time, and they were quite prepared to follow the course which they pursue to-day, of continuing a preference to Britain, hoping to get a further preference in the British market. Every government in Canada, Liberal and Conservative alike, has taken the view that we should like to get a preference. But we never made our wishes known in the form of an ultimatum. No other prime minister of Canada has addressed the British government in the fashion my right hon. friend has done; no other prime minister has delivered to the British government an ultimatum of the kind he presented, calling upon the government to subscribe to a principle determined in his own way. My right hon. friend's principle of preference was entirely different from what was meant by preference to others present at the conference. I want him to correct me if I am wrong, so that the shall be no mistake as to what sort of preference he meant, or what it was he meant by the principle of preference. He does not mean a preference granted by reducing duties; that is perfectly clear. My right hon. friend admits it by his silence.

Mr. BENNETT: He does not.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is the proposal, whether he admits it or not.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes it is; that is the proposal. I shall be glad to have my right hon. friend make a statement when the time comes, but I want to get the position of the matter correctly stated. I wish to repeat, because I think it is all important that it should be understood, that the proposal which my right hon. friend made with regard to the preference, so far as Canada was concerned, was not for a preference by the reducing of duties as they are at the present time, but that it was a preference to be created by the addition in relation to other countries of duties to the duties that already exist. It was that feature of it that made the principle so objectionable to the British government. More than that, my right hon friend uses the term "empire preference," and by "empire preference" he means a certain kind of two sided or reciprocal preference. He has stated over and over again—all his discussions are along these lines—that a preference of the kind to which I have just referred, the reducing of the tariff in any country, is a one-sided preference. He says that is no kind of preference—failing to appreciate that the purpose of a preference is to help to encourage trade, that all exchange is valuable to both sides, that consumers may benefit on one side and producers on the other, or vice versa, that trade begets trade,

and that anything that helps trade in one direction helps it in another. My right hon. friend will not admit that the reduction of duties to afford a preference is in any way a thing of advantage. He says it must be what he calls mutual, failing to realize that there would be no trade at all, whether there were preference or no preference unless the benefit were mutual. It takes two to trade. He is not satisfied even with a preference on both sides, a mutual preference professedly such. And here again I will ask him to correct me if I am wrong. The preference has to be a preference created over and above existing tariffs on both sides. Take for example Lord Beaverbrook's crusade in Britain at the present time. What is it? It is a crusade based on the idea of tariffs raised for the purpose of giving a preference by doing away with the tariff, or lowering it, as within the empire itself. My right hon. friend expressedly said, "That is not a preference at all within my meaning of the word. That is impossible. So far as my offer is concerned, it defeats the very end I have in view, because my offer is not to encourage free trade or greater freedom of trade within the empire; it is the very opposite; it is to make a self-contained unit of the Dominion."

I think it is very important that this should be clearly understood, because it must affect the whole discussion and our views in regard to the question; and I venture to say that there are many hon. gentlemen on both sides of the house who have never clearly seen the position taken by my right hon. friend in this respect.

In order to make it perfectly clear that such was the view the British government took of the matter, let me read what was said by Lord Passfield in the House of Lords in stating the position of the British government. And in passing may I remark that it is very little wonder that the Prime Minister of Great Britain, when addressing his own parliament, felt obliged to say, in reference to the proposed offer, "tax wheat—we cannot do it." That was the terse reply which the Prime Minister of Great Britain gave to his house. Tax wheat? Put up a tariff wall first of all? That was the condition. To get the reciprocal nature of it, the empire aspect of the preference as my right hon. friend desired it, Britain had to put on a tariff against food and raw materials in the first instance. Mr. MacDonald saw that; they all saw it. He said, "How can we do it? Tax wheat? We cannot do it." That was his answer, and anyone who knows the position of Britain must know that that was the answer that would be made by any prime minister of Great Britain to any such proposal. Lord Passfield spoke in the House of Lords on December 2. Lord Passfield, it will be remembered, was for a time Secretary of State for the Dominions and is now Secretary of State for the colonies. He was present at all the meetings of the conference—

Let me give what Lord Passfield said in the House of Lords on December 2. Lord Passfield, it will be remembered, was for a time Secretary of State for the Dominions and is now Secretary of State for the colonies. He was present at all the meetings of the conference—

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, some of them. He was present long enough to understand the offers and the nature of them, and he has given an admirable summing up of the whole subject. The record of the House of Lords of December 2, records Lord Passfield as saying:

> The main proposal, which is summed up in the proposal that Mr. Bennett made, at what is called the second plenary session, was the principle of preference, which he then and there asked the conference, including the United Kingdom representatives, to subscribe to in principle. It has always been treated as if it was a question of preference, but we quickly found it was not a question of preference as ordinarily understood. It was a question, not of this country or the dominions allowing a preference off customs duties which were in existence, or put on for their own sake, or to meet the needs of the government, but we were asked to subscribe to putting a duty on foodstuffs coming into this country, and especially wheat coming into this country, not because a customs duty was required, or there was any reason for a customs duty in this country, but deliberately in order that we might allow a substantial preference off that duty to empire wheat. . . . That was a proposition to which, mind you, His Majesty's government were invited to subscribe before it was examined in its details. . . .
>
> The Ottawa conference was a proposal of Mr. Bennett himself made at the very outset, and accepted at the very outset for the obvious reason that there was not adequate time to go into this question now. Mr. Bennett's statement, which appears in to-day's newspapers (December 2nd)—

That was the broadside he issued over the "humbug" incident.

> —has been quoted, that during the whole period of the conference neither the principle of tariff preferences, nor his plans to make them operative, was seriously discussed. . . .
>
> Nothing was referred to any committee during that Imperial conference except by the unanimous consent of the delegations. And if what Mr. Bennett called the principle of preferences, including a duty on foodstuffs, especially wheat, was not referred to the economic

committee, I will go so far as to say that it was not at the dictation of His Majesty's government that it was not so referred; it was because it was impossible to get the unanimous assent of the delegations to its being so referred. . . . In the result Mr. Bennett is able to say that they were not discussed, and, I think, seriously discussed, in the meetings of the heads of delegations. . . . Your lordships will find in the press reports day by day a good deal of evidence that it was discussed at the meetings of heads of delegations. And I myself was present day after day when these things were discussed. But it is quite true they were only discussed as a sort of second reading discussion because, as Mr. Bennett has said in his speech at the second plenary meeting, he wanted the conference to subscribe to the principle before any more minute examination took place. We never did manage to subscribe to the principle. . . . Because, remember what Mr. Bennett's principle was. It was not the principle of preference that many guileless people have supposed. It was not even the principle of extending that preference to every customs duty that was in existence, or might be brought into existence. It was that a new customs duty should be put upon foodstuffs imported into this country, and this country only, or that this country only should be required to put a substantial customs duty upon foodstuffs, and especially upon wheat in order to give a substantial preference to the dominions in respect of all those things. All that was included in Mr. Bennett's principle, and will be found as a part of his speech which has been reported verbatim.

After listening to a statement of that kind can one wonder that a proposal of the kind was characterized as "humbug." How could the British people consider it as anything else? They were asked to put a tax upon food and raw materials coming into their country and in return there was not to be any lowering in Canada of higher duties which had been placed upon their commodities at the last session, but still higher duties were to be placed upon similar goods coming into this country from other lands. That is the proposal which was made. Again I go back to the question: how did the Prime Minister of Canada think that under a proposal of that kind he was going to get Canadian wheat into the British market? That is a question which keeps reiterating itself in one's mind. One is forced to the conclusion that some object other than that must have been in his mind, and so I come back to the view that the object he had so far as Canada was concerned was to make this country, as he has stated over and over again, an economic unit, a so-called self-sufficing unit, a country which will produce everything within its own borders and which will not have to import anything from any other part of the world; it will all be done here. He believes that that is a wise policy to pursue, and extending that idea into the realm of empire, he talks about an empire economic unit wherein, after each part has been made self-sufficing, the empire shall exclude itself from the rest of the world. With such an idea in mind one can understand such a proposal being put up although certain to be rejected, but as a means of selling Canadian wheat in the British market I say it is impossible of interpretation upon any such basis.

Mr. CAHAN: Would the right hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Certainly.

Mr. CAHAN: Will the right hon. gentleman explain how a tariff preference can be given in the English market for Canadian wheat except there be tariffs against foreign wheats entering that market?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not know that I am called upon to explain the matter in just the way my right hon. friend has put the question, but I will say this to him: the trouble with my hon. friend and with those who think like him is this, they can only admit in their mind one kind of preference, and that of a tariff preference. They cannot understand that there may be such a thing as a voluntary preference.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hon. members may laugh at that, but they cannot understand any such thing as a recognition of good will or a recognition of the fact of our being part of one great British community. I repeat, they cannot understand how there can be such a thing as a voluntary preference.

Mr. CAHAN: What does "voluntary" mean?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not surprised that my hon. friend asks what it means. It means exactly what it says, something that is done voluntarily from any motive, not as a result of bargaining but as a result possibly of offers, of proposals, of the adoption of an attitude which it is believed is merited or which it is hoped and believed will bring something in return.

Mr. CAHAN: Is it voluntary preference which is given to Russian wheat in the British market?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The voluntary preference I have referred to is the kind of preference which was introduced by Mr. Fielding in this parliament in 1897, a preference that time and again was extended in the Laurier and Fielding tariffs, a preference which was maintained by Sir Robert Borden and

his government, and which has been endorsed by every government during the last thirty years.

Mr. CAHAN: But is that not the voluntary preference, so-called by the hon. gentleman, which has not been reciprocated throughout those thirty years?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is where I differ entirely from my hon. friend. My hon. friend knows the figures with respect to trade between this country and Britain. He knows that Britain has been Canada's best customer and he knows that Britain has bought year after year more of Canadian goods than we have bought of British goods. Does he mean to say that none of that has been the result of the attitude which Canada has taken and which was so admirably explained by—

Mr. CAHAN: She never bought one dollar's worth of goods unless they could be bought cheaper in Canada than elsewhere.

Mr. POULIOT: May I ask a question of the leader of the opposition? Does not the right hon. gentleman believe that the Prime Minister made a great mistake in not taking the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) to the old country with him?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I answer my hon. friend still further: there is another form of preference which is just as important as a tariff preference, and that is what is termed an administrative preference. What was the position when the former Liberal government came into office with respect to the shipment of cattle to Britain? Cattle were excluded from the British market due to an embargo which had been in force for some years. One of the first acts of the then High Commissioner for Canada in London, the Hon. Peter Larkin, acting under instructions from the government of the day, was to take up with the British government the repeal of that embargo against Canadian cattle. Our argument was in part on the score that when Canada had given to Britain a preference in her market, it was unfair for Britain to continue that embargo against Canada. The embargo was removed and Canadian cattle were given entrance to the British market, not as a result of bargaining, but as a result of a courteous attitude taken towards Britain, in our interests as much as her own, an attitude which was reciprocated in a courteous way. I am not surprised at my hon. friend of all men not understanding the effect of courtesy because he is one of the most courteous gentlemen I know.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. CAHAN: I intended to be courteous to the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. MULLINS: Does the right hon. gentleman not know that the embargo was off before Mr. Larkin ever reached England?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend is mistaken. I hapen to know it was not off. I happen to know the instructions given to Mr. Larkin and the proceedings that took place.

Mr. MULLINS: I was in Great Britain when the matter came up before the House of Commons and the right hon. gentleman has no right to take the credit to himself for having the embargo removed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I maintain the accuracy of what I have just said, but whether it was off or not does not affect my argument; my point remains the same, that if the attitude of hon. gentlemen opposite had prevailed, the embargo would not have been off yet. There would have been no result; but because there had been a preference given voluntarily to Britain in our markets, so there was an additional reason afforded the British government that finally helped the entrance there of our cattle. If I am not mistaken, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) within the last two weeks has been taking up with the British government some questions with regard to the provisions to be laid down concerning the shipment of cattle to Great Britain. If he expects to get his requests met, is it to be as a result of bargaining which will exclude British commodities from this country. May I say further: there may be voluntary preferences; there may be administrative preferences; there may be tariff preferences, but inter-imperial negotiation has been in large part the result of voluntary preferences.

Let me ask my hon. friend this question: What is occurring in the Argentine republic to-day? What is the significance of all that British officials are doing in the Argentine? Argentine has sought to create an atmosphere favourable to a market for Argentine wheat in Britain. Britain has taken an attitude in response to that taken by the Argentine people towards her, namely: If you are prepared to trade with us, we are prepared to trade with you. Why is there in respect to trade a closer drawing together of the Argentine republic and Britain—the sale of wheat on the one hand and the sale of commodities on the other—while there is not the same drawing together of this country and Great Britain? My right hon. friend wants everything as the result of bargaining on a basis

laid down by himself, ignoring everybody else and not wanting to make what is in the nature of an agreement of mutual advantage on a voluntary basis.

I do not wish to take up any undue time in discussing the so-called "humbug" incident. As however there has been a great deal of discussion over the question whether this offer was humbug or not, it would be as well to know exactly what was meant by Mr. Thomas, the member of the government in Britain who used that expression in reference to the offer. Perhaps I cannot do better in this connection than to read to the house just what Mr. Thomas said to the British House of Commons and leave hon. members to judge whether under the circumstances the British minister was not more than justified in using that particular term. What was it that the Right Hon. Mr. Thomas said that occasioned all the furore? The record will be found in the British Hansard debates of November 27, 1930, at page 1550. Reporting Mr. Thomas, the following appears:

> We are censured because we refused to consider the offer made by the dominions. What was the offer? I say clearly and definitely that if any offer were made that would help the trade of this country, would give employment to our people, and not injure them, not only would we have considered it, but it would have been our duty to accept it. (An honourable member: "Why did you not do it?") For the simple reason, I assure you, that there never was such humbug as this proposal.

Mr. Thomas went on to explain why the proposal was humbug. He said:

> We were asked first, clearly and definitely, to agree to put a tax on foodstuffs. That was the first proposal made. There can be no mistake about it. (Honourable members: "Who did?") Mr. Bennett and the whole of the other dominions. . . . I repeat that the first proposal made to us was that we, the British government, should agree to a tax on foodstuffs, and, in return for it, the Canadian government were prepared to put on an additional tax of ten per cent on the duties then in operation on foreign goods. They did not say to us—let me make it quite clear—"We will remove any tax at all where you compete with us." On the contrary, let me say in fairness to them—I do not complain: I am only stating the facts—they said, "No. So far as we are concerned we will give nobody a preference that is going to compete with the things that we ourselves can make." That was made perfectly clear. In other words, they said, "We want you to change your fiscal principles, but we will only change certain details of ours." . . .

Later in his speech (see page 1554), referring to his use of the word "humbug," Mr. Thomas said:

> Obviously, I never said, never intended to say, that of any individual. I said distinctly the proposals were humbug.

In further explanation of what was meant, Mr. Thomas gave the following:

> In exchange for ten per cent on foodstuffs, British soft coal, which is now taxed one shilling seven and a half pence per ton into Canada, would get a benefit of five cents per ton. Germany, the Argentine, the United States and the Netherlands all admit our coal free now. Railroad rails—and I am only choosing the big industries where there is unemployment—have a duty in Australia of two shilling four pence per cwt. The Netherlands and Argentine admit them free. The foreign rate is very much more, but let us see what that means. Suppose that a tariff rate is fixed that precludes the possibility of our competing, of what value is any preference? The whole thing becomes absurd. I could go through a long list, cotton goods, woollen goods. I could show that sewing machines, not an unimportant manufacture in this country, have a preferential rate into Australia of 15 per cent against us, while Germany only imposes 9 against us. Cotton goods: 55 per cent in Australia, Canada 15 per cent, Germany 6, France 10, Netherlands and Argentine free. Cotton piece goods an important industry: Canada 31 per cent, Netherlands 8 per cent, Argentine 15 per cent. Woollen goods: Canada 37 per cent. Australia 61 per cent, Germany 22 per cent, France 12 per cent.

Finally in order to make quite clear that it was the proposals, the so-called offer, of Canada's Prime Minister that he was characterizing as "humbug," and in no sense the motives of the Prime Minister, or the Prime Minister himself, Mr. Thomas, referring to a previous speaker, said at page 1562:

> If he says for one moment that I inferred that Mr. Bennett did not mean them as genuine, I must make that clear. I never said anything of the kind.

In other words, Mr. Thomas was prepared to say of the proposals that my right hon. friend meant them as genuine, but they were discovered to be humbug when he came to see what they really amounted to so far as Great Britain was concerned.

Let me give to my right hon. friend the view of a very eminent authority on preference with respect to proposals on preference based as this one is on a tariff that is already so high that the preference really means nothing in effect. The Prime Minister is, I am sure, a great admirer of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain. No doubt he sees himself as a second Joe Chamberlain, the Joe Chamberlain of the dominions of to-day who is going to inaugurate this policy of the new empire unit. I have before me a statement made by Mr. Chamberlain at the conference held in 1902:

> The very valuable experience which we have derived from the history of the Canadian tariff shows that, while we may most readily and most gratefully accept from you any preference which you may be willing voluntarily to accord

to us, we cannot bargain with you for it, we cannot pay you for it, unless you go much further and enable us to enter your home market on terms of greater equality. . . . So long as a preferential tariff, even a munificent preference, is still sufficiently protective to exclude us altogether, or nearly so, from your markets, it is no satisfaction to us that you have imposed even greater disability upon the same goods if they come from foreign markets.

That was exactly the nature of the proposal as made by my right hon. friend. British goods had already been excluded from the Canadian market. There was as a consequence very little satisfaction to Great Britain in the offer made by my right hon. friend when its only effect was to impose even greater disability upon the same goods if they came from foreign markets.

I think I have made clear wherein the proposals were humbug in so far as Great Britain was concerned. Let us now look at the situation from the Canadian point of view. I ask hon. members could anything, so far as Canada is concerned, more closely approach humbug than the proposal which my right hon. friend made on our behalf. What was that proposal? First of all it provided that no goods were to be permitted entry into Canada from Great Britain if they were already being produced and manufactured in this country or could be produced or manufactured here. It further provided that if tariffs did not already exist to keep goods out, such tariffs were to be set up. Would that procedure be of advantage to this country? I do not hear the hon. members opposite say, yes; I do not hear one of them. Well, that was the proposal of the right hon. gentleman, and in my opinion it was humbug in the purest sense of the word.

What was the proposal when viewed from another standpoint? Great Britain is already our best customer. We have experienced difficulty in reaching the overseas markets in other parts of the world. The proposals of my right hon. friend would make it still more difficult to get many of our surplus products into the British market, because Britain was to change her fiscal policy; she was to put on a tariff, and our preference was to come as a result of that tariff. Where would that have led with respect to the importation of wheat? Could anybody expect that once a tariff wall went up in Great Britain with respect to manufactured goods to help certain interests, the agricultural interests of Great Britain would remain silent? Does anybody suppose that with tariff walls on all sides the British agriculturist would not ask for a tariff wall to protect his agricultural produce? When in such circumstances will there be a government in Great Britain which could resist such demands on the part of agriculturists? And if the tariff wall were raised to protect the British farmers, where would we be in the British markets with respect to the sale of our wheat? The last condition would be infinitely worse than the first, and so I say that from the point of view of Canada as well as of Great Britain the proposals of my right hon. friend amount to the greatest humbug conceivable.

If anything more is needed to show the humbug of this proposition may I state that not merely the Labour government in England to-day, but no government in England could negotiate an agreement with the government of Canada on the basis proposed by my right hon. friend. This is a most important fact, because the conference is scheduled to meet her again next fall and unless my right hon. friend changes his proposals in the interval nothing can then be done, even if there were a change of government in Great Britain during the interval as he might desire.

Let me review the situation. So far as the Labour government is concerned, we know there can be no negotiations with the Labour government on the basis set out by my right hon. friend. That government may or may not be in office next fall, but at any rate if it is in office no negotiations could be made with it as the offer at present stands. So far as attempting any agreement it would be better to call off the conference right now—that is the point I wish to emphasize because it has been already made clear in Great Britain that the British government will not change its fiscal policy. The proposal of my right hon. friend involves a change of the fiscal policy of Great Britain.

An hon. MEMBER: How do you know?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: How does anybody known anything? By using ordinary intelligence. The Prime Minister knew before he went to England that the present government in England would not change its fiscal policy. The Liberal party in England has for generations been committed to the policy of free trade. Will it change? Will it negotiate on a basis which would alter the fiscal policy of Great Britain? Nothing could be done by negotiating with the Liberal party, and yet that party combined with the Labour party represent by far the majority of the British people. Come to the Conservative party. So far as the Lord Beaverbrook wing is concerned, that is the Empire Crusaders, my right hon. friend made the statement in plain English, "We will have nothing to do with

you," and they were ruled out. What have we left? We have left a certain section of the official Conservative opposition in Great Britain. But what do they want the preference for in England? What do they want protection for? Their idea of securing a preference was to work out a scheme which would allow them to sell their goods in other markets. My right hon. friend has said to them, "Remember our preference is based on the Canada first policy." "Canada first," means that anything that can be produced and manufactured in Canada is not to come in. The only preference which could arise would be one which might result from the erection of still higher tariff walls. That is what my right hon. friend has called empire preference. Empire preference as outlined by my right hon. friend is this "Canada first" idea wrapped in tinfoil with a union jack pasted on the outside. That is all that it means. It excludes in the first place all possibility of commodities coming to this country from Great Britain if they can be produced or manufactured here. No matter what government is in office in Great Britain, so long as this offer of my right hon. friend stands in its present form no negotiations can be successfully carried on with the mother country.

Now, what about the word "humbug"? I do not know why my right hon. friend should have been so sensitive about the use of the word, unless he was caught on the raw, because after all it is a very mild expression. Some of the terms used by the right hon. gentleman himself when he was leader of the opposition with respect to the preference by the then administration were much stronger. As a matter of fact in the last regular session of parliament my right hon. friend criticized very strongly the government of which I happened to be the head. Did he use the word "humbug"? No, that was too mild an expression for him; he used the word "deception."

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, that is right.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, an offensive term, and he incorporated it in a resolution introduced in this house. Yet when a member of the administration in Great Britain used the word "humbug" with respect to my right hon. friend's proposals he immediately sent a broadside to the British press directed against the British government as a whole, two columns of the London Times directed not against an individual minister but against the whole British government. He told the government of Great Britain that he had waited a day or two to see if they would not dismiss the minister who had dared to criticize his proposals. In his view the government of Canada could not have further successful relations with the British government if that attitude was to be maintained. We came very near having complete severance of relations between the governments of Canada and Great Britain as a result of his action. If anyone is of the opinion that I am exaggerating let him read the words of my right hon. friend for himself.

I was interested to learn the real significance of the word "humbug." My right hon. friend is fond of quoting the Oxford dictionary. I consulted that book to learn what it said about "humbug", not knowing whether or not the word be there. But sure enough it was there, and here is the definition given of it.

> Fraud, sham, deception, nonsense.

Deception—the very word that he had used himself, as leader of the opposition and for his party in this parliament, in describing the preference part of the proposal of Mr Dunning—a proposal that did not merit that particular characterization, whereas this proposal more than merited it.

Other dictionaries might be quoted—Murray, for example. The New English dictionary gives the following as one definition:

> A thing which is not really what it pretends to be; an imposture, a deception, fraud, sham.

Now, this dictionary even cites as an example of the use of the word in its application to legislation the following from words of Lord Randolph Churchill in 1884:

> The whole legislation of the government has been a gigantic humbug.

Surely if Lord Randolph Churchill could describe the whole legislation of the imperial government of that day as "humbug," it ought to be within the bounds of parliamentary etiquette to describe proposals intended to be translated into legislation as "humbug"; and that was the extent of the offences committed with respect to which the right hon. gentleman opposite raised such a furore in Great Britain.

It is interesting—although I do not say this applies in any particular to our own parliament—that the same authority a little further on in citing wherein the words may be applicable to individuals as well as to proposals or offers has the following (1807 in Sheridaniana 211):

> "I think, father," said he, "that many men who are called great patriots in the House of Commons, are great humbugs."

The Imperial dictionary—and that ought to be a good authority in connection with all that takes place at an Imperial conference—discloses the near relationship of the term "humbug" and "deception". It defines humbug in one place as:

> Spirit of deception, or imposition.

It is particularly helpful in disclosing the real meaning of the term by giving its derivation. It is as follows:

> Humbug—no doubt from 'hum' and 'bug,' 'hum' having probably its sense of to deceive, and 'bug' its old meaning of 'bugbear'; hence it equals false alarm. The association of 'hum' with 'bug' was perhaps partly suggested by the fact that 'bug' meant also a beetle or other insect, partly from the words 'hum' and 'buzz' having been employed in conjunction to typify sound without sense.

There, I think, Mr. Speaker, we have a definition which exactly fits the situation, "sound without sense."

I am inclined to think that Mr. Thomas came to use that phrase through association with the present High Commissioner for Canada in London. I noticed when Mr. Howard Ferguson was campaigning with my right hon. friend that this was the term he used in describing the preference proposals of the government of the day. He said that the proposals were "humbug" and "hypocrisy."

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend says, "hear, hear."

Mr. BENNETT: No, I did not say anything.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I beg my right hon. friend's pardon; someone immediately behind him expressed approval of that expression. Apparently what really took place was that Mr. Thomas and Mr. Ferguson had been associating together, and Mr. Thomas doubtless employed a phrase that he thought would be well understood in this part of the world.

I come now, Mr. Speaker, to a phase of this situation which I deem as serious as any single matter of imperial concern can possibly be, and that is the action on the part of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister in attempting to interfere in the domestic politics of Great Britain. As I said, from the time he left here, and indeed before his departure, I considered that he had made one mistake after another, simply getting in deeper and deeper all the time as he went on in his bargaining processes of selling Canadian wheat. The most serious thing of all—because if it is once countenanced it is going to have a very far-reaching effect on the future of the British Empire—was the attempt of this part of the empire to interfere with the affairs of another part. As I said a little while ago, at these Imperial conferences it is absolutely necessary on the part of any government that there should be full regard for the domestic policies of all governments. Every government must respect the domestic policies of another government. What right has any part of the empire to criticize the domestic policies of another part? Much less has it any right to seek to coerce another part of the empire into changing its domestic policies by trying to influence public opinion, as my right hon. friend sought to do in the address which he made at that conference and which was published far and wide. Not only did he then confront the British government with a proposal necessitating a change in their fiscal policy and speak of the possible dismemberment of the empire if it were not accepted, but he also gave a radio address to the people of the British nation—and there are some of us here at home who heard him across the sea—in which in a sense he appealed over the head of the government to the British nation. In there referring to what he had set forth at the conference he said: I did not mean it as a threat. How could any thought of a threat have come into his mind unless it was lurking there or known to be in the minds of some of the British people? He went on to say that the chance might pass forever if his particular offer was not accepted and the principle that he had laid down was not subscribed to.

We all know the political battles that have been waged in England between the Conservative party and the Liberal party and between the Conservative party and the Labour party on certain fiscal questions, and I say no one from this Dominion has any right to go to Great Britain and attempt by words spoken there to influence British public opinion in reference to matters of domestic policy. If our prime ministers are to have that right, then the prime ministers of other parts of the empire must have a similar right. What would my right hon. friend say if Mr. Ramsay MacDonald came over here to-morrow and spoke here as my right hon. friend spoke in Britain and were to tell him he must change the policy of protection; and then were to address the Canadian nation over the radio and say that unless this change were made immediately he would not be res-

ponsible for the dismemberment of the empire that might come later ? My right hon. friend knows that his words are going to be made use of by a political party in Great Britain in the next campaign. Can anything worse be conceived in relation to the interests of the empire as a whole than that the name of this country should be dragged into the political controversies of England in an effort to influence the British electorate one way or the other? And if a change in British fiscal policy ever did come about by Canada's name being injected into Great Britain's domestic affairs, and if later times became bad due to other causes, or of the fiscal change itself, what would likely become of the relations of the different parts of the empire one to the other once an effort was made to change a bargain that had grown out of conditions forced in that way?

There are many people to-day who are questioning very much in their minds whether there can be any future conferences between different parts of the empire unless there is a pretty clear understanding that this kind of thing is never going to be repeated. I doubt if it will be found that any government will go into conference with another government, unless above all the right of every country to have its own fiscal policy is upheld by all. Why, Mr. Speaker, one of the sections of this very conference in England was working on certain resolutions growing out of the conference of 1926; and what was it that the conference of 1926 laid down? It laid down a definition of the present position of the different dominions and Great Britain. How was that position described? It is set out very clearly in the Balfour report, which has been endorsed by this very government while it was negotiating in Great Britain. What does that report say? With repect to Great Britain and the dominions it says:

> Their position and mutual relation may be readily defined. They are autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate one to another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, though united by a common allegiance to the crown, and freely associated as members of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

In other words, you have there a distinct statement that each part of the empire has the right to make its own fiscal policy, that it must be so recognized and that there shall be no coercion in any particular way with regard to it. Indeed, it seems part of the irony of fate that it should have been one of Sir John A. Macdonald's ministers who took this very position as long ago as before confederation. My right hon. friend likes to speak of his policy as the national policy of Sir John A. Macdonald, but one of Sir John Macdonald's ministers made very clear to the Briitsh government just prior to confederation that Canada would not stand for any dictation on the part of Great Britain with respect to her tariff. That was as long ago as 1859. Let me read from the communications sent by Sir Alexander Galt to the Duke of Newcastle, who at that time was Colonial Secretary. Here is what Sir Alexander Galt, Sir John A. Macdonald's minister of Finance of that day, said:

> Respect to the Imperial government must always dictate the desire to satisfy them that the policy of this country is neither hastily nor wisely formed; and that due regard is had to the interests of the mother country as well as of the province. But the government of Canada, acting for its legislature and people, cannot, through those feelings of deference which they owe to the Imperial authorities, in any manner waive or diminish the right of the people of Canada to decide for themselves both as to the mode and extent to which taxation shall be imposed. Self-government would be utterly annihilated if the view of the Imperial government were to be preferred to those of the people of Canada. It is, therefore, the duty of the present government distinctly to affirm the right of the Canadian legislature to adjust the taxation of the people in the way they deem best, even if it should unfortunately happen to meet the disapproval of the Imperial ministry.

I never thought the day would come in this parliament, Mr. Speaker, when it would fall to the lot of any member of this House of Commons to protest against a Canadian ministry in its attempt to coerce a British ministry, but since that day has come there appears to be an element of poetic justice in the circumstance that I have the privilege of being the first to make that protest. I do make it very strongly indeed, that any ministry from Canada should seek, by means of coercion, to influence the government of Great Britain with respect to any matter of policy which is entirely within its own rights. If we cherish autonomy in our own country; if we respect it; if we wish to maintain it, it will be only by our adopting an attitude towards others which we will expect to have adopted towards ourselves. What would my right hon. friend say were Mr. Ramsay MacDonald or Mr Lloyd George or Mr. Churchill or any other British public man to come to Canada and denounce the policy of protection, saying it was essential that we should have free trade in order to save the empire? He would be the first to tell him never to come back to this country again, and we would have the press from one end of this country to the

other speaking about interference in the domestic affairs of this country. That situation would not be tolerated for a moment. Then why should the Ramsay MacDonald government, struggling as it is with great problems, have this problem in addition and be embarrassed in this way by the Canadian administration?

I should like to quote one or two other authorities on this point, authorities very much respected in this parliament. I could quote a great many, but I will give only two, representing both sides of political feeling here. Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke on this matter many times, and in this parliament on March 27, 1907, prior to the Imperial conference of that year, he made as the Prime Minister of the day a statement which I desire to quote: It will be found in Hansard for the session of 1906-07, at page 5538, and is as follows:

> We would not accept the idea that the British public should force upon us their own fiscal views, and no more would they tolerate the idea that we should force upon them our own fiscal views; and, therefore, the only way in which the British Empire can be maintained upon its present foundation is by allowing to every nation composing it the measure of liberty that it has, and also the free choice of the fiscal policy which it is to maintain.

The other authority I wish to quote is Sir Robert Borden, also a former Prime Minister of Canada and leader of the Conservative party. The reference is to a luncheon given in his honour at the Savoy Hotel in London on July 31, 1918, reported in the London Times of the day following. It is as follows:

> Sir Robert Borden stated that it should be clearly understood that the question of preference had not been considered this year by either the Imperial war cabinet or the Imperial war conference. The recent announcement on the subject was made on behalf of the British government as a statement of the domestic policy of the United Kingdom. As Canada claimed and exercised the right absolutely to control her own fiscal policy, Sir Robert said, so the representatives of the Dominions necessarily refrained from attempting any interference in the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom.

That position is diametrically opposed to the position taken by the present Prime Minister. Sir Robert continued:

> Moreover, the people of Canada would not desire the people of the United Kingdom to shape or modify their fiscal policy solely to give a preference to the products of Canada, especially if such change should involve any supposed injustice, or should be regarded as unfair or oppressive by a considerable portion of the people of the United Kingdom.

Then after his return to Canada Sir Robert spoke in Toronto, and again he made a reference to the advisability of not attempting to influence British political action. He is reported in the Toronto Globe of September 3, 1918, as saying:

> We hold ourselves free to work out the problem of preference according to Canadian needs and conditions. For the same reason Canada must avoid any attempt at interference with the domestic policy of Great Britain.

I might quote also the position taken by Right Hon. George P. Graham, who was one of Canada's representaives at the Imperial conference of 1923, and the position taken by myself at that conference in discussions having to do with preference, which came up at the time. Those positions were precisely the same; they were to the effect that if the British government, for reasons of its own and suiting its own needs, wished to give Canada a preference, certainly we would be glad to have that preference though we would not bargain for it. We would not force it. We made it clear that if there were ever a tariff imposed in Britain, Canada would expect a preference under such tariff, but that it was for Britain herself to determine her own fiscal policy. That is the position which had been taken right along by all prime ministers. It has remained for my right hon. friend to change that precedent, which I believe to be more important than any other single precedent that can be cited, as securing the autonomous rights of each part of the empire.

To conclude this part, may I say that there are different forms of coercion, and that coercion has taken its toll in different ways in the past. For a long time military coercion was the thing that had to be watched as between different parts of the empire. Military coercion cost the British government that portion of North America which to-day is represented by the United States of America. Military coercion on the part of any one part of the empire against another is a thing which I hope we can regard as forever past. But that is not the only form of coercion possible within the empire. You may have coercion by legislative enactment, and that is a form of coercion which, so far as the dominions are concerned, might easily have made itself felt had statesmen been prepared to act in that way. Indeed, this very conference was seeking to remove what remained in the nature of coercion by legislative enactment by erasing from the statutes of Britain certain enactments which took away the full rights and liberties from this parliament with respect to its legislation. That is a form of coercion that is disappearing.

But there is to-day the danger of another form of coercion, and it is perhaps the most

serious of any: it is economic coercion. When one government seeks to influence the fiscal policy of another government by threats as to what may happen to the empire as a whole, undoubtedly it is exercising economic coercion and, as such, taking a step which is exceedingly dangerous. I fancy there is no single danger to the future of the empire greater than that which might follow from a step of the kind.

I trust hon. members will pardon me for the length of time I have spoken. Perhaps they will feel I am entitled to a little longer time than usual, seeing that for about six or eight months I have said nothing which could occasion them the least embarrassment.

Up to the moment I have confined my remarks to the relations between Canada and Britain. But my right hon. friend's proposals, when you study them, go a step further; they take in the larger idea of making out of the empire, as he terms it, an economic unit or an economic union. That is his ultimate objective. Many think as he does on that particular matter, but I doubt whether anyone has quite the conception that he has of how that empire unit is to be brought about. He begins by forming a number of individual economic units out of the dominions in the first instance. At any rate, I consider it important that it should be recognized that this is part of what my right hon. friend has in mind—the creation of an economic union—sometimes he calls it an economic union and at other times an economic unit—and that this is his ultimate objective; in other words, he wants the British Empire to trade wholly within itself, or as much so as possible. He starts with the idea of Canada doing all its trading and manufacturing within its own boundaries, but somewhow or other he feels that some things may be developed or grown or manufactured in other parts of the world which are not grown or manufactured or developed here, and he says, "Let us then throw a great wall around the empire as a whole so that we shall be sure to get these things from within some part of the British Empire itself."

This proposal, to put it in a graphic way so that it may be easily understood, is as like the organization of the old Empire of China as anything can be which is different in kind. In China, for fear of barbarians and outsiders, the system was to have every city walled, thus making of it a self-contained community. Then, the Chinese believing they had achieved something in that way, and considering it advisable to cut themselves off from the rest of the world, conceived the idea of another wall around the whole Chinese Empire. That is exactly what my right hon. friend is proposing for the present British Empire in regard to tariffs. He proposes, first, to wall around each dominion in order to make it a self-sufficing, non-trading community; then he proposes another wall around the empire as a whole which will make it an economic unit. But there is this difference between the Chinese proposal and his—and I think the Chinese is a much more sensible one: The Chinese proposal did not exclude trade altogether with the outside world; in the wall which the Chinese put around a city they left apertures through which people could go in and come out—they could go in on a level and come out on a level and trade in that way, getting in for the purposes of exchange when there was a willingness to exchange. But my right hon. friend does not propose to have his entrances made in that way. He proposes to have the apertures, not in the lower portion of his wall, where people can enter, but apertures over and above the wall, made by erecting another wall on top of the original, leaving a little open space for trade to pass in and out. That is exactly the empire economic unit set out in his proposals as the ideal. I do not think I am exaggerating; read his proposals carefully and you will see that that is precisely what he advocates.

But let me say this to my right hon. friend. Supposing he were successful in achieving what he is aiming at, making of the empire an economic unit: Would that be a desirable thing? I know he thinks it would be, but I believe experience will show that it would be a most unfortunate thing. What would happen? Read his policy a little further as stated to the conference. He tells you how it would be developed. We are to have all the trade within the empire carried in ships belonging to the empire; to get special privileges those ships are to make use of the different ports of the empire. Everything is to be done within the empire itself. That is his aim and objective—to make colossal fortunes for a few, out of fortunes already enormous, while trade generally is restricted. What would happen if the empire tomorrow were to accept the suggestions of my right hon. friend? These trade routes thus monopolized by ships belonging to different parts of the empire would have to be protected. Jealousies will arise on the part of the countries denied the privilege of carrying on trade with any part of the empire. My right hon. friend being the creator of this new form of empire would be expected to take his part in protection of a different char-

acter to be sure, from that which we are discussing at the moment—the protection of these trade routes. And that is what is at the back of the minds of all those who up to the present time in the old country have been talking about the empire as an economic unit. They wish to shift the burden of military and naval armaments over the empire as a whole, to get the trade routes so distributed that the dominions themselves would have to take care of the burden of naval armaments as a means of protection. That is what is at the back of my right hon. friend's scheme as a part of what would inevitably follow. Is that going to help to cement relations between the different parts of the empire? More than that: if you are going to have an empire on that model you must have an imperial council to lay down policies; you must have a seat of government somewhere where all these matters will be shaped by one council. There, again, is where my right hon. friend has made a serious mistake. He has gone to England and tried to make out of the conference a cabinet for the shaping of imperial policies. Only after the last conference, the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) was very strong in pointing out how Sir Wilfrid Laurier and others had taken the position that a conference was a conference and that an imperial conference was not for the purpose of laying down policies for the empire as a whole. Yet this is an empire policy, a policy which all were told they must subscribe to at once and seek to develop immediately. So that my right hon. friend, in so doing, has taken one of the most serious steps which any Prime Minister has ever thus far thought of, let alone attempted.

Let me ask in conclusion, what has been the result of my right hon. friend's visit to England? What has been the result of the Imperial conference thus far? There is no doubt in the world—my right hon. friend admits it himself, though he is inclined to put the blame on the British government—that the conference was a huge failure, that it was a fiasco, that it failed altogether to accomplish anything. When he gets up to speak he will probably say that the conference is not over, that we shall have some more of it this fall. But the part of the conference that took place in London, the conference that was expected to achieve so much for the sale of our wheat in Britain—that part of the conference is over and has been a complete failure, a complete fiasco. May I say this in passing, that I do not think it is due to any lack of ability on the part of the Ramsay MacDonald government to handle conferences. Side by side with this conference was another conference relating to a much more serious and critical condition than matters of trade, a conference affecting the whole of the Indian Empire, dealing with peoples of different races, castes and classes, and that conference, presided over by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, as this one was, will go down into history as one of the greatest triumphs of any government. The Ramsay MacDonald government cannot be blamed for the failure of this conference. As I said a moment ago, so far as Canada's participation in it was concerned, there was failure before my hon. friend left the shores of Canada. Owing to the manner in which he presented his proposals, they could not possibly have been accepted. In attempting to change the fiscal policy of the British government he took a position which made the thing more impossible than ever.

Not only has there been failure; there was developed resentment as well. Is it not true that to-day Canada's relations with Britain are more strained than they have been at any time in the past? In view of what took place at this last Imperial conference can anyone assume that the relations between my hon. friend's government and the present government in Great Britain can be as friendly and as cordial as they ought to be and of the kind we would like to see? Not only have our relations with Britain been changed, but our relations with the whole empire have suffered as a result of what took place at that conference. From beginning to close, the conference was more in the nature of a quarrel than it was of a conference, a quarrel which started with the take-it-or-leave-it attitude of Canada's Prime Minister when he presented his ultimatum to the British government and which ended with the broadside which my hon. friend fired on the eve of his departure from England. To-day the prestige of Canada is lower in Britain than it has been at any time in the past.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, it is unfortunate, but Canada's prestige in Britain never was so low as it is at the present time.

Mr. BENNETT: It is higher than it has been during the past ten years.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We have failed to extend in Britain the market for our wheat. Not only have we failed to obtain security for the sale of our wheat in the British market, but in every way our competitors have gained.

This afternoon I spoke of the Argentine. What is taking place in the Argentine at this very moment? All through the campaign of last year we stressed the possibility of Britain turning to the Argentine for more of her wheat unless it were found possible to bring about closer relations with Canada. Only this morning His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is reported in the press as emphasizing the necessity of trade and exchange and pointing out what it means to Britain to have the good will of the Argentine, not by bargaining, but by good will and voluntary cooperation in the matter of trade. Why do we not hear similar sentiments uttered in Canada to-day?

Hon. gentlemen opposite have been talking about Russia. We will hear a good deal about Russia before the next few years are over, and I would ask them this question: do they think they have improved the chances of the sale of Canadian wheat in the markets of the world by the summary way in which they have dealt with Russia? Have they had put before them any single request from the government of Russia which has called forth the particular action to which reference is made in the speech from the throne? Have they had any communication of any character from the government which has necessitated the putting through in the manner it was that particular order in council? I do not intend to discuss the order at the moment, but I do wish to deal generally with the manner in which things are being done by this present administration.

Reference has been made to the possibility of conferences being called to rationalize as it is termed, the wheat supply of the world. Some day the different governments of the world may sit down together to see if they cannot come to some agreement among themselves which will enable each one to send its supply of wheat in a particular direction. As I understand anything I have read of overtures that have been made, Russia has indicated the possibility of something of the kind; that at some time she would be prepared to confer with other governments to reach if possible agreement in the matter of the distribution of the world's supply of wheat. If such a conference ever took place, would not Canada feel certain of getting her appropriate share of the British market? Should she not feel entitled to expect that she could rely on Britain to see that she got a first chance in the British market? But what is the position to-day? Suppose Russia has already taken offence at what my hon. friend has done? Suppose the Russian government says: We have not been competing with Canada in any appreciable way, we have not entered her markets, but we have been ostracized because we were prepared to send to her both money and commodities in exchange for the opportunity of buying from her certain commodities. Suppose Russia says that as a result of all this she will enter the markets of the world to compete with Canada and will carry on competition in a way never dreamed of before. Suppose she says: We will show Canada whether or not she can ostracize us from the markets of the world. Where are our farmers in western Canada going to be as the result of action of that kind?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Shame.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friends opposite called a special session to put up tariffs under the guise of alleviating the necessitous condition of the poor; they put on the cloak of charity in introducing that legislation for their special interests. In the name of patriotism they talked about "Canada first." For what purpose? To give more protection and thus to help their special interests. Now in the name of religion they pursue the same protectionist ends and say that because of certain religious doctrines adopted by Russia this country is to cut itself off from trade with another part of the empire.

Mr. BENNETT: Another part of the empire?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: With another part of the world and affecting other parts of the empire. The attitude adopted by my hon. friend affects very much the relations of the empire with Russia. I am not commenting at the moment upon what he may have had in view; what I am speaking of is the manner in which he did what he did, and also the consequence of it in the light of world conditions. There again is where we have suffered as a result of this conference. Our competitors have got the better of us and are getting the better of us more than ever.

When Britain finds, as she will find, that it is more difficult to trade with Canada because of what has been done in increasing tariffs for bargaining purposes, she will look elsewhere for her trade and we will be unable to hold even the market that we have there to-day. The war taught us that markets once lost are very difficult to regain, and it matters not whether the war be one of arms or an economic war, if the tactics adopted are of the kind which seek to exclude certain nations from trade with each other the result is bound to be the same so far as the loss of markets is concerned.

This question is all important when one considers the fact that another economic conference is to be held this fall. I have spoken on this matter at length because of the fact that that conference is to be held. I want to see that conference succeed.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hon. gentlemen opposite may jeer; that may be their attitude, but it is not mine. I want to see that conference succeed, and that is why I am placing the facts upon Hansard so that they may be a matter of permanent record. I want to oblige this government to take notice of the nature of its proposals and their effect. We do not want a second failure; we want to avoid further quarrels and ruptures. I want to help to create public opinion in this country and I intend if need be to go from one end of the country to the other in order to do so. I intend to try to see that hon. gentlemen opposite, for the sake of protecting a few of their special friends and special interests, and in order to create more monopolies in this country, shall not make more difficult the lot of the farmer and of the workingman of Canada.

My hon. friends know, as I said this afternoon, that these proposals as they stand cannot succeed. The government must change its proposals if it wants to get anywhere in the conference this fall. I have spoken at the length I have for the further reason that the speech from the throne, referred to this afternoon, indicates, not that the government is modifying its extraordinary view, but that it intends to go on with its policy of increasing tariffs and giving to itself added powers with reference thereto. If that extraordinary attitude is persisted in conditions in this country will go from bad to worse. We have on that account to watch very carefully the policy of the present administration as related to the course of events.

May I state further that already we are beginning to experience in a very critical way the effects of the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite as put through at the last special session. Look at the figures on trade and see how trade is diminishing. Look at the figures with respect to national revenue and see how the national revenue from customs dues is shrinking. Wait until the budget comes down and see what the additional taxation will be. Already we can see the effect upon the western farmers in loss of purchasing power. The western farmers not being able to sell their grain, and the producers generally not being able to get rid of their surplus products, where are we going to get the purchasing power to stimulate our industries? It may be true that here and there, where a protecting wall has been thrown around an individual industry, there has been created a temporary boom. That undoubtedly happens, and will happen in certain cases where competition from without is suddenly checked. But what takes place after the point has been reached where there is no one to purchase the products of the industries thus artificially stimulated? When the demand falls off, what will happen to the transportation companies, the banks, the wholesale and retail businesses of the country? What is to be the lot of every householder in the land when we experience more contraction in the trade of the country? These things are of the greatest importance and cannot receive too much in the way of consideration. Why is it that the right hon. gentleman, in view of all these things, holds to the course he does?

I have said and I repeat, that I believe my right hon. friend is sincere in his belief that the creation of an economic unit in Canada, of an economic unit throughout the empire, is a good thing, is an ideal to be aimed at; but he has not examined carefully into all phases of these matters, nor understood them, otherwise he would not have proceeded in the way he has.

The trouble with hon. gentlemen opposite is this: they have started with false assumptions; they have assumed that this idea of an economic unit, because it has unity about it, is a good thing in itself, without examining what in reality is meant and where it is going to lead. They have started out with the idea that an economic unit is a good thing, without carefully examining whether the realization of such a conception is going to lead in the matter of international trade. The mistake that they are making all through is that they are confusing an abstract idea with a concrete proposal. I ask hon. members to consider that. There are certain abstract ideals which all hold in common: "Canada first", yes, in a true sense of the term; "empire first", yes, in a true sense of the term; Canadian unity, yes; imperial unity, yes; all these matters if you like. These abstract ideals are very fine, but let us see what in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite they are being made to mean. My hon. friends opposite identify them with concrete proposals and these concrete proposals when put into operation will not realize the ideals which are aimed at.

Take the ideal of "Canada first". If by "Canada first" is meant that in national affairs a man should think of his own country first and will naturally do what is in the interest of his own country, everyone is for

"Canada first". But if you mean a particular economic policy, which my right hon. friend says is what he means, a particular extreme form of protection which he told the British government is what "Canada first" means, this economic unit idea, a high tariff that will exclude goods from other countries from coming into this country at all, that will put an end to trade; if you call that concrete proposal "Canada first" you will never realize any worthy ideal of "Canada first" you may have. It is like speaking of "home first", as regards a man in his domestic relations. Naturally everyone will think of his own home first, but when you come to translate that aim or ideal into a concrete proposal such as hon. gentlemen opposite have translated "Canada first" into, you get something resembling what would take place were a man to put a great wall around his garden, his grounds, thereby excluding everybody and saying this is "home first." That is a parallel case. Similarly if by imperial unity, is meant that the preservation of unity throughout the different parts of the empire is a good thing no possible exception can be taken but when you come to analyse what hon. gentlemen opposite mean by it, you find the means with which they identify the aim will not gain that particular end. Similarly with regard to preference. We are all in favour of preference as rightly understood; but when you identify it with an empire preference based on tariff walls in the first instance and brought into being only as something over and above these walls, you get something that does injustice to, nay something that may wholly negative the object in view.

Not only have hon. gentlemen opposite the wrong attitude, but they also make the further mistake, that they will not admit that any other view can possibly be right. They will not see and they will not admit to themselves that there be any other conception, any other way of bringing about imperial unity, of furthering the interests of Canada and of the empire than the particular means which they themselves advocate.

In conclusion may I say this word to my right hon. friend. He will find some day that "Canada first," rightly understood, is something very different from anything that can be embodied in a fiscal policy let alone a fiscal policy which is based on an extreme form of protection. He will find that "empire first," if he wishes to use that particular phrase, is also something very different from anything than can be expressed in terms of a fiscal policy, let alone a policy in the nature of centralized economic imperialism. They differ in kind. Fiscal policies are not a thing of the spirit. All that relates to "Canada first" and "Empire first" in any true sense is of the spirit; not a thing of matter, whether it be material substances or material force. He will find that the primary position of this Dominion, the primary position of the British Empire is due to something more profound than any fiscal policy let alone a fiscal policy that seeks to isolate the Dominion and to isolate the Empire. What has made the British Empire what it is, what has made Canada what it is, is not any fiscal policy. It is a thing of the spirit; it is the spirit that has sent the missionary and the explorer into distant lands, the coureur de bois into the hidden recesses of the forests, the pioneer and the trader beyond the bounds of settlement; the spirit that has sent British ships across all the oceans of the globe and caused the British flag to find a place in every clime. It is the enlightened spirit that has broken down barriers, not the benighted spirit that has erected them, the spirit of freedom that in the world of commerce and in trade, as in the world of politics, has made for larger liberty, and ever wider contacts with mankind; the spirit not of one nation only, or of one empire only but the spirit of the League of Nations; the spirit not of fear but the spirit of faith.

We on this side believe in those policies which have helped to advance Canada, and which have helped to advance the empire. We on this side believe that by the same spirit being given its opportunity, our country will develop and more in the way of freedom and happiness will result. We believe that in the extremes to which my right hon. friend is going in his policies we are not helping to unite Canada, we are not helping to create harmony, unity or progress in this country. We believe harmony, unity and progress will come about only as the result of policies which will have like concern for the well-being of all. We take the view that the policies that have led to unity, harmony and progress in this country in the past will do so again if they are continued. But we also take the view that no extreme of policy, I care not whether it be the extreme of protection or the extreme of free trade, in a country of diversified interests like Canada will ever unite the country and keep it harmonious and on the path of progress. A policy which will bring about unity, harmony and progress must be one that will have regard for all classes and all conditions, that will help to reconcile differences as they arise.

My hon. friend will find too, that it is the policy of conciliation and not that of coercion that in the end will win the day.

The extreme of economic policy, national, imperial and international as propounded by the present Prime Minister, and the coercive methods by which he seeks to advance them are the negation of all that makes for harmony, all that makes for unity, all that makes for progress in our country in the empire and throughout the world. To these methods and policies in the extremes in which they are put forth, we who seek the preservation of the true spirit of our country and of the British Commonwealth of Nations are unalterably opposed. We wish to see our country first and our empire first; not first in assurance and arrogance, and in the methods of the blaster and the gunman, but first in those characteristics of true greatness which have given to Canada and to the empire the primacy which they to-day enjoy.

I beg to move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by Mr. Stewart (Edmonton) that the following be added to the address to His Excellency:

We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that this house, while recognizing the serious economic conditions prevailing throughout the world, regrets that the policies of His Majety's government have not only failed to afford a remedy for employment and agricultural distress, as pledged by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, but have served further to prejudice the deplorable position of the agricultural interests, thereby causing additional unemployment and substantially reducing the national revenue.

The house believes that the proposals made to the Imperial economic conference and the manner in which they were submitted and discussed by the Prime Minister of Canada were responsible for the failure of the conference to accomplish its purpose in London, and that the successful development of Canada's trade relations with Great Britain has been adversely affected thereby.

The house is further of the opinion that, if these proposals and certain other of the policies of the government are persisted in, as would appear to be the intention of the government as outlined in the speech from the throne, the very serious condition which exists at the present time will be intensified rather than relieved.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

ILLEGAL WARFARE CLAIMS

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): I beg to lay on the table of the house the interim report made to His Excellency the Administrator of the government in council.

dated March 6, 1931, by Errol M. McDougall, Esquire, a commissioner appointed to investigate and report upon illegal warfare claims and reparations payable in respect thereof.

With the leave of the house I beg to move, seconded by Mr. Ryckman:

That five hundred copies in the English language and two hundred copies in the French language of the interim report to His Excellency the Administrator of the government in council, dated March 6, 1931, made by Errol M. McDougall, Esquire, a commissioner appointed to investigate and report upon illegal warfare claims and reparations payable in respect thereof, laid on the table of the house this day, be printed forthwith, and that standing order 64 in relation thereto be suspended.

Motion agreed to.

NATURALIZATION ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 3 to amend the Naturalization Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. CAHAN: Mr. Speaker, this is a bill to amend section 13 of the Naturalization Act, chapter 138 of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, which provides that the wife of a British subject shall be deemed to be a British subject and the wife of an alien shall be deemed to be an alien.

In 1923 a select committee of the parliament of the United Kingdom reported in favour of an amendment to that clause. It arose out of the fact that women who were British subjects and who had married American citizens were placed in an almost impossible position by reason of the enactment of the so-called Cable Act by the United States congress, passed on December 22nd, 1922, which provides that an alien woman who marries a citizen of the United States does not by virtue of such marriage become an American citizen. On the other hand, the law of the United Kingdom and the dominions is that the wife of an alien shall be deemed to be an alien. As a result there are in Canada some hundreds of women who were British subjects and Canadian nationals, but who, having married American citizens, did not thereby become American citizens, but who by the very fact of such marriage ceased to be British subjects and Canadian nationals. Consequently they are unable to obtain passports in the United States or in Canada to go abroad.

The late government in order to rectify this disability became parties to the nationality convention adopted at the Hague in

1930, of which certain articles were submitted to the last Imperial conference and then approved by the representatives of the Imperial and dominion governments. This bill is simply intended to carry into effect the articles of the Hague convention which were then approved.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, March 16 consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) suggests, it may be a one man government, but certainly it has more than one man's support.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We realize that.

Mr. BENNETT: Some people act as though they did not realize it. May I, in rising to resume the debate, congratulate the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) upon the addresses with which they made the motion that now stands on the order paper. It is always pleasing to congratulate new members upon their speeches, especially on an occasion such as this. The fact that the mover was born in the province of my own birth adds something to the joy with which I felicitate him upon the speech which he delivered in two languages, and the thoughtful speech of the hon. member for North Grey indicates that he too is alive to the problems that confront this country at this time.

I was somewhat surprised, shall I say, that the right hon. leader of the opposition, with his experience, should have made even a slight criticism of the fact that one of the hon. members did read from his manuscript, but in that, as in everything else with which the right hon. gentleman has to do he was not quite consistent, for he proceeded to read the major part of his own address. I may explain that it is not my purpose to traverse at any great length the preelection address of the right hon. gentleman. He has, however, overlooked one thing which I think he should remember. That is that in every part of this Dominion, from east to west, I told the electorate that there was one thing of which they could be perfectly certain, and that one thing was that if our party were elected to power, at the very first opportunity we would enact legislation that would deal not only with unemployment but also with the question of affording to Canadians an equal opportunity with their competitors to carry on the development of Canada, and that they should have fair competition in the work in which they were engaged.

That was dealt with in part at the short session of last fall. It was dealt with in part only because it was realized that the time was not sufficient to enable it to be dealt with in full. It was dealt with in part because it was realized that unless it was dealt with immediately the disaster to industry would be such that it could not be overtaken. In the nine years during which the right hon. gentleman presided over the destinies of this country the result was stagnation in industry with which it became necessary to deal at that session. I fling back to him the positive denial that it was not done because of any promises given to the so-called special interests, but because of the promise that was given to the people of Canada from one end of the country to the other that this would be done if we came into power, tariff legislation would be passed.

I desire further to say to the right hon gentleman that if he has the courage to make direct statements let him make them; do not insinuate them. If he desires for a single moment to suggest that because of any understanding or agreement with so-called special interests certain legislation was introduced in this house, then let him make the statement, for if any man living should know what the hold of the special interests was upon the government, it should be the right hon. gentleman who presided over the last administration. When the true conditions with respect to financial and other matters in this country are made known during the progress of the session he will realize fully just what that means and he will have ample opportunity then to give effect to the promise he made yesterday, that the business of the session would not be hurried through. It will not be hurried. There will be ample time to investigate these very matters to which he has referred, and I do not think either he or the gentlemen who sit behind him will then be making statements of that kind in this house by innuendo rather than by direct statements, by inference rather than directly, for apparently they lack courage to make them directly. They think that by the old means, at which

they are experts, they will be able thus to delude the people of this country into believing that they are their custodians, that they are the guardians of their happiness, that they and they only are the people who care for the well-being, as my right hon. friend said yesterday with tears in his voice, of the labourer and the farmer.

When the right hon. gentleman spent so much time yesterday in dictionary definitions of the word "humbug," I could not but think that he probably defined the word so clearly in order that the people of Canada and the members of this house might have a clear understanding of just what was meant by it as applied to himself and his government during the past nine years. There we had them, free traders, the death-knell of protection, a tariff for revenue, all bunched together, appealing in the east for the one and in the west for the other, and then yesterday we had a grand plea for national unity. Why, sir, we all heard the pathetic appeal for national unity made yesterday by the right hon. gentleman opposite, and the covert insinuation at the close of his speech with regard to a navy. Did you realize what that was for, Mr. Speaker? Was there a man in this house who for a moment did not realize what my right hon. friend was again endeavouring to do? We all remember the cry of the La Presse newspaper in the days before the election; we remember the cries of Taschereau and the appeals to the passion and prejudice of the people of this country, designed to arouse the people of Quebec to the thought that I was trying to create a navy. This is the right hon. gentleman who talked about national unity yesterday, and then lightly dealt with one of the most difficult problems confronting the Canadian people to-day in connection with Russia. This is the right hon. gentleman who says there is nothing we will not do; that we are ready to support our appeals in the name of patriotism, self interest and in the name of religion itself. This came from the right hon. gentleman who in 1927 passed an order in council terminating our relations with Russia and sending its minister out of this country because, he said, their fifteen cases of posters and literature did not satisfy him that what they were doing was not inimical to the public interest. Then a few minutes later in his address he turned to the people of this country, through this house, and said "A man does not live by material things alone; there are things of the spirit as well," and this two minutes after he had been talking about the material advantage of Russia to Canada. Thus my right hon. friend illustrates in his own person and his own speech the real meaning of the word "humbug."

As I have said, I do not propose to traverse at great length the measures which we offer to this house for its consideration. These measures of necessity must be considered as the business of the house proceeds, and it would be wasting time to anticipate the discussion of them because, as I have said, they will be discussed upon the second readings, in committee and on third readings if necessary, so there will be the fullest possible opportunity to consider every phase of every measure that may be brought forward. Therefore I pass them by, except to say that the measures which will be submitted to this house are measures which it is believed by the administration will advance the interests, the welfare and the well-being of the Canadian people. We commend them to this house and to the investigation, consideration and discussion of members of the house, certain that if they are approached from that angle, and that angle only, they will meet the requirements I have mentioned.

Now let us proceed to a matter to which the right hon. gentleman directed the major part of his address. After all, four and a half hours is a fairly reasonable time in which to make up for a silence of six months. When one thinks of the enormous amount of toil that must have been involved in this analysis of all that has gone by, and this gazing into the future with the eyes of a would-be seer, but after all with the vision of nothing more than a very poor prophet, one wonders what the four and a half hour speech was all about. What was it all about? He said that the speech from the throne divided itself into two parts, the sermon and the diagnosis. Well, upon the sermon he founded diatribe and abuse of a character seldom heard in this house, while upon the diagnosis he performed a surgical operation that resulted at least in disaster to those about him.

Why is it that present conditions prevail in Canada? Do you realize that this new land, in the present world-wide depression, should have been able, had its policies been adequate, to escape such results? Do you realize that if this country had been making thoughtful provision for the future, if its leaders had been looking into the future with eyes of vision, there should not have come this disaster to the Canadian people? Do you realize that this government has been in power eight months and that whatever conditions prevail in Canada to-day are attributable, not to it but to the governments

that preceded it? What would the right hon. gentleman have said if, eight months after he came into power in 1921, he had been charged with responsibility for the conditions that then existed? What did he then do? What did he say? What was his position? He freed himself from all responsibility and declared that his predecessors had been responsible for the conditions that then prevailed. And now he comes before the Canadian people and says to them that this government, having been in power seven or eight months, having inherited the conditions that confronted them when they took office, are responsible and alone responsible for those conditions. Do you think any man in this country, thoughtful and fair-minded, has any such opinion? Do you think any people in Canada who approach these problems with an attitude of just criticism have any such idea?

Let me ask my right hon. friend and this house this question: Where would this country have been had it not been for the session last fall which gave employment to upwards of two hundred thousand people? Study if you will for a moment the figures of industry. In eight months new factories cannot be equipped and built, but they can be commenced, and the numbers that have been commenced in this country during those eight months are more than those during any other similar period in recent years. New factories? How many men in the counties represented by hon. gentlemen opposite are now finding full time employment against the short days and poor rations preceding the 28th of July? How many of them? What about cotton mills? What about woollen mills?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend from Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff) knows less about cotton mills than about cotton sails.

Mr. DUFF: Excuse me, I did not open my mouth.

Mr. BENNETT: Then I entirely withdraw the remark.

Mr. DUFF: I am listening attentively to my right hon. friend.

Mr. BENNETT: Then I will say that my hon. friend from Antigonish-Guysborough knows far more about cotton sails than about the cotton industry.

Mr. DUFF: I have a question on the order paper now.

Mr. BENNETT: When it is asserted by the leader of the Liberal party that you can secure a governor general's warrant to provide for unemployment and agreements with the provinces, that is a nullification of the whole principle of the responsibility of representative institutions. It never has been done and I trust never will be done in this country. There had to be a session of parliament, as there was, and it gave employment to upwards of two hundred thousand people. So that, with the industrial life of this country stimulated, with improved conditions with respect to employment, with the added employment of hundreds of thousands in the way of unemployment relief, I say that conditions in Canada, bad as they are, are not comparable to what they would have been had we not taken the action that we did. What is more, that is an opinion very generally held by thoughtful people in this country.

An hon. MEMBER: What about agriculture?

Mr. BENNETT: I shall deal with agriculture. That opinion, I say, is held by thoughtful observers from one end of Canada to the other, and I am proud that this government has been privileged to have the opportunity to serve the people of this country in that way at this time. We do not belong to that school of thought, of which you find evidence among leaders in the Liberal party, who go about the country saying, "We are so thankful the responsibility is not ours; we are so grateful, so glad that somebody else has it." Sir, it is a proud thing to be a Canadian and to have some opportunity to serve the country. We are not going around making excuses of that kind, and we will not. The burden is heavy; of course it is. The difficulties are many; of course they are. But it is a privilege to be able to think that with such ability as we have, such talents as this government has, we are able to give this service to the country. And I say this to my right hon. friend opposite and his friends. It sounds very amusing and touching to speak of the Prime Minister being the government. I doubt if there has been in this country for years a government whose relations inter se have been more harmonious and pleasant. I doubt if there has ever been a government in which there has been a fuller discussion and consideration of every question affecting the public interest before action is taken. And in fairness to my colleagues—I am not at all concerned about myself—I only desire to say that there never has been any effort on the part of the head of the government to obtrude or force his

opinions on the cabinet, but that after discussion the conclusions arrived at are the united opinion of the cabinet and for the public welfare. That has been and will continue to be our attitude; and if at times this government has taken action more expeditiously than has been the wont of the government in recent years, and has believed that anything that is worth doing should be done as well as possible and as quickly as possible —if these be faults, then you can lay the blame if you please, at my door and not at that of the administration.

The comment is made that I am holding too many offices myself. Well, I hold one more than did the former Prime Minister. It is true I hold the portfolio of Finance; and the reason I gave for this in the first session, the reason which I still give, I will now indicate. I had made certain very definite promises in every part of Canada. I came into power—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: Our government came into being. It is the custom sometimes for Prime Ministers to refer to themselves in this way, using the personal pronoun I; if you desire any evidence on that point I can furnish you abundantly with precedents from the opposite side. The personal pronoun sometimes has to be used, although we avoid it as much as possible. However, let me say this. Having gathered together certain information which I thought might be valuable, I used it at the special session in connection with the tariff measures which we passed. I went to the Imperial conference, and as Minister of Finance I received a great deal of further information and correlated to one another many facts from various parts of the empire; and when the conference was adjourned I believed it was desirable, rather than endeavour to hand over to someone else the knowledge I had gained and the information that had come to me, that, even though it might involve greater toil than I felt at my age disposed to undertake, it was my duty to carry on until that conference was ended. And with the help of Providence I propose to do so. That is all I can say in that respect.

Now, as to these indices of the country's prosperity, I do not know at times what to admire most on the part of the leader of the opposition; he is either assuming that the people who have not been able to discover the facts are lacking in intelligence or he has unwittingly misrepresented them.

Yesterday he spoke about the reduction in taxation. I have the figures here which show that during the last year of Liberal administration there was taken from the people of this country by taxation the sum of $395,000,000, which was $100,000,000 more than in 1925, and greater than any amount taken during any previous year. The figures for 1931 have not been published, but for the year ending March 30, 1930, there was taken from the Canadian people in taxation the sum of $378,000,000. That is a larger amount than for any year but one since 1925.

Mr. RALSTON: But we did more business.

Mr. BENNETT: I was not talking about that, but that statement is not correct. The right hon. gentleman was not talking about that yesterday, he was talking about the reduction in taxation which his government had accomplished. Here are the facts in round figures:

1925	$293,000,000
1926	327,000,000
1927	346,000,000
1928	364,000,000
1929	395,000,000
1930	378,000,000

There has been less taxation taken out of the Canadian people during the last eight months than for any eight months in the last ten years. One would think that that would be some encouragement to hon. gentlemen opposite, but they do not seem to like it.

An hon. MEMBER: Do you?

Mr. BENNETT: And then the question of trade was taken up by the right hon. gentleman. This is an old story which appears in Hansard in nearly every speech on the budget. No allowance was made for the depreciated value of the purchasing power of money in determining the value of wheat, for instance, nor of wood pulp or paper exported from this country this year as compared with the year before. Had these signs of prosperity been such as he suggested it would have brought about a condition which would have enabled the people to have met the storm of adversity without difficulty.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Those prices were supposed to go up after July 28.

Mr. BENNETT: When comparisons are made with previous years it is always desirable to adjust prices. I merely mention that in passing.

Then came the matter of the sale of our western crops. In listening to the right hon. gentleman one would have thought that his administration had taken an active part in an endeavour to sell wheat in the markets of the world, that they had behind them a record so

unassailable that no one could for one moment cavil at their actions. Perhaps the western members will recall the words of the then Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) when he said: "We are not concerned with the sale of wheat as wheat finds its own place in the markets of the world. That was the contribution made by the right hon. gentleman to the sale of wheat in the markets of the world—we are not concerned about it, it finds its own place. In reviewing some of the speeches made by the hon. gentleman's friends one would think that more Canadian wheat had been sold in England last year than during the year we have now entered upon. Here are the facts. For the seven months commencing with August, 1930, we sold to Great Britain 90,000,000 bushels of wheat, while the total sales during the corresponding seven months of 1929-30 amounted to 65,000,000 bushels.

Mr. VALLANCE: May I ask the Prime Minister a question?

An hon. MEMBER: Sit down.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. VALLANCE: Has the—

Mr. BENNETT: The total purchase price of the wheat sold in 1931 amounted to only $67,000,000 for the 90,000,000 bushels, while the 65,000,000 bushels sold in 1930 brought $88,000,000. Perhaps that is what the hon. gentleman desires to know? Why that difference in price?

Mr. YOUNG: The tariff.

Mr. BENNETT: I am satisfied that if the hon. gentleman's constituents could have heard him make that statement they would have thought much less of him than when he was going around the country with a pair of white stockings.

Mr. McINTOSH: They had a good cutter.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, the hon. gentleman remembers that.

Mr. VALLANCE: It won the election.

Mr. BENNETT: It did not.

Mr. VALLANCE: The hon. member is sitting in the house.

Mr. BENNETT: It might be well to ask the right hon. gentleman why the price of wheat has fallen so in England. That is the crux of the question. Canadian wheat was not the first to fall in price, the wheat which came in from Russia during last fall fixed the price.

Mr. YOUNG: Came in?

Mr. BENNETT: Came into England, yes, and Russian wheat is still coming in.

Mr. VALLANCE: Because you would not take Russian coal.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman seems to forget the fact that we are taking a million tons of Welsh anthracite coal.

Mr. VALLANCE: And American coal as well.

Mr. BENNETT: And it was possible to sell that million tons of Welsh anthracite coal because the unfair Russian competition was removed.

Mr. DONNELLY: American coal is still coming in.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps you will maintain some order, Mr. Speaker. These mutterings of discontent with the truth are not new at all, they are as old as time.

Mr. DONNELLY: That is true.

Mr. BENNETT: The introduction of Russian wheat into the British market has spoiled the market for Canadian wheat, as has the introduction of lumber from northern Russia spoiled the market for Canadian lumber. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I took the trouble to ascertain the number of cargoes of wheat which came into England during the time I was there, and the price at which they were sold. I realized that the price was less than the cost of production in western Canada. The effect was that Canadian wheat at once reached a lower price level than it had reached before in years. There was more than 200,000,000 bushels of wheat from Russia that were being offered in competition with Canadian wheat, and we are threatened with a larger quantity of wheat.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Not 200,000,000 bushels?

Mr. BENNETT: I said 200,000,000 bushels.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): From Russia?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. VALLANCE: In the British market?

Mr. BENNETT: No. I said "being offered". Of course all of it did not reach the British market, but from my personal knowledge something over 60,000,000 bushels have reached that market. Just what it has now reached I cannot say, but this I do say—and with respect to this there should be no difficulty—the free introduction of that wheat

on the markets of Liverpool, London and other ports of Great Britain fixed for wheat a price that it was impossible for Canadians to accept without losing money. That is the story and that was the situation when we reached England.

I shall make only a few observations with respect to the Imperial conference so far as leaving here is concerned. We came into power on the seventh day of August; we had to get our government elected. That took us along towards the end of August. The conference was to meet the first of October. The late government had set up a committee to prepare certain information and figures with respect to matters that would there be considered. I had made known to the people of this country, so far as it was humanly possible, both in the house and out of it, just what the policy of the government was and would be at that conference, namely, an effort to secure reciprocal preferences within the empire. That was our effort; that is what we promised. That is what the people of the country were told in the house and out of it. The conference met, and on the first day certain messages of welcome were read and tributes paid to those who were gone. Then it was agreed that a plenary session would open at a later date. Let us see what dominions sat around that council board. First in point of age was Canada, then Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland, and of course the mother land herself. At the second plenary meeting statements were made by the prime ministers of each of these dominions and a portion of what I said on that occasion was read to the house last evening. At page 31 of the appendices of the summary of proceedings will be found the commencement of the observations which I made. I endeavoured to point out that reciprocal trade agreements were absolutely essential for the preservation and maintenance of the economic life of our empire. You will find these words:

> And if this conference is to meet these problems and provide an effective solution of them, it seems to me that my attitude towards my own country will be the attitude of you all towards yours. On no other basis can we hope to effect an enduring agreement of benefit to each one of us. I will determine what my country needs, and, if you do likewise, then we may come together and search out the means by which we can be of mutual assistance in satisfying those needs.
>
> I rejoice that the government of Canada finds, in the empire scheme I have to propose, the surest promise that its duty to its own country will be fulfilled. For we believe that through the broadening of the home markets of empire states to empire products, in preference to the products of foreign countries, every unit of this

empire will benefit. This does not mean, of course, that an attempt should be made to exclude from empire markets the goods of other countries.

We must have—all of us—markets without the empire, and to make those markets sure, and greater, we must place no insuperable barrier in the road of reciprocal world trade. What it does mean, however, is that we should direct the present flow of trade into more permanent empire channels by preferring empire goods to those of other countries. That can be done only in one way—by creating a preference in favour of empire goods.

Now far from denying that we would be dealing in world markets, you will observe that I said the exact opposite, and when the right hon. gentleman last night charged me with endeavouring to create a closed, walled empire, or a closed, walled country, he either did not read what I said at that conference, or, having read it, deliberately misrepresented and left it out. I again repeat these words which will be found on page 31:

> This does not mean, of course, that an attempt should be made to exclude from empire markets the goods of other countries. We must have—all of us—markets without the empire, and to make those markets sure, and greater, we must place no insuperable barrier in the road of reciprocal world trade.

And then I spoke about the empire. There at once is the contradiction on the record of the statement made to the house and the country last night by the leader of the opposition, when he must have known that the above observations were a part of the address I made on that occasion, because he could not have read the preceding paragraph from which he made his quotation without realizing what my attitude was. Then I proceeded:

> We have considered what such a scheme of preference will mean to Canada and to the other parts of the empire, and our conclusion is, that we of the empire states have within our own control the means to advance the interests of each one of us, by developing a plan of economic cooperation, based on the principle of empire preferences.

Further on I said:

> Again, it is conceivable that this preferential rate should be lower in the case of raw products, or where the empire supply does not meet the empire demand. On the other hand, the preference may be increased beyond ten per centum where that rate, in relation to the main tariff, is inadequate to afford empire goods an appreciable advantage over those of foreign countries.

Then I continued as will be found at page 33:

> All these are matters requiring the most careful consideration. Some of them might readily be resolved into difficulties so definite as to defy removal, unless the greatest care is taken to anticipate and avoid them. They must, therefore, be subjected to searching analysis by the economists of all the countries concerned.

I put to the house and the country this query: Could any Canadian worthy of the name, at a conference such as that, say less? Could any Canadian say less than that his first duty and obligation was to the country that sent him there, that had honoured him with its confidence and support? He would go further and say that we hoped to work out plans that would be advantageous to us and the other parts of the empire, at the same time realizing that we must not shut the doors in any way to reciprocal world trade, for every man knows that must be so. If it had then ended, there might have been some force in the observations made last night by the former Prime Minister. But did he tell the house yesterday during that long four-hour speech what attitude was taken by the prime ministers of the other self-governing dominions of the empire?

Then in his endeavour to make a failure of this conference that will be held in Ottawa this fall, in his endeavour to destroy any possibility this government might have of success in that regard, what did he do? He tried to fasten upon the representative of his own country blame that did not attach to him unless it attached to every prime minister of every other dominion of the British empire.

Mr. Scullin, the Prime Minister of Australia, followed me. I had spoken first, as the representative of the senior dominion. What did Mr. Scullin say?

> I entirely agree with Mr. Bennett that we must come to some decision on that principle. Already that principle has been conceded. Already there is a measure of preference in operation reciprocally between the dominions and the United Kingdom. Already there are treaties in existence between certain dominion governments. We have accepted to a large extent the principle of preference, but it is our duty at this conference first of all to affirm the maintenance of that principle and the extension of its operation.

He then took up in detail a consideration of the various measures which his own country had passed and dealt with the preferences that were enjoyed by Australia in the British market. Then he said:

> I have outlined in broad principle what Australia is prepared to do, and what I believe we at this conference ought to agree to do. If those principles are accepted, I suggest that a committee of this conference be formed, when I shall be prepared to suggest in detail proposals to give practical effect to this policy of economic cooperation.

That is what Mr. Scullin said. He was followed by Mr. Forbes, the Prime Minister of New Zealand. Mr. Forbes, at very great length, and with figures, dealt with the whole situation, and at the end he arrived at his conclusion. These are his words at page 107:

> As a first step, I cannot too strongly urge that the representatives of the United Kingdom—

Note, the representatives of the United Kingdom, not the representatives of his own country, not the representatives of his own government or of his own people. He continued:

> As a first step, I cannot too strongly urge that the representatives of the United Kingdom should seriously consider the provision of some adequate assistance to the languishing industries of this country, and this, in my opinion, can be afforded effectively by tariff protection against the "dumping" of the surplus products of other countries whose tariff walls prevent the free flow of trade and against the competition of imported goods, often on an unfair basis and invariably on terms of advantage as compared with the article produced in the United Kingdom.

He went a step further. Mr. Forbes went on to say:

> As a second step, I feel that a tariff preference in this country in favour of empire products (including foodstuffs), accompanied by increased preference in favour of British goods in the overseas empire, would be the greatest single factor in increasing inter-imperial trade. It is my view that trade within the empire must play, in the future, a far more important part in the economics of the commonwealth than ever in the past, and the utmost effort should be made to foster and increase the sentiment in favour of the purchase of empire goods.

So you have Australia and New Zealand behind Canada.

Then Mr. Havenga, Minister of Finance for the Union of South Africa, also made his statement, in terms somewhat stronger. He said:

> The remedy must, so far as the Union is concerned be looked for in directions outside free trade, and we are willing and anxious to explore every avenue to that end.
>
> The question appears to be capable of being stated very simply; Great Britain, with her industrial difficulties, seeks markets for her manufactures in the dominions, while the dominions, in their agricultural troubles, are anxious to extend their markets in Great Britain for their produce.

He went on and discussed at length the various items which he thought should be considered by the committee.

Then came the representative of the Irish Free State, Mr. McGilligan. He put his position very frankly before the gathering by saying that so far as the economic situation was concerned, the Irish Free State would have to consider each problem as it arose because of its geographical relation to the United Kingdom. He speaks of that under the heading, The Relation of Geographical Factors to Economic Policy, and as a matter of fact he shortly afterwards put into force the principle there alluded to

He was followed by Sir Richard Squires, the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, who said:

I refer to Mr. Bennett particularly because the policy and program of the Dominion of Canada, a territory removed but eighty miles by sea from Newfoundland, must naturally affect my own country, separated both politically and geographically though we be. I join with him and the other distinguished Empire leaders who have preceded me in their view that now is the time for action; that this is the body to which not only the entire Empire but the whole world is looking for constructive thought; not merely thought expressed in polished periods, but thought expressed in action. The policy of imperial preference, so ably indicated by Mr. Bennett, will certainly have the enthusiastic support of Newfoundland.

There you have the whole matter.

I had intended at a later date to deal with one particular feature of the discussions at the conference, but it seems desirable that it should be dealt with now. When the committees were appointed and questions considered in detail it was suggested that a quota might meet our views; that is, if England would say that her own requirements would be purchased on a quota basis, about 15 per cent, we will say, home production, and 55 per cent British Empire production, making 70 per cent, and 30 per cent from foreign countries, something might be done for preference. Evidence was taken and opinions were expressed, and as a matter of fact Dr. Addison had a bill prepared that dealt with the quota for domestic wheat. But then the mind of the committee changed, and the government thought it not desirable, because of lack of information, to pursue the inquiry further at that time, and so it dropped for the time being, the opinion being expressed that the question should be further explored if the conference adjourned to Ottawa.

Now let us see what happened in the concluding days of the conference. At page 225 you will find the concluding speeches, on November 14, 1930. You will find the observations made by myself on behalf of the Canadian delegation, and there is one matter that I should like to mention now, because it becomes somewhat important in view of an observation made yesterday. You will find at the bottom of page 225 these words:

Mr. Bennett: I will not do more than say that the experience of succeeding years confirms me in the view, from which I have never departed, that the traditional policy of the party which I have the honour to lead, is best for Canada. I have explained this policy to the conference in a definite way, and there is therefore no need for me to restate my position, except to amplify it by saying that, in view of the report of the committee on economic cooperation which we have had under consideration, and in view of my own personal inquiries into the agricultural situation in this country, I consider it proper to say that we from the Dominion of Canada are prepared to consider the desirability of accepting the quota system as a solution of the problem of marketing our Empire wheat in the United Kingdom, having regard especially to importations from foreign countries. This view I have already expressed to heads of delegations and it, therefore, seems to me proper that I should now relate it to the view expressed at the second plenary meeting of the conference, which view in no other respect am I prepared to modify in any way whatever. The offer which I then extended to this conference is still open, and will, I confidently believe, be accepted by all at Ottawa.

I therefore move, Mr. Chairman, that the economic section of the conference adjourn to Ottawa to meet within the next twelve months at a date to be mutually agreed upon.

Mr. Scullin followed and said:

Therefore, we are forced to adjourn that section of the conference for further consideration and deliberation after we have had further examination into all the facts. But the economic side of the conference has by no means been a failure.

Then Mr. Forbes made observations in the same sense. Mr. Hertzog said:

I and my colleagues came here with the knowledge that we should have to see that our expectations did not run too high, and our expectations not having run too high we have no great disappointments to carry away with us.

Mr. McGilligan said:

Much may happen between this and then, and if we have then to view these matters in a somewhat aloof and detached way, we shall nevertheless look with interest to see whether climatic conditions can bring about the reconciliation of the many views that in this climate appear to be so irreconciliable.

I am content to leave myself in the judgment of this house and of the country as to whether or not the attitude taken by Canada on that occasion was not the attitude that was taken by the representatives of every one of the dominions represented at the conference. Only some of them spoke in terms somewhat stronger than I with respect to the desirability, nay, the necessity, of immediate action being taken by the government of the United Kingdom to change its attitude on some of these questions.

Let me turn to the view of the conference expressed by Mr. Richard Jebb. I direct the careful attention of hon. members to an article by him in the Nineteenth Century for December last entitled From Referendum to Free Hand. At page 698 will be found the following:

For the past thirty years they have shown themselves only too willing to do business whenever we might be ready.

That is Canada and the other dominions.

As to Canada in particular, Laurier's original offer of 1902 has been lying on the table ever since, awaiting our willingness to tax foreign wheat. It was on precisely the same lines as Mr. Bennett's. Let us recall that Laurier (a) specified the market for wheat as Canada's special interest; (b) required our government first to "accept the principle," i.e., of putting—or rather keeping—a duty on foreign wheat; and (c) offered on that basis to negotiate in detail an extension of British preference in Canada. Mr. Bennett offered no more and no less.

Mr. Bennett offered no more and no less.

An hon. MEMBER: In different language.

Mr. BENNETT: I am going to show the house that the language is about the same. Complaint has been made of something in his manner that lacked the cool repose of a Vere de Vere. But at any rate the right hon. gentleman in looking through the records has found that I was frank in statement; there was no circumlocution, there was no uncertainty as to what I meant. It is so difficult for the right hon. gentleman to understand any man acting in that way. I am bound to say that perhaps from his long experience in maintaining a government without a majority, subject to the whims and caprices of those who might induce him to change his mind almost overnight, I can readily understand he would have had the representatives of Canada endeavour, if not in an oleaginous at least in a saponaceous manner or by the exercise of flattery, endeavour to induce other persons to change their attitude. Then at the end of the four and a half hours this is what he is talking about. I can only say that the presentation of the case from the Canadian standpoint before the second plenary conference took exactly seventeen minutes by the clock, and there was at least one Canadian there who, although not a member of the delegation, listened and thought it was as clear and as concise a presentation as it was possible to make.

An hon. MEMBER: Howard Ferguson.

Mr. BENNETT: It was not Mr. Ferguson. I can only say that if the hon. gentleman ever approaches him in brains and capacity he will be much better off than he is to-day.

Now I turn to the record of the 1902 Imperial conference referred to by Mr. Richard Jebb in the Nineteenth Century. At least one or two hon. members will recall the attitude taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his ministers on that occasion. I wonder how many in this house realize just exactly the language then employed. On page 36 of the report it will be found that Sir Wilfrid Laurier with others agreed to this statement:

The general resolution that was finally adopted as covering the principle underlying the several proposals comprised in Mr. Balfour's memorandum, was as follows:

1. That this conference recognizes that the principle of preferential trade between the United Kingdom and His Majesty's dominions beyond the seas would stimulate and facilitate mutual commercial intercourse, and would, by promoting the development of the resources and industries of the several parts, strengthen the empire.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, the hon. gentleman was not saying "hear, hear" yesterday when the leader of the opposition was reading what I said. Let me continue:

2. That this conference recognizes that, in the present circumstances of the colonies, it is not practicable to adopt a general system of free trade as between the mother country and the British dominions beyond the seas.

That also hon. members will find in the address which I made at the second plenary conference.

3. That with a view however, to promoting the increase of trade within the empire, it is desirable that those colonies which have not already adopted such a policy should, as far as their circumstances permit, give substantial preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the United Kingdom.

4. That the Prime Ministers of the colonies respectfully urge on His Majesty's government the expediency of granting in the United Kingdom preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the colonies, either by exemption from or reduction of duties now or hereafter imposed.

5. That the Prime Ministers present at the conference undertake to submit to their respective governments at the earliest opportunity the principle of the resolution, and to request them to take such measures as may be necessary to give effect to it.

But Sir Wilfrid Laurier was not content to let it rest there. He handed in a special memorandum covering a page and a half of this book. I want the house to listen to the words and see what difference there is between the language employed by the Prime Minister of Canada in 1930 and the Prime Minister of Canada in 1902 in respect to this matter. There may be, and always are, differences of phrasing, but here is a matter that was agreed to in a memorandum by Canada's minister. Mr. Chamberlain, the then Colonial Secretary, was present. The Dominions department had not yet come into being. This is the memorandum in part:

From the beginning of the proceedings the Canadian ministers have claimed that in consideration of the substantial preference given by Canada for some years to the products of the mother country, Canadian food products should be exempted in the United Kingdom from the duties recently imposed. Represen-

tations to this effect previously made through the High Commissioner for Canada were supplemented by the ministers, both in writing and in the personal interviews with the imperial ministers.

Twenty-eight years ago that was urged. Last fall Canada again urged it. That is all. But Canada did it in a somewhat different form, as I shall presently point out. Now let us go a step further:

Mr. Chamberlain, on behalf of the Imperial government, was unable to agree to the proposals of the Canadian ministers. He represented that the Imperial government, while highly appreciating the good feeling manifested by Canada in the granting of preferential treatment, did not think the material results to the trade of the United Kingdom were as great as the Canadian ministers claimed. He further said that the change desired by Canada would be an important departure from the established fiscal policy of the kingdom, and that if the proposals could be entertained at all, as to which he was not prepared to commit himself, it would be necessary for Canada to offer some material tariff concessions beyond those which she had already voluntarily given.

The Canadian ministers, therefore, submitted a memorandum on the subject of the advantages already received by Great Britain from the Canadian preferential tariff, with a view to showing that these were of much value, and entitled to weight in the consideration of the whole subject.

Now here are the words to which I direct the careful attention of the house:

While urging that the benefits of the preference were such as to entitle Canada to the desired exemption from the duties on food products in the United Kingdom, the Canadian ministers stated that within certain limitations they were prepared to consider the request of Mr. Chamberlain for further concessions in return for the desired preference in the markets of the United Kingdom. While it was not deemed necessary to enter into questions as to the wisdom or unwisdom of the policy adopted by all governments in Canada—

Mark you, "by all governments in Canada."

—of raising the revenues chiefly from customs duties, the Canadian ministers pointed out that under that policy large industries had grown up which had to be considered in connection with proposed tariff changes. Large reductions of duties had been made in recent years, especially on British imports.

And so on. Now, I ask this house and the country if there is any difference in substance between that proposal and the proposal we made in 1930. Mr. Jebb says they are exactly the same. Let us go a step further:

The Canadian ministers stated that if they could be assured that the Imperial government would accept the principle of preferential trade generally, and particularly grant to the food products of Canada in the United Kingdom exemption from duties now levied, or hereafter imposed, they, the Canadian ministers, would be prepared to go further into the subject, and endeavour to give to the British manufacturer some increased advantage over his foregn competitors in the markets of Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: Is it not delightful to hear that cheer now for the sentiment hon. members opposite opposed yesterday? Is it any wonder the right hon. gentleman is an expert in the use of that word? Mr. Speaker, there is the proposal submitted by the Canadian ministers in amplification of the statements that were made before the conference on August 11, 1902.

An hon. MEMBER: That is different.

Mr. BENNETT: I leave the question as to whether it is different. For my part I might perhaps be prejudiced, but great as is my admiration for Canadians I still believe that Richard Jebb has a mental capacity at least equal to that of those who have raised the issue here, especially the last one I heard.

Now let us discuss that matter fairly. That was the proposal of 1902, and it has been lying upon the table ever since, as Mr. Jebb says. But I have not read the most damning part of this statement; it is the part I want to read, containing the threat of so mild a mannered man as the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I wanted to finish before I heard your cheers, but I would like to hear some cheers now. Listen to these words:

Meanwhile the Canadian ministers determined to present to the conference a resolution affirming the principle of preferential trade, and the desirability of its adoption by the colonies generally, and also expressing the opinion of the prime ministers of the colonies that His Majesty's government should reciprocate by granting preferential terms to the products of the colonies in the markets of the mother country.

In 1902 they had not any hesitation in presenting such a resolution; they were not bothered about the fine point as to whether it might or might not please Mr. Chamberlain. They did not bother about that any more than I did. Then listen to these words:

The Canadian ministers desired to have it understood that they took this course with the strong hope and expectation that the principle of preferential trade would be more widely accepted by the colonies, and that the mother country would at an early day apply the same principle by exempting the products of the colonies from customs duties.

That was twenty-eight years ago. Then listen to these words:

If, after using every effort to bring about such a readjustment of the fiscal policy of the empire, the Canadian government should find that the principle of preferential trade is not acceptable to the colonies generally, or the

mother country, then Canada should be free to take such action as might be deemed necessary in the presence of such conditions.

What did Canada say in 1930, twenty-eight years later? Of course a great war intervened; there were the conferences of 1917, 1923 and 1926, and oh, those glorious platitudes, those beautiful words. How they sound, those oleaginous statements of what a beautiful thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity, and all that sort of thing. Is it any wonder that when the British papers published in full the seventeen minute address they said, "Well, we are thankful we have passed the age of platitudes." Why, anyone who listened yesterday to the right hon. gentleman could realize how at a conference such as that of last fall he would not make a statement such as that I have just read. Oh no; he would say, "Give me spirit and faith; these are finer than the things of the world. But do not take away the market in Russia."

The right hon. gentleman has talked about the severing of relations with the empire. That is the exaggerated ego, unable to believe that it is possible for anyone except himself to represent Canada in any capacity whatever. When I used the language I did, the language which was published in the statement regarding Mr. Thomas, that we must look for inter-empire arrangements regardless of what the mother country did, I but gave voice to the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, uttered twenty-eight years before. It is true that I had not had five or six years of experience as a prime minister before doing so, as he then had; it is true also that I perhaps used blunter language, but it was more easily understood. When the right hon. gentleman yonder complains of the language I used I say this to him: I will not discuss that question beyond saying that every newspaper but one in Great Britain expressed gratitude that someone had put the issue clearly up to the people. It is only necessary to take the clippings of that day and read them in order to determine the truth of that statement. There was no talk of severing relations and even the statement made after the conference closed, in response to Mr. Thomas, was characterized as moderate and dignified by the British journals. That is all, but the right hon. leader of the opposition, in order to create a prejudice in the minds of our own people, speaks of that language as being petulant and childish. I will take the opinion of the greatest journal in the world in respect to that.

There is one other matter which remains to be considered. I have not gone into these matters in great detail, but I felt it was desirable to place before this house the circumstances which led us to take the position we did take. The right hon. gentleman said yesterday that we should not talk about preference within the empire, that anyone would think we were talking at an empire conference. I say we were talking at an empire conference, and we were talking about just what Sir Wilfrid Laurier referred to, empire preference. We did not refer to preference between Great Britain and Canada but between every part of the empire, reciprocal preference between every part, to the mutual advantage and general benefit of all. That is what we were endeavouring to do. We were not dealing with a preference as between Australia and Canada, Great Britain and Canada, or Great Britain and South Africa; we were dealing with a reciprocal preference, a British Empire preference touching every part of the empire. That is what Laurier was dealing with in 1902; that is what we were dealing with in 1930; that is what we have been endeavouring to deal with and will deal with when this conference meets here this fall, representing every part of the British Empire, for the purpose of determining whether or not the investigations which have been set in motion will result in some concrete plans being made by which we can give effect to an idea which is common alike to those who agree with us and those who do not agree with us on questions of preference and free trade, namely an empire preference. We believe that preference might be best worked out by a system of tariff preferences, but there were those who believed it might be worked out by a quota system, with reference to grain and certain other commodities. We said, let the investigations proceed in order that it may be determined to what extent this is true. That is the position to-day. And I say it ill becomes any Canadian leader of a great party, whose greatest leader adopted language similar to our own, when a conference is not yet concluded, when it only stands adjourned, when he knows that in the very nature of things I cannot go into a discussion of many of the matters which he raised yesterday, inasmuch as they are sub judice before that conference, to come here and go back upon the past of his party in order that he may find an opportunity to make an attack, wholly baseless and unwarranted, upon the method by which Canada had her case presented to that conference. I have nothing to withdraw with respect to that presentation, not a word, not a syllable, not a line. It was put in fifteen minutes—seventeen to be exact—from the time it started until it ended; and in that time we but summarised what had gone before. We said, "Twenty-eight or thirty years

is long enough to wait, and the time has come when the Canadian people will determine whether or not we shall go forward to realize the dream, the end aimed at by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1902, and others in the years before that; whether or not we shall endeavour among ourselves, regardless of the attitude of the mother country, to work out a system of preferences.

There were two or three other matters referred to yesterday upon which I think it is necessary that I should make at least a passing comment. One of them dealt with the question of what was called the attitude of mind, the atmosphere of the relations between the British government and our own. I have indicated that the language used by other parts of the empire was not different from my own, and I think the British government will receive, in no spirit of, shall I say, pleasure, the assertion made by the leader of the opposition of this country that the relations between that government and the government of Canada are other than of the most harmonious character. I know such is not the case. I know that my relations, even with the sternest and most unbending of those who were in that conference, one whose views on fiscal questions are well known, were such that my views at least compelled his acknowledged and admitted respect. And my experience with British public men has been entirely different, shall I say, from that of the right hon. gentleman opposite. I have never found them desirous of lip service, as was said by one of them at the conference. I have never seen them desiring to be the victims of flattery or of the oleaginous patronage of any one in the world. But I have seen them always anxious to have frank, plain, blunt statements made, statements which they can understand and appreciate. And if I say that my experience with them has been that our relations have been improved rather than otherwise as a result of the conference, I but state the simple truth. I should not like to have the opinion sent abroad to the four quarters of our world that these gentlemen are in any sense coming as unwilling guests to Canada at an early date. I would not have them think that the leader of the opposition voices the sentiment or the thought of the Canadian people. I should like to have it known that these gentlemen will be welcome guests of ours, and I believe my relations with them will always compare favourably with the relations of my right hon. friend with any people in the world. If there is any virtue in frankness as against circumlocution, if there is any virtue in a plain statement of the case as distinguished from flowery platitudes and rhetoric, then I have no doubt as to what the position is.

In fairness at least to one of the members of this house it is my duty to correct one misstatement. Yesterday something was said about the cattle embargo. I happened to be in the gallery when the motion in connection with the cattle embargo was made both in the House of Commons and in the Lords in London, at one time in one place and on another occasion in the other. The fact is that in 1917, when Sir Robert Borden, Mr. Rogers, Sir George Perley and Sir Douglas Hazen represented Canada at the Imperial conference, the question of the cattle embargo was taken up. Mr. Walter Long, afterwards Viscount Long of Wraxall, presided at that gathering as Secretary of State for the Colonies, and he said that Sir Robert Borden had pressed upon him the desirablility, yea, the necessity of something being done to remove this "stigma" and "slur" from Canadian cattle. Mr. Prothero, afterwards Baron Ernle, said, "Yes, we will take it off". Thereupon Mr. Rogers said—the record is here—"I think we should have a motion". Mr. Long said, "Surely you do not want a motion. However, we will put it down", and down it went. Then the war ended. They did not want to take the embargo off despite that pledge. A conference was appointed, presided over by Viscount Findlay. Mr. Tolmie, now Prime Minister of British Columbia, was really responsible for the presentation of the case—a case never more admirably presented anywhere, according to the authorities who heard it submitted. Then the claim to remove the embargo was pressed, and strange as it may sound, Mr. Prothero, then Baron Ernle, in the House of Lords said that no pledge had been given and it would be disastrous to England to remove the embargo. He took that view. Viscount Birkenhead was then chancellor, and he took a strong position with respect to that pledge. Then the Duke of Devonshire spoke and said: "All I can say is this, that the Canadian people believed, when Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Rogers returned, that the pledge meant that the word of England was given that the embargo would be taken off, and we must remove it." Then Viscount Long of Wraxall reviewed the whole case and said, "Even though it involves hardship our pledge must be kept". In the Commons the same thing transpired; and despite the fact that a desperate effort was made to prevent that embargo being taken off, the pledge was implemented. But the atmosphere was not

what one would call very nice just at that particular time. That was not any atmosphere of conciliation, as my right hon. friend calls it, whatever it may mean. It was contended that a pledge had been given and must be kept. That was the attitude of Mr. Larkin. He asked me to speak to one gentleman in particular who was opposed to that embargo, and I did. I said, "You cannot maintain your place having given a pledge such as that and not implementing it". And the gentleman who saw that it was made a pledge, upon which the decision eventually turned, is the hon. member for South Winnipeg (Mr. Rogers).

Now I have mentioned that because I think that in fairness it should be done. And it illustrates again the position. The right hon. gentleman has said that in conciliation and smooth words lies the pathway to success; and he charges that I have been guilty of coercion and of coercive methods. Well, if to state the facts frankly, if to set down one's views without malice, if to believe that words should be used to express thought and not to disguise it—if this is of value, then I can say that this is all the coercion that has been practised. One will not review the derivation of the word "coercion"; but to suggest that there has been coercion, to suggest that I have done more than Sir Wilfrid Laurier did in 1902, is entirely beside the record. The facts are there. The problem of the sale of Canada's wheat is still a problem that must be solved, if we continue to produce as we have produced; and I think it might be well to say here, as I think hon. gentlemen know, that the consuming capacity of England does not exceed 250,000,000 bushels of wheat, perhaps going as high as 275,000,000 depending upon circumstances. To say that this government or any other government can change the policy of Great Britain in favour of Canada at a time when her own people are losing £5 per acre in the production of wheat indicates a lack of understanding. One 500 acre field was pointed out to me as being the best field in Essex and the owner was losing £5 per acre in an endeavour to compete against foreign wheat. I have read the statements made by prime ministers from other parts of the empire with respect to these matters. It has been said by the right hon. leader of the opposition that we should have found a market for this wheat, and one of his supporters actually went so far as to say that if Mr. Mackenzie King and Mr. Dunning had gone to the conferences a market would have been found. That statement was made publicly.

An hon. MEMBER: That was just chaff.

Mr. BENNETT: It was not chaff, it was deception. I hope there will be ample opportunity for the hon. gentleman's mutterings to find expression.

One other charge has been levelled against us, and that is that the prestige of this country has been adversely affected by the attitude taken by Canada last fall. If the opinion of those best able to express an opinion is considered, it never stood higher than it is to-day. I take no credit to myself with respect to that, but I think it is realized, as it was in connection with the embargo, that the Canadian people have made up their minds that thirty years is long enough to wait and that if we cannot arrive at a solution we will have to look elsewhere.

The amendment is directed largely to that particular point, but I will not say more with respect to it than to say that a group of Canadians elected by their fellow citizens are endeavouring to implement the pledges given to the Canadian people that gave them power. That cannot be done in eight months. It never was suggested that it would be. Effect will continue to be given to their convictions with respect to those pledges. We are not unmindful of the fact that recourse is being had to the old time-honored policy of hon. gentlemen opposite, to create distrust and suspicion on the part of the people based upon their geographical location. They are going to and fro talking about the big interests and raising trouble, prejudices and difficulties. I do not think the Canadian people will be deceived any longer in that way. Mr. J. G. Gardiner, who is no longer leader of a Liberal government in Saskatchewan, on Wednesday, March 19, 1926, expressed himself before the United Farmers of Manitoba as follows:

> The most harmful slogan ever introduced into the consideration of western public matters was the cry, "down with eastern vested interests," which has developed into an attempt to organize the east against the west and the west against the east. Members of the party to which I belong, in the past were responsible for the introduction of that cry, and I pledged myself as a leader of that party to put forth every effort to remove from the appeals of the organization to which I belong, any such unworthy sentiment.

I have quoted from a verbatim report of a speech delivered at the annual banquet of the United Farmers of Manitoba and which appeared in the Regina Leader on Wednesday, March 10, 1926. He stated as Premier of Saskatchewan that the party to which he belonged in the past were responsible for the introduction of that cry. I ask hon. gentlemen opposite to consider that statement in view of the appeals to prejudices and passions

which are now being made and the suggestions being put forth that this government is dominated by the large interests. Canadians have endeavoured to develop the great resources which have been placed in their trust and they have demanded that they be given an equal opportunity with other peoples in other countries to develop their resources as have other countries and that they should have the fair competition to which they are entitled if it is within the power of any government to grant such fairness in competition.

In connection with agriculture I do not intend to say more than that we took such action as to prevent a panic in connection with wheat, an action which I think any government would have taken had it been seized with a thorough appreciation of the seriousness of the condition then existing. That action had the result at least of saving the situation at the moment. I can only say that whatever may be necessary for the purpose of enabling agriculture to be placed upon a firm and stable basis, we will do, but no man who has followed the history of world movements during these last eighteen months can fail to understand that the failure to appreciate what was coming had been responsible for what is. The right hon. gentleman mentioned yesterday the necessity for study and deliberation, and I have read in the Liberal press the statement that he did not decide quickly but, oh, so deeply. It was said that he looked into the future, but let me give you two or three illustrations. He made a treaty with Australia and it was only by a modus vivendi that we have been able to save the dairy industry of Canada from being put into the position it was during the old regime. The same thing was done with New Zealand through an order in council, and he then said: How could we know that it would come out in this way? What happened? He gave notice of the termination of the treaty and trade agreement. The relations between New Zealand and Canada are at present so strained that it is difficult to understand their being worse. By the treaty made by order in council he created a channel of trade and the people of New Zealand became accustomed to following that channel. We purchased 50,000,000 pounds of butter from New Zealand during last year when a few years before we had purchased none. This channel of trade was suddenly terminated with the result that a new channel had to be found by that country. It would have been better had New Zealand not had that market at all than to have had happen what did happen. That is an example

of vision, foresight and statecraft which in anybody else would be considered as most reprehensible.

Then consider the treaty with France and how its provisions touch the lives of the people of this country. As the right hon. gentleman said yesterday, both Italy and France have been raising their tariffs against Canadian wheat higher and higher, but we cannot do anything, we have to be satisfied with the minimum under the treaties.

I turn now to another point. He asked why we passed legislation here dealing as we did with the old country tariff preferences before we went to the Imperial conference. I will tell the house why we did it, and every businessman knows why we did it. Does anyone suppose we were going over to England with those tariffs as they stood, to try to make a bargain or deal of any kind? Everybody knew we could not do that, but we did what the late James Robb tried to do and could not. As will be remembered he tried to raise the duty before the Australian treaty was put through, but he could not accomplish this because some of his party would not let him. He had not a majority, but we had and were able to do it. My hon. friends opposite have no trouble in understanding that.

Lastly, we were told that we should not be bargaining at an Imperial conference. Almost two breaths later, however, my right hon. friend referred to the Argentine republic. What is the situation there? A bargain was made by the British ambassador and a trade mission whereby Argentina is to deliver to Great Britain so many bushels of wheat in return for so much manufactured goods, and figures are given as to the kind of goods. That is the only kind of bargaining you will ever be able to make them understand, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer told me he personally went to the banks in connection with the necessary credit.

Mr. DONNELLY: They are selling their wheat.

Mr. BENNETT: At what price?

Mr. DONNELLY: Better than ours.

Mr. BENNETT: No. I hope the hon. gentleman knows better than that. As a matter of fact, our wheat sales in Great Britain as I said, are 25,000,000 bushels more than they were last year.

Mr. DONNELLY: They are giving it away.

Mr. BENNETT: If that be so, Russia is paying a bonus for purchasers to take it.

May I point out that bargaining has been the basis of all British agreements. Are there any members present who recall Cobden's agreement with France, that treaty after the repeal of the Corn Laws. Read the life of Cobden and the difficulty in connection with that. Take our present treaty with France; all treaties that are of any value mean bargain, bargain, bargain. Those who have no interest beyond the academic in these matters always denounce the actions of practical men. We are a practical government, and under those circumstances we propose to continue to make bargains. We have been negotiating bargains with other parts of the empire and will continue to do so as occasion offers.

I have trespassed upon the time of the house much longer than I had expected to do when I rose to my feet, but I can only reiterate that I am conscious of no neglect of my duties to the cause of Canada, and I certainly have as great a love of empire as hon. gentlemen opposite. I do not propose for a single moment to depart from the general principles that have governed us in dealing with the economic problems of Canada at the Imperial conference that will meet at an adjourned session in this city during the succeeding months.

One word more. The right hon. gentleman opposite has suggested that we might endeavour to drive legislation through with undue haste, and he warns us that we shall not be able to do so. We welcome that, for the fuller the discussion of any measures, the better they will be; but I will say we do not propose to listen to any vaudeville effusions such as we had last session from the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young). An intelligent discussion is one thing; but the discussions that then took place were merely endeavours to wear out the patience of the minister in charge, and I think most of the hon. gentleman's friends held the same view.

I am deeply grateful to the house for having listened with such patience and I can only add we are conscious of no neglect of duty, no failure in our devotion to the cause of Canada and the empire in every thing that has been done. Guided by that thought and sustained and inspired by the support of an intelligent electorate which has rallied round us in the past and will do so in the future, we shall go forward and discharge the duties that have devolved upon us.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, under the rules of the house only the Prime Minister and the leader of the official opposition have the opportunity of speaking for more than forty minutes. Under this handicap may I be forgiven by the previous speakers if I refer only incidentally to their speeches and confine myself very largely to stating our own position. There is, perhaps, some difficulty in the atmosphere of Ottawa in maintaining the sense of the over-shadowing importance of the needs of the labouring men and farmers whom we represent. Ottawa is interested in the fortunes of the Conservative and Liberal parties, interested in the social functions connected with the opening of the house; interested in the coming of the new Governor General; interested in the prospective visit of the King of Siam; interested in the gossip connected with the new plenipotentiary and envoy extraordinary to the United States. May I venture to read the headlines on the front page of the Manitoba Free Press issued the day I left Winnipeg, February 26. This will perhaps bring us back to realities:

> Police wield batons on paraders' heads to quell disorder—Exciting clashes mark procession of 4,000 unemployed and communists—Minor clashes mark jobless gathering—Dominion-wide unemployment demonstrations checked by police—Unemployment relief problem is grappled with by legislation—Bracken's bill to ratify projects to aid workless gets third reading—Time wealthy were fully aware of present situation, declares Haig—Russia makes trade proposal to Canada—United Farmers of Canada convention moves last barrier to political action—by overwhelming vote, delegates wipe out ruling objecting to political alliances—Charter of liberty, with exception of threat of secession, is adopted.

I turn to an inside page and I read: "Sixteen nations agree to buy European wheat stocks." This really means that Europe is isolating herself as far as possible from America. Another heading relates to the closing of Brandon college:

> At the regular chapel exercises at Brandon college, Doctor J. R. C. Evans referred to the recent press announcement regarding the inability of the Baptist union to finance the college until the close of the current academic year.

No finances! Still another heading:

> Brookland's schools are to be closed—Compulsory holiday for children is caused by lack of finances.

Brooklands, I may say, is a suburb of the city of Winnipeg, and these school children are being thrown on the streets because the teachers cannot be paid.

In order to understand what this unemployment means in actual cash, may I quote the figures from the last report on unemployment

in my own city? It shows the number of single men unemployed as 4,148, and that the cost of relief for each single man in December averaged $22.82, making a total of $94,657 a month. The married men numbered 2,325, and the average cost for each was $37.57, making a monthly cost of $87,370. The total monthly cost of unemployment in Winnipeg just now is therefore at the rate of approximately $182,000 a month, of which the city itself pays $69,000 a month. I have said that that represents the financial cost. I do not think that anyone could begin to picture the moral degradation and the mental hardships that are involved in such figures as those.

I come east and I find that at least the financial papers, and, indeed, most of the daily papers are not recognizing the existence of any very great depression. I find in the Montreal Standard, for instance, of January 3, that although the dividend payments to be distributed are somewhat less than the amount distributed last year, they still amount to $21,557,937, and that there are certain large corporations which are paying bonuses in addition. For instance, there is a bonus of $5 by the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company, and so on. I turn to another corporation as an illustration. The last annual report of Montreal Light, Heat and Power Consolidated, shows a gross revenue for 1930 of $23,484,079.70, and expenses of $11,401,894.62, leaving a net revenue of $12,082,185.08. The expenses, including Sir Herbert Holt's salary, and so forth, make up only 48 per cent of the receipts, and to the absentee owners goes the remaining 52 per cent. One might almost conclude that everything was lovely in the city of Montreal and in the east generally, and yet I think that there is another aspect even to that, for I find this statement in the joint Christmas appeal made by the Royal Edward institute and the Bruchesi institute:

> A much larger amount will be necessary this year in order to cope with the great increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis which are already showing, and which are due—

Mark this—

> —to the privations consequent upon the unemployment situation throughout the year.

Again in the Montreal Daily Star, which cannot be accused of being a Socialist paper, I find running in January a series of advertisements by the Advertising Club of Montreal, sponsored by such well-known firms as Case Limited, Dunfields Limited, Dupuis Freres Limitee, Fit-Reform Wardrobe, Henry Marks, John Henderson & Company, Max Beauvais Limited, James A. Ogilvy Limited, Riley Hern Inc., R. J. Tooke Limited, the Robert Simpson Company, Montreal, Limited. The advertisements are appropriately illustrated with cartoons, and I find in one advertisement the statement, beside the picture of a labouring man, that his wages will buy food, but not clothes. It says:

> Dozens of men are working for wages which will provide only the bare essentials for themselves and their families. Their earnings will not permit the purchase of necessary clothing. Help a needy fellow-citizen through the rigours of a Montreal winter. Buy a smart new suit yourself and donate your old one to some needy man. Such a kindly act may keep his wife and family from actual hardship and suffering this winter.

In view of such advertisements as that, I must say that I am not very enthusiastic over the statement in the speech from the throne that:

> In prosperity they (the Canadian people) were united. In adversity that union is made still stronger by the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which is the surest bulwark of the national welfare and happiness.

Is that the cooperation which is intended? I read another advertisement from the same source:

> Here's the sort of philanthropy you've dreamed about—the sort that will cost you next to nothing. It will increase your self-respect in more ways than one—and it may mean a job for an unemployed man—at least it will keep him warm. Buy yourself a new suit—give your old suit to the unemployed. What you discard is a luxury to the man in tatters. It will increase his self-respect too. Think of the chap who has to shovel snow to tide him over to the next job in his trade.

Such is the situation in the financial capital of Canada.

In spite of what the Prime Minister or the leader of the opposition may say, the present depression is due largely to causes that are world-wide in character, many of us believe to the evils inherent in the present system of competition. I think that ought to be frankly recognized, and there is very little that can be done by the Prime Minister along the lines that he has suggested that will alleviate the trouble to any great extent. In corroboration of that statement, I should like to read a paragraph or two from a recent paper published by the Carnegie Foundation, entitled "Studies in World Economy." This paper is by a very well-known authority, a former Canadian, Professor James T. Shotwell. He says:

> The outstanding fact at the present time is that, owing to the fact that all nations are suffering similarly from the same economic depression, the questioning of the nature of business itself is for the first time in history taking place on all sides of every political frontier. There is no doubt but that every part of the civilized world is affected by the maladjustments in the process which produces

and distributes the world's supply of goods. Among bankers there is a preoccupation with the frozen credits of crippled industry and the price and movement of gold or silver. In agricultural sections, there is at the same time starvation and over-production of food. In the industrial world, consumption fails to keep pace with the capacity for mass production, but without any lessening of fundamental needs. So deep is the cleavage between the production of wealth and the capacity for its absorption that the criticisms of to-day are as wide as the sweep of world trade and as far-reaching as the capitalist system itself.

Again he says, and I hope that the very few members now present on the government side of the house will pay some attention to these words of Professor Shotwell:

The bigger the business, and the more it is organized according to sound principles and not dependent upon the temporary support which tariffs yield by a tax upon the consumers either here or abroad, the more it must look toward increasing that democratization of wealth which enables the common man to buy the goods which he produces. Wages must be increased, not to some limited point which the experience of the past assigns, but proportionately with the development of industry itself.

Let me quote another very striking statement which was made recently (January 14) by George Soule on behalf of the editors of The New Republic, after they had very deliberately considered the whole situation:

To-day there are in the United States, according to the census director, something like nine million men out of work; our cities are scenes of privation and misery on a scale which sickens the imagination; our agricultural life is bankrupt; our industry, in shifting to the south, has returned almost to the horrible conditions of the English factories of a hundred years ago and the fight of the unions there for recognition is all to begin again; so many banks are failing that the newspapers do not dare to print the truth about them. And when we look to Europe, west of Russia, or to South America, we see only the same economic chaos, the same lack of will or capacity to deal with it and the same resultant poverty and suffering. May we not well fear that what this year has broken down is not simply the machinery of representative government, but the capitalist system itself?—and that, even with the best will in the world, it may be impossible for capitalism to guarantee not merely social justice but even security and order? May we not fear lest our American society—may not eventually collapse—as ignominiously as the feudal regime of Russia or France?

And if there is anything that would make one fear this danger in Canada it would be the speeches to which we have listened so far in this debate, in which there has been not one scintilla of hope, nothing to show that either the leader of the opposition or the Prime Minister is aware of the seriousness of the situation or is prepared to offer anything constructive in the way of remedy.

Again may I quote another very important article which has recently appeared in Harpers' Magazine for November, last entitled "The Enemy of Prosperity—Overproduction." In this article Stuart Chase, a prominent writer on economics, calls attention to the fact that under present conditions the better we do things the worse off we are; the more potential goods with which we are capable of blessing mankind, the worse off is mankind. He shows that the United States has kept its nose above water until the present depression because of its enormous home market, its prodigious natural resources, its mounting population curve, its automobile industry which created 4,000,000 jobs, its installment selling, and its policy of the economy of high wages. But he goes on to point out that even in the automobile industry the new market has largely given way to a replacement market. He shows that in boots and shoes the United States is capable of producing three times the volume that the people can now buy. I should like to ask the Prime Minister, when all the Canadian woollen factories are set up and begin to produce where they are going to sell their output. Mr. Chase points out that the coal mines of the United States can produce 750,000,000 tons and the market can absorb only 500,000,000 and so on. There are to-day too many oil wells, too many refineries, a multiplicity of filling stations. Each individual in business goes ahead and expands as he sees fit, unaware that the demand of which he is conscious is only a temporary demand.

Mr. Chase continues:

It has been proposed that we sell our surplus abroad. Unfortunately this has also been proposed in all other nations, many with the same kind of exportable surplus. Doubly unfortunately, all follow, or propose shortly to follow, our spirited lead in penalizing imports by a tariff wall as high as the tower of Babel.

And our present government is among those nations. Let me quote this concluding paragraph, and it is significant from a man of the standing of Mr. Chase:

In Russia they build no more shoe factories than are necessary to supply Russians with shoes. The Kremlin is attempting scientifically to articulate supply to demand, and the results so far under the five-year plan have given the whole world pause. Our ways are not Russian ways, but have we less in the way of brains, human wisdom and human foresight? I am enough of a patriot to doubt it. But I am cursed with sufficient prophetic sense to be profoundly sure that if we do not embark upon a program of industrial coordination after our own fashion, and that shortly, we shall be driven some day, after God knows what suffering and bloodshed, to the Russian

formula. The challenge presented by overproduction in the age of a billion horse-power is, to my mind, just as ominous as that.

As I think of the tariff increases and the extremes in policy and promises to which the Prime Minister has been driven, I am reminded of the characterization of the right hon. gentleman by a man in my own city of Winnipeg. He said: "Mr. Bennett is trying to persuade us we can all sit in to a game of poker and all make money."

Now, I have tried to suggest that our problems are simply part of world problems. That should be clearly understood, for our problems can be solved only as we cooperate in the solution of world problems. I propose very hurriedly to try and give my analysis of the situation in the west, for whether we are labour men or business men or farmers, we are all interested in the western wheat situation. The west is largely dependent on agriculture. There has been a tendency to blame and threaten the pool. In a pamphlet which has been widely quoted, and which would seem almost as if it had been inspired, Mr. Sydney S. Gampell made this statement:

> If the pool desire to continue the tactics of recent years, the Canadian bankers, who know what business is, will not permit them.

The emphasis on the division between the east and the west has been deprecated by the Prime Minister. It is such statements and such threats from the banks and the lack of understanding they display that are responsible for any ill-feeling between the east and the west. I have no time, nor is it necessary, to enter into a defence of the wheat pool, but let me make just two or three remarks with respect to it. The pool has been censured for its large carry over. For the five-year period 1925-26 to 1929-30 the pool marketed an average of 51.4 per cent of the Canadian crop and carried over 43.6 per cent of the total carry over. The pool's carry over was not proportionately as large as that of the other agencies. Further, the pool has been criticized for "withholding" for a higher price. Let me say there was no such criticism at the time. The Grain Trade News as late as November 30, 1929, said:

> Prices have risen considerably and appear likely to maintain their position.

Of course, hind sight is a great deal better than foresight, and the pool may have been to blame, but I am suggesting that if so the pool is not the only one to blame. Again, as to the attempt to maintain prices by regulating sales, even the Prime Minister says one of the great objects of his government is to maintain orderly marketing. The pool itself points out some of the world factors that enter into the situation:

(1) The tremendous world wheat production of 1928, amounting to over 450 million bushels more than the average world production for the five-year period 1923-27, during which year also, Europe alone harvested 171 million bushels more than for the same five-year period.

(2) A second record European crop in 1929 amounting to 175 million bushels more than the European average for 1923-27 and making a total above-average production for Europe alone in those two years of 346 million bushels.

(3) A consequent reduction in European imports in 1929-30, to 490 millions, or a reduction of 143 millions from the 633 million average of the five-year period 1923-27.

(4) Gradual growth of unemployment in Europe as a result of the restriction of United States credit and further development of post-war conditions.

(5) The financial crash in United States stock markets, which affected values the world over and announced the present period of world-wide economic depression.

(6) The remarkable uprearing of European tariffs against imported grains, as a consequence of abundant European supplies and political effort to support European agriculture, as well as to create favourable balances of trade.

Now, what is the present situation in the west? Again let me just give in the very barest outline possible what seem to me to be some of the main factors. Take the tremendous drop in wheat prices from January, 1930, of $1.39 a bushel to the November, 1930 price of 60 cents. What does this mean to the west and to Canada? Wheat and wheat flour comprise 36.2 per cent of the total value of Canadian exports for the fiscal year 1929. It has been put in this way: The earning power of an acre of wheat in Saskatchewan was $20.40 in 1925 while in 1930, six years later, it was only $6.92. The Winnipeg Free Press has been carrying a series of articles which I would commend to eastern readers. I should like to give only two statements which summarize their findings. For six million bushels more delivered this year the valuation is well over $113,000,000 less. And again: In three months of the year 1930 we exported over 40,000,000 bushels of wheat and flour more than we exported during the same three months in 1929, but we received only $7,000,000 more in return. Again: The buying power of the western farmer has been more than cut in two. This next statement is of interest to the east as well as to the west: Canada, as stated by the Manitoba Free Press, December 6, 1930, has suffered a loss of $51,000,000 on the export of approximately 25 per cent of her surplus wheat, on the basis of last year's values.

What are the solutions that have been offered? Mr. E. W. Beatty comes forward

with the suggestion of an agricultural credit corporation. This is the same Mr. Beatty who has been urging us to increase our acreage and to bring in more immigrants. I should like to ask just a few questions, since I have not time to discuss the matter in detail. If it is necessary to have a $5,000,000 credit corporation, what is wrong with the present banking system? It seems to me this is the greatest indictment that has been made as yet against the banking system of Canada, when conditions are such that even the Minister of Agriculture is quoted as saying in Montreal, on February 16:

> Farmers with gilt-edged securities cannot get credit from financial institutions, even for buying steers to feed for a market for their coarse grains.

When that is true it is easily understood that there is a need for some other institution. I say this is a very serious indictment of our present banking monopoly.

Again I ask, why should this corporation be privately owned? How far would $5,000,000 really go in setting us up in the west? Where are the markets for all the butter and eggs and coarse grains that we produce? Recently in many parts of the west eggs have been selling for 10 cents a dozen for fresh firsts. My hon. friend from Bow River (Mr. Garland) says they have sold for eight cents. I am speaking of the areas near the larger centres, while my hon. friend is from farther west. In addition to that, although we boast of our fine agricultural lands, almost half our entire wheat acreage in the west—the Winnipeg Free Press puts it at 11,000,000 acres out of a total of some 24,000,000 acres—is wholly unsuitable for mixed farming.

What are we going to do with that acreage? The Minister of Agriculture and also Mr. John I. McFarland, the general manager of the pool selling agency, urge a decreased acreage, but I would like to ask these gentlemen how far we should decrease. Should we go only to the limit of our own needs? If so, what would that mean? The western wheat field, in the twenty-five years since 1905, has grown from less than 5,000,000 acres to over 24,000,000 acres. What are we to do with all the surplus wheat land? Let me read an extract from one of the articles which appeared in the Manitoba Free Press:

> ...five million five hundred thousand acres would be ample to produce all the wheat Canada's present population could dispose of as bread, feed for stock, seed, and reasonable carry over. On the basis of the seeded area of 1930, which was 23,960,000 acres, this would leave over 18,000,000 acres of wheat land to be put to other uses.

What are we to do? Some of the farmers have suggested fixed wheat prices, pegged wheat prices, and so on, and probably these matters will be discussed this session. On the face of it I would say that if other industries are to be bonused and helped in one way and another there is no reason why agriculture should not be helped also, but I do not regard that as an economic or permanent solution.

Further than that, we are told that we should have new markets. Where are they to be found? Let me point out that this is in line with something the Prime Minister said, but I do not think the figures are just the same. The British consumption of imported wheat is only about 190,000,000 bushels, while the Canadian surplus is 250,000,000 bushels and the Australian surplus is 100,000,000 bushels, a total surplus of 350,000,000 bushels of wheat. Where are we to dispose of that surplus unless we go outside the empire? We are told that we should have cheaper production. I suppose with careful organization we could put in more mechanization, but possibly that would lead to the production of even more wheat. I think the simpler way would be to cut down the cost of production, and to that I should like to refer again. But as soon as we suggest that, we are up against the fact that the present government is determined to increase the costs of production by way of a higher tariff.

There is also the question of lower freight rates, to which I shall refer later, but there again we are confronted by great obstacles. To conclude this brief review I would urge upon this house that the trouble is that the western farmers are really up against the proposition of world over-production. That is, they are producing more wheat than there is a market for at the present time or that there is purchasing power to buy. I should like to give two authorities on that point. An estimate by the Bristol Corn Trade Association places the exportable world surplus of wheat for the grain year ending July 1 last at 1,224,000,000 bushels and the total requirements of wheat importing countries of the world at 752,000,000 bushels. The National City Bank of New York, in a bulletin of December, 1930, places the crops for 1930-31 of the United States, Canada, Argentine and Australia at 1,831,000,000 bushels; the carry over at 496,000,000 bushels, making a total supply of 2,327,000,000 bushels, while the net imports of twenty European countries will amount only to from 580,000,000 to 650,000,000 bushels.

What does this mean? If it is a world condition there must be some sort of world

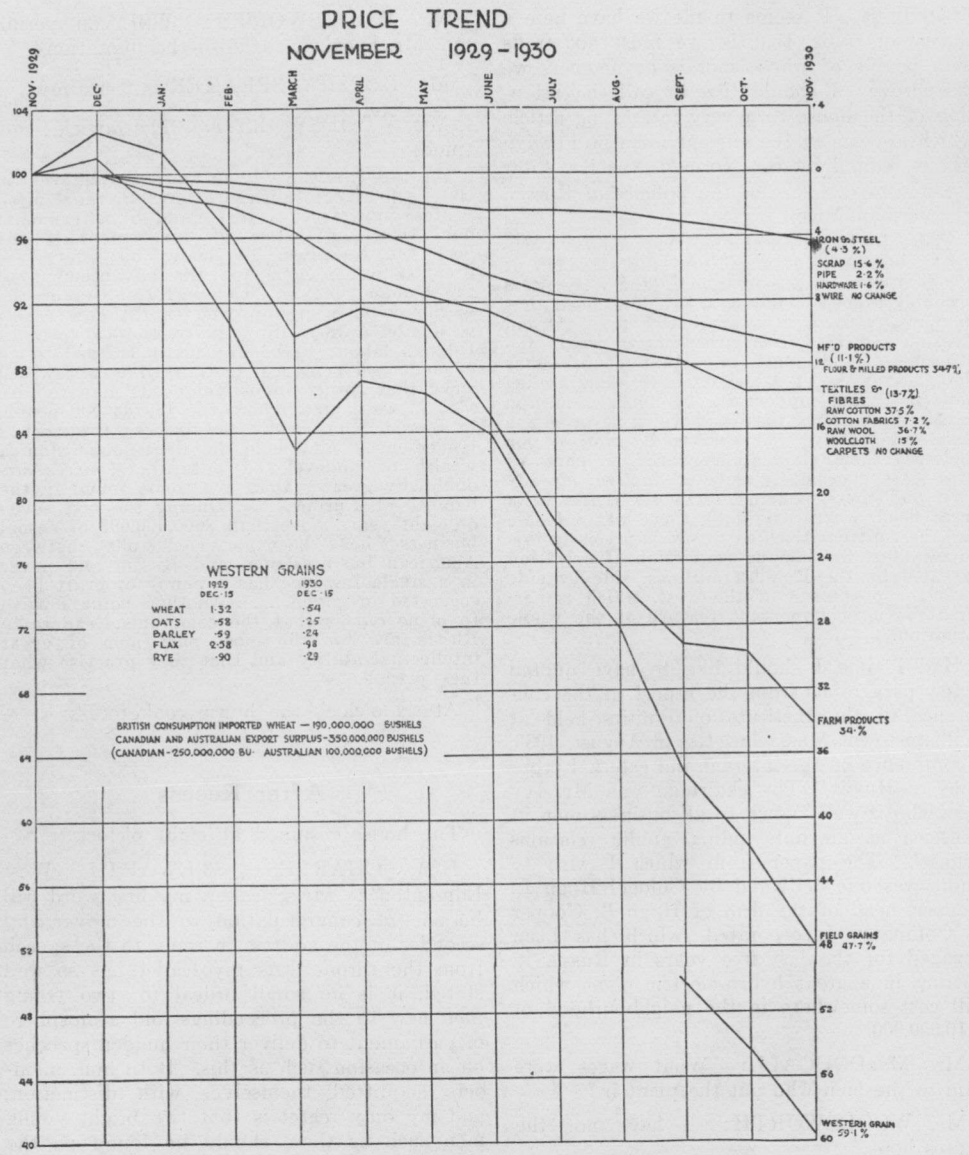
solution. That may involve a world pool; it may involve an international agreement, but as soon as we come to this the government begins to say it will not have any dealings with certain great exporting countries. I urge, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot leave Russia or the Argentine or Australia out of this matter. We must take them all into consideration before we can solve this problem. Some of us believe that before it is solved we will require an entire change in our economic system, but since the government of the day revolts at anything like an international or socialist solution I would say the next most promising policy in a competitive economy is that of lower costs of production. If we are bound to maintain this cut-throat method of doing things, we in the west will have to lower our costs in order to compete with the Argentine and Russia.

What will that mean? Remember, I am putting this as an alternative policy. If the government refuses to allow us to adopt an international arrangement as a solution they will have to face some such program as this: First, lower freight rates. Why not cut the freight rates down? Let me say that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has done fairly well during the last few years. I have under my hand the figures showing how that company and its subsidiaries have been prospering. We are all more or less familiar with the facts. The Board of Railway Commissioners allows them a profit of 10 per cent, 7 per cent on their actual railway operations and 3 per cent on the other operations. Why not cut that 10 per cent in two? I cannot for the life of me see why a great corporation such as the Canadian Pacific Railway Company should be practically guaranteed ten per cent, while many a farmer is not only not making one per cent but is actually running in the hole every year. Of course, Mr. Beatty immediately comes forward and resents anything like governmental interference. Let me say that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and similar corporations owe their very existence to governmental interference, and the sooner they realize that the better. Why not cut interest charges in two, or at any rate substantially reduce them?

The annual statements of the banks show, notwithstanding all the reserves they have, that they have been getting along tolerably well, and this monopoly which the government is granting to them enables them to make not only the profits that are shown in their balance sheets but to secure a great many other financial advantages that go to the directors through the system of interlocking directorates which have been established. If there is any constitutional difficulty in introducing legislation which will be effective in reducing interest rates I would suggest that the Finance department could itself go into the money market under our own present legislation and thus effect a lower interest rate.

Then again the cost of living should be cut down. I have under my hand a very interesting graph which was published in some of the farm papers, and which with the consent of the house I should like to have placed on Hansard. It shows the trend of prices from November, 1929, to November, 1930. Iron and steel has declined only 4·3 per cent. Hardware, which is something we all use, only 1·6 per cent. Farm products as a whole have come down 34 per cent, while western grains show a decline of 59 per cent. I suggest that this great discrepancy in price between manufactured goods and agricultural products should in some way or other be reduced. Either you have to lower the cost of living to the farmer or raise the price of grain to him. That is the problem with which we are faced to-day. If you do not do this we are faced with the ruin of agriculture in the west.

The graph follows:



I wish I had time to go into a question which is of very great interest to me, namely, the ban which has been placed upon Russian imports. It is not so much the order in council even that I object to as the statement which accompanied that order in council:

> The government is convinced that there is forced labour in the cutting and transport of timber, and the mining of coal, that political prisoners are exploited, that the standard of living is below any level conceived of in Canada, and that, broadly speaking, all employment is in control of the Communist government which regulates all conditions of work and seeks to impose its will upon the whole world. This is communism, its creed and its fruits, which we as a country oppose and must refuse to support by interchange of trade.

I regard that as an absolutely gratuitous insult. The charges with regard to the mining of coal have not been proven. It is stated that political prisoners are exploited. What about political prisoners in Italy? It is stated that the standard of living in Soviet Russia is low. I will admit that, but it is higher than that under the Czarist regime and higher than the standard of living in China

or in India. It seems to me we have here a theory of trade, that is, we must not trade with people of whose morals or manners we disapprove. I should like to call the attention of the house to a very interesting article which appears in the current issue of Foreign Affairs, edited by Sir Norman Angell. After a criticism of many of the policies of Russia, Sir Norman Angell says:

> The experiment on the material side is working. This does not mean that the standard of life is higher in Russia than in the west—it is probably a good deal lower. It does mean that in many respects it is far better than the old Russian standard, has prospects of great improvement, and—most important of all—that the great mass of Russians have come to believe in it and support it. A hundred million peasants are seeing that land which never in the past adequately fed, warmed, clothed or sheltered them, suddenly rendered, in parts of it at least, enormously more productive; already here and there pouring forth its fruits in a great flood, where originally there was a feeble and intermittent trickle. . . It is precisely this hopefulness, the blazing conviction of salvation revealed by the Russian millions, side by side with the pessimism of the west, which is perhaps the most important feature of the whole situation.

Had I time I should like to have quoted a few paragraphs from the report of the conference of the Institute of Politics held at Williamstown, Massachusetts, in August, 1930, a conference on the internal and external problems of Russia. The chairman was Mr. Ivy Lee, who is well known to all business men in America as an outstanding public relations counsel. The paper from which I wish to quote was one delivered by Colonel Hugh L. Cooper, head of the firm of Hugh L. Cooper & Company, Incorporated, which has been engaged for the last five years in Russia in putting in a great hydro-electric plant which will cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of $110,000,000.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: What wages were paid to the men who put the plant in?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I have not the figures here.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: You would not make the statement if you had.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, I would. Colonel Cooper states:

> At the outset, let me impress on you that I do not believe in the dogmas of communism, socialism, fascism, or any other "ism" opposed to good American common sense-ism, or that omits recognition of the fundamental laws of human psychology.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but I am informed that his time is up.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Will you permit me, Mr. Speaker, to finish the quotation?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Certainly.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The article continues:

> On the contrary, I am a firm believer in the form of capitalism we have in the United States, imperfect as it is, and I believe that our American system of government is the best yet conceived by man and offers the greatest world hope for the advancement of the human race. . . . the performances of the workmen have so improved that there is now no doubt in my mind as to the capacity of Russian labour to be eventually trained to an efficient performance in any line of skilled work that future industrial needs may require . . . . . we cannot ignore the 150,000,000 people in Russia, who occupy one-sixth of the world's landed area and hold in their possession a wealth of undeveloped natural resources undoubtedly greater than are to be found in the balance of Europe. . . . During the last seven or eight years more than $600,000,000 of actual business has been carried out between American business men and Russia and never in a single instance has a penny of graft been suggested or given. . . . Another point I wish to bring out is that the communist leaders in Russia are for the most part men of great intellectual ability and that they practise what they preach.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (West Edmonton): Mr. Speaker, my first word will be one of congratulation to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. As my leader has so well stated, it is no small ordeal for two young men new to the proceedings and atmosphere of parliament to deliver their maiden speeches on an occasion such as this. Both hon. members acquitted themselves with distinction, and my only regret is that two bright young men such as these should be found on the other side of the house. Having only forty minutes in which to say the few things that one feels called upon to say, one must of necessity spend but a very short time upon the preliminaries.

The speech from the throne was no surprise to hon. members on this side of the house. Yesterday my hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) discussed the speech at some length and covered most of the points arising out of the statements it contains. He made very plain the position of the Liberal party with respect to the speech, as well as with respect to the performance of the government

which has now been in office for some eight months. The reply made to-day by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) was not quite so lengthy, but I could not help thinking that when he occupied the office of leader of the opposition he was very much happier and much more effective than he was this afternoon. I have had the pleasure of his acquaintance for a good many years and I have heard him make some very brilliant speeches, but I am bound to say that the defence he offered for the actions of his government was not up to the calibre of the speeches he has delivered in former days.

He said that my leader had accused him of conducting a one-man government and in reply stated that if it were a one-man government he would have a great deal of support behind him. We know that, and undoubtedly it will be impressed upon us further before this session concludes. We have no hope of making any impression upon the gentlemen who support the Prime Minister; they will vote for him upon any and every occasion; our only hope is that when the time comes the people of this country will give him the kind of answer he will deserve unless he changes his legislative program very materially during the next two or three years.

He blames the Liberal government for many of his difficulties. Why should he blame that government? Did not our friends tell the electors from one end of this country to the other that if they were put into office they would immediately cure the situation or would perish in the attempt? Why blame the Liberal government for any of the troubles which they have inherited? The Prime Minister at the time of his appeal to the electorate of this country was the most prolific promiser Canada has ever seen. The record appears in every province in Canada of his having promised something to every individual whom he thought he could change by his persuasive tactics. Promises were made as to what he would dole out to them if they were good enough to support him and put him in office. I cannot see where my right hon. friend has any complaint on that score.

Then he complains that he has inherited unemployment, but he told every elector in Canada that if he were put into office he would cure unemployment,. that the remedies he would apply would bring about immediate results. We have been patient and have waited for some time—I think we can be lenient and say we are willing to wait a little longer—but if he continues to impose increased duties then the cure of unemployment will be long in the future.

He complained that the Liberal government collected $100,000,000 by way of taxation more than they should have. The right hon. gentleman and his supporters cannot and never have been able to understand how taxation can be reduced and yet more revenue be obtained, but that is exactly what the Liberal government did between 1924 and 1930. How could we be taking more money out of the pockets of the individual taxpayer if we were reducing the levy upon him every year? It was due to the policies inaugurated by the Liberal government that the people from one end of the country to the other were enabled to pay their taxes and greater returns were obtained from business because of the buoyant conditions. I do not think I need to spend very much time in discussing this phase of the subject.

Then the right hon. gentleman spoke about the embargo on Russian coal and sought to imply that we had taken similar action when we ordered the trade envoys out of Canada because they were circulating literature which we thought was not in the best interests of the Canadian people. Did we at any time place an embargo upon trade with Russia? Never. I do not intend to voice any complaint with regard to this embargo, because the responsibility rests upon the shoulders of the right hon. gentleman and his followers. If in their wisdom they think it is a good thing to shut out trade from Russia, China or India, that is their business. They are adepts at that sort of thing; my hon. friend the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) is doing it almost every day, not only against Russia but against many other countries. That action is taken whenever it is thought that such trade infringes upon the manufacturing industries of this country.

My right hon. friend said that the importation of Russian coal was shutting out the importation of British anthracite coal. Surely he is acquainted with the returns with respect to the importation into Canada of British coal. He knows that but a few years ago only about 10,000 tons of British coal came into Canada, and he knows that the government which preceded his used its best endeavours to encourage the importation of British coal. With what result? We began with 10,000 tons and last year almost 900,000 tons were imported. I hope my right hon. friend is correct when he says that this year nearly 1,000,000 tons of British coal will come

into Canada. I hope we will continue to import all the British anthracite coal that they can supply for our needs. By no manner of means did the 150,000 tons or 200,000 tons of Russian coal interfere with the imports of British anthracite. All it did was to displace a certain tonnage of the American product. My right hon. friend cannot claim that one ton of Russian coal displaced a similar amount of the imports from Britain.

Then he adroitly attempted to get under the mantle of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In 1902 Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced the British preference.

An hon. MEMBER: No, 1897.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): In 1897. When the British preference was first introduced it was not upon the basis of bargaining, it was a free will offer in the hope that it would benefit Canada. Anyone who contended that he had not the interest of Canada at heart when he was making the agreements with Great Britain and the other overseas dominions would be stating something that is not true. We are all for Canada first.

An hon. MEMBER: No, no.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The adoption of that slogan by my hon. friends during the last election was an endeavour on their part to appropriate to themselves a slogan which never belonged to them in the slightest degree. They succeeded in making the people of Canada believe that. For the first time during the forty years I have been engaged in public life and taking part in election campaigns, they were willing to admit that they had a slight love for Canada in preference even to the mother country. They were always the party of loyalty, they were always the party that stood up in defence of the empire. But on this occasion, "Canada first" was the slogan; all others came second. What would have been said of my leader and his followers, what would have been the tirade hurled against them by hon. gentlemen opposite had they taken that position? But the fact remains that any trade arrangement we make, I care not with whom, must always have as its first proviso the ample protection of our interests. Never was anything else thought of by the government of Sir Robert Borden, by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, by all the governments which have preceded the one that is in office to-day, than that Canada's interests should be fully protected.

My right hon. friend cannot claim that he is going to don the mantle of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and in a moment or two I shall explain why. He stated that all the overseas ministers were behind him in his demand that this should be an agreement, a bargaining by all the overseas dominions through their representatives at the Imperial conference. I have looked through the records, not very carefully, but in no particular instance do I find the overseas dominions or their representatives other than Canada having taken the precaution to increase tariffs before starting for the conference, nor do they by word or utterance upon any occasion intimate that that was in their minds. That was reserved for this government, which took the precaution, as my right hon. friend stated to the house this afternoon, to increase the tariff in order that they might have something to bargain with. Then the Prime Minister said further: We did exactly what Mr. Robb, when he was negotiating the Australian treaty would have done had he not been prevented by members of his own party. Will any hon. gentleman claim that the Hon. Mr. Robb ever by word or deed indicated an intention to raise the tariff against Great Britain or any of the overseas dominions? Never on any occasion did he do so That was not Mr. Robb's proposal, and my right hon. friend needs to be put right on that point. Mr. Robb's proposal was to increase the general tariff in order to give the Australians a preference in our market, but by no process of reasoning can my right hon. friend claim that he assumed the mantle of Sir Wilfrid Laurier or the Hon. Mr. Robb, both departed, when he took upon himself the responsibility of increasing the tariffs against Great Britain. Is it not strange to see the means taken by the present government for the purpose of increasing Canadian trade at a time when, heaven knows, it needs to be taken care of if ever it did? What did we do at the short session? We were hurrying through in order that these envoys might go from Canada to the conference to do something in the interests of Canada. We expected them at that session to do something in the interests of this country, but what did they do? The first thing they did was to take printed and dyed cotton fabric, which we were importing from Great Britain to the extent of $4,000,000 worth and on which we had a British preference of 20 per cent, and to increase that to 22½ per cent and add a specific duty of three cents a pound. On woollen yarns, of which we imported from Great Britain $1,000,000 worth, they decreased the duty from 12½ per cent to 10 per cent but added a specific duty of ten cents a pound. On worsteds and serges, on which we had a duty of 27½ per cent, under the reductions that we had put into effect only the previous May,

they increased the duty to 30 per cent plus a specific duty of twenty-five cents a pound. On stockings, of which we imported nearly $3,000,000 worth from Great Britain—

Mr. GOTT: White stockings.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes, they were white stockings. Stockings were free from Great Britain. The white ones came in free. That is why the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) was complaining. They increased the tariff on stockings which were formerly free, to 30 per cent, and imposed an added duty of one dollar a dozen pairs. No wonder my hon. friend was taking white stockings round to the ladies in his constituency. I do not wonder my hon. friend is complaining against such an outrageous advance in the duty on that commodity. On electrical apparatus—I am taking only instances where there are imports from Great Britain—they increased the duty from 15 to 25 per cent, and on boots and shoes from 17½ per cent to 25 per cent.

My right hon. friend went to Great Britain to an imperial conference, and what did he say? Let me give you his own words; he quoted them this afternoon, but just for fear some of my hon. friends should forget, I shall read from page 32 of the second part of the report of the Imperial conference. This is what the Prime Minister said:

> I offer to the mother country, and to all the other parts of empire, a preference in the Canadian market in exchange for a like preference in theirs, based upon the addition of a ten per centum increase in prevailing general tariffs, or upon tariffs yet to be created. In the universal acceptance of this offer, and in like proposals and acceptances by all the other parts of empire, we attain to the ideal of empire preference.
>
> I amplify and explain this offer in the following ways:
>
> In the first place, the rate I have mentioned, cannot be uniformly applied. The basis of the proposal is the adequate protection to industries now existent, or yet to be established.

That was the offer. This was the increase in tariffs before he went to the Imperial conference. Over this increase British imports must come to Canada and on top of this increase they were to be protected by a 10 per cent further increase in order to allow them to enter Canada. Do hon. members think they were going to get in over a tariff like that? Yet our government was terribly wrong in the supposition that if we wanted to increase British trade in order that they might buy more goods from us, we should increase the British preference, or our hon. friends opposite no more can boast about their loyalty to British connections, because I fail to understand how any British manufacturer can get over a tariff of that kind. It is an utter impossibility and an absolute absurdity. One cannot conceive of anything more absurd than for a body of intelligent men to go to a group of intelligent men in Great Britain, make such suggestion to them and say: Here we are offering you something for which we ask something in exchange. If my right hon. friend had said: We propose to make the duty such that we may trade with you; if we can exchange our commodities on a free basis, then I am ready to do that—that would have been reasonable. But he does not say that; he never says that. What he aims to do and what his colleagues aim to do is to shut out of Canada every import of any sort that can interfere with the Canadian manufactured product.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is what he aims to do, and they are doing it every day. They allow nothing to get into Canada to compete with what is being manufactured here. That is the object they have in view. They are going to make a small isolated, North American colony of Canada. That will be the result of a policy of this kind.

I will confess, Mr. Speaker, that I am rather glad that for once the Tory party are having the courage of their convictions, and are putting their policies into effect. We are pretty poor in western Canada just now. Almost seventy-five per cent of the farmers of that country are in a rather serious financial position. They do not know whether or not they should go on. Why? Because there is not a vestige of hope for them in the immediate future. I have lived in that country for twenty-five years and have seen some pretty hard times, but never in all my experience have I seen conditions in the west as bad as they are to-day. My hon. friends opposite stated during the election that they had a panacea for the difficulties of western Canada. They put a duty of eight cents a pound on butter, and increased the duty on eggs; but when have eggs and butter been as cheap as they are to-day?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, when they were as cheap as they are to-day, and that was in the dying days of the old national policy. We in the west are told by this government: You do not need to raise wheat any longer. Go into the dairy and poultry business. It serves you

right for raising so much wheat and refusing to take advantage of the opportunity at your doors to sell poultry and eggs, and bacon, if you please. That is the sort of thing, Mr. Speaker, this government offers to relieve the difficulties of the western farmer. The farmer is selling eggs at 10 cents a dozen. In 1893 I sold pork, deadweight, in the town of Barrie at 4 cents a pound, and I will have to sell it at that price again if this government remains long in office. I am glad, however, that the demonstration of the effects of their policy will make plain the fallacy of the argument of hon. gentlemen opposite that protection is going to be beneficial to the people of Canada.

Hon. gentlemen opposite have increased the tariff to help the manufacturing industry. They are going to provide employment for 250,000 men in Canada right away. They were going to cure unemployment by means of the tariff. I shall not say anything about the $20,000,000 for unemployment relief, except that it has my full support. I say, however, that there was no necessity for the government calling a special session for the purpose of voting that money, despite what the leader of the government has said this afternoon. If he had asked for a governor general's warrant for that amount I am sure he would have received the support of both sides of the house. But that was not his object. He was going to cure unemployment by increasing the tariff. What has happened? We have had now eight months of this policy. Highly paid writers are contributing articles to the Montreal Star, claiming improvement in the manufacturing industry, and if you do not happen to read the paper they are good enough to send you a pamphlet containing these articles. My right hon. friend the leader of the government this afternoon told us with bated breath that there were prospects of industries establishing themselves in this country. I doubt, Mr. Speaker, if there will be any more textile industries established here, because I have it on the best authority that the warehouses of the textile industry in Canada are pretty well filled to-day and they have no market in which to sell their goods. I would like someone to tell me what the wages in the textile industry are.

It is said that we have seasonal unemployment in the winter. Of course we have, but we have it to-day on a much larger scale than ever before, despite the fact that hon. gentlemen opposite have spent $20,000,000, or a proportion of that sum, to help relieve unemployment. Unemployment, hon. gentlemen opposite said during the last election, was so serious that it had become a national question, and the late government, they said, was recreant in its duty because they did not recognize it as a national question. Unemployment had reached such proportions, they said, that it had become a national question, and it was the duty of the federal government to go into the field, give leadership and cure this national calamity that had come upon us. What did we say, Mr. Speaker, about unemployment? We said that if any province or municipality was in difficulties, we were prepared to secure at once a governor general's warrant. Hon. gentlemen opposite had said that there were people starving in the country. The leader of the government himself told us that he had discovered a lady with a child in this condition; his heart bled for the penury in which he found them, and he was going to cure that situation at once. I want the house to remember that: He was going to cure that unemployment situation at once, because his heart bled for the poverty and distress that he saw throughout the land. It was a national question that demanded immediate attention. The Liberal party offered, if such were the actual situation, to get a governor general's warrant, and we could have got such a warrant had we been returned to power, and in that way have given immediate relief. But we did not have the opportunity of doing so; the public thought otherwise. Our policy had been to have a three-way contribution, one-third from the federal government, one-third from the municipality, and one-third from the province. But this government was going to see that there would be no delay. Unemployment had become a national problem and relief was to be furnished at once. So we had the special session and voted the money. This government came into office on the 7th of August last, and before they were ready to distribute relief, it was well on into November. In the meantime what about that woman and child who were in want? What about those starving people that my right hon. friend saw all through this country? What happened to them during the interval? According to a statement made by the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson), when this government had allocated $11,000,000 for unemployment relief, the provinces and the municipalities spent over $63,000,000; that is, the federal government contributed in the proportion of one to six. That was the extent to which unemployment was taken care of by this government. That is the basis upon which they have been administering unemployment relief. It is the old story of Tory administra-

tion, always doing something to stick the provinces and the municipalities. I say here and now, Mr. Speaker, that the municipalities in Canada are in a very serious financial state indeed. They cannot stand very much more of this kind of thing. I fail to understand why, if this was a national problem, my hon. friends opposite backed away from it so carefully, and why they spent only one-sixth, instead of one-third, in helping out the provinces and municipalities in what they said was a national calamity.

I come back to the tariff and to the question of how it affects employment. I am not going to say how it has affected employment on the farm, because there is no such thing as employment on the farm to-day. But how has it affected employment in manufacturing? I am going to give figures covering the winter season during the last five or six years, so that we may judge what effect the expenditure of this $20,000,000, which has led, we are told, to a total expenditure of $90,000,000 has had upon unemployment in this country; and secondly, what has been the effect of an increase in the tariff, which hon. gentlemen opposite said was going to cure the unemployment situation immediately. In 1921 the seasonal drop in employment in the manufacturing industries was 11·4; in 1922, 9·1; in 1923, 14 flat; in 1924, 9·8, in 1925, 6·8; in 1926, 10·1; in 1927, 8·6; in 1928, 8·9; in 1929, 13·3; in 1930, 14·5. I imagine my right hon. friend will say, "Well, in 1922-23 it was quite as bad." For his information I may say that despite what all my hon. friends opposite said about unemployment last July, conditions were infinitely worse in 1922 and 1923 than they ever were in July 1930—infinitely worse. I happen to have lived through both periods and know whereof I speak. The worst that could be said by the most ardent Conservative speakers during the campaign in 1930 was that there were 150,000 workmen out of employment at that time. But what is the figure now? Over 300,000.

My right hon. friend said that this condition was the responsibility of the late government, that we brought it about. We said, "No, it was the result of world conditions." And how anxious hon. members opposite are to talk about world conditions to-day! Of course it was world conditions. Nobody who has given any consideration to the question will deny that for a moment; but that was not what hon. gentlemen opposite said last year. I am not going to hold the government altogether responsible for the difficulties confronting Canada to-day. But my right hon. friend and his supporters said they would cure those difficulties. Only this afternoon he said that had we known our business as administrators of the nation's affairs we should have foreseen what has come about. I challenge him or any of his supporters to state one single thing the late government might have done that was not done to avert the calamity that has overtaken Canada in common with all other countries of the world. Surely other countries must be taken into comparison in this connection. All the countries that were engaged in the great war have sought to cure their difficulties by raising their tariff barriers—no one will deny that—and the United States perhaps has gone furthest in this direction. But did the United States, did Australia, did New Zealand, did France, did Germany—did any of these countries escape the depression that swept over the world a year ago? No, not one of them escaped. And yet my hon. friends opposite have the hardihood to assert that the policies of the late government brought about the difficulties now confronting Canada.

Last year my right hon. friend said to the people of western Canada, "Put me in office and I will get you out of this difficult situation in which you find yourselves in regard to the sale of your wheat." What did he mean by that promise? Was he going to fix a price for wheat? Would anybody be so foolish as to think that the price of a commodity that must be sold in the markets of the world could be controlled by the government? It will be many a day before the Canadian people will be able to consume all the wheat they can produce, and until then they must find markets abroad for their surplus production.

But what has the right hon. gentleman done? He says he has done something, he has come to the rescue of the banks and, incidentally, of the farmers who are behind the banks upon this occasion, by guaranteeing their accounts. Well, he was not willing to do that last fall when the premiers of the three prairie provinces came here to interview him with respect to their difficulties. I am bound to say that I give him considerable credit for what he has done for this year's crop. I think he has helped the situation materially by the steps he has taken. But so far as the price of wheat is concerned, the farmer to-day is not receiving as much for his product to meet his overhead costs as the railway companies are receiving for hauling it. That is the situation in western Canada. And may I say that if the business interests in this country had suffered the depreciation that the farmers of Canada have suffered—because it is not entirely western in its aspect, it affects all our farmers—very few business establishments would have escaped bankruptcy

Now, the tariff increases which were made at the special session last fall must have helped to some extent, because I notice that the sale price of steel and steel products has dropped only 3¼ per cent, manufactured products only 4½ per cent, and textiles only 13 per cent; but the sale price of Canadian farm products has dropped 34 per cent, and field grains 45 per cent—almost one-half of their value. In the face of that 45 per cent reduction in the selling price of grains the farmers are forced to buy everything they use in their homes and on their farms at the prices resulting from the imposition of higher tariffs, the only purpose of which was to keep commodity prices from reaching their proper levels. While that tariff legislation was before the house during the special session my hon. friends opposite were very careful to say that they had received undertakings from all the manufacturing companies that they would not increase prices if they were granted the increased protection they sought. At the time we pointed out that commodity prices were due for a drop. Was our prophecy wrong in that respect? Certainly not. We pointed out further that the tariff increases then proposed would prevent the natural drop in these commodities and force the consuming public of Canada to pay that much more. I submit that the imposition of higher tariffs will not cure unemployment. The labour statistics of any country where increased protection has been resorted to disclose the fact that instead of ameliorating it has only aggravated the unemployment condition.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, being precluded by the rules of the house as well as by my old age from speaking at any great length, I shall confine my remarks this evening to a consideration of the amendment moved by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) and of some parts of his speech, reserving for myself the right that belongs to all members to speak on the main motion, if necessary, after the amendment has been disposed of.

I must confess, sir, that I am not quite prepared to say whether I will vote for or against this motion. It is rather embarrassing because, although I agree with a good deal of it, I disagree with part of it. Perhaps while talking through it I shall find my way out of this difficulty.

With the first paragraph of the amendment I agree largely. Every man and every woman in this country is perfectly convinced, I think, that,—using the language of the motion—

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

—the policies of His Majesty's government have not only failed to offer a remedy for employment and agricultural distress, but have served further to prejudice the deplorable condition of the agricultural interests.

Of that I am firmly convinced, and I made it quite clear during the campaign which preceded my re-election last summer. I am not going to dwell upon that point, reserving to the debate on the budget what may be said in this regard. Then the motion goes on:

. . . . thereby causing additional unemployment and substantially reducing the national revenue.

If I had the responsibility of stating a policy, or rather a declaration of policy, in contradistinction to that propounded by the government, I would not go that far. I do not think the policy of the government is altogether the cause of the additional unemployment which may be prevalent now, or of reducing the revenue. On this point I take the position which I took during the special session and also during the general election. I think it would be just as unfair and untrue to load the full responsibility for the present situation upon this government as it was unfair on the part of the Conservative party to load upon the Liberal government the responsibility for the situation in which Canada found itself a year ago.

With the last paragraph I also agree. I am decidedly "of the opinion that if the proposals" of the government "and certain other of the policies of the government, are persisted in, as would appear to be the intention of the government as outlined in the speech from the throne, the very serious condition which exists at the present time will be intensified rather than relieved". That I think, is absolutely true; although I might differ with my right hon. friend to my right as to what those "certain" things are.

The gist of my remarks I intend to devote to the middle paragraph, and as far as that is concerned I am altogether in disagreement with my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition, for the same reasons, which I gave when I spoke on the last Dunning budget, the same reasons which I gave last session and which I have given during the last thirty years, in opposition to that so-called preferential policy adopted in 1900 by the Liberal government and maintained ever since by all administrations.

The right hon. gentleman, in his most eloquent speech,—one of the ablest he ever delivered in this house, although I might say one which would not have been spoiled by some curtailment,—dwelt at length upon the preferential policy of the Liberal government,

which he dated back to 1897. I have stated I think twice at least in this house, since I came back to it, that I will never let such a statement go unchallenged, because it is unwarranted. On previous occasions, I have explained the circumstances, and I will repeat them now, because I think I am the last witness in this house who knows the facts out of which were born that essential humbug, the policy which has been called the preferential tariff. For many years previous to the general election of 1896 the Liberal party, through its leaders and most of its candidates and by its public organs, had pledged itself to eradicate the last vestige of protection from the Canadian tariff. That was their public pledge to the people of Canada; but on the eve of that general election of 1896 there was a dawn of hope. The then economic crisis, the school mess of Manitoba and various other things gave the Liberal party the hope that it could win; but as one of their newly acquired friends, Mr. Tarte, stated, "elections are not won by prayers". Therefore they wanted some money to support the current of opinion which was showing itself in their favour. They received subscriptions from the manufacturers' association, from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, from the Bank of Montreal and from other large concerns, although those subscriptions were modest as compared to those which these highly moral institutions now give to both parties at every election, and very modest as compared to what was then given to the Conservative party which was still in power. However, with the help of public sentiment, they were sufficient to carry the election.

When the time came to frame the first budget of the Liberal government, in order to balance things between the public pledges given to the people and the private pledges given to the manufacturers of Canada, they maintained protection as the basis of the Liberal policy and introduced the so-called preferential tariff as a sop to the people who had been crying for free trade, and who, like my hon. friend from West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart), had been sounding the death-knell of protection for twenty years back. But, at least, so far so good; this policy, immoral as it might have been in its conception, was not bad, on the whole; and I may say that, ignorant greenhorn as I was then, I voted for it in absolute good faith. But what did I vote for, and what did the whole of the Liberal party vote for in 1897? They voted for a reduction in the tariff to every country, British or foreign, that would meet Canada on a fair basis of reciprocity. The Liberal party had not then decided to outdo the Tory party in their lip professions of loyalty, or their professions of lip loyalty to the British empire. This was adopted as a Canadian policy, for the benefit of the people of Canada.

It was in the midst of our first fits of Imperial delirium tremens, in 1900, that Mr. Fielding very cleverly had a friend from Nova Scotia, a highly cultured gentleman who at least had the sincerity of his convictions as an imperialist—one of the rare Liberal imperialists of those days—move an amendment to the motion to go into committee of the whole. Mr. Fielding had Mr. Russell, one of the members for Halifax, get up in the house and move a resolution in amendment to the motion of the Minister of Finance to go into committee of the whole expressing the hope that the principle of British preference would be adopted. I am not quoting the exact words of the amendment; I am speaking from memory, but I know this was the gist of the motion. At that time the motherland was engaged in the struggle in South Africa, and the motion referred to the debt of gratitude owed by this country to the motherland then engaged in gathering the forces of the mightiest empire the world had ever seen in order to crush two puny nations the total population of which was not equal to that of the city of Hamilton. The sentiment was expressed that in order to show our loyalty to that generous empire, then busy in accomplishing one of the worst crimes committed during the last century—and I take those words from the lips of some of the most respectable English statesmen of the period, and belonging to all parties in England—we should create a third tariff, lower than the rest, and apply it to British goods alone. That was the inception of the British preference, advocated then by the Liberal government and opposed by the Conservative party, to which I joined my humble and single vote.

Then came the conference of 1902, which Mr. Fielding attended. Well, from 1900 to 1902 the Liberal government and all Canadians had absorbed a sufficient dose of matters conducive to sobriety of thought to enable them to reason out those things; and it was there and then that Mr. Fielding prepared that memorandum from which the right hon. Prime Minister quoted this afternoon, a memorandum which concluded with a sentence, a replica of which is almost contained in that famous explosion of the right hon. gentleman, of the 2nd of December, to which I shall refer later on. So that when both

parties are defying each other, in the manner of those heroes of Homer or of Virgil, with a deep gulf between the two, as to which is the most loyal to the empire, as to which is doing the most to sustain the ideals of empire, I am bound to repeat, in the sensible words of a sensible Englishman,—"humbug," both ways. Is not this quite impartial, Mr. Speaker?

Those closing words of Mr. Fielding meant something or meant nothing. If they meant something, they meant that the Canadian government was going to recommend to the Canadian parliament, at the next session, a revision of their policy. It was never done; it remained on paper, a declaration of policy which never materialized, and one which, had it been spoken, a phrase very aptly used by my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition would exactly fit—"sound without sense", and without results.

My right hon. friend devoted much of his eloquent address to the demonstration that the practical result of that gesture of imperial loyalty on the part of the Liberal party, of that demonstration of good will, was the removal of the embargo on our Canadian cattle. Here I am on familiar ground. I had as my deskmate in that parliament of 1896 Mr. Robert Bickerdike, who represented the constituency of St. Lawrence, a predecessor long since of my hon. friend the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan). Mr. Bickerdike's trade, like that of my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Mullins), was largely concerned with that embargo; and every session, from 1896 to 1907, when I left, and later on, until his death, he had always two motions on the order paper and always prepared a good speech in support of each—the abolition of the death penalty and the removal of the embargo. And he succeeded as well with one as with the other.

That embargo had been imposed by England, in 1892, under false pretences. The British ministers did not want to admit that they were imposing a measure of protection in favour of the cattle raisers of Scotland, of England and especially of Ireland, so they stamped Canadian cattle with a lie: they said they were diseased. The Canadian government, Conservative and Liberal alike, demonstrated by the most expert testimony that could be obtained, that it was untrue. But the British government maintained the embargo. The year 1897 came, with the first preference; the embargo was retained. The years 1899 and 1900 came with a display of oratory, with spending of money, the sending of Canadian boys to conquer South Africa for the benefit of the hoarders of gold in Rhodesia. The embargo was maintained. Then came 1911 and 1913 with the two proposals of both parties to help in fighting the battles of the empire on sea—the Liberal proposal, with that so-called Canadian navy in time of peace and imperial in time of war, as described by Mr. Fielding himself, and then the statesmanlike proposal of Sir Robert Borden to take from the public exchequer of this wealthy nation the sum of $35,000,000 to go to the rescue of poor, downtrodden England, crushed under the burden of her gold and the predominance of her trade the world over. This mighty Canadian nation had to make a gift of $35,000,000 to poor, little England. I shall never forget the remark of my dear old friend Lord Fisher, who once asked me, "Which is the most foolish of the two parties in Canada?" Still the embargo was kept on. Then the war of 1914 came. We declared war against Germany before England did. We began sending our human flesh to the slaughter market of Europe, and the British government was mighty glad to accept it. But the embargo on Canadian cattle was still maintained, because the interests of the cattle raisers of the British Isles predominated in the British government, whatever might be the party in power, over the sentimental stock phrases used by Canadians. Finally, it was raised, I think, in 1924.

Now, if my good friends to the right had been returned to power last year, what would be the situation? And I did my level best to keep them in power, just as I did something to prevent them from falling from power a couple of years previously; they were then very attentive to my remarks, for the majority was small. In 1930 the majority was larger and their budget was adopted. Suppose they had been supported by the people of Canada and had gone to England. Perhaps some hon. gentlemen remember my suggestion. My idea was—and it still is—that the present leader of the opposition should have gone to London with the late Minister of Justice, to sit at the Imperial conference, so-called, the political one. But I said that I would rather trust the staunch imperialist on the other side of the house to stand as against English selfishness for the preservation of Canadian interests, because he is connected with selfish Canadian interests, and there is nothing like two egotisms in fighting each other. Of course, that could not be. But suppose the late government had been maintained in power. Suppose my right hon. friend had gone with

Mr. Dunning, with that fine speech, with a new reduction in the tariff as affecting the importation of British goods, a greater preference, and with those fine declarations about no petty spirit of bargaining. Well, perhaps after thirty-two years some relief might have come to the farmers of the west to the extent of a few pence more for their wheat on the British market—provided that, in the interval, means had been found of raising the price of wheat grown in other parts of the world.

Because Mr. Speaker—and this is one of the reasons for which, in spite of many misdeeds which I have denounced in the policy of the British government, I remain, and am still more every day, a deep admirer of the nation—the British people, while thinking of the conditions prevailing throughout the world, and while being prepared to bargain fairly with all nations including their associates within the empire, think of themselves first, second and last and put themselves on a fair basis to bargain. What means all this talk about bargaining, that there should be no such thing as bargaining? Sheer nonsense! Who is that great English or French jurist who said that after all every question of right—right generally, mind you—the greatest thing on earth in the government of nations and the maintenance of order as among men and peoples—every question of right could be brought within the four corners of the law of contract, properly understood and interpreted. Likewise every diplomatic question, every matter at issue between governments and nations must of necessity be a matter of bargaining. The only question is, will you bargain fairly, honestly and with statesmanship, or will you bargain as a miser? Napoleon once called the English nation a nation of shopkeepers; but, as Lord Rosebery, his great admirer, said in later years, the English made a great mistake in being so angry at that qualification of Napoleon's. What has made their greatness? Not their soldiers, not their sailors, not even their statesmen, but their shopkeepers, their merchants and their industrialists, because, while having constant regard to their corporate or individual interests, they never lost sight of their duty to their people and to their nation. Canada, Australia and other parts of the British empire will be in a position to deal with Britain on a footing of equality—not of legal equality, that is nothing—but on a footing of moral, social and economic equality, to strike a fair, honest and proper bargain with the British nation, when they have learned, first, to stand on their own ground, to realize their real interests, and then confront their position with that of the British government. So long as we go on—I was going to say, waving the British flag, but that is not the proper expression—so long as one party goes on making a bed cover of the British flag in order to prevent the people from looking under the cover, and the other party makes use of it as a pocket handkerchief to wipe its nose every time it has a cold in its head, so long as we make such silly use of the British flag instead of adopting for our own use what is best in British traditions, we will not be in a position to make a fair bargain with the British government or, at that, with any other nation or government.

I consider, and I make this statement quite deliberately, that the position taken by the Prime Minister at the opening of the conference was the proper one to take. But what happened? The Prime Minister lost sight of a few things, as my right hon. friend has lost sight of a few other things. The Prime Minister is quite right when he says that he practically imitated the example set by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1902; but so far he has not gone the length of following the example set by Sir John Macdonald when accused by his Liberal opponents, in one of their first fits of feigned loyalty, of endangering British connection by the adoption of his national policy. He said: "All I have to reply is, so much the worse for the British connection. I am not adopting that policy to oppose British interests, I am adopting it to serve Canadian interests. I hope the British people will find a way to accommodate themselves to it, but anyway it is my policy." The right hon. leader of the opposition read quite properly an extract from a letter from another robust Canadian, Sir Alexander Galt, on the right of Canada to exercise her fiscal autonomy. He might have read also the letters exchanged between the government of Sandfield Macdonald and the same Duke of Newcastle, to the effect that Canada intended to keep her own sons upon her own territory and not to lend them to any government in London in order to advance British interests. Both parties could obtain valuable lessons from those old records. The incidentals of the national policy of 1878 might have been wrong and the assumption that protection was a cure for all evils might be erroneous. I did not believe so, years ago, when I was elected. Strange to say I was elected as a protectionist Liberal. I could not see my way clear to professing free trade in my county and voting protection in the house. After I had secured a mandate from the people I could not bring myself to present one phase of the situation to the people and another phase to the house.

An hon. MEMBER: You could not be a good Liberal.

Mr. BOURASSA: Nor do I think I would be a very good Tory. In fact, I do not think it is possible to be a good Tory.

Where the Prime Minister was wrong, in London, was in imagining that he could play the part of Neptune and silence the agitated waters of the sea, that he could, all by himself, make of the British Empire the greatest human community that has ever existed. That was but part of it. He could not expect that to be accepted by the English people. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, nearly as powerful a man as the right hon. gentleman, tried it and perished in the attempt. Previously another Englishman, who truly might not compare with our lion-hearted Richard, Sir Charles Dilke, made the attempt and perished. Therefore, he ought to have been prepared with a fuller degree of humour and wit, and such humility as he could find in himself, to receive the answer of Mr. Thomas. His mistake was in answering Mr. Thomas in the way he did. The trouble with most of our men when they go to London is to think that Englishmen, accustomed as they are to deal with the whole world, will take them as seriously as they take themselves. That has been the trouble with all our representatives in London. I think that what Mr. Thomas did was quite right and proper, and the mistake made by my right hon. friend was in being too serious about it. The right hon. Prime Minister thought that it would be the end of the British Empire if everybody did not listen to him, and likewise the leader of the opposition is wrong when he thinks that because his opponent has been a little noisy in his assertions in England and because he replied in the way he did, that means the end of the British Empire. No such thing will happen. This government will pass and perhaps the hon. gentlemen on this side of the house will come to power again. Canada will follow the trend of the world, will grow and at times will pass through many crises. There is no doubt that some day the British Empire will end because it is a human institution. It will end as did the Roman Empire and all other human fabrics, but it will not end because of either of these two excellent bachelors in this house.

By a strange coincidence, the explosion of December 2nd was published on the anniversary of the famous coup d'etat, which in 1851 changed the fate of the French republic. This one did not have exactly the same effect. People did not rise in rebellion. It is true that, as the right hon. gentleman said, there was approval of his proposal in most of the British papers. But the approval meant really that he had impressed most of the British papers with the difficulties of the situation, because the policy propounded was so impossible for England that no responsible leader could approve it, and that explains the rejoicing of the British papers. When he came with his explosion of the second of December everybody got away in order to escape the smell of the fuming gases and the heat of the powerless steam hissing out from the broken machine. But fortunately for him and fortunately for us, the right hon. gentleman survived. He certainly has something to accomplish, and he will accomplish much if he does not attempt to rule the world. He came back in good health; and now I hope he will start with a sound and modest Canadian policy, along the lines that he has generally adopted. But let him beware of imperial ventures and not attempt to preach a new gospel to an old nation that has known pretty well how to rule itself for the last seven or eight centuries.

Mr. F. H. PICKEL (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address, and also I wish to extend my felicitations to the last speaker on his historical oration. The hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) mentioned that the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) had stated that the late government should have foreseen the catastrophe which was facing the Canadian people and taken means to prevent it. There is a good deal of truth in that.

Since 1925, by the operation of the Australian trade treaty, which included New Zealand, the largest and best group of citizens that we have in Canada has been practically put out of business. I refer to the dairy, poultry and market garden farmers of Canada. For forty-five years at least, I have been engaged quite extensively in farming operations. I am also practising medicine, and I assure the house that during the last six years it has taken all I could earn in a protected profession to keep my farm going. I can take you into my county and show you farm after farm that has been deserted since 1925 owing to the operations of the Australian treaty. I could take you upon one road of eleven miles through a good farming section and show you forty-seven houses boarded up. I could take you on another road of six miles and show you twelve houses boarded up, and that is the case throughout the county. As it is in Brome-

Missisquoi, so it is through the whole of the eastern townships. I think it is safe to say that in the eastern townships there are 3,000 farms abandoned because they cannot make them pay. Why? Simply because of legislation passed in 1925 allowing Australia and New Zealand to ship their products into this country under a duty of one cent a pound.

The western farmers complain that they are pretty hard hit. I agree with them, and I extend my hearty sympathy to them. I would certainly do anything in my power to assist them, but in the west they do not know what hard times are. Eastern Canadian dairy farmers since 1925 have been losing all they had accumulated in a lifetime. They are down and out. The people in the west have been suffering for a year.

Mr. DONNELLY: Has the hon. member ever been there?

Mr. PICKEL: I have. Previously the westerners got good prices; they were doing well; but we in the eastern townships have been suffering for seven years, and we are pretty hard hit. The wheat situation is very serious. The people in the east are sympathetic and they are quite willing to do anything that can be done to remedy conditions in the west. I cannot say what should be done, but I am ready to support any measures for the purpose of alleviating the conditions of the western farmer.

When we speak of agriculture in this house, the eastern dairy farmer never enters the mind of hon. members. It is the grain growers of the west who are meant, and this has been so for a long time. About the only information the majority of the members have of the condition of the eastern farmer is what is obtained from the milkman who, from the excessive price he is charging for his milk, spreads the propaganda that the farmer is robbing him. He does not at the same time tell the consumer that while the farmer is getting one dollar, the milkman is getting three dollars. I ask hon. members to consider seriously the position of the eastern dairy farmer. During the last six years, since 1925, the experimental and demonstration farms of this country have shown us that it costs forty cents to produce a pound of butter with bran at $30 a ton and middlings at $38 a ton; but with bran at $40 a ton and middlings at $50 a ton, which we had to pay for four or five of those years, the cost of production was over fifty cents a pound, and the farmers in the dairy section, by remaining in the business, lost ten cents on every pound of butter they produced. Our farmers would have been better off if they had closed up their farms in 1925 and waited—

An hon. MEMBER: For a change in government?

Mr. PICKEL: —for a change in government.

A great deal has been said about the tariff and about the hardship that the tariff works. During the special session or last September the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. Malcolm), speaking of the increased duties that were then proposed, cited the fact that the rubber business was doing well. In order not to prolong the debate I did not at that time ask him to tell the house why it was doing well. In 1878 we did not manufacture rubbers in this country, and from 1878 to 1885 or 1886 I could save my return fare by going twenty miles to a little town across the line to buy two pair of rubbers. To-day, Mr. Speaker, we can buy rubbers that are even a little bit better made in Canada by Canadian workmen at as cheap a price as they sell for across the line. That is what protection has done for the rubber industry, and it is what protection will do for any industry. Industries must have protection, not only manufacturing industries but the great industry of agriculture also. Agriculture must be protected. The people of the west raise a great deal more farm produce than we can consume in this country. If the production of the farmers of the west was limited to the consumption of this country, would they not be crying for a tariff against Russia?

I wish to deal for a few moments with the dairy industry in Canada. Representing a dairying constituency, I am intensely interested in the dairy business, and I would ask that every consideration be given to the eastern dairy farmer. I think that he can be helped. To-day we are not producing as much butter as we consume. We have in cold storage in Montreal about four million pounds of New Zealand butter and about three million dozen of foreign eggs. They are being kept in cold storage as a lever to keep the price down, and when the production of butter commences in this country in the spring, it will be bought up at a cheap price and be put into cold storage, so that the same thing may be done again next winter. In the year 1924 we exported twenty-four million pounds of butter, graded No. 1, the best butter in the world. For the last two years, however, we have exported practically no butter, and there is no grading at all. The consequence is that we have lost the art of butter making in Canada. It has gone from us. The Australian trade treaty made it necessary for us to find a market for our dairy produce outside Canada. New Zealand captured our own market

for butter, and we had to ship our milk and cream to the United States, and so we stopped making butter, and we have lost the art. We will have to begin over again. If dairying in this country is made to pay, you do not need to worry, Mr. Speaker, about our not producing enough. If it pays to produce it, we will produce it; if it does not pay, we cannot produce it.

We have also imported five million pounds of bacon. Imagine importing that amount of bacon into an agricultural country like Canada! I say it is a crime. Altogether we imported thirty million pounds of meat and meat products from the United States last year. That is a condition that should not be tolerated. We must do something to encourage agriculture in the east. I understand that a movement is on foot to get the western farmer to go into mixed farming. There is one reason why it might not be very successful in western Canada, and that is because most of the western farmers that I know left the east for the west so that they would not have to work. Farming in the east means fifteen or sixteen hours labour every day from the 1st of January to the 1st of January. Does the western farmer want that? Not a bit. For that fifteen or sixteen hours' labour the farmer gets nothing, worse than nothing. The farmer is not suffering from any unemployment, not a particle. He is in the position that he is unable to accomplish the work he should do, and he is unable to hire help.

I would like to say a word or two about the industrial expansion in my part of the country since the tariff was increased last September. Even amongst the dairy farmers there is a better feeling to-day than there was then, for they know that no more butter is coming in from New Zealand unless it pays a duty of eight cents a pound. They would also like to see that provision extended to Australia, and if that were done I think they would be satisfied. I think myself that the tariff should be ten or twelve cents a pound, and certainly it should be extended to Australia.

A factory in my town, which last September employed 180 hands, to-day employs 500. Silk is being produced at a price less than that prevailing before the protection was granted. Another factory in my town, one of the largest factories in Canada, which employed thirty hands last September now has seventy-five. The plush factory in Farnham which was closed last September is now open and employing fifty-two hands. I may add that it is increasing its operations every day. We have built a $2,000,000 linoleum plant there too. I think hon. members from the eastern townships will agree with me that as a result of this improved industrial condition brought about by the tariff legislation last fall, there is a better feeling throughout the district than prevailed last year. This expansion of eastern industrial concerns is going to make a better home market for the farmer. The improved condition of affairs in my little section we want to see prevail all over the Dominion.

I contend, Mr. Speaker, that if you have a tariff you should make it high enough. What in the world is the object of having a low tariff when you are sure it will not protect the manufacturer. If a tariff of 30 per cent keeps out foreign competition, what does it matter whether you make it 50 per cent or higher so long as you accomplish the purpose in view—to preserve the home market for the Canadian manufacturer and so protect his workmen, and inasmuch as the government assures us the consumer will not be exploited.

In the speech from the throne mention is made of the proposed creation of a tariff commission. Well, I hope we shall have a workable tariff commission, not a tariff commission such as the late tariff advisory board, which operated simply to reduce the tariff as low as possible and still keep people travelling round on their feet. Certainly we do not want a tariff commission such as we had in conjunction with the defunct consumers' league, which operated simply for the good of a party and not for the good of the country.

Something has been said about a one-man government. Well, if he is the right man it is the best kind of government on earth. Of course, democratic government has come to stay, for the simple reason that usually any autocratic form of government is terminated by death, and however beneficial that government may have been, the resultant confusion following the removal of the autocrat more than offsets any benefits that may have accrued to the country. But I do not see where hon. gentlemen opposite get their premises for the assertion that this is a one-man government. It is simply a supposition put forward by someone—well, he has had a dream. I submit that with the gifted and resourceful leader that we have, supported by a solid party, we shall have good government and the national interests will be looked after in a way that they were not looked after while our friends opposite were in office.

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the rules of the house limit me to forty minutes, so I am not able to follow in detail the remarks of my hon. friend (Mr. Pickel) who has just spoken. Indeed I intend

to devote most of my attention to one paragraph in the speech from the throne which deals with western conditions. It says in part:

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.

Reading that sentence, I am led to believe that the government are not fully aware of the conditions that do exist in western Canada. The speech continues:

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.

I am led by that sentence, Mr. Speaker, to take heart. It may be that the government has not been kept fully aware of the changing conditions. Then the speech proceeds:

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.

I feel it my duty, sir, to bring to your attention and to the attention of the house the prices which are received to-day by the grain growers. The following figures are taken from the Calgary Herald of March 13, and are street prices, or the prices paid for grain delivered at the line company elevators in Alberta at points taking the 26 cent freight rate to Fort William:

Wheat: No. 1, 36 cents; No. 2, 33 cents; No. 3, 29 cents; No. 4, 25 cents; No. 5, 23 cents; No. 6, 23 cents per bushel.
Oats: No. 2 CW, 15 cents per bushel.

That is the highest grade.

No. 1 feed oats, 10 cents per bushel.
Barley: No. 3 CW, 14 cents; No. 4 CW, 11 cents per bushel.
Rye: No. 2 CW, 12 cents; No. 3 CW, 10 cents per bushel.

I am sure that no one would consider these prices satisfactory. In fact they are so unsatisfactory that I think it is impossible to have stable business conditions in Canada until they are changed. May I give to the house one or two instances of the wrong relationship of prices that now exists? A few weeks ago a gentleman told me that it took five bushels of his wheat to pay for the half-soling of his boy's shoes; that was No. 2 grade wheat. I heard of another case where a man took 60 bushels of barley to pay for a pair of workshoes for himself. I know of a man who, having brought eleven dozen eggs to town and succeeded in getting a dollar for them, thought he had made a good deal. He had his boy with him and they went over to the restaurant to get their lunch. It cost him 90 cents for the two meals. With the remaining 10 cents he bought a pair of shoelaces for the boy. Even at that there was nothing to pay for the gasoline which he used in driving to town and back again. It takes just 75 bushels of No. 1 feed oats to buy a pair of ploughshares. One man told me that when the present Minister of Railways was in western Canada during the campaign he was lamenting the fact that it took two bushels of barley to buy a package of cigarettes at some place in Manitoba, but this man said to me, "When you go to Ottawa now tell him that in our district it takes three bushels of barley to buy a package of cigarettes."

The result of these low prices, Mr. Speaker, is that the morale of the western farmer never has been as low as it is to-day, and that is not to be wondered at. Out of the prices which I quoted must be deducted all the expenses of the farmer, including threshing, the hauling of grain to town, stooking, twine, the board of his harvesters, repairs to his binder and all the expenses which must have gone before in preparing the land for the crop. As a result he is unable, in many cases, to pay his store bills, his taxes, or the interest on his mortgage or bank loan. I have here a clipping from the Calgary Herald containing a despatch from Edmonton which says that the Retail Merchants' Association of that province interviewed the provincial government, and they stated that the total amount owing the merchants of the province on farmers' accounts was estimated at $40,000,000. I was told a few years ago that there were 70,000 farmers in Alberta, so anyone can figure out just how much that averages out for each farmer on his store debt.

Many of our farmers are in this position: They are depending upon a tractor with which to do their seeding operations this spring, but they have not the money left with which to buy gasoline or oil to run the tractor, and in many cases credit has been absolutely refused. How is the crop to be put in this spring? That is the burning question, and I hope this house and this government will consider it before the end of this month. I was told by one gentleman that a bank manager expressed the opinion to him that in his particular district one-third of the land would not be seeded this spring because the farmers could not get credit with which to go ahead with their farming operations. I know of one school district,

not the worst district in Alberta by any means where only three farmers have been able to pay their taxes for 1930. If these men cannot get credit for their farming or seeding operations this spring certainly they will not be able to pay taxes in 1931. Without taxes we cannot have schools, and without schools what civilization have we that is worth while?

Mr. Speaker, this paragraph which I read mentions that the government is concerned with the question of securing lower production costs. I want to say that if the farmer in western Canada has to wait for the betterment of his condition until we can get these lower production costs, the farmers now there will have disappeared, because it is impossible for them to carry on under present conditions. I am not even going to touch on the tariff to-night. If the farmer has to wait until we get a lower tariff for him, he will have disappeared by the time it is put into effect.

To-night, in the few minutes at my disposal, I want to suggest to this house and to the government that at this session we should give serious consideration to our currency problem. I am going to suggest that we abandon the gold basis in Canada, and do it very soon. From 1914 until 1926 the suspension of redemption of our notes in gold obtained in this country, and I do not think anyone was the worse off for it. It was necessary in 1914, and in my opinion it is just as necessary to-day. I want to quote very briefly from the Calgary Albertan, in which appears a portion of a speech delivered before the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce by Viscount D'Abernon, who I understand is a very prominent banker there. I will not take time to read very much of this press report, but in his speech the viscount attacked the gold standard and wound up by saying:

> If you desire a return of good market conditions in cotton or wheat or any other commodity, if you wish for higher freights and more trade activity—you will achieve these with greater certainty and greater speed by dealing with the gold and currency problem than by any other means.

I believe the viscount is right, and that is the reason I am taking this opportunity to discuss this problem. The plight of the farmer to-day is caused by low prices, and the most effective remedy would be higher prices. This federal government has been approached by the premiers of the prairie provinces, who have asked that the federal government guarantee to pay to the farmers 70 cents per bushel for No. 1 wheat at Fort William. That only means 50 cents a bushel to the farmer in my constituency, which is less than cost of production and certainly will not encourage the over-production of wheat. No one will produce wheat at that price if he can find anything else in the world to do with his farm.

I am well aware that there is a great deal of objection to this suggestion, but I want to say in all fairness to the people of the prairie provinces, who I think are almost solidly behind their premiers in this request, that the government of Australia are guaranteeing their farmers 68 cents per bushel for wheat. It takes only 8 cents per bushel, I am told, to move wheat from the railway siding in Australia to the seaboard, which means that the farmer receives 60 cents a bushel. If Canada will not do something more for her farmers than has been done so far it simply means that the individual Canadian farmer is in competition with the Australian nation when he goes to sell his wheat in the markets of the world. Surely that is not fair.

Now I come to the case of Russia. Under date of November 24 I find an article in the Calgary Herald entitled "Red Trade Menace" written by Mr. Knickerbocker for the New York Evening Post. I think perhaps I should read this quotation, which is as follows:

> Wheat Farmers Well Paid
>
> "Union Grain," the government grain trading organization, is paying this year to private peasants and to collective farms throughout the soviet union an average price of one rouble forty kopeks a pood for wheat, according to official information given me by the government planning commission. Reckoning the rouble at par, or the Soviet State bank rate of one rouble ninety-four kopeks to the dollar, this amounts to $1.20 a bushel.

According to that article, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian farmer is in competition with the Russian nation as well as with Australia. In the United States the government, through the federal farm board, has spent millions of dollars in an endeavour to peg the price of wheat. Perhaps it is true that this has not been entirely successful, but as I see it the result is that in the United States wheat is quoted at approximately 19 cents above the price of wheat in Canada, although for a long period of years Canadian wheat was quoted above United States wheat, until this federal farm loan board took action.

I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that Canada can afford to let her wheat growers disappear. Because of her geographical position Canada always must be a very large importer if we are to have a decent standard of living for our people. Canada's climatic conditions are such that we must import large quantities of certain commodities. The only

way we can pay for these commodities is by exports, and I find by examination of our export trade figures that in 1928, out of total exports amounting to $1,228,000,000, wheat amounted to $352,000,000, or 28 per cent. In 1929 our total exports amounted to $1,363,000,000, of which wheat amounted to $428,000,000, or 31 per cent. During 1930 our total exports fell off; they amounted to $1,120,000,000, of which only $215,000,000, or 19 per cent, represented wheat. In 1930 our total exports were $243,000,000 less than in 1929, and of that total loss wheat accounted for $213,000,000. I think that is a serious situation as far as our export trade is concerned. The figures which I quoted do not include flour. In 1928 our export of flour was 59,000,000; in 1929, 65,000,000; and in 1930, 45,000,000.

I feel that if no action is taken to assist the Canadian wheat grower he will have to disappear. He cannot continue to operate under these conditions. The growers in Australia and Argentine have another distinct advantage over our producers, one that is perhaps more serious than the government recognize. According to a bulletin I received last week from the National City Bank of New York, London exchange owned in Australia commands a premium of 30 per cent in that country. The effect of this is to increase by 30 per cent the price to the producers in Australia of wheat and other exports when these funds are exchanged into Australian currency. Exactly the same position exists with regard to the Argentine. The National City bank bulletin says:

> The suspension of gold payments in the face of an unfavourable balance of payments resulted in currency depreciation which is now about 30 per cent.

The result of this is undoubtedly to increase the returns to the growers of wheat in Argentine by 30 per cent in Argentine funds. If Canada would suspend payment in gold as she did in 1914, and as has been done in the Argentine, I do not think there is any doubt that our dollar would depreciate; that is, if the government would cease floating foreign loans.

I should like to show by a quotation from the Commercial Intelligence Journal under date February 14 just how this is affecting growers in Australia. This was a despatch sent by our trade commissioner in Australia under date of January 5, before their exchange had depreciated to the extent it has now. It says:

> The manager of the Victorian wheat pool has expressed the view that the advance in exchange should increase the net returns to growers of approximately 1¾d. (3½ cents) per bushel. The advantage in the case of wheat will obviously be applicable to exports of Australian goods and products to the United Kingdom and other countries.

There is absolutely no doubt in the world as to how it works.

If Canada is to go into mixed farming to a large extent and is going to produce bacon and cheese and other commodities for export, we have to go into the old country market and fight for our share of that market. How are we going to do so if we remain on a gold basis with the appreciated dollar which we have to-day?

I have here a memorandum which I secured from the Department of Agriculture about six or seven years ago, dealing with Danish bacon. The memorandum says in part:

> What is probably of as much importance as anything is the rate of exchange which has prevailed since the war between Danish and English currency, the prevailing rate being 24 to 25 kronen per pound sterling. Thus, because of their depreciated currency, the Danish farmer is receiving approximately 1/3 more when sterling has been transferred into his own currency than he would under normal conditions, while we are on every English pound losing anywhere from 15 to 50 cents in exchange. This may not seem a great point, still it has meant that prices for hogs in Danish currency have been sufficiently high to influence the Danish farmer in volume production just as our Canadian farmers were enthused in volume production by the high prices here during the war and this factor has contributed in no small measure to the greatly increased hog killings in Denmark during the past year.

I want to make it clear that this increase in value in Canadian currency of our wheat which is exported would apply equally to all exports, and it is the exporters in Canada to-day who are in such a difficult position. The stated policy of this government is to give fair conditions in the home market to the home manufacturer. But what about the exporter? He is left to shift for himself. Last year at the special session the government introduced very drastic legislation to prevent any goods being dumped into Canada; yet every bushel of wheat we produce in Canada, whether consumed here or elsewhere, is sold at a dumped price. Everyone knows it. What is being done about it?

In support of my contention that this would increase the prices of wheat and other exports, I wish to quote from Hansard of June 8, 1922, a speech delivered by the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens). In this speech the hon. gentleman was dealing with the question of depreciated currency, pointing out to Mr. Fielding, then Minister of Finance, that it was impos-

sible for manufacturers in Great Britain, in the United States or in Canada to compete with German manufacturers. He then went on to quote the words of Dr. Melchior, who was the German economist officially attached to the German delegation that negotiated the treaty of Versailles. That authority is quoted as having said:

> The falling currency has, it is true, brought apparent prosperity to German industry by means of a premium on exports which at the same time cripples the industries of the competing countries.

Our chief competitors in the wheat export business are the Argentine, Australia and Russia. The Argentine is our foremost competitor, and that country has a depreciated currency of 30 per cent. So has Australia. If the words of Doctor Melchior are true, and I do not think they can be denied, these two countries have a distinct advantage over us because of this premium on exports; and repeating his last words, they are crippling the industries of competing countries. They are crippling the wheat industry of Canada. Australia is taking our market in China very largely because she has this depreciated currency, which makes it so easy for her to sell to China at a price under which her wheat growers can carry on. And the same is true in relation to the Argentine in the British market. It is very unfortunate for us. What can be done about it? I suggest that we should allow our dollar to depreciate. Keeping our dollar at par is playing into the hands of the United States. The United States is more responsible than any other country for the world wide depression that exists. I could quote good authority for that statement.

Perhaps I should offer some evidence that our dollar would depreciate if it were allowed to do so. There are three ways of keeping the dollar at par: first, by the export of commodities; secondly, the export of gold; and thirdly, the sale of our bonds in foreign countries. Our trade balance has fallen behind to a considerable extent this year. I have secured from the Bureau of Statistics a bulletin dealing with our international settlement, and according to that bulletin the invisible items in our balance of trade last year, taking them all together, showed a debit balance against us of $88,000,000. I assume there will be very little change so far as these items are concerned this year. For the first eight months of the present fiscal year the actual commodity trade balance was against us to the extent of $80,000,000, so that it is fair to assume that for the current year the actual total balance against us will be about $200,000,000. How is our dollar to be kept at par in face of such a situation? We produce all told only between $30,000,000 and $40,000,400 in gold in Canada. We cannot export gold to keep it up. The gold in the hands of the government to-day is very little more than required as a reserve for our Dominion notes.

Mr. BENNETT: About ten millions.

Mr. COOTE: We cannot afford to export enough gold to keep it up. I believe that our dollar would have been depreciated already if the government had not floated last fall in New York a loan of $100,000,000. The proceeds of that loan were just as effective in keeping up the rate of exchange as though we had sold to that country another $100,000,000 worth of goods. If our trade balance is not large enough to keep our dollar at par, are we justified in attempting to keep it there? Are we justified if in doing it we are killing industry, and bleeding the farmers and the exporters of this country? We are putting the farming industry into bankruptcy and making it increasingly difficult for nearly half our population to carry on. Supposing our dollar were depreciated to the extent it was in 1920, about 20 per cent, it would add 15 cents per bushel to the price of wheat and that would make all the difference in the world to the trade of Canada generally.

Mr. BENNETT: Surely the hon. member does not mean that?

Mr. COOTE: That 15 cents would put heart in our farmers, it would allow the pool to make another payment and it would permit many men to buy gasoline in order to operate their tractors during this spring.

The drop in the price of wheat is chiefly responsible for the drop in our export trade. That is what would cause the dollar to depreciate, and for that reason this depreciation should be allowed to take place. It would soften the blow which the farmers of Canada are taking, and it would save many of them from going into bankruptcy. Millions of dollars of debt hang over the farmers of western Canada which cannot be paid. Many of these debts are not worth 50 cents on the dollar; many of them are not worth 25 cents on the dollar, but if this depreciation in our currency were permitted I believe it would increase the price of wheat sufficiently so that the bulk of these debts could be paid in full. What better condition could we have than the determination of our people to pay one hundred cents on the dollar? The present conditions are making it absolutely impossible for many men to pay their debts, men who never dreamed of doing anything else.

One of the objections which will be raised to this proposal is that it will increase the cost of living. Some people go so far as to say that it would increase in proportion to the depreciation which took place in our currency. I challenge that statement. That is a theory which was put forth by some economists before the war, but the experience of many countries after the war proved that it was not so. I have here an article which has been in my files for some six or seven years—these old files come in handy sometimes. This editorial deals with an article by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P., which appeared in The Contemporary Review, dealing with the claim of English manufacturers that they could not compete with French manufactures of woollen goods because they had a depreciated currency. The editorial reads as follows:

> But Mr. Greenwood thinks that the advantages which the French manufacturer now enjoys in the British market are not due to the depreciation of the French exchange, but to the difference between the internal and external values of the franc. Prices in France have not risen—and therefore costs of production have not risen—

I quote again from the remarks of Mr. Stevens in 1922, in which he quotes Mr. Maynard Keynes as follows:

> During the summer of 1921 the mark gold equalled 20 marks paper. The internal purchasing power of the paper mark for the purposes of consumption was still nearly double its corresponding value abroad.

Then Mr. Stevens continues to quote Doctor Melchior as follows:

> The internal purchasing power of the mark . . . . is at present (April, 1922), between two and three times its international value. . . .

I think it is very easy to dispose of the contention that the increased cost of living will be sufficient to take up any advantage accruing from a depreciated currency.

I stated a moment ago that all this was working to the advantage of the United States and that that country was chiefly responsible for the present world depression which has affected the price of wheat and which is having such a serious effect upon our farmers. Why should we continue on a gold monetary basis, the very thing the United States wants us to do because it delivers us into their hands, they having accumulated 40 per cent of the world's gold? In support of my contention I will quote from a speech delivered at the annual meeting of the Royal Bank of Canada by Mr. Neil, vice-president and general manager, as follows:

> If the central banks of all the countries on a gold basis should deliberately adopt a common policy they could within a certain time lag, raise or lower the price level almost at will. Without a common policy, movements of gold would in due course arrest action of one country not in harmony with the policies of others, although the United States, with a huge stock of gold, could probably afford to loose a quantity which no country or group of countries would be willing to receive. On the other hand, she has during the period of 1921-1925 received gold on an unprecedented scale without allowing such receipts to create inflation.
>
> It is because the United States is in such a commanding position of wealth, with forty per cent of the world's gold supply, that the main responsibility for the world price level rests with that country.

I had one or two other quotations which I desired to give, but I do not believe my time will permit. Even although they could be effected, and I do not believe they can, a reduction in the cost of production and a reduction in the cost of living would not be sufficient to place our farmer in a proper position to carry on. A reduction in the cost of living will not reduce his debts or his interest or his taxes, and the payments on those three accounts take up almost one-third of his income. A depreciated dollar would pay just as many debts, and just as much taxes and interest as would the appreciated dollar. He is paying these accounts with a dollar which cost him at least two dollars to obtain. This injustice continues because we are following this gold monetary policy. I would like to give a quotation from an article by Professor B. K. Sandwell entitled Shall We Abandon the Gold Basis which appeared in the Toronto Saturday Night, as follows:

> By the carrying out of these policies, the United States and France are directly affecting the value of every debt due in Canada and expressed in terms of Canadian currency. The Canadian dollar is now worth about twice as much in commodities as it was three years ago, and the change is not due to any alteration in the standard or volume of the Canadian currency or indeed to anything that Canada has done. It is due simply to an illogical policy on the part of the United States and a very logical but repudiationist policy on the part of France.
>
> It therefore seems to the present writer that this is a time for every serious consideration of the question whether we desire a currency which can be thus manipulated at the will of other nations. The main argument in favour of the gold standard has always been that its value could only be affected by natural forces such as the volume of gold produced in a given period. it is obvious that in the present circumstances the force of this argument is almost entirely destroyed. Should Canada, then, continue oven the pretence of keeping her currency linked as to value with that of the United States and with the legally depreciated franc of France?

The article continues:

The Canadian business situation would be very materially relieved if the Canadian dollar were again allowed to depreciate to something like the figure which it reached at the close of the war, and in allowing it so to depreciate the Canadian people would be doing no more than exercising their sovereign right to keep their unit of currency at a value as near as possible to that of a given body of assorted commodities.

And again:

The object of the apparent depreciation which I am discussing is to correct an already existing appreciation or in other words to maintain stability. Depreciation to-day would merely reduce the value of the claims of creditors to something like what it was when they made their loans.

I want to make it very clear that I am not advocating this as a cure for all the ills from which the farmers of Canada are suffering. I am sugggesting it as a very proper remedy which might be applied to help out at the present time. It would assist the farmer in the very difficult situation in which he at present finds himself. It is only one remedy which should be applied. It is not placing any burden upon the federal treasury. It is not an artificial bolstering up of prices. In reality, what I am suggesting is that we should cease holding our dollar at par by giving our note to buy gold to keep it there and I consider my suggestion thoroughly logical. I am sure if the Prime Minister were discussing a farmer's case he would say to him: You should keep your expenditure within your income, and I think at this time Canada is very foolish to go outside of Canada to secure its loans. I am unable to understand the policy of any government which would say: You must buy Canadian goods even if they cost you 40 to 50 per cent more, and who, when they want a little money, would run outside of Canada to get it if they could save one-quarter of one per cent. That seems entirely illogical. The suggestion I have made is perfectly natural; there is nothing artificial about it, and it has this distinct advantage, that if, by the adoption of this suggestion, our exports are stimulated to the point where, after a year or two or three years, our exports balance our imports, the dollar will then have come back to par because of the balancing of our international trade. I think justice in the case demands that my suggestion should be accepted.

In closing, I hope this suggestion will receive very serious consideration by parliament and the government before we prorogue, because something must be done to place our farmers in a better position otherwise, they must discontinue the business of exporting wheat from Canada.

[Mr. Coote.]

Mr. THOMAS McMILLAN (South Huron): Mr. Speaker, it is now some months since the close of the recent short session of the house, and much has taken place during the interval. I am pleased indeed to notice the reception of the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Bennett) by the great universities of the motherland, and I know we are all pleased to address him as the right hon. the Prime Minister of Canada, but he is still the arch minister of promises unredeemed. It is quite true he was instrumental in calling the recent emergency session primarily for the purpose of ending unemployment in Canada by federal means, but in about as little time as it takes to tell it, his government scrapped the theory of federal responsibility to end unemployment, and announced a scheme whereby over four-fifths of the burden was saddled upon the municipalities and provinces.

It is also true that his government has had enacted some of the most detrimental legislation ever forced through the parliament of any country, legislation whereby the people of Canada have been driven away back before the days of the Magna Charta, the day of the signing of the great charter of English liberty for the protection of the rights of the people.

But at the moment what I wish more particularly to draw to the attention of the house and the country is that one of the most solemn promises the Prime Minister gave was his pledge to Canadian agriculture, when after his statement at Calgary "the basic industry of Canada is agriculture" and at Ormstown, Quebec, "agriculture stands first in Canadian development", he said at Woodstock, New Brunswick, "I shall regard it as my great responsibility if elected on July 28, 1930, to see that the collective weight and power of the Dominion of Canada is placed behind agriculture. I would be lacking in qualifications entitling me to head a Canadian government if I failed to do so." There is his pledge to Canadian agriculture given in the clearest and most unequivocal terms. What has he and his government done to implement that pledge? He knows that the first requirement of the Canadian farmer is to secure wider and better markets for his surplus agricultural products. He knows that if the Canadian farmer could only secure entry

into the United States market on favourable terms, it is the world's best market, and although the present United States government still remains obdurate there is no doubt a rapidly growing favourable feeling among the people of that country as a whole.

He knows also that during the five years between 1915 and 1920, when the then United States government did open that market to the free entry of finished live stock, fresh meats, dairy produce, wheat flour and potatoes, it was a boon to the Canadian farmers, but never once during that time did the then Canadian Tory government lift its hand to reciprocate or show its appreciation in any way. It is no wonder that under such treatment the United States government soon withdrew the privilege. But now, when the Hawley-Smoot tariff has shut out the United States market, our only other available market is that of the motherland which has always maintained a free open door to Canadian agricultural products.

More than that, if the right hon. gentleman knows anything about the elementary laws of trade and economics, he knows that goods sold must be paid for by the acceptance of goods in exchange, so that if we would sell our wheat or other products in Britain we must be prepared to accept British goods in return payment. And knowing, according to his own words, "the primary concern of Canada is to sell its wheat," what did the right hon. gentleman do? His first proposal in parliament as Prime Minister of Canada was "that as far as possible the requirements of the 10,000,000 Canadian people shall be produced at home," showing at once that his government did not wish to encourage international trade at all.

His next act was to jack up the tariff on British goods to the prohibitive point, thus ejecting British goods at the toe of the boot from Canadian markets which they had enjoyed for a century. Then, in big stick fashion, he goes off to Britain to blast his way into the British market! How does he do it? By peremptorily demanding that the British government must impose a tax on foreign foodstuffs, thus identifying in the minds of millions of Britishers the once-honoured and respected name of Canada with the odious and much-feared policy of taxing the food of the British people; and then he became wildly uprorious and left Great Britain with the veiled threat of economic separation because a British minister, Mr. Thomas, mildly designated the whole proceeding as "humbug." His designation was mild indeed. He gave fact and figure, chapter and verse, in corroboration. He showed that while the foreign nations of Germany, Argentina, the United States and the Netherlands, allowed British coal in free of duty, Canada charges 1s. 7½d. per ton, and that:

British railway rails Australia charges 2s. 4d. per cwt.; Canada charges $4.50 per ton; Argentine admits free; Netherlands admits free.

On British sewing machines Canada charges 20 per cent; Australia charges 15 per cent; Germany charges 9 per cent.

On British cranes and hoists Australia charges 55 per cent; Canada charges 15 per cent; France charges 10 per cent; Germany charges 6 per cent; Argentine admits free; Netherlands admits free.

On British cotton piece goods Canada charges 21 per cent; Netherlands charges 8 per cent; Argentine admits free.

On British woollen goods av. duty Australia 61 per cent; Canada 37 per cent; Germany 22 per cent; France 12 per cent.

And, mark you, coal, iron and steel, cotton and woollen goods are among the key manufacturing industries of Great Britain.

The dominions did not disguise from us that their policy led on by the Prime Minister of Canada, was "Canada first," "Australia first" and "South Africa first." When the British government saw their disposition, was it to be condemned for saying, "Well, in that case our policy must be 'Great Britain first,'" when last year Britain bought from the dominions $150,000,000 worth more goods than the dominions bought from Britain.

No wonder the Bennett proposal was so unceremoniously turned down! The very idea of any government—or rather I should say, of any one man, because this is a one-man government, with a following so meek and submissive and lifeless during the last session that you would almost think a condition of hibernation had taken possession of the most of them,—the very idea I say, of any leader expecting to get a market in Britain for Canadian wheat or any other commodity by such treatment of the motherland is beyond the comprehension of any reasonable man. No set of reasonable men could be expected for a moment to entertain any such proposition presented in such a manner.

Former Canadian prime ministers who have represented Canada at previous Imperial conferences in old London have always manifested a high degree of sagacity and wisdom, especially when dealing with matters pertaining to British home government. But, sir, of the attitude of the present Prime Minister, what shall we say? His whole attitude while in the old land shows unmistakably that there are bees in the hon. gentleman's bonnet. He must have become possessed of a most exaggerated opinion of his own importance. Is it any wonder that the unofficial organ of

the British government described the Bennett proposal as the "very bankruptcy of statesmanship and as demonstrably and intently foolish and useless".

To my mind there is only one explanation of such a strange proceeding. I entirely absolve the hon. gentleman of any intentional wrong doing. But the fact remains that after having sniffed the salt air at some point in the Atlantic he must have become so mentally aberrated that when he reached Great Britain he at once began roving around seeking whom he might attack. He first stirred up the British cabinet by his peremptory demand for the taxation of British foodstuffs. Then followed his charge that the Northampton boot and shoe makers were employing cheap labour and dumping their goods into the Canadian market, and when the British boot and shoe makers denied and resented his assertion and sought an interview on the matter, according to press reports, he refused them.

He next fell foul of the Lancashire cotton manufacturers, accusing them in the same way. These are but instances of his blasting process heralded all over Canada during the election campaingn.

I followed in my younger days a sea-faring life more or less for over twenty years and I know that there are cases of serious mental affection on the sea. On one occasion I met a neighbour as he landed on the docks in Glasgow and his captain insisted that he be handed to the health authorities for careful mental supervision. I pleaded to be allowed to convey him to his friends in Edinburgh, which was done. There he was placed under the most careful medical supervision for over six weeks, but with no improvement; then he was allowed to return home. On his return he told me that when he reached a certain zone in the Atlantic, where he had become mentally indisposed, his usually good sane condition returned at once. If this is really what happened to the right hon. gentleman he has my sincere sympathy, but we see no indication of a sensible condition or he would hasten to make sufficient amends to the British government at least.

If our honoured leader were to talk and make such a mess of his business while representing Canada in the old land, we would challenge him at once. However, it is only right to know, and we have the right to ask, what hon. gentlemen opposite think and intend doing regarding the action of a leader in so trampling on the good name of Canada and so abusing the trust which has been placed in his keeping?

The people of Canada are demanding to know what is and what will be the attitude of the right hon. gentleman's own supporters in this matter of burning significance to the good name of Canada. Scores of good citizens have said to me that this government would never last its term out, but my reply has been "Yes, it will; it will last its term out, unless its own supporters in this house rise in protest and rebellion against this kind of thing." When I would relate how this government's own followers sat dumb as oysters and swallowed the whole proceedings and high-handed legislation of the recent short session, they marvelled at their simplicity, and when I instanced how the power and authority of their leader over his followers was so absolute, that when, for instance, the hon. member for East Algoma (Mr. Nicholson) rose on one occasion to address the house, the Prime Minister without ever rising from his seat, simply turned his head and commanded him to sit down, saying that that matter could be discussed at some other time, they were amazed that any member would cringe in submissiveness and remain silent under such a rebuke.

But what else can you expect under the direction of a small coterie of millionaire manipulators, who have amply demonstrated that they care not a straw for the hard-worn farmers and wealth producers of this country? I feel there must be many hon. gentlemen in this house sitting behind this government who in their hearts do not approve of this government's record, and the sooner they rise in the majesty of their manhood, break through such party chains and assert what they believe to be for the best interests of this country, the better it will be for themselves and this country as a whole.

Compare the record of the present Prime Minister at the Imperial conference with that of his predecessors in office. The leader of this government, by his declarations at the Imperial economic conference, has identified himself with the protectionist element of the Conservative party in Great Britain and has become embroiled in the party strife of the old land. This is in marked contrast with the restraint shown by the representatives of Canada at previous Imperial conferences. Consider the wise words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier on a similar occasion:

> We Canadians would not accept the idea that the British public should force upon us their own fiscal views, and no more would they tolerate the idea that we would force upon them our own fiscal views; therefore the only way in which the British Empire can be maintained upon its present foundation is by allowing every nation composing it the measure of liberty that it has, and also the free choice of the fiscal policy it is to maintain.

Surely these are words of courtesy and common sense. Consider also the expression of Sir Robert Borden on a similar occasion:

We Canadians hold ourselves free to work out the problem or preference according to Canadian needs and conditions. For the same reason Canada must avoid any attempt at interference with the domestic policy of Great Britain.

Words equally courteous and sensible. The same may be said of Mr. Mackenzie King who, as the result of his wise and circumspect action, enjoys the respect and admiration of all the great leaders in British public life, and we are glad to know that he enjoys the proud distinction of being at least the peer of any statesman in the British realm.

Consider also the preference proposals of the Dunning budget and the trend of thought which inspired them. In presenting his budget with such substantial additional preferences to British goods with 589 items on the free list out of 1,188 items in all, Mr. Dunning said:

These tariff favours to those who favour our products are not the result of any bargain with any other country but of an attitude in international relations which we believe to be mutually beneficial. In other words, we do not intend to meet the other countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations in any spirit of petty bargaining but rather in the broad spirit of willingness to become in ever-increasing measure good customers to those who meet us in like manner. This is the spirit in which we desire to meet all nations, but we believe that within the British Commonwealth of Nations lies the greatest opportunity for mutual development of trade because of a common heritage, kindred institutions and a common patriotism.

That budget with its accompanying remarks had the effect of almost electrifying the great body of the British people as well as all the great leaders in British public life. Most favourable comments appeared in the British press. The Manchester Guardian, Liberal, described the Canadian budget as a rich gesture, the generosity of which every Britisher must appreciate. The Conservative press said:

The Dunning budget constitutes the greatest advance in imperial relations that has been seen since the war.

J. L. Garvin, in the Observer (Independent), wrote:

The Canadian budget is one of those rare strokes of policy, which, like the Laurier British preference, illuminate the realities of empire.

Ramsay MacDonald declared:

Canada's last budget is an example of how the dominions can and will help.

But, Mr. Speaker, the dominions can and will help only when the reins of power are in the hands of the right-minded party. Unhappily for the good of all that is not the case in Canada to-day. Unfortunately, very unfortunately for Canada and the whole empire, those glowing expectations were not to be realized during the past year. In its place what benefit has Canada received to date? The reply cannot be given in more appropriate words than those of General Smuts to his followers when he said:

What might have been the most brilliant and successful of all imperial conferences, has ended in disillusionment and disappointment for every part of the commonwealth of nations. If the final settlement of dominion status had gone hand-in-hand with a great gesture of friendship and comradeship, and with the holding out and grasping of helpful hands all around in this common hour of trial, what a landmark would this conference not have been in the history of the empire.

I cannot help but feel that every time the Prime Minister thinks of how lamentably he missed the mark, it must make him heartsick.

The former premier of South Africa sees in the conference a severing of old bonds without anything accomplished to replace them. A dangerous void has been left, and in language more in sorrow than in anger he exclaims:

I am sure the spirit is there, but it is a thousand pities it found no expression at the Imperial conference.

The conference took action to settle the status question, declaring on paper for a dominion independence which already existed in full sufficiency. Then the various units, led on by the Prime Minister of Canada, tried to bargain on lines of selfish interest. Well may we recall those poetic lines:

> But oh! mankind are unco' weak
> And little to be trusted,
> When self the wavering balance thrusts,
> It's rarely right adjusted.

This is what General Smuts deplores, and instead of which he would have a new spirit of cooperation and helpfulness in our mutual relations.

If there had been present at that conference a Laurier, a Sir Robert Borden, a General Smuts, or a Mackenzie King and a Lapointe, there would have been accomplishments so substantial of which every British citizen might well be proud. But as it was there is nothing beneficial, but rather a condition very much the reverse.

If the opposition in this house had adopted a critical attitude towards the Prime Minister in his proceedings leading up to the conference, it might have been said that if we had left matters alone the result might have been different. Now, however, it must be evident to everyone that he has had every opportunity to show what he could do, but instead of bettering conditions his policies

have only served to make them immeasurably worse. Meanwhile I very much fear that on the continent of Europe, as well as in the motherland, his blatant avowal of "Canada first" will bring about a policy of "Canada last" with the nations thus penalized, when it comes to buying foodstuffs.

Canadians had been hoping for further markets for Canadian agricultural products, but the chill which succeeded the warmth of enthusiam leading up to the conference is too manifest to need any comment. Much greater trade with Britain is imperative to restore our usual prosperity. As Ramsay MacDonald said:

> We are going out for a program of mutual help. Preference is not our formula. Ours is a program of greater interchange of trade.

With a policy of practical free trade how could they give more preference to Canadian goods? The Labour government's trade and tariff policy was expressed boldly and frequently long before the conference was summoned, and no Dominion delegation had any reason for assuming that it would be changed. They had no right to demand or expect any change; that prerogative belongs to the British electors. It was the first duty of the overseas delegates to recognize the fiscal policy of Great Britain as it stands, which has always been the policy recognized, as I have said, by all previous prime ministers of Canada. The present leader of the opposition and his colleagues have always refused to throw Canada on the side of any political party in Great Britain, and until the proceedings of the recent conference this position was accepted as wise, sound and courteous by the statesmen of both political parties in Canada.

Now, however, we have a so-called statesman at the head of affairs who has changed all this kind of thing, one who, when he sniffed the salt water, according to press reports, became so brutally frank that he began roving around seeking all whom he might attack, with the result that Canada is now made to appear hostile to two of the great political parties in Britain which at the last election polled 13,676,614 votes out of a total vote of 22,500,000, the Tory party on that occasion polling less than 8,700,000 votes. Thousands, if not millions, of those voters were opposed to any system of protection.

This was not only an unwarranted interference with the domestic affairs of Great Britain but a grave injustice to the people of Canada, who in the last election voted for no such policy and have no desire to see the present government of Great Britain replaced by a protectionist administration. The present prime minister of Canada while in Great Britain had no right to place them in that false position. More than that, Mr. Speaker, by his attitude at that conference he has forfeited his high position as the representative of the Canadian people in throwing the good name of Canada right into the cauldron of British home politics and demanding as a condition of empire preference that Great Britain must necessarily establish a system of protection against foreign importations, a system which all parties in Great Britain have discarded for well nigh a century.

To all such mischievous propaganda the British chancellor of the exchequer did well to reply in an important speech in which "no protection" was the keynote. The following is the associated press report:

> Protection would lead Great Britain into interminable industrial strife and chaos. An unfounded rumour has appeared in the press that the government is considering an all-round 10 per cent import duty for revenue purposes. No government in which I am in charge of the national finances will ever give serious consideration to such a proposal...
>
> If we alone were suffering and all protectionist countries were prosperous there would be a prima facie case for enquiring whether it was our fiscal policy which was responsible for our depression...
>
> The world crisis is temporary. It is driving many people to a state of panic. Before we have a change it must be proved beyond all dispute that the policy we have pursued for the last century is not the best policy for this country...
>
> Introduction of a tariff system into this country would strike at the purity of the political life of this nation. Parliament would become a sink of corruption. Members of parliament would go there not to represent the national interests but pledged to support the selfish interests of particular industries...
>
> Once begin a policy of protection and you are on a slippery slope that leads to a bottomless pit.

I commend these words to every would-be protectionist, because it is the most scathing challenge to the operation of such a policy that I have ever read. Mr. Snowden declared that the imperial preference, vigorously debated in Britain since the opening of the Imperial conference, could only be carried out by a tax on food. The Dominion premiers had made their policy clear; they asked Britain to change her fiscal policy so that preferential rates could be given to produce they sent to Britain.

When the proceedings of the conference were afterwards discussed in the British House of Commons Mr. Snowden again took a hand in the discussion and used language which should be intensely interesting to every Can-

adian. The only opportunity the British government had missed, he said, had been one to tax the food of the people. He described Mr. Bennett's proposal as follows:

> The only proposal put before the conference by the Dominions was Mr. Bennett's whose offer was—"I am not going to reduce the tariff against the United Kingdom but I will raise the tariff against the foreigner by 10 per cent of the present rate."
>
> This meant that the duty of 30 per cent would be raised to 33 per cent against the foreigner. . . . .
>
> The Canadian Prime Minister had made arrangements for this conference. He had been returned to power a few weeks before its opening and for a fortnight before he left Canada he was engaged in preparing for the conference by making large additions to Canadian duties on British products. Then Mr. Bennett came here and said. "If you will tax foreign wheat I will give you, not reciprocity but I will keep the tariff against this country as it was." That tariff . . . . was a prohibitive tariff. Both Mr. Bennett and Mr. Scullin (the Australian Prime Minister) were perfectly honest when they said their policy was to give preference to British imports where they must import these goods, but where British goods competed with Canadian or Australian goods, then they would impose a duty as protection for their own goods. . . . .
>
> The dominions, continued Mr. Snowden, are putting up a tariff wall such as to compel us to dismantle our mills here, as was done a few weeks ago in the case of a Yorkshire mill whose machinery was sent to Canada.

Such was the essence of the Canadian proposal, which was the only proposal before the conference, put in definite form. Mr. Snowden suggested the Conservatives in England would now appeal to the country on behalf of imperial unity to enable the dominions to keep out British goods and to increase unemployment in Britain. The Conservative program also said:

> We ask you to tax yourselves for the benefit of the dominions and we want the British people to pay the dominions for raising tariffs which will keep out British goods.

Who will not say this is not an accurate analysis of the Prime Minister's proposal? Certainly none of his supporters can consistently repudiate this version. And further, I say that the Prime Minister and his government had no mandate whatever, from the Canadian people to make any such proposition on their behalf. No such proposition ever was discussed before the Canadian electorate and if he would ask for a verdict on any such measure, he would not have a leg to stand on. Both he and his government would be whipped to a finish.

What other decision could you expect from British statesmen to a proposal which, if accepted, would at once hamstring British trade. It is a proposal which does not merit a moment's favourable consideration at the hands of intelligent Canadians. If the members of this house would only free themselves from all party bias they would at once arise in their might and consign any government which would entertain any such proposition to that political oblivion whence it should never have emerged. And I call upon them one and all to do so now.

On motion of Mr. Rinfret the debate was adjourned.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Wednesday, March 18, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVILEGE—MR. YOUNG

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of personal privilege. Yesterday when the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) was concluding his speech he assured the house that at this session the fullest opportunity would be given thoroughly to discuss and consider all the legislation brought down, but he added that the house would not listen or the government did not propose to listen to such vaudeville effusions as emanated from the member for Weyburn during the short session.

I know my right hon. friend has been working very hard. I know he is tired and his nerves are on edge, and I am prepared to make every possible allowance—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) would be better advised to make his remarks when we come to the orders of the day rather than at the present time, if he should be in order then.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I submit that a question of privilege is in order at any time. As a matter of fact, the rules of the house indicate that the sooner such a question is raised the better. I humbly submit—

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member for Weyburn is raising a question of privilege he is in order. I did not understand him to be so doing.

Mr. YOUNG: Yes, your honour, it is a question of personal privilege.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): He certainly was not discussing a question of privilege when called to order.

Mr. YOUNG: I am prepared to state the question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. The question, as it appears to me and to everybody with whom I have discussed it since the statement was made by my right hon. friend yesterday, is this: Has the Prime Minister of this country the right or the power to say that a member shall or shall not be heard in this house?

An hon. MEMBER: That is not privilege.

Mr. YOUNG: Anything that I said during the short session was very much to the point.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. YOUNG: I repeat, it was very much to the point.

An hon. MEMBER: What point?

Mr. YOUNG: To the point under discussion. If my right hon. friend or any of his supporters wish to silence the member for Weyburn, all they have to do is demolish his argument;—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. YOUNG: —but if the Prime Minister undertakes to say with respect to any member whether he shall or shall not speak in this house, I submit—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. When the right hon. Prime Minister undertakes to interfere with the privileges of the hon. member for Weyburn or of any other hon. member, it will be time enough to deal with the matter. I would suggest that the hon. member for Weyburn cannot now anticipate anything of the sort.

Mr. YOUNG: He made the statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: The right hon. Prime Minister in referring to the remarks made by the hon. member for Weyburn last session may have expressed his disapproval of those remarks, but until some action is attempted by the Prime Minister or by some other member to interfere with the rights of the hon. member for Weyburn it is idle for him to anticipate such action. The hon. member for Weyburn has all the rights and privileges of a member of this house, and I am sure the Prime Minister would not wish to interfere with them.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to say a word, Mr. Speaker, on the privilege of the house itself in matters of this kind. The statement I wish to draw to your honour's attention occurred in the course of the speech the right hon. Prime Minister made yesterday. I did not like to interrupt my right hon. friend while he was speaking, but I certainly intended to comment on the uncalled-for reference he made to the hon. member for Weyburn. As reported in Hansard of yesterday, at page 71, the right hon. gentleman said:

> I will say we do not propose to listen to any vaudeville effusions such as we had last session from the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young). An intelligent discussion is one thing; but the discussions that then took place were merely endeavours to wear out the patience of the minister in charge, and I think most of the hon. gentleman's friends held the same view.

I would refer the house to Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, section 157, in which there is the following reference from May's Parliamentary Practice (12th edition):

> Interference with or reflections upon members have been resented as indignities to the house itself.

Speaking for the opposition, I wish to say that we regard as an indignity upon the house itself the remarks made by the Prime Minister yesterday in reference to the hon. member for Weyburn, and as such I feel they cannot be too strongly resented. They were reflections upon an hon. gentleman who performed his duties as a member in a most efficient and effective manner during the session referred to. His offence, in the mind of my right hon. friend, was that his duties were performed so efficiently and effectively.

I would also direct attention to section 158, also quoting May:

> In the Commons, on the 12th April, 1733, and on the 1st June, 1780, it was resolved that it was a high infringement of the privilege of the house, a crime and misdemeanor, to assault, insult or menace any member of the house, in his coming or going from the house, or upon the account of his behaviour in parliament.

I ask your honour if the words used yesterday by the Prime Minister were not in the nature of a menacing statement and a threat to an hon. member of this house with respect to his behaviour, which he described as "vaudeville effusions."

Mr. BENNETT: It was.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister says it was. Then I say he is again offending the dignities of this house in making that statement. May I say further, Mr. Speaker, that the action of the Prime Minister in that particular is the more amazing in view of the great courtesy which was shown him by all hon. members on this side at the last session of parliament.

Mr. C. W. BELL (West Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I submit that the right hon. gentleman cannot address your honour as he is doing now unless he states the question of privilege—

Some hon. MEMBERS: He has stated it.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): —that it is not debatable, and that having made his statement he is restricted to it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I have made my statement. I am speaking on the rules with respect to the dignities of this house and the privileges of hon. members, and my remarks have been very carefully confined to that point. I wish to repeat that the statement made yesterday by the right hon. Prime Minister was the more amazing and astounding in view of the extreme courtesy that was shown him and his colleagues at the special session of parliament. The Prime Minister—

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I ask for a ruling upon the point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Apparently the right hon. gentleman is stating a question of privilege.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): I submit, Mr. Speaker, that he is making a speech. I ask for your honour's ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: I rule that the right hon. gentleman is in order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, it is evident that some hon. gentlemen opposite are not satisfied in seeking to coerce this side of the house; they desire as well to coerce your honour.

Mr. BENNETT: That is out of order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is one thing we are going to watch very carefully during this session, and—

Mr. BENNETT: Keep on watching.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —this arrogant and intolerant manner of my right hon. friend—

Mr. BENNETT: What a spectacle!

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —and the example he is setting his followers in that particular—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —cannot be persisted in if he hopes to get any business through the house this session.

Mr. BENNETT: Such a spectacle!

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I tell my right hon. friend at once that we of the opposition propose to exercise to the full our rights of free discussion, and as long as hon. members do their duty in discussing fully and freely any subject that is before the house they are entitled to the protection of his honour and indeed to the support of all hon. members. The Prime Minister owes it not only to the hon. member for Weyburn but to this house to give an assurance now that his remarks yesterday were not intended to be offensive, were not intended as a threat, and that he is prepared to allow the hon. member the same rights that he expects to have conceded to himself in the discussions of this house.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question of privilege has been fully stated and, as I said at the outset, the hon. member for Weyburn and every other hon. member will at all times be accorded their proper privileges.

PRIVILEGE—MR. QUINN

Mr. F. P. QUINN (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. I wish to draw the attention of the house to an article which appeared in the morning and evening editions of the Ottawa Citizen of March 17. That article reflects upon me and upon my conduct in this house. I will read it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. QUINN: Under the heading of "Claquers" appears the following:

> Mr. Mackenzie King has profound respect for parliamentary institutions. He admonished Premier Bennett yesterday to be more heedful of the advice of ministers and members around him. The level of political intelligence as reflected by noisy interrupters on the government side, however, would amply justify the prime minister's somewhat scant regard for this current form of political democracy. Members like Messrs. Cotnam, Felix Quinn, Eccles Gott and others, normal individuals outside the chamber, seem to labour under the belief that the claquer is an essential part of the machinery of parliament. They should really be furnished with paper caps and penny rattles.

I desire, Mr. Speaker, to contradict what is imputed to me in this article. I did not in any way whatever interrupt or interfere with the address of the right hon. gentleman, and through you, sir, I am going to ask the Ottawa Citizen to give my denial as much prominence as it gave this article which I have just read.

Mr. POULIOT: Did the hon. gentleman speak for his colleagues as well.

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 4, to amend the Copyright Act.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Explain.

Mr. CAHAN: This amendment to the existing Copyright Act is intended to provide, among other sections, one authorizing the governor in council to deposit at Rome ratification on behalf of Canada of the Rome Copyright convention of 1928, which was then signed on behalf of Canada by a representative of the preceding government; to insert certain definitions in the act so as to cover changes necessary for the enforcement of certain provisions of the Rome Copyright convention; to modify section 40 of the existing act with regard to registration, concerning which complaints were made to the previous government as to its not being in strict conformity with the Berne convention, which the Rome convention now modifies; and lastly to provide for the regulation of companies, associations and societies which engage in the business of granting performing rights in respect of works in which copyright subsists. After the second reading of the bill, if it passes second reading, I propose to ask the house to refer it to a special committee to consider its provisions, as the questions involved in copyright are very complex. We have received a great number of representations in regard to it; and it may meet the approval of the house to refer the bill to a special committee for further consideration after second reading.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS ACT

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 5, to amend the Canadian National Railways Act.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Explain.

Mr. MANION: This bill is for the purpose of increasing the number of directors of the Canadian National Railways from fifteen to seventeen, with the object ultimately of giving representation to two of the provinces which at the present time have no representatives on the railway board. There is a second section which is merely intended to correct a technical error in the existing legislation.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

FISH INSPECTION ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Fisheries) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 6, to amend the Fish Inspection Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. RHODES: This bill proposes certain amendments to the existing Fish Inspection Act. Their object is to make more effective the methods of inspection including, in certain cases, compulsory inspection. The bill also provides for the inspection of containers for fish, and their marking as specified by regulation.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT

Mr. ARMAND R. LAVERGNE (Montmagny) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 7, to amend the Criminal Code.

He said: The object of the bill is to amend the Criminal Code in order, first, that the defence shall address the jury after the crown has done so. Up to the present time an accused has had to defend himself before knowing exactly how he would be attacked before the jury. The bill provides, secondly, that the judge presiding at the court should be allowed to comment on law only and not on facts. The third provision is that the assizes in the province of Quebec shall be presided over by judges of the session of appeal instead of judges of the Court of King's Bench.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

ARMISTICE DAY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 8, to amend the Armistice Day Act.

He said: The Armistice Day Act, passed in 1921, comprises two sections. It provides that the Armistice day celebration shall be held on the Monday in the week in which November 11 falls. The second section provides that Thanksgiving day shall be held on the same day. The bill I now ask leave to introduce repeals both these sections, substituting for them one section which provides that the celebration of Armistice day shall be held on November 11 in each year and on no other day. It makes no reference to Thanksgiving day and therefore the procedure in regard to that will revert to the practice that prevailed prior to 1921, when by proclamation the government could fix the day at

any time they liked. I do not say anything in this bill as to Thanksgiving day, I leave that entirely open; I provide in one section that Armistice day shall be celebrated on November 11 and upon no other day.

Mr. BOURASSA: I am opposed to that.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

VANCOUVER—SEYMOUR NARROWS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. I. A. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) whether he has as yet received a report from the commission investigating the question of the ripple rock at the entrance to the Seymour Narrows in British Columbia, and if so, when he intends to present the same to parliament.

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): The report has been received but has not yet been considered by my department.

PEACE RIVER RAILWAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. D. M. KENNEDY (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) advise the house if he has yet received the report from his department as to the route of the Peace River railway?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy) was good enough to advise me a couple of days ago that he was going to ask this question and I made inquiry thereon. I have been informed by the officers of the department that all reports which have been received have been already tabled in the house. Those that have been tabled are procurable at the distribution office. I believe the last one tabled was in May, 1929, and referred to branch lines. If my hon. friend has any other report in mind and will advise me I shall be glad to look into it further.

CIVIL SERVICE

CHARGES OF POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP AGAINST OFFICIALS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) if he is aware that letters are being sent out, at least from one department, the Post Office Department, and possibly from others, to persons in the civil service accusing them of partisanship without giving the name of the accuser or any information with regard to the charge. Members of the civil service are being called upon to make an affidavit proving themselves innocent on pain of dismissal if that affidavit is not made. This practice is contrary to the usual rule and I think the Minister of Justice will be the first to appreciate that a man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty. Will the hon. minister consider having these letters recalled in view of their infraction of the rules and regulations which have existed in connection with the civil service?

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): I do not know of anything which has been done in any department not in accordance with the usual practice in such matters, nor have I any personal knowledge of the letters to which my hon. friend has referred. I shall make inquiry into the matter and if I find that there is anything amiss I shall have no objection to calling the attention of the department to that matter. So far I have heard of nothing which departs from the usual practice in such matters.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—LIMOILOU SHOPS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) to the fact that the Canadian National shops at Limoilou were burned yesterday. Owing to the fact that several hundred employees were deported from Rivière du Loup to St. Malo in 1920, do the Canadian National railways intend to send some of the men formerly employed at Limoilou shops to Rivière du Loup?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The point raised by the hon. member is entirely of an administrative character but I shall be very glad to bring his remarks to the attention of the management.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James): Mr. Speaker, the main argument of the Conservative party during the last campaign was that a disastrous situation existed in Can-

ada, that the country was on the verge of ruin and bankruptcy because of the actions of the King government, and that if the Conservative party were put into power that conditions would at once be remedied. Those remarks were thrice fallacious. In the first place the conditions then prevailing were grossly exaggerated to suit the purposes of my hon. friends and to facilitate their election campaign. In the second place no attention was paid to the fact that the crisis was world wide, that Canada was perhaps less involved in it than most other countries, and therefore this situation could not be possibly ascribed to the King government.

My hon. friends opposite should have known that if they were put into power it would not be possible to cure this situation at once, a situation which was not wholly Canadian and which did not result from any governmental action. My hon. friends opposite seem to realize that now; indeed in my humble opinion they never at any time failed to realize it. When they claimed that conditions in Canada should be ascribed to the Liberal party and that they could at once cure all our economic ills they knew very well that they could not do so. At that time they asked for power to do it, now they are asking for time to do it, and they claim that having been in power only eight months it is not fair for us to challenge their record in this regard. I invite the attention of hon. members to the collective efforts made by my right hon. friend and especially by his ministers to dissipate the impression they created during the last election campaign and to do away with the pessimism which to a certain degree they succeeded in spreading throughout Canada. By their pronouncements and official declarations since the election they have tried to avoid the effects of the false impression which they created during the campaign.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) yesterday resented the reference to his government as a one-man government, and claimed that he has the cooperation of his colleagues. Well, in his efforts to dissipate the wrong impression which he himself created by his campaign speeches he has had the cooperation at least of some of his colleagues, because quite a number of them have endeavoured to show the country that after all the conditions existing in Canada are not as bad as they claimed they were prior to July 28, 1930. It would require the putting on Hansard of a whole scrap book if I were to endeavour to give the house all the quotations from the different speeches which relate to this endeavour, but perhaps I may be permitted to give a few quotations from some of the official declarations of the present government.

About a month after the elections, on August 22 to be exact, the press of this country published a report which emanated from the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) and I do not think there will be any objection if I read one paragraph of this official document which is in vivid contrast with the statements made by the Conservative party during the election. I quote one paragraph from the Montreal Gazette giving the text of the report of the Minister of Labour, as follows:

> I do not for one moment suggest that the present unemployment is due to any governmental or lack of governmental activity. Unemployment is not a purely Canadian problem. It is world-wide. But it is not the business of the government of Canada to look after the world as a whole. It seems to me the problem first to be faced is for the government to look after the people of Canada and assist them to look after themselves.

This is a very fair statement; the only fault I find with it is that it came a month too late. It should have been presented to the Canadian people not after, but before they had an opportunity to vote.

The next official declaration that I should like to place upon Hansard is one that was given to the country on Thanksgiving Day —which happened to be the eleventh of November, may I say to the hon. gentleman beside me (Mr. Neill)—by the then Acting Prime Minister of Canada (Sir George Perley) who said—and this was on official declaration, mark you!—

> The world has been passing through a period of serious economic and political disturbance. Canada has not escaped its share of the difficulties of readjustment. Many of our fellow-citizens are still suffering hardship and uncertainty. The testing time, however, has only served to prove the strength and solidity of the Canadian economic structure, and the determination and mutual helpfulness of our people. Few countries have been as fortunate.

Imagine the Acting Prime Minister of this country thanking the Almighty that this country was not such as his friends had depicted it to the electorate! I have to pass over many such quotations to come to a declaration which was made by the Prime Minister when he returned from England and which had much the same flavour. This is what the Prime Minister gave to the Montreal Standard on the 14th day of December, 1930:

> I can only repeat to you what I said before, and I hope to make another statement soon. Our difficulties are the lesser ones. They are

those of a younger country, and incidental to its development. Nevertheless, they can be mastered only by coordinated effort which must be based upon a true realization of the causes from which the ills have arisen.

I could quote another declaration made by by the same right hon. gentleman on the first day of January, 1931, to a similar effect, namely that while this country has reached a certain state of depression, that while it has suffered somewhat from the reflex action, may I say, of the world crisis, at least we can congratulate ourselves that, as the Prime Minister puts it, our difficulties are the lesser ones, and if we compare Canada with other countries we find ourselves indeed in a very felicitous position. But another statement which is perhaps even more to the point was given by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) to the Annual Financial Review of the Montreal Gazette which is published in the early days of each year. I read there the following under the signature of the Minister of Trade and Commerce:

> While the Dominion has been less affected than most other countries, as is evidenced by the comparative position of our securities on the money markets of London and New York—

But which was very little evidenced by the campaign speeches of the Conservative party.

> —yet the country has undoubtedly suffered severely from the repercussions of the world situation. The immediate cause of the depression has been a great and disproportionate decline in wholesale prices throughout the world, affecting more particularly the food products and raw materials which we supply in large quantities to other countries.

I could go on for a long time quoting speeches and official declarations to that effect, showing that at last my hon. friends opposite have a certain sense of repentance and that now when they look upon the ill effects of their own campaigns, they are anxious to try to minimize, ameliorate and dissipate as much as they can the effects of their pronouncements of June and July last.

Even in the speech from the throne we have declarations similar to the ones I have just read, coming from the lips of His Excellency the Administrator, but as everyone knows, really emanating from the government. Possibly some hon. gentlemen may think I stress the point too strongly, but really all these declarations are to the effect—it was hard to prove it to the people during the last campaign—not only that the King government was not responsible for the conditions existing in Canada in June and July last, but that if we want to be just to that government we should give them credit for the fact that in this world-wide crisis Canada was one of the countries less affected, one of the countries able to come through the crisis much better than most of the other countries of the world.

I do not believe in harping too long on what took place some time ago—the election is lost and we must make the best of it—but the point that particularly interests me now is the promise made by hon. gentlemen opposite that they would cure the situation and cure it at once. What do we hear from the Prime Minister himself? What do we hear from every one of the ministers, these great statesmen, these great economists, these marvelous doctors and magicians who were going to spread happiness over the whole of Canada? Has butter sold at sixty cents since they were elected? Have eggs sold at higher prices so that everyone wants to raise them in this country? My hon. friends wanted power. They said: Give us time; we have been in power only six months; we have been in power only eight months. How much more time do my hon. friends want? How long will it take for them to make good their promises to the electors? Will it be six months more? Will it be a year more? Will it be four years more? They do not know; we do not know, and unfortunately the poor electorate does not know either, but the people are just waiting, selling their butter at a cheaper price than it ever sold at before, selling their eggs for less than they ever before obtained for them, and generally enduring conditions that have not been improved, but that in many parts of the country are worse than they were previously. I suppose after two or three years have passed, in the ordinary trend of events and the normal evolution of business conditions throughout the world this country, notwithstanding the fact that my hon. friends are in power, will again reach the point it had attained two or three years ago, and then my hon. friends will say: We have done it; give us credit for it; we have cured the evil, not at once, but it cured itself without our aid. Give us credit for it. We have at last redeemed our election promises.

My hon. friends opposite are prone to say that they made good their promise to convene a special emergency session during the month of September last. The convening of that special session would be what I would call, Mr. Speaker, redeeming the letter of their promise. As a matter of fact, I fully share the stand taken by my hon. leader that it was quite unnecessary to have a special emergency session merely for the purpose

of voting a certain amount of money. In the situation that existed at that time, and after the campaign that had been waged throughout the country, the government would certainly have been fully justified in securing money, not by convening the members of this house from every part of the country, but merely by a governor general's warrant. The reason for the special emergency session, as I have said, was in the first place to redeem the letter of the promise of the government; and in the second place, as I shall try to show later, its purpose was to put through certain tariff resolutions which had nothing to do with the unemployment situation, but which had much to do with the desires of the Prime Minister.

After voting $20,000,000 last September and following the session, a conference took place between the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) and certain provincial ministers, and we are told that the cooperation of a number of the provincial governments was secured to start a certain number of public works.

I am quite willing to believe that, but so far as the city of Montreal, from which I come, is concerned, most of the government works that are now going on are works which not merely had nothing to do with the voting of the $20,000,000 at the special session but were works decided upon and for which money was voted by the King government in the previous session of 1930. By bill, Mr. Speaker, this house had voted the sum of $50,000,000 in the previous session for the building of terminal and railway facilities for the Canadian National Railways in the city of Montreal. That is a sum more than twice the amount which this government asked parliament to vote during the special session last September for the whole Dominion of Canada. Not only is this work for which the King government provided being carried on in the city of Montreal, furnishing employment to a great number of persons, but I wish to state to the house that it is going on notwithstanding the active opposition of Conservative forces in Montreal who have done everything in their power to prevent that work from being carried out.

The King government voted $5,000,000 for the harbour of Montreal, and a large proportion of that sum was available to perform work in the harbour of Montreal. In the month of January you could read in almost every paper in the city of Montreal, letters inquiring why certain work involving the expenditure of $1,500,000 at the Windmill Point wharf was not being done by this government or by the harbour commission. That was another instance, Mr. Speaker, of money that had been voted by the King government not being actually spent in the city of Montreal. For certain reasons unknown to me, but certainly known to my hon. friend the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) either the harbour commission or the government delayed that work which should have gone on and been paid for out of moneys voted by the Liberal government, moneys voted in the regular course of events previous to the emergency session.

What about the tunnel under the Lachine canal? That is another work in the city of Montreal that is being credited to the unemployment program of the special session. But who is there in this house from the city of Montreal that does not know that this work has been in contemplation for a long time, and had actually been promised by the Hon. Mr. Dunning and the Hon. Mr. Crerar. I want to qualify that: It was not only promised but it was understood that the money would be available just as soon as the city authorities of Montreal would be in a position to commence the work.

Such are the works, Mr. Speaker, that are being performed, or delayed, in the city of Montreal, and for which credit is claimed by the Conservative party as a part of their program for unemployment relief. As far as we are concerned, I say that if there had been no change of government in July last, and no emergency session, not only would these moneys have been expended in the city of Montreal, but they would have been expended without the undue delay that a change of government brought about in this country.

But the real purpose of the special session, Mr. Speaker, was not to vote money which could have been appropriated in some other way, but to effect changes in the tariff. Hon. members will remember the tariff resolutions, covering 20 pages of Hansard, brought down at the special emergency session, and upon which we were asked to pass judgment without having had opportunity to give the slighest consideration to the individual tariff items. My point is that these changes in the tariff should not have been made for many reasons. I claim that the government itself had not had time properly to consider the changes it proposed, and that such changes were proposed upon inadequate information.

My right hon. friend the Prime Minister after being returned to power, abolished the tariff board. That was a body which had been established for the purpose of gathering

information on tariff matters, and to help the government in framing its tariff policy. I regret very much that my right hon. friend should have chosen to abolish that tariff board, but I regret even more that having abolished it, the Prime Minister went ahead as if all the time he was being supplied with adequate information upon which to base the changes in the tariff which he proposed at the special session. True, and this is very interesting, I must give the Prime Minister credit for having tried in a certain way to revive some kind of a tariff commission by having certain members of the cabinet sit in a ring to gather information from the general public on particular tariff matters. May I be permitted to put on record an account of the way in which that committee of cabinet ministers proceeded in a certain instance, as it shows the intense desire they evinced to gather information on fiscal matters?

I was in Ottawa on the 16th of February, and this report of that first tariff meeting of cabinet ministers is dated Ottawa, February 17. I am quoting from a report in the Montreal Gazette. A tariff meeting of that special committee of cabinet ministers on fiscal matters had been scheduled for February 16, but there was some misunderstanding as to the time the committee should sit. Certain people thought the hour was 10 o'clock, and others thought it was 11. What happened? The Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), I believe, proceeded to some room in the House of Commons, and sat there for about one minute, and when they found that nobody had arrived, they decided to adjourn the meeting sine die; and that concluded the hearing so far as that meeting was concerned. If that is an example, Mr. Speaker, of the high-handed discipline that my right hon. friend wants to institute in the public affairs of this country, it may perhaps be somewhat commended; but as an example of gathering information on fiscal matters, it certainly was not very encouraging. But there is more. When the Prime Minister adjourned that meeting, even his own ministers had not arrived. Perhaps hon. gentlemen will not believe that. Let me quote from the Montreal Gazette. It says:

> Ministers who arrived too late for the sitting were: Hon. T. G. Murphy, Minister of the Interior, Hon. Alfred Duranleau, Minister of Marine, and Hon. Arthur Sauve, Postmaster General. Even officials of the National Revenue department, including Robert W. Breadner, commissioner of customs, were uncertain as to the hour of opening and came on the assumption that the hearing would commence at eleven o'clock.

And the meeting was adjourned, Mr. Speaker, at exactly 10.31, by the Prime Minister of Canada. If you admit at all the principle of cabinet solidarity, you must come to the conclusion that the Prime Minister adjourned the meeting before he had actually arrived as a government. The eminent economist who now presides over the destinies of this country is willing to establish contacts with the common people and gather information upon which to base his fiscal policy. No wonder he made such a terrible blunder when he dealt with the glass items in the schedules. I am not sure I will have time to go fully into that matter but may I say briefly that the increases in the glass items were something tremendous. We were importing glass from Belgium bearing an ad valorem duty of 12½ per cent. After securing certain information this government decided that the importation of glass should be stopped and it placed thereon a duty of so much per pound. I learned from people in Montreal who were interested in the glass business that a duty of 26 cents on an article valued at $2.30, or about 12½ per cent, would have amounted to something like $3, $3.50 or $4 under the revised schedule. The Prime Minister stated that from the information gathered from all corners of Canada, in his opinion, the price did not matter because we in Canada were going to produce glass. His view was that it did not matter what the duty would be because no more glass would have to be imported. I take as an example the position of one of the hon. members of this house, Mr. Bell (Hamilton), who stated that the measure would protect the industry in his constituency. The language used by the hon. gentleman was similar to that we heard throughout the session. He said he had investigated the position with extreme care and in his opinion within ten days from the time he was speaking there would be an increase from 150 to 500 in the number of men working in a certain plant.

Mr. VENIOT: He is still looking for the plant.

Mr. RINFRET: What was the result? The price of glass increased immediately and tremendously. Not only did it increase on the imported product but also on glass which had been stored throughout the country. The increase was of such an extreme nature that my hon. friend, the genial Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman), at once made use of his discretionary powers and inserted in that wonderful schedule the necessary corrective measure. He did away with that item. There was no more question of opening a plant and employing so many

hundred men; in at least one instance he recognized the government had been very hasty in its action and that the schedules had to be reconsidered. As a conclusion to the whole matter there was an editorial in the old Conservative newspaper, the Gazette, reviewing the whole matter under the very suggestive title, "A tragedy of errors."

We had another reason for resentment in the fact that the schedules were hurried through. Not only was this schedule put on the table in a state of unpreparedness but we were given no opportunity to discuss it. We were told very abruptly by the Prime Minister that we must either accept these items at once and put them through as they then existed or he would not go to the London conference. At the time we thought Canada should be represented at the conference. I must admit, Mr. Speaker, that if we could have foreseen the policy which was to be propounded by the right hon. gentleman, the manner in which he would present it and the way in which he would be received, I am not so sure but that it would have been good business to keep him here a little longer. Time passes however and I am only too happy to avail myself the most admirable description of the Imperial conference which was given Monday last by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). The speech of my right hon. leader has shown not only why the blasting process of the Prime Minister failed so lamentably but also how the whole procedure of the right hon. gentleman was doomed to utter failure. The Prime Minister has said that he did nothing more than was done in 1902 by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. If he meant in a general way that at different times in the history of this country Canadian governments had sought preferences in the British market I will not deny his statement. I hope he does not intend however to parallel his action with the suave, diplomatic, mellow tone adopted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I hope he will not compare the blunt, aggressive and as he himself has called it, "brutal" way he addressed the Imperial conference with the manner adopted by the former leader of the Liberal party. It does not matter however whether his attitude was similar to that taken about thirty years ago when conditions were totally different, or whether he thought it best to present his case in that way or in some other way. The bare fact remains that he went to London in an effort to find a market for our wheat and he came back empty handed. That fact cannot be denied, Mr. Speaker. To quote a parallel incident which occurred thirty years ago does not in the least help the west to sell one bushel of wheat in the English market to-day. In my estimation the difficulty with my right hon. friend is that he puts too much faith in the policy of protection and in his own blunt way of presenting it. I think we must all admit that the problems facing the world to-day are over-production and under-marketing. The world has been producing too much and has not been able to get a wide enough distribution for that product. That is the problem, Mr. Speaker, but that was not the problem in the year 1902. We must face the problem of 1931. The great need is not so much to increase home production as to dispose of our surplus products in the markets of the world. My hon. friends talk about a policy of high protection but when they propose to grant a preference to some one it means they are further protecting someone else. That is their idea of a proper fiscal policy for Canada, and they call it the Canada-first policy. We know that the Conservative party has always claimed a monopoly of patriotism. It was a great Conservative leader who said once, "A British subject I was born; a British subject I will die," as if he was the only person to whom these things were likely to happen. That hon. gentleman propounded a tariff policy and was pleased to call it a national policy insinuating that any other procedure in fiscal matters would be anti-national just because it did not happen to be the policy with which he agreed. We had a similar situation in 1911. At that time I was not very old but I have not forgotten the discussions which were reported in the Montreal Star during the reciprocity campaign. We remember reading the words "Under which flag will you live?" Who is going to contend seriously that if Sir Wilfrid Laurier had won the election of 1911 we would not still be living under the British flag? The same applies to the present situation. My right hon. friend has been pleased to call his policy the Canada-first policy. But who will deny that any statesman in this country has not primarily the interests of Canada at heart? This is not a matter of pronouncement, it is a matter of performance and the means to be employed. For myself I do not believe that a policy of high protection is a good Canada-first policy. I do not believe in placing Canada behind high and impenetrable tariff walls, expecting to sell to all the countries of the world and refusing to buy from any. That is not a Canada-first policy. That is a policy of Canada alone, Canada ignoring the rest of the world, Canada isolated from all the

markets of the world. We too want a Canada-first policy, but we do not want to isolate our country behind the high walls of protection. We want Canada to face the world in all confidence, relying on her vast natural resources and the good will and resourcefulness of her people. In a word, we want Canada to trade with other countries, to sell her products to them in exchange for their products. I repeat, we too want a Canada-first policy—a policy that will place our porducts in all the markets of the world.

Mr. F. W. TURNBULL (Regina): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to join those hon. members who have already spoken in their congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) upon the able manner in which they acquitted themselves. May I also extend my congratulations to you, sir, and to the house on Your Honour's recovery from your recent indisposition, a recovery which makes it possible for us during this session to sit under your presidency. And may I also congratulate the member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) who during the recess had conferred upon him the distinguished honour of the presidency of the United Farmers of Alberta.

I should like further to congratulate the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Mackenzie King) upon the recovery of his belief in the principle of unity. And might I congratulate also the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret), who by reason of the kindness of the recent government to his constituency was able to get along without a special session of parliament. I may remark that if his constituency and Montreal generally were so well taken care of with millions of dollars, there were other parts of the country that were not quite so well served, but it may be a subject for congratulation, for had it not been for those extensive votes on the eve of the general election we might not have had the privilege of listening to his delightful speech this afternoon.

I am glad the Liberal party is returning to the principle of unity and harmony. They never ran an election in western Canada, at least within the last twenty years, without the most bitter appeals to sectionalism. Elections in western Canada have been fought by my hon. friends opposite on the basis of telling our foreign-born citizens that if the Conservatives should be elected to office in the federal or in the provincial field their churches would be burned down, their school houses closed, their homesteads taken away from them, and they themselves deported to the land from which they came. They also resorted to the tactics of frightening the foreign-born element by stories of Egyptian and Turkish wars should the Conservatives be returned to power. To these possible wars they have now added the danger of a war with England. Well, there is at least one feature about that war if it ever materializes—and my right hon. friend from Prince Albert does not think it will—they will not be able to accuse us of lending our Canadian forces to aid Great Britain.

Yesterday we heard from the right hon. leader of the government (Mr. Bennett) what I might call a confession of repentance by the Hon. Mr. Gardiner, the Liberal leader in the province of Saskatchewan. That statement was delivered at Portage la Prairie, shortly after Mr. Gardiner became premier of the province. But I fear that soon after he must have been disciplined by his leader in Ottawa, because he very speedily abandoned that profession, and in the fall of 1926 we find that the right hon. member for Prince Albert, instead of trying to promote unity and harmony in this country, was trying to build up a bloc, preaching the doctrine of a solid Saskatchewan and a solid Quebec to govern Canada.

Mr. VALLANCE: It cannot be done, and you know it.

Mr. TURNBULL: You know it.

Mr. VALLANCE: Sixty-five and twenty-one—that is eighty-six out of two hundred and forty five.

Mr. TURNBULL: I am prepared to take care of all helpful interruptions even during my forty minutes, but I commend some hon. gentlemen opposite to the attention of the Ottawa Citizen. Now I wish to quote from the Saskatoon Daily Star of August 9, 1926, a paper supporting my hon. friends opposite. It reported the then Prime Minister of Canada, now the leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition, as follows:

> When Quebec and Saskatchewan get together at a common table stating their points of view and coming to a common decision, we have the keynote to unity and success.

One of the bright features of the last election, apart from the replacement of a government of vacillation by a government of action, was the fact that the solid blocs, gained by misrepresentation as I have described, were broken up, and Saskatchewan and Quebec are now sitting together at the council table, not alone but in common with the other provinces of Canada. It is only by

decisions arrived at under such conditions that the unity and harmony we all desire can be achieved.

To satisfy this house that Mr. Gardiner's action must have received the disapproval of his leader in Ottawa, I find that he did not follow along the lines of his confession of repentance very long. During the last session of the Saskatchewan legislature we had him making declarations in favour of the so-called sessionists. Let me quote from the Regina Leader-Post of January 13, 1931, which reports Mr. Gardiner as follows:

> We have more in common with our natural customers in Britain than with this group of bloated plutocrats in Toronto and Montreal who fatten on our labour, declared the Liberal chieftain. I am far more concerned with keeping the empire together than in the relation between Regina and Montreal.

That is how our friends in Saskatchewan uphold the doctrines of unity that are preached so eloquently in the halls of Ottawa.

Let me say that there is no substantial secessionist movement in western Canada, and the people there, when they read the press, will resent the suggestion from the leader of the Liberal party in this house that the west is secessionist or that the people in the west are.

Some hon. MEMBERS: He never said so.

Mr. TURNBULL: If my hon. friends will turn to page 25 of Hansard they will find the words.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Will the hon. member state what the leader of the opposition said?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Read page 25 of Hansard.

Mr. TURNBULL: He said this:

> If western Canada feels the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite are not suited to the needs of western Canada, then it is not for the people of western Canada to talk about secession or anything of that kind.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. RALSTON: Go on.

Mr. TURNBULL: The only talk of secession in western Canada arose from a meeting of six gentlemen in the town of Wilkie in the constituency of my hon. friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance).

Mr. VALLANCE: And it is not correct.

Mr. TURNBULL: And the only person who knows about secession in western Canada is the hon. gentleman who represents that constituency. With regard to the Imperial conference I have very little to say. For the first time within my recollection, in the history of imperial conferences, and I speak subject to correction, there were taken to that gathering representatives of the grain marketing interests of Canada, including representatives of the farming interests and western economists, in the persons of Mr. John I. McFarland, a retired grain merchant, Dr. D. A. MacGibbon, vice-chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners, Dr. W. W. Swanson, head of the department of Economics of the university of Saskatchewan, and Mr. A. J. McPhail, president of the central selling agency of the Canadian wheat pool. There was at least an attempt on the part of those who represented Canada at that conference to solve the wheat marketing problem of western Canada, and until that conference is closed no one has any right to say that these wheat marketing problems will not be solved.

So far as the conduct of the Prime Minister at that conference is concerned, and so far as his proposals go, I can only say that they had the approval of the financial interests of Great Britain. They were accepted by the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, and they had the support of all the other dominion premiers at the conference, the only exception being the Prime Minister of the motherland. And they had the support of these professors and economists who went with the Prime Minister from Ottawa.

I have here a statement made in Toronto by Professor Swanson, reported under date of November 28, 1930. He is not a follower of the Conservative party, but he is reported to have said:

> Dr. Swanson declared himself a born free trader, but nevertheless he was actively in favour of Premier Bennett's preference offer. In supporting it in London, he declared: "I conceived that I was doing more service to the ideal world freedom of trade than I could have accomplished in any other manner—I felt I was assisting at the mobilization of the greatest army in history for the penetration of unjust trade barriers raised by foreign powers."

And this out and out free trader added:

> The Imperial conference was an outstanding personal success for the Prime Minister of Canada.

For my part I would rather accept the opinion of Doctor Swanson than anything I have heard here since the opening of the session. But let us discuss Canada, because it is in the present condition of Canada that we are interested. I have listened, during the few days the house has been in session, for some suggestion from hon. gentlemen opposite as to what cure could be put into effect for the known economic ills of the country and I have

heard no broad statement of economic policy. There has come no ray of hope from Liberal ranks, but merely criticism and sniping. I have heard an attempted description of Conservative policies, and having listened to them I have only this to say, that if my hon. friends across the aisle were no more successful in describing their own policies to the electors of Canada than they have been in describing Conservative policies to this house, I do not wonder that they sit to the left of Mr. Speaker.

There is no doubt that conditions in western Canada are not as good as they might be, but it is also true that they are not as bad as they might be either; and they are far from being as bad as my hon. friends have been painting them. Western Canada is not whining about blue ruin or talking in desperation. Western Canada is not starving. But western Canada to-day realizes that it is up against an economic struggle and its people, with their backs to the wall, are digging in and making the best of the situation. Things are not so bad in the west as you might expect them. They are bad in spots it is true, because there are areas in southern Saskatchewan where there were crop failures in two successive years, where the farmers had not a bushel of grain and had no feed for their cattle. These conditions are beyond the control of any government; they were beyond the control of the government of my hon. friend. But no guaranteed price of wheat would be of advantage to people who had no wheat, and this constituted a large part of our trouble in Saskatchewan. After all, the question is not exactly what are conditions in western Canada but, to some extent, whose responsibility is it that conditions in the west are as they are. And, after that, the question is, what steps shall be taken to remedy these conditions. Personally, as representative of the capital city of Saskatchewan, I am listening anxiously for any word from any side of the house that will point a ray of hope and progress to this Dominion, and I have heard nothing at all from my friends across the way except the suggestion of the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) that we should have a depreciated currency in this country.

What has happened to our markets in western Canada, and under whose dominion have these things occurred? I have in my hand a table showing what happened to the exports between 1920 and 1929. There was a decrease in exports of mutton and lamb of 340 per cent; in butter, of 240 per cent; in eggs, of 140 per cent; in sheep and lambs, of 90 per cent; in hog products, of 80 per cent; in dressed beef, of 61 per cent; in live cattle, of 52 per cent, and in cheese, of 12 per cent. And the fact that we have had a decrease of over 100 per cent in certain items—

An hon. MEMBER: How could there be?

Mr. TURNBULL:—is explained by the circumstances that we went off an export basis and heavily on to an import basis.

Mr. RALSTON: Now for production.

Mr. TURNBULL: That net result of the reduction in these items was an unfavourable balance against us of $257,000,000 a year; and, as my hon. friends say, markets once lost are a little bit difficult to regain. Now it was between 1920 and 1929, under nine years of Liberal rule, that these markets for farm products were lost. We lost our markets for wheat. We had a declining price for wheat. But the price of wheat did not start to drop on the 28th of July; it dropped twice as much in the preceding year as it has done since. However, the price of wheat started to drop as a result of a gradually increasing piling-up of surpluses not only in Canada but in other wheat producing countries in the world. While these wheat surpluses were piling up, the Department of Trade and Commerce, which should have been interesting itself in our markets, was not paying any attention to what was happening to the farmers of Canada. Other countries of the world were alive to this situation, and back in 1927 a conference was called in Rome by Benito Mussolini as a result of which the vineyards in Italy were torn up and planted with wheat, and what Mr. Mussolini called the battle of wheat began. It extended into France and Germany, and while we had a trade treaty with France this department stood supinely by and allowed France to shut our wheat completely out of their markets. The same thing took place in Germany and other European countries. During nine years of Liberal rule fifty-three trade treaties were entered into, but not one sold a single bushel of wheat. The Liberal party told the farmers of western Canada how interested they were in their problems and how much the Conservative party was the friend of the big interests. That "farmer against big interests" cry has been part of the history of western Canada for many years. The Department of Trade and Commerce allowed our markets one by one to slip from our grasp.

What has this department done? On March 14, 1929, the then Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) said:

The Department of Trade and Commerce is not exercised over the sale of such commodities as wheat, because those commodities find their own markets; but we are interested in assisting the sale of manufactured products.

That statement is made by a member of a party who tell us that the Conservatives are the friends of the manufacturers and big interests while the Liberals are the friends of the poor down-trodden farmer. The hon. member went on to say, as appears on page 948 of Hansard of last year:

Without unduly flattering the officers of my department, I believe we have representing the Dominion throughout the world as intelligent and aggressive a group of trade commissioners as any country could wish to possess.

It was not the fault of his personnel that these markets disappeared. Speaking on the New Zealand trade treaty, he says at page 946:

Do we want to get $15,000,000 worth of manufactured goods into New Zealand? If we do want to trade with New Zealand there is only one thing that New Zealand can sell us.

Those are the people who claimed to be the friends of the farmer, but how did they take care of them? On page 944 of Hansard the hon. member is reported as saying:

Providence provides opportunities for an industrious man to profit by the bounties provided.

Trade treaties were made for the betterment of the manufacturers and Canadian markets were given over to the farm products of other countries, while Providence took care of the poor farmer.

In the campaign literature used during the last elections in Saskatchewan it was stated that we had lost all our markets for wheat with the exception of one, the market in Great Britain, and that if the Dunning budget did not succeed in selling our wheat in that country then all was lost. That was the only remedy that the Liberal party could provide for our ills, and if that failed they were unable to provide anything else. The people of western Canada said that they would not take a chance on a party which had only one remedy left.

I have in my hand the Dominion report on the grain trade of Canada for the crop year ending July 31, 1926, wherein is listed the names and places to which we shipped grain. On page 146 appears a table showing the exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour from United States Atlantic seaboard ports, by countries of destination, during the crop year ended July, 1926, and this table shows

that we shipped from United States seaboard ports to forty-six different countries in the world. If the campaign literature of the Liberal party told the truth, then within five years we have lost forty-five markets for our wheat. That is a wonderful record for any government which professes to be interested in the farmer. We made fifty-three trade treaties in nine years and lost forty-five markets in five years. Of course the statement that we had only one market left was exaggerated, as was most of the campaign literature; we had more markets than that. Canada's position to-day is not due to the lack of intelligence on the part of the trade commissioners but rather that their attention was directed towards manufactured goods. The right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) did not know what the situation was, because he is reported in the Regina Leader-Post of July 19, 1930, as follows:

Canada, in her effort to develop trade, had made certain treaties. "When the treaty was entered into with New Zealand, there was about as much thought of butter coming from New Zealand as there is of grain coming from Great Britain," Mr. King asserted.

The Department of Trade and Commerce negotiated a treaty which resulted in 50,000,000 pounds of butter coming into this country within one year, as well as considerable quantities in other years, without considering the posibility that that butter would come into this country.

Mr. BOTHWELL: Will the hon. member tell the house when the agreement to which he has referred was entered into with New Zealand, or whether there is such an agreement?

An hon. MEMBER: An order in council.

Mr. TURNBULL: By order in council of December, 1925, the advantages of the Australian treaty were extended to New Zealand, which is another instance of the Liberal lack of intelligence as to trade conditions.

No one regrets more than I do that conditions are not as they should be in western Canada, but these conditions did not arise from anything which has happened since July 28, 1930; they are the result of an economic policy which has existed for years. What would you think of a man who started a loaded toboggan down a hill and then blamed the fellow who came upon the scene when the toboggan had almost reached the bottom because he could not stop it before he hit the bottom? That is exactly the position of hon. gentlemen opposite with reference to the decrease in the price of our products.

The west is turning to the production of butter and dairy products. The production for January and February of 1931 has increased by 80 per cent over the production for January and February of 1930. I agree with hon. gentlemen that the price of butter is not what it should be, but they must remember that there is a considerable amount of New Zealand butter still in storage. This butter came in before the order in council was revoked on October 12. The suggestion has been offered that the people of western Canada should go into mixed farming, but I believe that to do that on a large scale would be disastrous until such time as markets for our products can be developed, which must be done by orderly marketing in the consuming countries of the world. We are not getting our fair share of the markets, and we must have a steady supply of quality goods to offer. When that happens, then mixed farming in western Canada will follow.

I think there should be some decrease in the western domestic freight rate. If the domestic rate to the coast on wheat and wheat products were reduced to somewhere near the export rate it would provide an outlet for considerable feed from the province of Alberta and that would be of inestimable benefit to the farmers of the Fraser River valley and to the poultry raisers of Vancouver and other parts of British Columbia. Some of those things might be done. We might get out and try to sell our wheat on quality for a little while instead of letting it find its own market. We have experiments conducted in Winnipeg to show the difference between a loaf made with European flour and a loaf made with Canadian flour, with varying quantities of Canadian flour in the mix. An expression of the difference between those loaves would, I think, go a long way towards bringing back to Canada the place it once had in the markets of the world, because no other wheat has the same qualities for bread-making as Canadian wheat has. We have a quality product; let us sell on quality, working back into our markets by negotiation and business merchandising.

I hope the Hudson Bay railway will assist us in the export of live stock, and I trust with respect to wheat we shall take advantage of the grain congress which is to be held in Regina in 1932 to invite the international experts of the world to meet us there and discuss the wheat marketing situation of the world.

An hon. MEMBER: Including Russia.

Mr. TURNBULL: If we can get Russia to carry out her agreement, yes.

This is no time for talking about party politics in particular or for talking about desperate situations or for getting into any panic. Canada is one of the finest countries in the world. It is true it has been bedeviled for nine years by a government that paid little or no attention to its needs, being more devoted to stirring up sectional jealousies in their desire to gain power than endeavouring to attain their objective by a business presentation of the facts. We have in this country huge supplies of raw products, depleted to some extent, it is true, by a wasteful method of handling them. We have abundant and cheap water power, also allowed, in places, to be over-capitalized. We have transportation facilities by land and water unequalled by any other country in the world. We have abundant supplies of capital. Canadian money to the amount of $2,000,000,000 is invested abroad because the people who had it placed more confidence in the governments of foreign countries than they did in the government of Canada. We have an industrious and intelligent population. We have all that to draw upon, and with a government of action in power, a government that the people can trust, the future is one of hope. If we do our part in trying to guide Canada along business lines, Canada will again take her place as the most prosperous nation of the world and her people will have reaped a reward of welfare and prosperity that should have been theirs during the nine years that have gone by.

One of the most impressive features of campaign literature that I had during the last election was a booklet entitled From Gloom and Depression to Unparalleled Prosperity, and all you had to do was to take the book up, read the title page, tell the people who the authors of it were and ask them if they felt the unparalleled prosperity that this book so glowingly depicted. There has been a change in Canada; there is a feeling of prosperity coming over the people. I want to congratulate my friends of the manufacturing interests—and when I say my friends of the manufacturing interests, I mean the labourers who work in those factories—who have obtained employment as a result of what we did at the last session of parliament. We in western Canada are big and broad enough to extend to those labourers our congratulations that they have been able to find work. We expect in return that we shall have the sympathy and assistance of our friends in eastern Canada

in an attempt to improve conditions in western Canada; and when the east pulls with the west instead of being divided against the west, when we have cooperation between the manufacturer and the farmer instead of the dissension that has been too much preached in this country, then we shall solve the difficulties of this Canada of ours and place her once again on the pedestal where she belongs.

Mr. G. W. McPHEE (Yorkton): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of interest to the debate so far, and the gesture of the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Porteous) to the French Canadian people of Canada in foregoing his right to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne, as he had been asked to do in favour of the member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) is something that will commend itself to every fair-minded citizen of this country. I was wondering—and I make this statement in view of the remarks to which I have just listened from the member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) in connection with sectional appeals—what the Conservative representatives from Saskatchewan think of that gesture. One of the appeals, and the strongest appeal, made to the voters of Saskatchewan in the last three or four years by both the Conservative party and the Conservative press, was that under Liberal administration there was French domination in Canada. Of course there was nothing to it. Thanks to wise administration in the past, the two races, the Anglo-Saxon and the French, have lived side by side in perfect peace and harmony. The monument in Quebec to Wolfe and Montcalm, the victor and the vanquished, the conqueror and the conquered, is the best evidence of unity to be found in any country in the world. The major credit for that is due to that grand old French Canadian who, for over thirty years, led the Liberal party in this country. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's faith in Canada and in British institutions is nowhere better expressed than in his address delivered during the celebration of three hundred years of French life in Canada. This is what he said:

> As I advance in years I appreciate the more the wisdom of that British Constitution under which I was born and brought up, and under which I have grown old, which has given to the various positions of the empire their separate free governments. It is our proud boast that Canada is the freest country in the world. It is our proud boast that in this country liberty of all kinds—civil and religious liberty—flourish to the highest degree.

The hon. member for North Grey is therefore to be complimented on his recognition of the rights of the French people in this country. What about his colleagues from the province of Saskatchewan? The hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) has introduced this matter, and he will pardon me if I follow him. One of the cries raised by the Conservative party and the Conservative press in western Canada, as I said before, has been French domination of Canada under Liberal government. I have in my hand a news item that appeared in the Orange Sentinel, and I do not think the hon. member for Regina will dispute it. It reads:

> Strongly protest bilingual stamps. Regina brethren call on M.P.'s to raise matter at Ottawa.
>
> The new bilingual special delivery postage stamp issued by Hon. Arthur Sauve, Postmaster-General in the Bennett government, came to the front as an issue at the annual dinner of Sam Hughes Orange lodge in the Champlain hotel here on October 30.
>
> The attack was launched in the course of a speech by R.W. Bro. R. J. Gibson, Saskatchewan, Past Grand Master, who called upon F. W. Turnbull, M.P. for Regina, and Dr. W. D. Cowan, M.P. for Long Lake, who were sitting at the head table, to fight the bilingual stamp policy of the new government, and to stand true to the principles "for which we believe they have been standing."

Mr. GOTT: What paper is that from?

Mr. McPHEE: The Orange Sentinel. I have here also the editorial page of the Regina Star, a Conservative paper in Saskatchewan, which in its issue of November 1, 1930, just a little more than four months ago, dealing with the issue of bilingual stamps and the publication of government pamphlets in French, says:

> There is not a tittle of authorization of the French language for postal forms, postage and revenue stamps, radio applications, government reports and departmental forms. These are all without legal authorization. It is an abuse of the processes of thought and an insult to the intelligence of the English-speaking people of Canada, for Hon. Mr. Veniot to suggest that his illegal bilingual issue of stamps, and his other various efforts to force the French language illegally down the throats of the non-French people of Canada will "tend to bind more closely together the two races."

Then listen to this:

> The mandate which Premier Bennett got from the west was for the cessation of these unconstitutional and offensive efforts at bilingual propaganda through the machinery of the federal government, equally with his mandate on the economic issue. On this matter of bilingualism the people of the west expect to see their wishes respected.

Now will my hon. friend say that it is the Liberal party that makes sectional appeals? What has my hon. friend from Regina to say; what have other members from Saskatchewan

sitting on the Conservative side of the house, who were elected as a result of that very racial cry, who have subscribed to that very doctrine, to say with regard to this highly to be commended gesture of the hon. member for North Grey to the French-speaking people of Canada?

I wish to address myself now more particularly to the problems that afflict the people of western Canada as a result of the actions of the present government. The thought that is uppermost in the mind of every farmer in western Canada and of everyone dependent upon the farmer is, what can be done to improve conditions? What can be done to get the farmer out of the slough of despond in which he finds himself placed at the present time? Before one suggests a remedy, one must diagnose the disease. One must examine all the circumstances which have led to the farmer finding himself in the position in which he finds himself to-day. I say, Mr. Speaker, that first and last the trouble is due to a false fiscal policy. The countries of the world, with the exception of Great Britain, since the war more particularly, have gone in for a drunken orgy of protection. Great Britain of all countries in the world has refused to listen to the protectionist cry, and what has been the result? During the past three years Great Britain sold $10,000,000,000 of her own products to protectionist countries, overcoming the disadvantage of high tariff walls by the cheapness and superiority of her goods. The exports of the cotton industry of Lancashire exceeded the combined exports of cotton of the United States, Germany, France, Japan and Czechoslovakia. Great Britain to-day is building over one-half of all the ships constructed in the world. During the first nine months of this year 34 per cent of Great Britain's trade was with Europe, 21 per cent with Asia and 18 per cent with Africa. These facts are the more enlightening when considered in relation to the action of the Prime Minister of Canada both before and at the Imperial conference—before, when he increased the duties against British manufactured goods, and at the conference, when he demanded that the British people impose a tax on foodstuffs in order to give Canada a preference in the British market.

Sir George Paish, the eminent British economist, three years ago wrote an article which exemplifies what I have said with regard to Great Britain and protection. I think it is worth while to put it on Hansard. He says:

> Nations dependent upon world markets for the sale of their products are in almost as much danger as nations which must buy foreign products in order to support their peoples.
>
> The agricultural industries of all nations, and more particularly of what are known as the young countries, are heavily in debt, and if they cannot sell their products in anything like the present quantity, and can sell the reduced quantity only at a much lower level of prices, their distress will indeed be great.
>
> But if these agricultural countries will not buy manufactured or other goods in sufficient quantity to enable the manufacturing nations to buy their foodstuffs, raw materials, and tobacco, how can they sell their products?
>
> And if the agriculturists of the world cannot sell their products in sufficient quantity at reasonable prices, how can they buy anything like the quantity of goods they have bought in recent years from the manufacturers of their own countries? They cannot, and in turn, the manufacturers and merchants of all nations will be in difficulties.
>
> Thus, with all the world in debt as never before, the present policy of the nations, of high tariffs and trade restrictions, means a complete breakdown of the great machine of credit and of trade.
>
> But such a policy, and such a situation, cannot be permitted to continue. Its consequences will be so disastrous that not only will the business machine be wrecked, but the political machine as well.
>
> The remedy, and the only effective remedy, for the present dangerous situation is to remove all the artificial tariff and other barriers to trade and to permit the products of the world to be bought and sold without hindrances of any kind.
>
> Experience proves conclusively that a policy of unhampered trade will bring about so great an expansion of income in all countries that the present credit difficulties of nations and individuals will be successfully and permanently surmounted.
>
> Only by reversing the present universal policy of high tariffs, and pursuing without further delay the policy of tariff reduction, so strongly urged by the International Chamber of Commerce and by the great bankers and industrialists of Europe, America and this country, as well as by the Brussels financial conference and by the world economic conference convened by the League of Nations, can the nations overcome the grave danger which now confronts them.

Then we have this statement by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Snowden, in a speech which he delivered at the time of the Imperial economic conference:

> Introduction of a tariff system into this country would strike at the purity of the political life of this nation. Parliament would become a sink of corruption. Members of parliament would go there not to represent national interests but pledged to support the selfish interest of particular industries. Once begin a policy of protection and you are on a slippery slope that leads to a bottomless pit.

Following up my argument against the policy of my right hon. friend opposite, I was very much impressed by an article written by a well-known industrialist and published in a businessman's magazine. Undoubtedly the author of this article is intimately known

to my right hon. friend as he is the head of the great Swedish Match Company which operates in Poland Peru, Greece, Ecuador, Esthonia and many other countries of the world. That gentleman is reported as follows:

I do not know how to commence an expression of my business philosophy in any simpler fashion than to say that the world is swiftly casting off its provincial habit of mind. Nations will remain nations, of course, but the minds of men are broadening to an international horizon. In this machine age we produce so enormously, so rapidly, that home markets—national markets—are not enough. We must go abroad to sell a large part of our production. Tell me, to what nation this does not apply? To all, we know.

Well then, how is business gained? Do we win customers by blows and abuse or by smiles and little acts of friendship and service? The question is absurd, of course. Yet nations must act precisely as individuals act if they are to achieve proportionate results.

I may be pardoned, I trust, for referring to your tariff. I doubt if America has done anything in the past twenty years to stir up more ill feeling and resentment abroad—all over the world—than she has done by putting up this high tariff wall over which European business can hardly climb. From my viewpoint, seeing the business world as a whole, knowing the feeling abroad and informed of the reprisals that are in the making, I say that your tariff is a very dangerous piece of legislation for the good of your business. You are inviting costly trade wars.

Upon that occasion he was addressing himself to the American people.

Now I come to the Canadian agricultural situation. Last July and previous to the election the right hon. gentleman who leads the Conservative party stated that if that party were put into power he immediately would put into effect a high protective tariff by which the farmers of this country would be benefited by increased prices for their wheat and for their dairy produce. He was going to blast his way into the markets of the world. In order to keep the records straight perhaps I had better read his exact words:

Listen, you agriculturists from the west and all the other parts of Canada, you have been taught to mock at tariffs and applaud free trade. Tell me, when did free trade fight for you? Tell me, when did free trade fight for you? You say tariffs are only for the manufacturers. I will make them fight for you as well. I will use them to blast a way into the markets that have been closed to you.

What has been the result of this blasting? As a result of the iniquitous tariff legislation enacted last September, whereby the ordinary flow of trade has been hampered, the western farmer of to-day is selling his wheat for one-half the price he received last July. He sells his eggs at the rate of two dozens for twenty-five cents, butter fat is sold at ten to twelve cents per pound less than it was last July. The price of wheat is below the cost of production and the farmer in western Canada cannot exist under the present protective tariff. The farmer is a primary producer and his products by any stretch of the imagination cannot be consumed in Canada. He must depend upon the markets of the world. If those markets are closed to him because of high protection there must be stagnation such as we in western Canada are experiencing. Reading an Associated Press despatch after the visit of my hon. friend the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman), I was amused to find he had stated that in western Canada he had found a strong turning toward the principle of protection. With whom did my hon. friend consult?

Mr. RYCKMAN: The best people out there.

Mr. VALLANCE: The gophers.

Mr. McPHEE: My hon. friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) says it must have been the gophers. Well, for the benefit of those hon. gentlemen from the east who might not be particularly acquainted with the little animal, I may say that in many respects there is similarity between a gopher and a good Tory. The gopher is a sleek little animal and he pilfers the farmers' grain. In the day of his greatest pilfering he develops a paunch and I would say that gopherism and Toryism might be synonymous terms. They are synonymous because both are pests and humbugs. As a matter of fact if I were asked to choose between the gopher and the Tory I believe I would prefer the gopher because its depredations would be by instinct and not by design.

Having turned down the trade with Great Britain, the European countries and the United States, my right hon. friend the leader of the government endeavoured to negotiate with China a sale of Canadian wheat. I remember very well his address delivered in the city of Regina on December 30 last. Two weeks previously the speech had been heralded by the Tory newspapers of western Canada. We were told that he would deliver this great message of deliverance. It happened that around that time there was a by-election in the district of Estevan in the province of Saskatchewan, and the heralded visit of the right hon. gentleman to western Canada was most timely. The present leader of the government made his speech and I happened to

be one of several in the neighbourhood who listened over the radio. Here was the message: "My fellow Canadians who are now within sound of my voice, just at this moment the Canadian ambassador to Tokyo, Mr. Marler, is on his way to China to negotiate the sale of your wheat with that great nation." When I heard the right hon. gentleman make that statement over the radio I thought how convenient for him it was that Mr. Marler happened to be in Japan, because I remember an occasion in this house two or three years ago when an estimate was brought down for the establishment of a Japanese legation, and I remember particularly that the measure was opposed by my right hon. friend in a vigorous speech. It was opposed also by one of his colleagues who moved that the item be reduced from $50,000 to $10,000. If my right hon. friend had had his wish on that occasion there would have been no legation in Japan; Mr. Marler would not have been there to go to China on this mission of selling Canadian wheat. What happened after Mr. Marler's visit to China? How much wheat was sold as a result of that visit? Here was a man who was going to enter into a treaty with a great nation to sell Canadian wheat, and after his return we read his statement as published in the press:

> At present China is purchasing large quantities of wheat from Australia which owing to the decline in exchange rates, Australians will be able to sell as much as four dollars a short ton under Canadian prices.
>
> This fact, Mr. Marler added, eliminates every possibility of Canada and the United States competing with Australia in the Chinese market during the current season.

Then we have a Mr. Lockhart, the adviser of the Chinese government in railway matters, giving an interview in the month of January last, which is reported in a Victoria newspaper as follows:

> Primarily an agricultural country, China's vast areas will produce more than enough wheat for its own people, and you must look at her as a competitor when she brings the fertile plains of Manchuria to the state of full production.
>
> In this connection the silver loan which is now suggested might be used to excellent advantage, provided it could be applied honestly and straightforwardly to put the country on a productive basis. However, that is not likely to happen. If all the contributory nations would consent to place the fund's administration in the hands of a select committee of the league of nations, the difficulty might be solved to a great extent, but such a suggestion will probably not be accepted.
>
> At any rate, I cannot believe it will be good business to extend this loan unless it can be preguarded. No question of sentimentality should enter into this negotiation.

Touching on Canada's proposal to participate in this suggested credit of several million dollars in silver, Mr. Lockhart stated:

> If Canada's portion was advanced contingent upon wheat sales alone, it could not achieve its object.

Later on we have the Chinese Minister of Finance informing my right hon. friend and the world at large that China has all the silver she wants, that her banks are full of silver, and to pour more silver into them would not in any way improve the purchasing power of her people. He said:

> China owes so much that she does not wish for any further loan either of gold or of silver.

And so this great message of deliverance, like the pre-election promises, amounts to nothing. But the farmer's wheat is selling in western Canada at the lowest price in our history, away below the cost of production. Truly my right hon. friend and his associates are on the slippery slope that leads to the bottomless pit. And yet he is still blasting his way to trade. At this point I might put on record for his benefit a poem composed by a former Conservative colleague of his in the territorial council in the early days, but who is now one of his most uncompromising opponents. Entitled "The Blaster Blasted," it is in the following words:

> There once was a blaster who blasted;
> From blasting he could not refrain;
> Opportunity came and he passed it,
> And all of his blasting was vain.
>
> Friends and foes were alike flabbergasted
> By this "builder of castles in Spain";
> He nailed the wrong flag to the masthead,
> His blast was no boon, 'twas a bane.
>
> Let us pray that the blasts of this blaster,
> Like hail on a field of ripe grain,
> Portentous of loss and disaster
> May bring nothing worse in its train.

High tariffs impede trade. Under the Dunning budget the purchasing power of this country would have been improved because we would have had free of duty a large number of imports from Great Britain. Reference was made the other day to the good-will offering of preference to the mother country. I think the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) questioned my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition with regard to it. I remember during the election campaign reading an article from an old country newspaper which illustrates the fact that lower tariffs mean increased trade and increased good-will between Canada and the motherland. Right after the Dunning budget was brought down last May the city of Bristol put on a Canada Week campaign.

For the benefit of my hon. friends opposite who doubt the wisdom of lower tariffs and freer trade, let me point out what that gesture on the part of Canada meant to our trade in Great Britain at that time. This is the article to which I refer:

"Canada Week" designed as part of the publicity campaign that is bringing to the notice of British people the immense variety of Canada's products has just been successfully held in Bristol, England.

Five hundred leading stores gave up their windows to attractive displays of Canadian goods and tens of thousands of the public entered for a competition based on the varying popularity of what they saw or purchased.

Importers and wholesalers report a marked increase in demand and it may be said that Canada is definitely on the map so far as the west of England is concerned.

The lord mayor and city council gave the "Canada Week" the fullest civic support. Premises were taken in the heart of the city for the headquarters of the campaign to "boost" Canadian products and here thousands of samples were sold every day.

Canada must abandon her protective tariff. Wider markets and freer trade are the only solution for the western Canadian farmer. If the present protective policy is persisted in western Canada will demand a free port of entry at Churchill. I propose to have more to say on that before the close of the session. Not secession, not sovietism, not communism, not bolshevism, will be the solution of western Canada's difficulties. We have no place in Canada for that sort of thing. We are a British country with a love for law and order, and nothing can be gained by resistance to law and order. The remedy is an immediate abandonment of the policy of protection in favour of a policy of wider markets and freer trade. Under such a policy this country will take its place among the nations of the world, a place which Providence intended it should take by virtue of the almost illimitable natural resources which have been placed at our disposal.

Mr. F. T. SHAVER (Stormont): Mr. Speaker, as one of the new members of the house I shall endeavour as briefly as possible to discuss a few of the problems that have engaged our attention so far in this debate. But before attempting to do that I should like to congratulate the two hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne. In this corner of the house we are pleased to have a young man with the ability and power of expression of my hon. friend from North Grey (Mr. Porteous). As the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) said in congratulating him on his speech, he has youth on his side, in addition to his capacity for making a good speech, and I predict for him a successful future in this house.

I am also very glad to have an opportunity of congratulating the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier). I was particularly pleased with his remarks because he represents a constituency that in many respects is similar to my own—a bilingual constituency. I was very glad to hear of the amity and good-will that obtain among all classes of people in the county which he represents, and it is a pleasure to me to bear testimony to the fact that that is exactly the condition obtaining in the county of Stormont.

At this juncture I should like to invite hon. members and particularly those who live in remote portions of Canada, when the roads are good in the spring, to come out over the Prescott highway or the highway to Morrisburg some Saturday or Sunday, after they have been to church in the morning, and visit the county of Stormont, an old historic county which was described by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), when he visited it for the first time as leader of the opposition, as being a cross-section of the economic and national life of Canada. It is a cross-section of the national life of Canada, because it contains the various elements that make up the population of our country. We have a large number of those citizens who first came up the St. Lawrence—and it shows how time is passing, for it will soon be four centuries since they first came—and founded the civilization of Christianity in this northern part of the North American continent. We have also in the front townships a large number of those heroic souls, some of them of German extraction, others of Scottish, Irish and English descent, who nearly a century and a half ago left comfortable homes and came up into this wilderness in the north that they might remain under the British flag. We have too in the county of Stormont a great many people who came from various parts of the British Isles, or are descendants of people who came from the British Isles and from practically every country in Europe.

I am glad to say that in the town of Cornwall, a large industrial town with a population, including the suburbs, of about 17,000, we have at the present time serving his second term as mayor a gentleman of the Jewish faith. We have in that council members who are both French and English speaking, and there is in the town of Cornwall and the county of Stormont the greatest spirit of harmony and good will among all classes. That is the spirit we need in Can-

ada, and I do deplore the fact that the hon. gentleman who preceded me attempted to raise any sectional feeling among the various classes of opinion in the country in which we live.

I shall endeavour to deal just for a few moments with some of the problems that have been raised. I was very much interested, as a new member naturally would be, in hearing the discusison during this debate as well as in the debate which took place in the short session, and in hearing members from various sections of Canada explain the difficulties that afflict their particular localities and the problems in which they are especially interested. I was particularly interested in the debate which took place between the right hon. the Prime Minister and the right hon. the leader of the opposition. The leader of the opposition made a very long speech. I am sure many of us envy him his remarkable fluency of expression, his ability to take a shopworn or commonplace expression and surround it with such a multiplicity of words as to make it look fairly passable. I should like to contrast with that the clear and incisive reasoning of the Prime Minister, who in one third the time answered completely every argument that was presented by the leader of the opposition. I noticed one statement made by the leader of the opposition near the beginning of his address regarding the spirit of harmony. He said that during the time he was Prime Minister:

> There was a steady decrease of taxation, and all was accompanied by a spirit of harmony, unity and good-will between the governments of the provinces and the government of the Dominion, a spirit such as had not prevailed for many years previously.

It seemed very strange to me that he should make a statement of that kind. I remember that in the months just preceding the election there was not that particular spirit of harmony and good will between the government which he headed and the governments of some of the provinces which happened to be under Conservative administration, and which could not expect even a plugged nickle from the Prime Minister of that day for the relief of unemployment. I cannot see how that spirit of harmony and good will was promoted to the extent which he claims. In addition to that, the leader of the opposition at the beginning of his speech gave long strings of statistics, long columns, to prove that Canada was in a prosperous condition when he handed over the reins of office. It reminds me of an incident that occurred in the town of Cornwall. The leader of the opposition spoke there on the Friday immediately preceding the election and I heard his speech over the radio. He gave the statistics which he quoted in different places throughout Canada, attempting to prove by a set of figures that the people of this country were prosperous. I met a working man on the street the next day and asked him how he liked Mr. King's speech. Let me say by the way that he was not a Conservative. He replied, "I was disappointed. Mr. King came to the town of Cornwall. I have been out of work for six months and I expected that he would have something to offer, but instead of bread he handed us a stone." And the people of Cornwall showed their appreciation of the arguments used by the then Prime Minister on that occasion by the vote which they polled on the following Monday.

There is one thing which the leader of the opposition omitted from his speech and which I expected him to mention. I remember he dealt at considerable length in his address at Cornwall, on that Friday preceding the election, with the great danger that confronted Canada then if a Conservative government were returned to power in the Dominion, with Conservative administrations extending over Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. We were going to be robbed of that great heritage which had been handed down to us by our ancestors, that heritage of freedom for which they had sacrificed themselves and given their lives. An oligarchy would be formed, consisting of the Conservative Prime Minister of the Dominion and the Conservative premiers of the provinces, which would in some mysterious way rob us of our freedom. But the unexpected to the Prime Minister of that day has happened, and I do not think that at this time any of us are suffering from any of the ills which he predicted. On the other hand, the right hon. gentleman has given up the role of champion of the freedom of the people of Canada which he assumed prior to the election and has now come forward in the present debate in the role of champion of the freedom of the people of Great Britain from the oppression of the present Prime Minister of Canada.

The leader of the opposition condemned bargaining; he called it economic coercion. He said he would rather adopt the method which he had followed during his administration, the method of conciliatory approach. How can you do business on such a basis? Can private individuals do business by the method of conciliatory approach, leaving bargaining out of the question? To my mind business between nations is on exactly the

same plane as business between two private individuals. Suppose Farmer Brown said to one of his boys: "That brown horse of ours doesn't match very well with the black; he doesn't get up fast enough. Neighbour Jones has a horse which I think would make a splendid mate for our black horse. You had better go over and trade horses with him but, my boy, I do not want you to do any bargaining—assume a conciliatory approach. Take this horse over to neighbour Brown, put it in his stable and say 'Neighbour Brown, I have brought you this horse and if you choose to send us a horse in return, well and good.'" The boy thinks that is a funny way of doing business, but he takes the horse over and he puts it in the stable and tells neighbour Brown that he has brought him the horse. Neighbour Brown begins to think that old man Jones has gone out of his mind and decides there must be something wrong with the horse he sent over, so he sends in return the old gray mare with the two spavins. The right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) thinks that business between nations should be carried on in a like manner.

During his address the leader of the opposition mentioned the fact that he had attended economic conferences in Great Britain in 1923 and 1926. If that conciliatory attitude had been adopted in 1923 and then continued with increased momentum until 1926, it should have been strong enough by the time 1929 was reached to have enabled Great Britain to take all the surplus Canadian wheat. I am sure the right hon. gentleman had plenty of opportunities during the nine years he was in office to put into effect that spirit of conciliatory approach. I say that the people of Canada were wise last July in selecting as a leader a gentleman who believes in the plain business method of bargaining.

The right hon. leader of the opposition said that conditions are becoming worse. That statement has been made by many other hon. gentlemen who have addressed the house from the opposite side. They state that conditions have been getting worse ever since the present government came into office. Speaking for the county in which I live, I desire to say distinctly that conditions decidedly are not getting worse, neither in the rural part of the county nor in the industrial sections of the town of Cornwall. I was told the other day by a farmer, not of Conservative persuasion, that at last a ray of hope was given to the farmers of eastern Canada by having as Minister of Agriculture a gentleman who is alive to their interests. A program was laid down by this minister and published in a recent issue of MacLean's Magazine, which program will be far-reaching in its effect. It is the program of a man of vision and, as we all know, a man of energy. This farmer advised me that he was getting about the same price for butter fat as a year ago, but he wondered what would have happened if butter had been coming into Canada during the past winter in the same volume as during the winter of 1930, at the rate of 50,000,000 pounds per year.

Mr. POULIOT: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. SHAVER: Certainly.

Mr. POULIOT: Does the hon. gentleman say that no New Zealand or Australian butter came into Canada since October 12, 1930?

Mr. SHAVER: No New Zealand butter.

Mr. POULIOT: No Australian butter?

Mr. SHAVER: A very small quantity came in on the basis of 32 cents a pound.

Before I left home on Saturday I took the trouble to inquire into the average grade price of eggs, and I found that it is two cents less than it was a year ago. What would have happened if our market had been flooded with the tremendous quantity of eggs which came in last year? A considerable deflation has taken place in the price of various products, but if American eggs had been permitted to come into this country in the volume they did last year the farmers of eastern Ontario would be getting only about half the price they are getting at the present time. In January, 1930, there were imported into Canada from the United States 529,048 dozens of eggs having a value of $215,067, and from other countries, 7,800 dozens with a value of $1,852. In February of last year our imports from the United States amounted to 1,060,922 dozens having a value of $373,032, and from other countries, 6,454 dozens with a value of $1,479. In March our imports from the United States amounted to 1,168,073 dozens with a value of $322,830, and from other countries, 9,440 dozens valued at $2,408. I will give a comparison between January and February of this year with January and February of last year, because those are the only figures we have for the present year. In January and February last year we imported a total quantity of 1,604,224 dozens of eggs, valued at $591,430, while for the same period this year when a protective tariff was in force we imported 15,557 dozens valued at $5,754. Is that not good business for the egg producers of Canada?

Mr. BERTRAND: When it was impossible to sell eggs in British Columbia during those two months, why was there any importation?

Mr. SHAVER: You mean during the present year?

Mr. BERTRAND: Yes.

Mr. SHAVER: The total value of the importations during this period was only $5,754, and no doubt many of these eggs were for hatching purposes. Last year, under the previous administration, which I presume the hon. member supported, we imported to the value of $591,430.

A very vital matter to the farmers of eastern Ontario is the finding of a market for their bacon. I do not intend to go into this at any great length, but we do know that the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell), who for many years held the position of Minister of Agriculture, is reported in Hansard as having made a tour of Great Britain in an automobile, and one would have expected to have seen an increase in the sale of bacon products. I remember he sent out a questionnaire a couple of years ago to the farmers almost pleading with them to increase their production, and we are very fortunate in having to-day at the head of this department a gentleman who has a real live policy in this respect. He is trying to encourage the farmers of Canada to raise bacon hogs for the British market.

Just in passing, I should like to pay a tribute to the tact and good judgment of the Minister of Agriculture, in dealing with the various perplexing questions which arise. The county of Stormont is part of an area that is being tested for freedom from tuberculosis. This was rather a delicate matter but through tact and methods of conciliation, everyone is satisfied, the cattle are tested and the people of the county of Stormont are highly pleased with the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir).

I believe one of the things that will help to solve the problems of western Canada is a suggestion I heard made by a Conservative member from the west during the short session of parliament. He said that instead of using Argentine and United States corn in eastern Canada we should use western barley and wheat. I think that would be a good thing, and I know in our own feed business in the village of Aultsville, in the county of Stormont and in various other sections of the county, to a very large extent we have displaced Argentine and United States corn with western barley and wheat. We have been urging the farmers to use these and they have seen the necessity for doing so. They are finding ways of utilizing this feed and it has proved a better feed in many respects than the corn they had formerly been using. Those are ways in which the east can help the west. I should like to say that the farmers in the east have a great deal of sympathy for the farmers in the west. The western farmers know that we in the east have problems to face. We in the east know that the western farmers have problems that may be entirely different, but we want them to succeed as I am sure they want us to succeed in the east.

With regard to the revival of industry which has taken place since the present government came into power, nearly every speaker of the opposition side has said that industry has not revived or that the revival is a fictitious one, and so forth. Since last September, twenty branch factories have been located in Canada involving a capital expenditure of $5,000,000 and the employment of 2,000 Canadians; there has been a plant extension program by nine Canadian industries entailing an expenditure of $7,000,000 and the employment, when this program is completed, of 3,500 more workers, and there has been the establishment of five new Canadian industries with an expenditure totalling $1,600,000 and the employment of 500 people. Those are just a few of the things that have taken place in various industrial sections throughout Canada, but I should like to speak particularly of industrial conditions in the constituency which I represent. In the town of Cornwall, we have a large textile industry consisting of three cotton mills. The cotton industry of Canada was in a very bad way prior to the last general election. The government, headed by the present leader of the opposition, reduced the tariff at different times. It will be remembered that just a couple of years ago there was a 10 per cent increase in the British preference, the most-favoured nation clause applied to various countries which export cotton, and the result was, as far as the cotton industry in Cornwall was concerned, that whereas their normal production working at full capacity was about $10,000,000, it dropped in 1929 to $8,000,000. During the whole of 1929 and 1930 up to last September, most of their employees were working three or four days a week. What is the result to-day? When hon. gentlemen tell us that conditions have not improved, I can give a concrete illustration of the manner in which they have improved. The 1,300 employees of these

cotton mills in Cornwall are at present working full-time, and in one mill they have been working overtime for two or three weeks. An hon. gentleman suggests that they may be storing up the manufactured cloth. I do not think they are so foolish as to make their men work overtime in order that they may store up cotton goods; they are not so altruistic as that. The men are working full-time and in the town of Cornwall there is being paid to the cotton mill workers as wages $6,000 a week or at the rate of $300,000 a year more than was paid to them prior to the last general election. In the town of Cornwall a certain doctor who supported me during the last campaign—and this is a very pertinent illustration—said to me that a lady came into his office last January and said: "I want to thank you, doctor, for the advice you gave me last summer." He did not remember what advice he had given her, and he said: "What is that?" She replied: "You told me before the election to vote for Shaver and better times"—that was our slogan in the county of Stormont—"I want to tell you I thank God for our family; the better times have come."

Mr. POULIOT: Have they been changed since?

Mr. SHAVER: I am stating what the times were as they existed for this particular woman, a woman with a family. She said: "For eighteen months my husband was working three or four days a week, and it was a tremendously hard struggle to get along, but for the last month he has been bringing home every week a full pay cheque." That is a direct result of the policy of the present government.

During the recent short session practically every hon. gentleman opposite from the hon. gentleman who a few years ago was going to sound the death knell of protection down to some who were new members like myself, said: You cannot raise the tariff without raising prices. For the very industry of which I have just been speaking where they are now paying in wages $6,000 a week more than they did prior to the last general election, I have the price lists of March 17, 1930, September 26, 1930 and March 1, 1931. This covers a period of a year and intervening is the period just after the short session of parliament when the new tariff came into effect. I have picked at random four items from the price list, and the following table shows the reductions in prices and the percentage of reduction in price per yard:

Price List

Article	Mar. 17, 1930	Sept. 26, 1930	Mar. 1, 1931	Percentage of reduction
Shirting. . .	15¾ cts.	15 cts.	14 cts.	11%

This is the ordinary shirting used in making a workingman's shirt.

Price List

Article	Mar. 17, 1930	Sept. 26, 1930	Mar. 1, 1931	Percentage of reduction
A.C.A. ticking	26½ cts.	23 cts.	22 cts.	17%
8-oz. denim. .	21¼ cts.	19½ cts.	18 cts.	15%

This denim is used in making the ordinary heavy-weight overalls for workingmen.

Price List

Article	Mar. 17, 1930	Sept. 26, 1930	Mar. 1, 1931	Percentage of reduction
28-inch galatea	17½ cts.	16¼ cts.	16 cts.	9%

This 28-inch galatea medium weight is used for making children's dresses and other things of a similar nature. The average reduction in these items, going all through the price list, is 14 or 15 per cent.

Mr. RALSTON: Has my hon. friend the percentage reductions in the United States for the same period?

Mr. SHAVER: I am not talking about the United States at the present. I am dealing with the argument that was used by the former Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston). He used the argument that if you put up the tariff, up go prices.

Mr. RALSTON: I used the argument that where there would be a decided falling in prices in view of world conditions, prices in Canada would not fall in the same proportion in view of this tariff; and I adhere to that position.

Mr. SHAVER: Prices have fallen in very large proportion.

Mr. RALSTON: Not in the same proportion as in the United States. I am simply asking my hon. friend to give the figures for the United States to show if the reductions here have been equal to the reductions in the United States.

Mr. SHAVER: I will tell you what happened in the United States in one mill.

Mr. RALSTON: Tell us about the prices.

Mr. SHAVER: They reduced their wages in the United States, but this mill I am speaking of did not. The argument that was used by the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) in this debate was that the tariff prevented a natural falling in prices.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): You are quoting me correctly.

Mr. SHAVER: If hon. gentlemen opposite wear overalls, and I presume that the hon. member for West Edmonton wore them some time ago at least—

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I certainly did.

Mr. SHAVER: Well, they can buy a pair of overalls to-day at a reduction of all the way up to 25 per cent from prices last spring, and that applies to all kinds of workingmen's clothes. We were told at the September session that that could not possibly happen. I know, of course, that the hon. member for West Edmonton is the gentleman who sounded the deathknell of protection. Judging by the remarks made by the hon. member who preceded me, the hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. McPhee), he is an ardent believer in free trade, one of those gentlemen who regard the words of Richard Cobden almost as the voice of Allah himself, and perhaps look upon R. J. Deachman as the chief Canadian prophet.

The rayon industry is a very important one in the town of Cornwall. It has been operating there for five and a half years, and has had to face unfair foreign competition. The conditions in that industry have been similar to the conditions I mentioned in regard to the cotton industry. As an example of the competition which some of these industries have had to face from foreign manufacturers in Europe, let me give the scale of wages paid in different countries of the world in the rayon industry, and these figures will apply as well to the cotton industry and many others:

Wages Per Week

	France	Italy	Holland	Germany (Cologne)	Canada
Mechanics	$9 24	$7 54	$12 65	$15 20	$31 20
Spinners (male)	8 51	7 30	8 76	13 13	21 60
Reelers (female)	3 89	3 89	4 86	6 85	12 to $12 96

Those wages paid in foreign countries are one of the reasons why Canadian industries need protection.

An hon. gentleman a few moments ago pictured the condition of Great Britain as ideal, from the labour standpoint, I suppose, and every other, because Great Britain was pledged to the principle of free trade. Let me point out that in Cornwall, in the rayon industry, the spinners work on one shift from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon, and then go for a week on a night shift. They get $21.60 per week. In England men working at the same kind of work earn 54 shillings a week, working four shifts every other week, and on the alternate week they are on the dole. Those are the conditions in England in exactly the same type of industry.

Within two weeks after the tariff increases made during the special session came into effect, Courtauld's commenced building a $2,000,000 addition to their plant at Cornwall. They are paying a weekly wage bill on construction of $17,000, and are at present employing one thousand people working full time. When the addition to the plant is completed about the 1st of September next, the number employed will be increased to fourteen hundred. Is that good for the people of Canada or is it bad?

With regard to the paper industry, tariff item 1060 was wiped out at the special session. That tariff item allowed book paper to come into Canada with an 80 per cent rebate, which brought the tariff on American paper down to 5 per cent, a totally inadequate tariff. The industry might as well have had free trade as 5 per cent protection. That item was wiped out at the special session, and as a result the paper mills in Stormont are now shipping out carloads of book paper to different magazine publishers in Canada who last year got their supplies from the United States.

We have been told during the course of this debate that our leader is autocratic. As one of the new members, with not very much experience in political affairs outside my own county, I want to pay a very sincere tribute to the kindness and helpfulness of the present Prime Minister and to his readiness to receive suggestions from even the humblest of his followers. I am sure that that has been the experience of every hon. member on this side of the house, and I believe the people of Canada recognize that we have as Prime Minister at the present time one of the ablest statesmen who has ever conducted the affairs of Canada since the beginning of its history. With the loyal support of his party, which he is sure to receive during this and succeeding sessions, I am sure that he will be able to solve the great problems confronting the Canadian people at the present time.

On motion of Mr. Spencer the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Thursday, March 19, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that the following message has been received from the Senate informing this house:

That the Honourable the Speaker, the Honourable Senators Aylesworth, Sir Allen, Beaubien, Chapais, Gillis, Gordon, Griesbach, Hatfield, Laird, Lemieux, Lewis, Logan, McDougald, McLennan, Poirier, Taylor and Wilson (Rockliffe), have been appointed a committee to assist the Honourable the Speaker in the direction of the Library of Parliament, so far as the interests of the Senate are concerned, and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both houses on the said library.

PRINTING OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that the following message has been received from the Senate informing this house:

That the Honourable Senators Aylesworth, Sir Allen, Buchanan, Chapais, Donnelly, Farrell, Green, Hatfield, Horsey, Legris Lewis, McDonald, McLean, McLennan, Pope, Raymond, Robertson, Sharpe, Taylor, Todd, White (Inkerman), and White (Pembroke), have been appointed a committee to superintend the printing of the Senate during the present session, and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both houses on the subject of the printing of parliament.

[Mr. Shaver.]

PARLIAMENTARY RESTAURANT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that the following message has been received from the Senate informing this house:

That the Honourable the Speaker, the Honourable Senators Hardy, Logan, McMeans, Sharpe, Tanner, and Taylor, have been appointed a committee to assist the Honourable the Speaker in the direction of the restaurant of parliament, so far as the interests of the Senate are concerned, and to act on behalf of the Senate as members of a joint committee of both houses on the said restaurant.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

AGREEMENT FOR JOINT USE OF PREMISES AT REGINA

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 9, to ratify and confirm certain agreements respecting the joint use by Canadian National Railways of certain tracks and premises of Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Regina.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Explain.

Mr. MANION: There is very little explanation. The title of the bill really indicates its purpose. It is to ratify and confirm certain agreements between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways for the joint use of terminals and premises of the Canadian Pacific Railway in Regina.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH CUBA

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Before the orders of the day are proceeded with, in view of the interest manifested by some hon. members, particularly from the maritime provinces, in the matter of our trade relations with Cuba, I think it well to advise that the Hon. J. A. Macdonald, member of the administration without portfolio, has been asked to go to Cuba to discuss with officials there such trade relations, especially with respect to the entry of potatoes into that market.

Mr. DUFF: Has the right hon. gentleman considered the question of the duty on fish?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, that will also be considered.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Can the Prime Minister inform the house whether it is the intention of the government to have a Minister of Labour sitting in this house?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The intentions of the government will be made manifest by its actions.

Mr. HEAPS: I did not hear the answer.

Mr. BENNETT: I said, the intentions of the government will be made manifest by its actions.

Mr. HEAPS: They are not very manifest at the present time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Wednesday, March 18, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. H. E. SPENCER (Battle River): I trust the hon. member who preceded me in the debate will not consider me discourteous if I do not refer to the very able address he gave us yesterday. The time limit on speeches in this house has its disadvantages as well as its advantages, and as I shall not have any more time in the forty minutes allowed me than to put forward what I wish, particularly in regard to the condition of western Canada at the present time, it will not be possible for me to engage in those courtesies I should like to in referring to the hon. gentleman who has immediately preceded me.

When I arrived in Ottawa a short time ago someone said to me, "I trust that when the House of Commons does open we shall not have a lot of speeches with regard to blue ruin in different parts of Canada." I replied: "If the poor condition of any part of Canada or of any particular industry is well known to the whole of Canada and therefore understood by the House of Commons, it is certainly not necessary to lay stress on those individual cases. But where any particular industry is in distress, where parts of Canada, very regretfully, at least so far as I am concerned, do not understand and probably wish to understand the conditions prevailing in other parts, then I think it is very important that the facts should be laid perfectly bare regarding the conditions in those parts of the country which are suffering distress."

I am not by any means a pessimist, Mr. Speaker. I believe that Canada has a great future, and particularly do I think so if we take every possible advantage of science and invention to produce the goods we need. But at the same time we must bring about a sane, safe and just economic system which will make it possible for the people of this country to buy the goods that are produced.

It is not a pleasant duty to come into this House of Commons and lay before it conditions which, certainly, to many members, will not be very welcome. At the same time I do not think I should be doing my duty to my constituency or to that part of Canada from which I have the honour to come, if I did not lay perfectly bare the conditions as I left them. Knowing the conditions as I do, knowing the privations which people are enduring, knowing the dark future which is before them, I certainly was much disappointed in reading the slight reference to agriculture in the speech from the throne. The first reference I see reads:

> 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.

When one considers the bankrupt condition of western Canada—I say bankrupt because the only reason it is not actually so, is that creditors are not pressing—and the fact that stock and crops have been sold below cost of production; the suffering, privation and hardships that have to be endured; and the infinitesimally small amount of help that has been given by the Dominion government, the above seems to me to be neither more nor less than a hollow mockery. And continuing from the speech from the throne, I read:

> 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 interests. 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.

I am pleased to see that the government of the day recognizes that the welfare of Canada as a whole is wrapped up in the prosperity of the three prairie provinces.

I listened yesterday with a great deal of interest to the speech of the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull), but after hearing his remarks I came to the conclusion that it was possibly such members as he that the government of the day had called into consultation before preparing the speech from the throne. Although this hon. member is a western man and should know the conditions existing in that part of the country, he said "they were bad only in spots." I have lived in western Canada for twenty-three years and have gone through some very serious times, particularly during periods of deflation, but I have never seen anything like the conditions existing at the present time. The hon. member would have been closer to the truth if he had stated that conditions were good in spots. Then he said that conditions were not as bad as they might be. If they were any worse than they are, then God help western Canada. He concluded his remarks by stating that a feeling of hopefulness was coming over the people. Perhaps the hon. member has the advantage, or it may be the disadvantage of living in the city of Regina. That spirit of hopefulness may be coming over those in his own particular legal calling, but that feeling certainly does not exist in the hearts of those following the great industry of agriculture.

If I did not know the conditions existing in Saskatchewan I would not have attempted to reply to the statements made by the hon. gentleman, but I had the opportunity and pleasure of attending the convention of the United Farmers of Canada held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This is the most representative body of agriculturists in that great province, and after attending that convention for three days, I came to the conclusion that if conditions in Alberta were bad, they were as bad if not worse in Saskatchewan.

The government has known for six months of the tremendous drop in the market value of grain and other products of the farm. The members in this corner of the house wish every success to the government of the day, whatever that government may be, in solving the problems of this country. We do not claim for one moment the position of opposition because we know that the government has the responsibility and we give them our best wishes in solving their problems. If they are sucessful they will have our praise, but if they are not, then they will have our criticism. Six months have passed since those in power first knew of the market conditions, but what has been done? From the speech from the throne it would appear that it is another case of Nero fiddling while Rome burns.

In putting on record the facts which I propose to present, some people may think that I am pulling a long bow, but it is very difficult indeed to get the facts across to those who do not understand the true conditions. However, in fairness to the part of the country which I have the honour to represent I am going to place myself before this House of Commons as clearly as possible.

I have in my hand a sample of No. 3 wheat, so-called tough because it has a small amount of moisture in it. This wheat makes a very good brand of flour, but it may be a surprise to some hon. members in this house to know that when this sample was taken to an elevator in my locality in central Alberta, the price offered was 20 cents per bushel—pool payment—if sold by the carload, or 17½ cents per bushel in smaller lots. I have known the pool first payment to be within one cent of the open market price. The next grade, No. 4, went down to the low price of 13½ cents per bushel, which is the price the farmer has to pay at that particular point to get his grain to Fort William.

Let us consider the man who obtained 20 cents per bushel because he was fortunate enough to be able to sell in carload lots. What use does he have to make of that money? It costs him an average of five cents per bushel to haul his grain to the railway; then it costs him 10 cents per bushel for threshing, and about five cents per bushel for harvesting. His total proceeds are gone and he has nothing left to cover the expenses of capital investment, seeding, cultivation, rent, taxes and other expenses. That is the situation in which the western farmer finds himself at the present time.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: What does it cost the farmer in western Canada to produce a bushel of wheat?

Mr. SPENCER: That varies greatly.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: What has been the hon. member's experience? What does it cost him, as a farmer in western Canada, to produce a bushel of wheat?

Mr. SPENCER: It varies greatly, but I do not suppose the average farmer can produce a bushel of wheat under 70 or 75 cents per bushel, taking it year in and year out.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Take your own case, does it cost you that much?

Mr. SPENCER: The hon. member will have forty minutes of the time of this house in which to present his side of the case.

I know of cases in western Canada where the price of oats and rye has been so low that the farmers have not considered it worth while to cut. These crops will be eliminated in the spring by the easy method of applying a match to them. Conditions are bad when such things as this must be done. I know of one man within a mile and a half of town, which means a low hauling cost, who had a splendid crop of rye, but on account of the very low price which had been offered at the elevators, and which was four cents a bushel at that time, he could not see his way to harvest it. I know of another man who this year took off some 25,000 bushels of grain in wheat, oats and rye. After taking off that crop, which was one of the best he had ever had in western Canada, and after deducting the expenses of selling the crop, he found that he was $2,000 in the hole.

We hear a great deal about mixed farming. The hon. member across the floor who attempted to interrupt a few minutes ago would be one of those who would suggest that the western farmers go into mixed farming. This is a very interesting piece of advice, because it is always given by those whom we term "arm-chair farmers." I wonder how the arm-chair farmer who offers the advice would like to go into mixed farming at these prices. Last year sheep were bringing in western Canada the enormous sum of from $1 to $3 a head. Cattle are down to six cents a pound. Hogs are down to from four to five cents a pound and we expect a severe drop next year because the farmers, on account of the quantity of rough feed they have, are going largely into the raising of hogs to get rid of it. In February of this year butter was selling on the prairies at as low as fifteen cents a pound, and eggs are selling at as low as from eight to fifteen cents a dozen. Wool has been the lowest for years. What is the result? Debts have been accruing; mortgage interest goes on; many bank loans cannot be wiped off; taxes cannot be met, and the people generally are wondering not only how they are going to carry on, but how they are going to live. Through all this trouble the one business institution in Canada that might have given some help—I refer to the private banking system—has been more or less of an irritant than anything else to the whole situation. I shall say a few words about that later.

What has been the action of the federal government through all this? Can we say that outside of the very lavish promises made last July they have done anything except one or two things that I shall mention in a moment. I want to pay a compliment, however, to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), a man who had the pluck to come out openly and criticize what all the people wanted to criticize, that is, the banking system of this country. Although the price of farm products has dropped, we find that interest charges are being maintained to the limit, eight or nine per cent being charged for bank loans. We find also that we are being charged exactly the same freight rates to haul our grain to Fort William when wheat is worth only ten cents or 20 cents a bushel as when it was worth $1.50 a bushel. Why should the farmer have to take all the loss? We find Mr. Beatty of the Canadian Pacific railway coming forward with a recommendation that a loan company be formed to enable farmers to go into debt for mixed farming. We appreciate Mr. Beatty's offer in this respect, but we would have thought a great deal more of him had he come forward, knowing the condition of the western farmer, and how he had been stranded, and offered to cut freight rates on our grain and stock. I believe Mr. Beatty is the same gentleman who only a very short time ago was spending money to bring more people into this country to go on the land, to break up more sod, grow more grain and, incidentally, create more freight, to pay more dividends to the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific.

I shall now give a few comparisons of prices between industry and agriculture. If, a year ago, the farmer had bought a twenty-four-row seeder, this year, taking average grade, not taking the highest or the lowest by any means but a good average, when he sold his grain in the fall, he would have to sell no less than 2,000 bushels of grain to pay for the seeder. If he wanted to buy a pair of boots, he would have the choice of three things: he could sell thirty bushels of wheat or sixty bushels of oats, or if his rye had any ergot in it he would have to sell 150 bushels of rye. If he wanted to have a good hearty meal on the diner of either of the Canadian railways he would have to take a sheep to market and sell it before he would get enough to pay for that meal. Actually this winter if the farmer were taking his butter to the store he would be fortunate if with the proceeds he obtained for each pound of butter, he got enough to buy

in each case a pound of axle-grease. But if he wanted a ton of bran he would then have to turn around and hunt all over the country to find some man who had No. 1 northern, the best grade of wheat in the world, and turn over a ton of No. 1 northern hard wheat for a ton of bran. These are a few of the extraordinary cases I could mention.

I listened with a great deal of interest to the speech made by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) last year in Winnipeg. Two items stay in my memory. On the one hand he promised that he would make the tariff fight for the farmer, and the second was that he would find a market for Canadian grain. Later on we had the special session. Whether it was necessary or not I am not going to say, but during that special session the most we did was to vote $20,000,000 out of the public purse for unemployment and raise the tariffs on a large number of articles that enter Canada. Neither of those things helped agriculture. If you take the price of agricultural implements and compare it with the price of the grain we produce, the disparity in prices is far greater now than it was then. It is now eight months since the election. What has been done? What has happened? We find grain is very much lower and cattle are half the price now than they were a year ago. Butter is at an unprofitable figure. Barley, oats and rye are all being produced at a loss, rye as I said before, being as low as four cents a bushel.

The Prime Minister went to the Imperial conference. I am not going to comment on that as I have not the time, and it has been very ably dealt with by others. We all looked forward to his return to Canada. We knew he had been kept in contact with conditions as they existed in this country, and therefore when he returned and decided to speak in Saskatchewan, the centre of the grain growing area, we were all interested to hear his Regina speech. What were we told in that speech? First of all, he turned down the request made by the premiers of the three prairie provinces and pool organizations to peg the price of wheat at seventy cents a bushel. Seventy cents a bushel would not have met the needs of the farming industry; it would not have encouraged people to go into raising wheat, but it would have helped to tide over the most difficult situation that we have ever faced. That was turned down. The banks, however, were given a guarantee against any loss in the handling of pool wheat. I admit that this was probably of some assistance to the farmer, but while it helped the farmer a little, it guaranteed the banks 100 per cent against taking any loss at all. This year, I think I am quite safe in saying the financial interests of Canada have been able to announce their usual fat dividends in their respective businesses, while the industries, particularly the farming industry, from which they derive their profits have never been at a lower ebb.

There was one thing which the Prime Minister did offer. I do not think he could have looked very closely into the matter when he made the offer that the farmers should have seed grain. As a matter of fact, we never have had so much seed grain, and such cheap seed grain, as we have to-day in the western provinces. The few spots that the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) mentioned in his address could easily obtain seed grain at no very great distance.

We were also promised a market in China by credits being established for that purpose. That proposal has not developed. We were also told that a large order for wheat had been promised by France, but on looking into the matter we find that it is just about the usual quantity that France takes from us.

There was one statement which the Prime Minister made which I prefer to think was more or less of a slip, because I believe he really knows better. According to the press, he is reported to have said:

> The banks have no money to help move the grain crop except that left with them by savings bank depositors.

The Prime Minister must know that the handling of credit forms by far the larger part of the banking business. I shall take only a short time to quote one or two confirmations of that statement. Under the heading, "How can the supply of money be increased?" I find that the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna says:

> The amount of money in existence varies only with the action of the banks in increasing or diminishing deposits. We know how this is effected. Every bank loan creates a deposit, and every repayment of a bank loan destroys one.

Here is a quotation from H. D. McLeod, who, in his book, "Elements of Banking," says:

> The essential and distinctive feature of a "bank" and of "a banker" is to issue credit payable on demand, and this credit may be put into circulation and serve as money.

From the same author I quote:

> When it is said that a great London joint stock bank has perhaps twenty-five million pounds of deposits, it is almost universally believed that it has twenty-five million pounds

of actual money to lend out, as it is erroneously called. It is a complete and entire delusion. These deposits are not deposits in cash at all. They are nothing but an enormous superstructure of credit.

Lastly I wish to quote from J. M. Keynes, the well-known economist, who in "A Tract on Monetary Reform" says:

> It is not easy, it seems, for men to apprehend that their money is a mere intermediary without significance in itself, and disappears when its work is done from the sum of a nation's wealth.

I wish to refer for a few moments to the service, or lack of service, that the private banking interests of Canada have been giving to agriculture. I find that the banks are still breaking the law by charging more than the legal rate of interest. The rate is nearly always from eight to nine per cent in the west. An hon. member behind me says that they are the government, and probably there is more truth than fiction in that. Secondly, we find that although in an industry like agriculture, credit is needed for at least from one to three years; the agriculturists are forced to renew their notes every three of four months at compound interest. That is an unnecessary hardship. For some months during this crisis I have been receiving a great number of letters from farmers who claim that the banks have only too readily promised to reloan money to the farmer, so that he may pay up his local debts, if only he will first of all pay off his present indebtedness to the bank. This promise unfortunately has not always been kept.

When the second snow fell in October last year, we had only a small proportion of the threshing done in certain parts of the west, particularly in Alberta. The men who have been in that country from twenty to thirty years, good stable men who have helped to build up the country, have raised their families there, built schools, made roads, bought land and equipment, and who had no wish at all to leave the country, surely were worth a small amount being advanced to them to help them tide over the winter. In most cases they had no cash, and they needed money for food and clothing during the winter months. But they were abruptly turned down by the banks in nearly every case. Of the numerous letters that I have received, I shall quote only one, because I do not wish to take up the time of the house. One man writes me that although he had not had to borrow from any bank in years past, he had to go to them this year for ready cash. He listed his assets with the bank, which the banker admitted were about $17,000, and his liabilities were considered about $400. After a good deal of talking, the banker grudgingly loaned this man $150, and when advancing the money he said, "Do not tell anybody in your vicinity about it, because my instructions are not to loan."

These conditions, Mr. Speaker, have forced many farmers to get their necessities from the local stores on credit, and that naturally has had a bad effect on business, because the storekeepers should not be asked to carry the country. In the province of Alberta, conditions became so bad that a delegation of retailers waited on the premier of the province in January last and informed him that they were carrying such a load that they thought they could not go on; that they themselves were fearing pressure from those who supplied them with goods. They informed the premier that on their books alone they were carrying no less a sum than $40,000,000. When we consider that volume of indebtedness in a province with a population of not many more than 680,000, you can see how serious the situation is.

We are face to face with one of the most serious deflations that have been brought about from time to time. I want to quote a few words from the Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, who, speaking in 1923 with regard to forced deflation, said:

> Very little argument is needed to show that a policy of driving or keeping down prices by a restriction of purchasing power must depress trade. . . . What is the consequence? Men and women are thrown out of employment, less is paid in wages, and the amount spent upon consumption is reduced.

If the Prime Minister of this country would pay a little more attention to the subject of finance and a little less attention to tariff barriers, in the long run the country would be better off. Realizing the difficulties with which we are faced in selling the crop either now or in future years the convention of the United Farmers of Alberta held in January last passed the following resolution:

> Whereas, the present price of wheat is far below the cost of production, and
>
> Whereas, a continuation of such a condition will inevitably mean a lower standard of living for agriculture, and
>
> Whereas, no benefit of the low price is being passed on to the consumer in the way of cheaper bread:
>
> Therefore be it resolved, that an international conference be called representative of all wheat exporting countries, with the aim of stabilizing the producing of, and the export price for wheat, to enable the grower to meet the cost of production and obtain a reasonable profit, and

Further be it resolved that Canada, through her Prime Minister be the convener of such conference, which should be called at the earliest possible date.

What has been the answer? Within the last few weeks we have been cut off almost completely from one great exporting country. The effect to-day is indeed very, very serious. By cooperating with those who are competing with us in world trade we may gain something; but by antagonizing those competitors we can do a great deal of harm. In my opinion the sale of Canada's wheat is the most important problem with which we are faced. Had time permitted I would like to have said a few words in support of the suggestion made by the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) that Canada should go off the gold basis, which would give us a fair chance to compete with Australia, Argentine and Russia.

In conclusion may I state that we find agriculture struggling to exist. Mr. Brownlee, the premier of Alberta, went so far as to say that we cannot allow agriculture to be destroyed, realizing that it was likely to be destroyed. Other industries depend on agriculture because it is basic to our industrial life. If something is not done I see only two courses open: Either people will leave the farms in great numbers or if they remain and attempt to compete they will have to accept a reduced standard of living. Either alternative would be very regrettable indeed. I appeal with ample cause therefore to the government of the day to aid agriculture before it is too late.

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, as, under the rule, I am limited to a period of forty minutes, I shall merely offer congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address without entering upon an extended discussion of their remarks. I will say a word or two however with reference to the mover of the address. The hon. gentleman is of my own race. I congratulate him upon the manner in which he performed the task entrusted to him but while doing so I cannot congratulate him upon the arguments he used on behalf of the government. My hon. friend quite properly thanked the government for conferring upon the Acadian race through him the honour of moving the address. With his statements in that regard I am in hearty accord and I feel that I too should thank the government for recognizing the Acadian people in the maritime provinces. If however one were to listen to and accept all that the honourable gentleman said one would be inclined to believe that this was the first time justice had been done by any government to the Acadian people. My hon. friends opposite should not forget that the greatest act of justice to those people must be credited to a Liberal government. In 1926 for the first time the government recognized that justice should be done in Acadia and with that in mind one of our people was called to preside over one of the most important government departments. If however the government of to-day has not seen fit to repeat that act of justice then with the mover of the address I say, "Thank them, and at the same time thank the Lord for small gifts received."

My hon. friend referred to the bonne entente which existed between the English and French speaking people of the province of New Brunswick. With him I am in accord on that point. There is a bonne entente between those two races which compose the population of the province. I hope that condition will long continue but I fear Mr. Speaker that, through the actions of certain members of the Conservative party in the last Dominion election in the province of New Brunswick as well as in the province of Prince Edward Island, the entente in a very short time may cease to exist. When one reviews the election campaign of last July he discovers that certain persons acting on behalf of or in the interest of the Conservative party sent through the mails thousands of circulars calling upon the people of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to vote against the Liberal government because it had dealt too justly with the Acadian people. It is high time such actions were frowned upon and exposed in this house. The sooner they are exposed the sooner will this method of warfare disappear. Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to place on Hansard to-day, not for the sake of arousing prejudice or making political capital, evidence of the sordid tactics employed during the heat of the recent political battle. In my hand I hold a circular which was sent broadcast through the provinces of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. I cannot speak for Nova Scotia because I have no evidence in connection with that province, but I have evidence concerning the two former provinces. I wish to place the contents of this circular on Hansard to show the tactics adopted during the last federal election in at least two provinces with the purpose of leading the people astray. This circular begins:

Are we a British dominion?

Then follows:

List of Roman Catholic cabinet ministers and chairmen of important committees in the House of Commons, 1930. The Minister of

Justice, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, French; the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, French; the Solicitor General, Hon. L. Cannon, French; Postmaster General, P. J. Veniot, French;

And proud of it too.

The Secretary of State, Hon. F. Rinfret, French; the Minister of Labour, Hon. Peter Heenan, Roman Catholic—

They do not give his nationality. Not satisfied with that they take up the officials of the House of Commons and the chairman of the several committees of the house and in that connection we have the following:

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Hon. R. Lemieux, French.

He had that distinction by virtue of an unwritten law of the House of Commons that French and English alternately shall fill the position which you occupy to-day, Mr. Speaker.

The Clerk of the House of Commons, A. Beauchesne, French; Deputy Clerk, T. M. Fraser, Roman Catholic.

Coming as he does from good old Presbyterian stock in the county of Pictou I am sure his ancestors would turn in their graves if they could see this publication.

Chief Liberal whip, Pierre Casgrain, French.

Everybody knows he is French.

Chairmen of standing committees, 1930—
Railways, F. S. Cahill, Roman Catholic.
Private Bills, G. Parent, French.
Standing Orders, L. S. R. Morin, French.
Printing, Hon. C. Marcil, French.
Mines, Forests and Waters, E. A. Lapierre, French.
Canadian National Railways, Sir E. Fiset, French.

Listen to this:

Soldiers' Pensions, et cetera, C. G. Power, half French and Irish.

And then the statement winds up as follows:

With compliments of Roy N. Stapleford, field secretary of the Loyal Orange Association of New Brunswick.

I am not holding the Conservative party responsible for this, but the gentleman who issued the circular. He was not fair enough to state that of the sixteen or seventeen ministers in the late government, five were of French and one of Irish Catholic origin. He was not fair enough to state that out of seventeen committees of this house only six or seven had French or Irish Catholics at their head. The evident intention was to arouse a feeling of prejudice in the people of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island against the Liberal party.

Now, Mr. Speaker, having exposed those tactics, let me come back to some of the arguments used by the hon. gentleman who moved the address (Mr. Cormier). He spoke of the great improvement brought about in New Brunswick since the present government came into power. He forgot, though, to tell the house that since the special session at which the customs tariff was increased, out of four cotton mills that we had in the province one has been closed down and dismantled. He forgot to tell the house that the money expended through the co-operation of the federal and provincial governments has resulted in the operators of the lumber camps of New Brunswick reducing the wages of their employees almost to the vanishing point—to a point where they are almost as bad as the scale of wages purported to be paid to a similar class of labour in Russia. He forgot to tell the house that while the provincial government reduced the stumpage on lumber in order to aid and encourage the lumbermen to develop their industry to a greater extent, the federal treasury, paid every dollar of that reduced stumpage to the tune of $60,000, and yet the lumbermen forced down the wages of their workmen to $18 to $28 a month. Notwithstanding this wage-reduction the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) never took any steps to see that the fair wage clause was enforced to protect those men. And I ask the hon. gentleman what reply did he get from the Minister of Labour when in his capacity as the representative of Madawaska-Restigouche he appealed to the minister to see that the proper wages were paid to those men. The hon. gentleman has forgotten to tell the house that since that time the chief industry in his home town, one of the largest pulp and newsprint industries in the Dominion, has been going steadily behind until to-day it is running only to about 60 per cent of its capacity; and that he as mayor of the city of Edmundston should know that the civic authorities have been called upon to maintain no less than one hundred families whose breadwinners could not get employment. Those are things that the hon. gentleman has forgotten to tell the house.

He has forgotten further to inform this house that not one cent from the Dominion treasury has reached in direct aid the unemployed of New Brunswick and especially his own county. He forgot to tell the house that the Minister of Public Works of the province who has the determination of the policy to be adopted for the expenditure of money in cooperation with the federal authorities in aid of unemployment, has publicly

stated that he would recommend that no aid be given to the municipal authorities in the province, but that any federal grant for unemployment should be expended on the construction of roads and bridges, in winter time in the province, where there are four or five feet of snow at that season of the year.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Would the hon. member be good enough to tell the house when Mr. Stewart said anything of the sort, giving the time and place.

Mr. VENIOT: Yes. He said it at a conference at Bathurst in reply to a question I put to him myself, and there were fifty people present who heard him.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I referred a moment ago to the closing down of industries in New Brunswick. If I am not mistaken the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Shaver) mentioned the great benefit Cornwall was deriving from the increased labour in the cotton mills of his home town, brought about by the increased tariff passed at the special session last September. What may have been a blessing for his riding has turned out to be a disaster for New Brunswick. Let me relate a circumstance connected with the closing down of the cotton mill in the city of St. John. A rumour got abroad that the mill was to close its doors in the month of December. The city of St. John, through its mayor, appealed to the premier of New Brunswick, and he in turn appealed to the Canadian Cottons Limited not to close the mill. As a result of agitation a public meeting was called in the city of St. John, to which Mr. Dawson, the president of the Canadian Cottons Limited, was invited. Mr. Dawson met the premier of the province, the mayor of the city and the aldermen, as well as members of the board of trade and a large number of the leading business men. He met also my friend the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson). He was appealed to not to close the mill, but that appeal was in vain. He told them distinctly that that mill was closed and would remain closed. They were dismantling the mill and they would finish dismantling it. Apparently the appeal of the Premier of New Brunswick to the federal government had no effect on Mr. Dawson. What do we find? During the progress of the discussion at that conference there was also present the hon. the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren), the representative of the province of New Brunswick in the present government. And if one is to judge from the newspaper reports the meeting was almost

a Donnybrook fair. But Mr. Dawson stood firmly by his guns; he took no backwater whatever. The St. John Telegraph-Journal, reporting the occasion, has this to say:

> Mr. Dawson issued an ultimatum that he would not only not reopen the Cornwall cotton mill but that he would also close the York mill (the second mill in St. John) if its operation proved unprofitable. Mr. Dawson went further and said if the financial standing of the Canadian Cottons Limited did not improve he would also close the Milltown and Marysville mills.

The Marysville mills are situated in the county of York-Sunbury. In an editorial based on the result of the meeting the Telegraph-Journal has this further to say:

> In other words, Mr. Dawson, speaking on behalf of his own company, has made a clear-cut statement that in his opinion, backed by his directors, the Canadian tariff is designed—

Now let hon. members from the province of New Brunswick listen to this.

> —to benefit the central provinces, and should not concern itself with the maritime provinces, when the interests of the company are prejudiced. That is to say, he places the interests of his concern above the national interests of Canada, unmindful of the fact that all Canadians are taxed to create employment and not to benefit industrialists. If Mr. Dawson is sincere in his convictions, he has made one of the finest contributions to a free trade campaign in this country that has been offered by any manufacturer for a good many years. As a group who has long sought protection, the president of the Canadian Cottons Limited and his directors have taken a position which may react on them in a manner which may prove their undoing.

Premier Baxter obtained from Mr. Dawson the information, that in sixteen years the mills had broken even. He then demanded to know why they were closing this mill. According to the report in the press, and according to Mr. Baxter, Mr. Dawson had tried to place the blame on the federal Prime Minister. Premier Baxter contended that:

> It was not for the government to run cotton mills, but it was for the people to see that no group shall have the benefit of tariff and at the same time pick and choose what parts of the country were to benefit. It would be better to bring cotton in from Lancashire free of duty.

That phrase comes from one of the strongest protectionists and high tariff men in the Dominion of Canada. The Telegraph-Journal then comes back in another editorial and says:

> Mr. Dawson for the third time expressed the opinion that the closing of the St. John mills must be laid on the doorstep of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett. He told his listeners that Mr. Bennett's policy provided that efficiency and the consequent maintaining of present price levels was the essential of the recently adopted tariff.

The Telegraph-Journal then goes on and argues that Mr. Dawson completely ignores the principle laid down by the Prime Minister during the debate on this tariff item at the special session of parliament when he said that he would expect the cotton interests to keep their promises made to him that the unemployed in idle cotton mills would again be provided with work. The way the cotton magnates are keeping that pledge to the Prime Minister is that they are closing down the Cornwall mill. They closed it down and reduced the number of employees in the York cotton mill at St. John, and that mill is working only four days a week now.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Does the hon. member mean to suggest that the closing of the Cornwall mill was due to the increase in the tariff? Does he not know the reason is entirely different?

Mr. VENIOT: I am not saying anything of the kind; I will come to that in a moment. I did not say that the increase in the tariff caused the closing of the Cornwall mill. The Prime Minister told us last September that the increase would keep that mill going, and it has not done so.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They transferred the business to Marysville.

Mr. VENIOT: According to the Canadian Cottons Limited they cannot give increased employment and at the same time maintain the present price level; they must decrease the number of their mills and throw thousands out of employment. Or, if they carry out the principle laid down by the Prime Minister, they must increase the price to the consumer.

That is the situation Mr. Dawson has laid before the people in St. John. I do not know who is right in the interpretation of the effect of this increased tariff. Is it Mr. Dawson, who states that it will not accomplish what the Prime Minister says?—Mr. Dawson who is considered to be an expert in these matters. Or is it the Prime Minister who blindly went into the matter of increasing the tariff without obtaining proper information from proper sources, but, when increasing the tariff, considered only the interests of the manufacturers, never taking time or trouble to consult the consumers? In reply to the Minister of Pensions and National Health, Mr. Dawson said that:

> If the tariff did not help, the elimination would go on and the least profitable mills be closed down.

And we find that my friend the hon. member for York-Sunbury stated that it was not the intention of the government in increasing the tariff to bring about the centralization of manufacturing. To that the Premier of New Brunswick replied: "Then, if that was not the intention, let them change the tariff."

So now you have the history of the closing-down of the cotton industry in New Brunswick. But Mr. Dawson was asked—Why not close down the industry at Marysville instead of the industry at St. John? He stated that they had too great an investment in the large number of brick dwelling houses which had been erected some twenty or twenty-five years ago by the late Alexander Gibson to permit of their being done away with. That was the only reason given for not closing the cotton mill at Marysville, within the county represented by the hon. member for York-Sunbury. I have not heard the hon. member for York-Sunbury, the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) or the junior member for St. John (Mr. Bell) raise one single protest since their return to Ottawa. There is nothing to show what action they took in defence of the destruction of an industry in their own province. May I be permitted as the lone star on the Liberal side from the province of New Brunswick to raise my voice, since the Conservative members will not do it, on behalf of the people not only of St. John, the commercial capital of the province, but of the whole province of New Brunswick. I appeal to the government to listen to Premier Baxter in his protest against the closing of this cotton mill, and acceed to his request that the federal government invoke the power given to them under the amended act of last September and either cancel or lower the tariff on cotton so that the people of New Brunswick will not have to suffer this injustice any longer. As the saying is, that was the last straw that broke the camel's back, because it was after this and after the Conservative province of New Brunswick headed by the premier of that province had pleaded for better terms from this government in railway matters, that the Premier of New Brunswick gave vent to that expression which was broadcast throughout the Dominion of Canada, that the maritime provinces had a right to secede from confederation.

An hon. MEMBER: Surely not.

Mr. VENIOT: If those words had fallen from the lips of a Liberal he would have been condemned for all time to come and paraded as the most disloyal man in Canada.

My time is limited but I have another subject upon which I desire to touch. During the last campaign the Liberal party were

blamed for the depression which existed at that time in Canada, but I draw the attention of the house to two speeches delivered by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) after the elections. He delivered two speeches in Regina, one at a luncheon given to him by the Conservative Association and the other at a public meeting held that night. In his first speech he is reported as stating:

> Attempts were being made and would be made to fasten on the present government responsibility for the present day conditions. But nobody could deny that the present depression was only the culmination of nine years of total disregard for fundamental principles of constitutional government and disregard of the elementary laws of economics.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. VENIOT: I hear, "Hear, hear." I wonder what my hon. friend will say to the next quotation, taken from his second speech, as follows:

> The present depression is the greatest world-wide depression on record, for news of hard times in all other parts of the world had a cumulative depressing effect on the psychology of Canadians.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. VENIOT: My hon. friend says, "hear, hear." Let me quote another hon. gentleman, in whom I know the hon. member has great faith, and see if he can reconcile the attitude of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) with the attitude taken by the Prime Minister. The Minister of Trade and Commerce thought it incumbent upon himself to make a New Year's address to the people of Canada, in which he said:

> The year 1930 was a year of serious depression in Canada, as in practically every other nation.

He continued:

> Owing to its basic wealth Canada was less affected than most other countries.

He at least displays more fairness in his appreciation of the situation than did the Prime Minister. The greeting continued:

> The blame for world-wide depression was due to declines in wholesale prices, particularly food products and raw materials.

I do not hear "hear, hear" now. He continued:

> The fall of wholesale prices has nearly spent its force. Prosperity will return when a readjustment of wholesale and retail prices and production costs has taken place.

And again:

> While the times through which we are passing are admittedly difficult for the nation and disastrous for many necessitous individuals, they are certainly not so difficult as those we have faced before. The present winter, hard as it is for many, is relatively less distressing than those of 1913-14 and 1920-21.

Let me add, when the Conservative party was in power. The admission is made here that under the Tory rule, under a high protective tariff we had greater depression in Canada than exists at the present time. The hon. minister continued:

> Canada as a nation is very much wealthier and better able to withstand adversity than she was in any similar period of former times, when the question of our solvency was gravely debated in London and New York.

That was in 1920 and 1921 when we were under Conservative rule. The money markets of London and New York had no faith in the financial ability of Canada to carry on.

All this great change could not come about within six or seven months. It started after 1922 when, as the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) has said, Canada began to rise from the slough of despondency and, creating new markets as the government was, extending the trade of Canada to foreign countries, increasing manufactures in Canada and finding a market for them at good prices, rose gradually to the position admitted by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, one of high credit in the money markets of New York and London. A final quotation from the New Year's greetings of the Minister of Trade and Commerce is as follows:

> To-day our national credit in London and New York and among our own people stands far higher than it did even ten years ago, and we are able to finance our own enterprises in a way which was then impossible.

I appeal to the country to state whether or not it was honest on the part of the Minister of Trade and Commerce during the elections in July to preach the principles which he preached throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, to place entirely upon the shoulders of the Liberal party the blame for being the cause of this depression, and now come before the people with a New Year's greeting, moved, no doubt, by repentance for his political sins, and admit that what he told the people in July last was all humbug. He is now endeavouring to sow a spirit of optimism in the hearts of our people by telling them, "Why, Canada is all right." Yes, Canada is all right, but the Tory party did not make her so.

I was amused on Monday last to listen to the indignation expressed by the Prime Minister at what he called insinuations and innuendos—I think the term he used was "insinuendos"—from this side of the house, because

if you read Hansard from one end to the other for the last four years you will find it is replete with innuendos and insinuations by the right hon. gentleman when he was addressing himself to members or supporters of the then government. He is an adept at insinuations. I know no other man in Canada who can do more insinuating and use more innuendos in argument than the present Prime Minister of Canada. I can give several examples of that. For instance, there are the insinuations he made in connection with the tariff board to the effect that they had no independence as a fact-finding body. He made insinuations even in regard to ministers of the crown; when he could not speak of them in a respectful manner he would insinuate that this and that were wrong; but the greatest insinuation I ever heard falling from the lips of any gentleman fell from the lips of the Prime Minister when years ago, seated as a supporter of the Conservative government in this house, he took upon himself to insinuate that one who did afterwards become his leader was a tool or instrument in the hands of Mackenzie and Mann. All through the speeches for the last four years, Hansard is replete with insinuations of this nature. It seems to me to be a case of a thief crying "Stop thief!" in order to cover up his own tracks.

He also referred to the absurdity of the argument advanced by the leader of the opposition when he stated that there was no necessity for the special session to vote relief to the unemployed. The Prime Minister said that a Governor General's warrant could not be issued. In 1926, what do we find? We find that the right hon. gentleman as Minister of Finance, if I mistake not, in the "shadow government" recommended and approved the issue by governor general's warrants of $55,000,000. Why could he not do the same thing in regard to $20,000,000 to relieve the emergency situation in the Dominion of Canada last fall? I feel my time has expired and I do not wish to trespass any longer upon the patience of the house.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, like my colleagues who have spoken, I should like to extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address, as well as to some of the younger members who have also spoken in the house for the first time. Not being acquainted with the French language, I was unable to understand what the mover of the address said, and I have not yet had the privilege of reading a translation. I listened, however, to the address of the seconder and also to the speech last night by the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Shaver), and I should like to congratulate those young men on the facility with which they were able to express themselves. I make the confession that although this is my tenth session I have never been able to feel completely at home on the floor of the House of Commons.

I was interested particularly in the address of the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel), who is no longer a young man, since I see in the Parliamentary Records that he has contested a good many elections in his district, but I could not help thinking of the contrast between the views expressed by him and those expressed by former representatives of that old constituency of Brome, the Hon. Sidney Fisher and the Hon. Andrew McMaster. I see also by the Parliamentary Guide that the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi is a physician. I was not able to determine whether he was a homeopathist or not. Some things led me to believe he might be, while others made me think he was not. Proceeding on the theory that a cure is effected by taking a hair of the dog that bit you, I thought he must be a homeopathist, but by the magnitude of the doses he prescribed I could not help thinking otherwise, for his cry is for more and more tariff, on the assumption, apparently, that if much is good more is better.

The hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) called the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that there was not in the House of Commons a minister of labour. It had already been brought to our notice that there is also not a minister serving in the capacity only of minister of finance. It seems strange that such a situation should prevail in view of the large numbers of members opposite, and I have frequently had called to my mind a story that, I think, illustrates the situation. The principal of a theological college, when giving his students lectures on pastoral theology, used to talk to them somewhat in this strain. He reminded them with what circumspection they should treat the women of their congregation, treating the old women as mothers and the young women as sisters. He would conclude his remarks in this way: "For you know there are always lots of women in the congregation who think they would make good ministers' wives." I am sure there are plenty of members opposite who think they would make good cabinet ministers. Indeed, I have in mind two or three hon. gentlemen sitting down towards the other end of the chamber who, I think, would look much happier than they have been able to do since they have been in the house if they had been honoured

with cabinet positions. The Prime Minister also seemed to resent the imputation that this was a one-man government. I have no doubt be believes he has been consulting his colleagues and that he is not the autocrat that the public think him to be, but while he was making that statement it was very interesting to look across the floor and see the stolid countenance of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and the sickly smile that passed over the face of the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman).

The Prime Minister expressed indignation at being asked to fulfil his promises and pleaded for more time. If the Prime Minister had been more modest in his promises we might have been more modest in our demands, and it is because of the lavishness with which he made those promises, in a spirit almost of irresponsibility, that the country is now demanding that his promises be fulfilled. In illustration of the attitude of the Prime Minister during the whole campaign, I want to read an extract from one of his speeches. Although this has already been placed on Hansard, it is well that the attention of the house should be drawn to it again as indicating the temperament—I will put it in that way—of the Prime Minister. Speaking at Vancouver on January the 8th, he said:

> If Mr. Mackenzie King thinks I will not so build up our agricultural and industrial life that its strength will drive our products into the markets of the world, then he is wrong. For that I will do. If he thinks I will not establish new markets for these products, strive with all my heart to retain them, drive our products with all my power into new markets, into old markets, into reluctant markets, he is wrong. For that I will do.

There were other promises made. The hon. Minister of Justice when we met in the short September session, repudiated the statement attributed to him in the Manitoba Free Press, that the Bennett government would cure unemployment in three days, and explained that he did not say that, but what he did say was that in three days the House of Commons could pass legislation which would cure unemployment. Well, even if we accept his revised version, I think we are entitled to ask: Are conditions any better to-day than they were eight months ago? Has the government done anything to fulfil their promise?

Listening to those promises that were made so lavishly by hon. gentlemen opposite in the late campaign, I could not help recalling a very interesting story of an old stage coach driver, who owned a female dog that he valued very highly, and as he travelled along the road he promised one man after another a pup. Finally a passenger remonstrated and asked him how he could expect to carry out his promise. "Oh well," he answered, "it is a pretty mean man who would not promise a fellow a pup." When men go through the country claiming to be miracle-men, when they claim to be able to do something that no reasonable men expect them to do, something that every reasonable man knows they cannot do, they cannot wonder very much if we demand the fulfilment of their promises. The fact is that the country is now demanding the pups, and we have seen no sign of them as yet.

Mr. SPENCE: Give them time to grow.

Mr. BROWN: It is contended in some quarters that the difficulty in the west is purely a matter of psychology. The hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) yesterday undertook to tell us that things were not as bad as they might be, that they might be worse; but, of course, he admitted that they might be better. I am sure that the people of the western provinces will not thank him for placing the situation in the west before the people of the country in that light. There is no question that things are bad. It is all nonsense to say that we have just turned the corner, and that the present conditions are just a matter of psychology. Nothing of the kind. The farmers realize very keenly that they are up against the greatest depression that has ever struck them. The hon. member for Regina is somewhat like the man of the peculiar religious persuasion that holds that disease is all of the mind, and who asked a boy one day how his father was. "He is very sick," the boy replied. "Oh no," replied the man, "he only thinks he is sick." A week later this man asked the boy again how his father was. "Well," the boy replied, "he thinks he is dead." The undertaker thought so too, for he took him away and buried him. I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that some of the farmers will be dead financially before the hon. member for Regina wakes up to the fact that distress does exist in the west.

There is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that the chief difficulty lies in the fact of that wide disparity between the prices we receive for the things that we sell and the prices we have to pay for the things that we buy. Already many illustrations of that disparity have been given to the house. We have passed through a period of low prices before. Those of us who have been in the west now for almost half a century know that in the early days prices were low. I can remember when wheat

was 40 cents and oats nine and ten cents a bushel. I have driven wheat and oats twenty miles for those prices myself. I drew dressed pork a distance of twenty miles for a price of four cents a pound. Yes, we have seen these low prices before, but our produce at that time had a greater purchasing power than it has to-day. The difficulty lies in the fact that the prices of the goods we produce have gone down enormously while there has been comparatively little decrease in the prices of things that we buy. Let me give another illustration of that disparity. We members who come from the farms feel that we have to get spruced up a little before coming to Ottawa. So I went to get a shave and a haircut, and I found that it cost me about ten bushels of barley to get a shave and a haircut. That is too big a price to pay, even if the trimming is good enough to win the congratulations of the Prime Minister.

The speech from the throne is only one of the many disappointments which the country has had to experience recently. The first disappointment, of course, was the barrenness of the Prime Minister's trip to England, which has already been referred to at sufficient length. Perhaps I should explain what I mean by disappointment. Of course, all patriotic Canadians regret that the Prime Minister was not able to do more in England to bring us out of the depression from which we are suffering. Doubtless many of his most ardent supporters were also disappointed for the reason that they did expect him to do something. One of the most ardent supporters of the Prime Minister said: "Mr. Bennett believes that he is divinely commissioned to lead Canada out of the wilderness, and I believe it too." Naturally a man like that would be disappointed. Some of us had no such illusions. We did not believe that the course which the Prime Minister intended to pursue in England would be productive of results, and so in that sense we were not disappointed. We had simply the satisfaction of the tenth beatitude "Blessed are they who expect little for they shall not be disappointed."

Another great disappointment to the west was the Regina speech of the Prime Minister. He came west, and the stage had been very carefully set for his coming. The meeting had been announced some weeks beforehand, and the whole country was kept on the edge of expectation, hoping that great things were to come from that Regina speech. Well, the Prime Minister came, and spoke. I listened to his speech over the radio, and even over the radio you could sense the feeling of disappointment that passed through that audience. "The mountain laboured and brought forth a mouse." That speech was received with intense disappointment throughout the west. It was then that the people of the prairie provinces realized how completely they had been humbugged, just as the people of England were humbugged—at least they thought they were.

There is, of course, in the speech from the throne a recognition of the importance of the marketing of wheat. I am glad that the government does recognize its importance, for I know that some of the members of the government have refused to recognize the importance in our national economy of the marketing of wheat. In this connection I should like to refer to the statement that was made by the former Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm), which has been commented upon. When a statement is made and criticized one must always consider the circumstances prevailing at the time it was made. May I say that until the first of February of last year there was very little indication that the wheat markets were in a serious condition. I think I may say that up to that time if there had been any move on the part of the government to interfere with the marketing of wheat it would have been very keenly resented by the farmers.

Mr. CAHAN: Is that February of 1931?

Mr. BROWN: No, 1930, because it was then we began to recognize that wheat was piling up in vast quantities. As I say, up to that time the farmers, who had been led to believe both by the pool and by the regular grain trade that prices were going to be high and continue to be high, would have resented any move on the part of the government to interfere with the marketing of wheat. I think there is no question about that. About the time this house met in session last year conditions were beginning to assume a different aspect, and then it was that the party in opposition began to criticize the government for its negligence in the matter of the wheat trade. Hon. members on this side of the house regret the absence of the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens). I hope the government will convey to him our best wishes for a speedy recovery, because while we may differ with the hon. minister we recognize in him a fair fighter. I refer to the hon. gentleman because he paid a visit to my constituency substituting for the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion), the present Minister of Railways and Canals. For certain reasons that hon. gentleman was not allowed to speak in my constituency.

An hon. MEMBER: Always suppositions.

Mr. BROWN: However the present Minister of Trade and Commerce came into my constituency and spoke very indignantly about the laxity of the government in dealing with the wheat crop and he recalled to the minds of the electors the action taken on behalf of the farmers by Mr. Arthur Meighen from the years 1918 to 1922. He said that Mr. Meighen had instituted a wheat board and had sold the Canadian wheat, that he had made a permanent board and then the people had turned him out of office. When speaking to my electors I said that only one statement really was true, that the electors had swept Mr. Meighen from office. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce is quoted as follows:

> Would it have not been effective if the men who went to England last year to endeavour to find a market for Canadian wheat had behind them the support of a strong, virile government, whose opinions and pronouncements had to be listened to by the other nations of the world?

It is very interesting to note that while the Minister of Trade and Commerce was speaking to the people of the west in that tone the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) was adopting an entirely different tone in the province of Quebec. Speaking at Buckingham Mr. Cahan used these words, as they are quoted in the Ottawa press:

> The real aim of the budget is to open markets for the wheat produced by the western provinces, but wheat is not the only industry in Canada. The man who gives $10 of labour, in manufactures, is doing as much in Canada as the man who produces 10 bushels of wheat in the west. We have made sacrifices. . . .

I want you working men to get this point.

> We have made sacrifices for these western provinces. . . .

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the east has made no sacrifices; they have given nothing to the west for which we have not paid many many times over.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BROWN: No man will be more willing to endorse that statement than the present Prime Minister. Then Mr. Cahan goes on to say, as reported in the Montreal Star of July 12:

> Mr. Dunning always thinks in terms of wheat. He has never had much else to think about. The entire wheat crop of Canada has never yet reached $500,000,000 in total value in any year, yet the gross annual value of the products of the factories of the island of Montreal alone is approximately $575,000,000.
>
> Mr. Dunning proposes that these Montreal factories shall be crippled and destroyed by the free admission of the products of British factories, in the hope that Great Britain may hereafter show good-will by buying more Canadian wheat.
>
> Canadians cannot live by wheat alone.

The point I make is that the Secretary of State seemed to see a conflict between the wheat growers on the prairies and the workers in the Montreal factories. I hope by this time he has realized that the interests of the workingman in Montreal are absolutely dependent upon the purchasing power of the farmers of the west and his people can succeed only in the proportion we succeed.

During this period of depression many western farmers have been advised to adopt mixed farming. It is somewhat amusing to come east and listen to the advice given. People who know nothing about farming take the liberty of advocating mixed farming and state emphatically that the west will have to adopt it. May I say Mr. Speaker, that so far as my district is concerned we have always had that type of farming. Our district is a mixed farming district although we grow great quantities of wheat. Our land however is suitable for the mixed variety of agriculture and we have always been engaged in it. Indeed I question if there are as many cattle and pigs being shipped from that district as there were thirty years ago. I remember that I came from the west about forty years ago with a train load of Gordon and Ironsides cattle and those cattle were gathered within a very short radius. We have always been engaged in mixed farming. I wish heartily to endorse the statement of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) that there are large areas of the western provinces not suitable for mixed farming. The lack of a good water supply in itself is sufficient to prevent the raising of cattle or hogs to a greater extent than is being done at the present time. Supposing we do engage in mixed farming to a greater extent, where will we get our markets? Supposing we do, from where will the markets come? There is nothing to encourage mixed farming on an extensive scale either in respect of cattle, hogs, eggs, honey or any of the other commodities. True, everybody recognizes the value of diversified farming. We believe it is better where possible not to have all our eggs in one basket. The people in the east fail to recognize however at the present time we are producing large quantities of different farm products. I wish to give these figures:

> In 1930 Manitoba produced 10,000,000 pounds of honey; Saskatchewan and Alberta 2,000,000

pounds. Manitoba produced 8,000,000 pounds of dairy butter and 15,000,000 pounds of creamery butter; Saskatchewan produced 30 million pounds of creamery butter and Alberta, 35 million pounds. Manitoba farmers sold 200 million gallons of milk and 4 million gallons of cream. The three prairie provinces produced a million pounds of cheese. The western Canada stock yards handled nearly 800,000 hogs, 330,000 cattle, 73,000 calves and 184,000 lambs. The Wool Pool handled 3 million pounds of wool.

Mr. GOTT: Was that last year?

Mr. BROWN: 1930.

Mr. GOTT: It would be interesting to have the figures for 1927. Has the hon. member got those handy?

Mr. BROWN: I am sorry, but I must hurry along. With regard to Mr. Beatty's proposal, naturally cheap money will be welcomed by the farmers of western Canada. But there is no need of Mr. Beatty's money to induce the farmers there to go more fully into live stock. Without a cent from Mr. Beatty Manitoba is likely next fall to be overrun with pigs. I know the farmers themselves are undertaking to increase the supply of hogs. This being so, what will become of those who borrow money from Mr. Beatty to go into the raising of hogs? With the greatly increased supply then available the condition will be infinitely worse than it is now.

If Mr. Beatty wants to do anything to help us. I think I can give him some advice. For instance, a reduction of freight rates would help, but of course that would interfere with those sacred dividends of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, they must be guaranteed for all time, no matter whether the farmers are getting their production costs or not. Mr. Beatty might also give some attention to the marketing problem in regard to our live stock products. What is the situation that confronts us? The men whom we sent to England to investigate the possibilities of marketing live stock products there tell us that there is an unlimited market for Canadian bacon, but the difficulty is lack of a continuous supply. Well, why is not that continuous supply available? Just because, whenever there is an extra carload of hogs on the market, down goes the price. If Mr. Beatty can do anything to stabilize the market for pork at something like a reasonable figure, there will be no doubt about ensuring a continuous supply of bacon. The loss in our export trade of course is attributable to other reasons than those advanced by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull). He forgot to say anything about the immensely increasing consumption among ourselves. But we can furnish large amounts of pork for export if we can be assured of something like stability in our market. It is true our farmers will have to recognize that from time to time they may have to take a little lower price, but at present we are compelled to shoulder the whole burden. Three weeks ago in Winnipeg there was a large supply of cattle and hogs in the stock yards, and the buyers simply sat in their offices, they would not buy, with the result that the price of hogs went down to 5¼ cents a pound. Swift's buyer came out in our district and said that they ought to be buying at 5 cents. It is true the market has gone back again, so conditions now are not quite so bad as they were at that time.

Then there is talk about lessening the costs of production—I think we have the phrase in the speech from the throne—yet every action taken by the government tends to increase the cost of production. Last September our friends opposite were very fond of telling us that if the tariff duties were raised there would be no increase in the prices of the goods that we buy. Of course it is a little hard for us at present to prove that we have not received the full benefit from the reduction of prices that we are entitled to. That point was urged very strongly upon the government. As I say, at present, it is not particularly easy for us to get the actual results of the tariff amendments made at the special session, but I have one case in point. The hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) has been ridiculed because of the socks that he produced in the Estevan election campaign. I am going to produce a pair. Those socks that I am now holding in my hand are pretty good-looking socks. I do not suppose the Prime Minister would wear them, but the constituents of the hon. members for Regina and Long Lake (Mr. Cowan) and of the other members from Saskatchewan would be glad to wear them—if they are able to buy socks at all this coming summer. Those socks used to be sold in Pilot Mound at 10 cents a pair.

An hon. MEMBER: What is wrong with them?

Mr. BROWN: There is nothing wrong with them. When the customs tariff was amended last fall, besides the increase in the ad valorem duty, a duty of $1.35 a dozen was imposed on socks that were then retailing at 10 cents a pair. The local merchant told me that he had been making a nice little profit at that price but as a result of the tariff legislation last September he cannot now buy the socks at

all. As I say, there are many poor farmers in Saskatchewan who would be willing to wear these 10 cent socks. Indeed, I should be glad to get some myself. These socks that, as I say, were selling for 10 cents a pair cannot now be handled by the local merchants because of the increase in price due to the tariff legislation last fall. The onus rests upon hon. gentlemen opposite to show me where to-day I can get socks at a similar price.

We are being advised on the one hand to go into the production of live stock and in the speech from the throne it is said that we must reduce the cost of production. I want to remind the house that just at the time we are being urged to go into the production of live stock and our friends opposite are talking about decreasing the costs of production, the Minister of National Revenue has taken a course that simply amounts to a slap in the face. I refer to barbed wire. Barbed wire has been on the free list since the early days of the first Laurier administration. I remember in 1898 buying barbed wire to fence in a half section and I got the benefit of the wiping out of the tariff duty. Imagine the absurdity of telling us on the one hand to go into the production of live stock, and then on the other hand putting up the price of one of our prime essentials for the caring of live stock! If we could get not only barbed wire but woven wire at half the price we are getting it to-day, there would be no question about farmers going into live stock. The time has come when sheep will be a very valuable asset on the farm. But what is the chief handicap in handling sheep? The cost of fencing. In this connection I am going to read an extract from a despatch by the correspondent of the Manitoba Free Press:

> About $250,000 of barbed wire is imported annually. It comes from several countries, including Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and the United States.

Here is what I want the house to note particularly:

> Since last summer, the price of wire has been falling rapidly. Exact prices are not available, but Hardware and Metal, of Toronto, states that recent declines aggregate 25 cents per 80-rod spools. These declines have made it difficult for Canadian wire manufacturers to compete. Hence, the request for dump duties.
>
> The government has fixed an arbitrary value, but has not yet announced what it is. The intention is to place the figure sufficiently high to offset recent reductions in price, and to enable Canadian manufacturers to make a profit. If foreign firms attempt to undersell this fixed price they will encounter dump duties of 50 per cent.

I do not wish, Mr. Speaker, to be forced into the position of having to demand fixed prices for our products, for I regard it as not economically sound. But what are we going to do if the Minister of National Revenue insists that every manufacturer in Canada must have a price that shall secure him the home market at a certain profit? I put that question to the house. I should regret to be forced into the position of demanding a fixed price on wheat, but there is a situation that confronts us. This government takes the position that every man engaged in manufacturing must be secured a certain price for his products. What are we going to do?

Now what is necessary in the west? I admit, Mr. Speaker, that any measure that can be proposed at the present time other than direct financial assistance, will not be very effective. It will be difficult to give relief. Nothing but a straight money grant to every individual farmer on the prairies would really give him relief. But we know the difficulty in that regard. The hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) said that the people are not starving. No; that may be true. But they are simply hanging on and wondering what they are going to do. What is necessary is that means should be taken to restore the confidence and morale of the farmer. If that confidence can be restored then the farmers will go forward with some hope. But if they are going to be met by such impositions as this duty on barbed wire, I do not know what they are going to do. Of course, the price has not been raised, nor is that likely. But the point is, there has not been a reduction; that is what we want to emphasize. And unless steps are taken to restore the confidence of the farmers of the west the situation presents a grave danger to the commercial life of Canada.

Mr. MORAND: Would the hon. gentleman be prepared to have a factory closed and many men put out of employment in order to get wire a little cheaper?

Mr. BROWN: I do not know that the question requires an answer. Surely we have as much right to be guaranteed a price on our products as have the manufacturers of barbed wire.

Mr. MULLINS: Is not barbed wire cheaper on the prairies than it used to be?

Mr. BROWN: Of course, but we are not buying it as cheap as I bought it in 1898. It is not a matter of buying barbed wire cheaper than we used to buy it; it is a question of the Minister of National Revenue preventing us from getting the benefit of the reduction to which we are entitled.

Mr. WILSON: Had we a tariff on barbed wire in 1898?

Mr. BROWN: No.

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): As one of the newly-elected members I am diffident about rising at this time to speak on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. There are, however, some matters to which I should like to direct the attention of the government, matters to which I think they ought to give some heed. One of them, which I believe is about to be mentioned for the first time on the floor of this house, is the question of hospital treatment for those ex-soldiers who are not in receipt of a pension from the government. Personally I should like to have seen some mention made in the address of state health insurance, believing that the time has now come in Canada when some form of state health insurance should be considered, if not inaugurated, on behalf of the great masses of people throughout the country who have not the means with which to meet hospital or doctors' accounts which they or their families must incur in connection with such necessary service, and who in many cases would rather suffer than incur debts they are unable to pay.

Regarding the ex-service men I believe I am safe in saying that in British Columbia to-day, owing to her mild climate, far greater numbers of ex-soldiers are domiciled than were enlisted from the province for war purposes. Many of these ex-service men are to-day suffering from various complaints engendered by way of service, and owing to the fact that their disability did not develop until after the close of the war they are not entitled to free treatment at military hospitals. This situation is adding a considerable burden to the cities and municipalities for hospitalization purposes, which burden will no doubt increase as the age of the ex-service man advances. The greatest hardship of all is placed on the ex-service man who frequently finds himself in need of hospital attention the cost of which he is unable to meet.

I would urge upon the government to take steps to provide free hospital treatment for all ex-soldiers who owing to war service have developed some complaint or disability requiring hospital treatment. On account of the lack of free hospital service many of these men have suffered inconvenience and hardship.

In the speech from the throne I note that mention has been made of some change with regard to old age pensions. While agreeing with the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) that the federal government should assume a greater proportion of the cost of old age pensions, if not the whole of it, I personally should like to see the Dominion government not only assume the whole cost of old age pensions but also reduce the age from seventy years to at least sixty-five. Anyone who is conversant with conditions in the industrial field well knows that under our exacting social and industrial conditions to-day it is well-nigh impossible for the average person to put by a reserve for his old age, and with the labour markets glutted with thousands of young men ready and willing to work if given the opportunity, what chance has the man of even sixty of holding on to his job, let alone procuring one?

I note that the government has introduced a bill amending the Naturalization Act. I should like to have seen, if it were possible, some changes made along such lines as would more clearly designate who are Canadians as distinct from British; and I believe that some changes should be made to enable Canadians to register their children born in Canada as Canadians. It seems to me there is something wrong in this country when Canadians are warned, upon registering the birth of a child born in the country, that "Canadian" is no nationality.

Another matter I wish to speak about has reference to the paragraph of the speech which reads:

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

I wonder if in regard to the fixed policy of the government to condemn all influences which are inimical to the social and economic welfare of the Dominion, British Columbia is too far away to be regarded as part of the Dominion. In that province, particularly in the lower mainland, we have a social and economic problem almost entirely confined within our own boundary and as to which I should be pleased to see the so-called fixed policy of the government put into effect. I refer to the Asiatic question. If ever there were influences inimical to the economic welfare of any part of Canada it is the enormous growth and influence of the orientals in British Columbia. No race can assimilate except by intermarriage, and intermarriage between whites and Asiatics is usually repugnant to both races. The seriousness of this increase of orientals in the lower Fraser valley can be best described by stating that

in Richmond, in my constituency, over 40 per cent of the pupils attending the schools are Japanese. In the town of Steveston, where there is a fourteen-room school, ten rooms are used exclusively for Japanese, three rooms are mixed and one room only is all white. Some criticism is due to the government for permitting the immigration of orientals at a time when the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) was taking steps to close the doors against immigrants from other countries. Surely if any people were to be debarred from Canada it should have been those who will not assimilate and who are accustomed to a much lower standard of living. Even Russians and their children could become good citizens of this country. Personally I should like to see the government close the gates against orientals, say for a period of ten years or until such time as we in British Columbia would no longer have any fear of domination by the Asiatic, as we do at the present time.

Pursuing its fixed policy of combating all influences inimical to the social and economic welfare of this Dominion, the government decided to prohibit the importation of certain commodities from the Union of Soviet Socialistic republics. I am at a loss to know why Russia should be singled out, unless it is that at a distance it seems to be a country where government is by the people and for the people. This seemed to be repugnant to Sir Herbert Holt, whose opinion was made known to Canada before the order in council was passed. It may have been merely a coincidence; the government may have acted without knowing of that opinion, but it seems to me that if they really desired to help the coal industry a tax should have been put upon fuel oil. That action would have been more beneficial to Canada than the prohibition of trade with Russia.

I should like to invite the attention of the government to another matter affecting Canada generally and British Columbia in particular, namely the poultry industry. At the present time there is no shortage of eggs in Canada, nor has there been for some considerable time, in fact fresh eggs are cheaper and have been offered in greater volume during the past year than at any time for some years past. So great has been the production of eggs during the last five or six months that at times there was a glut and it was impossible to find a market. The climate of British Columbia is admirably adapted to the production of eggs, more especially during the winter months. The British Columbia egg is the best in Canada, if not in the whole world, and last year the constituency which I have the honour to represent produced the world's record white Leghorn, a hen which laid 357 eggs in 365 days. This hen does honour not only to her owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. Whiting of Port Kells, but to Canada as well. During a period of three weeks 70,000 hens were sacrificed in the Fraser valley because eggs were a glut on the market and were selling for as low as 12 cents per dozen, and as a result a number of the poultry owners were forced to get rid of their stock in an endeavour to meet their accounts; in fact many of them were compelled to go out of business.

Considerable help would be afforded to the dairymen and poultrymen of British Columbia if the domestic freight rates were reduced to the export rate. The difference of some $4.20 per ton would be an average saving to the poultryman in British Columbia of $100 to $500 per year, which in many instances would mean the difference between staying on the ranch and leaving it and thus swelling the number of job-seekers in the cities. The great problem facing Canada to-day is to find a market for her surplus products, and how that can be accomplished under the policy of the present government I have yet to learn.

Before closing I should like to make some criticism as to the inquiry conducted by the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) into the price of bread. While the minister seems to have secured a lot of data in the way of prices of wheat and so on, apparently no notice has been taken of a most vital point, namely, the high cost of flour in its relation to the price of wheat. A very casual reading of the minister's report would indicate that he has taken great pains to tell us about the price of labour, distribution, cost of ingredients, overhead and so on, but he has given no information as to any inquiry into the question why flour prices should be as high as they are. Judging from the report, one might think that flour was a mere detail in the making of bread, simply one of the minor ingredients such as salt or sugar. The following appears on page 30 of the report:

> In the making of bread, flour costs represent only 36 per cent and that flour is becoming less and less important in the modern loaf.

Page 41 of the report reads:

> Our records show that in 1929, the mill-controlled bakeries purchased in all well over one million barrels: Moreover, this million-barrel market was held by only four milling companies and represented an eighth of the entire consumption of flour in Canada in 1929.

These milling companies are thus provided with an assured outlet for a large portion of their products and consequently should be able to reduce considerably their sales cost. Here is a paragraph I would like to direct to the serious attention of the government. It reads:

> One decided advantage to the mills is that there is no competition for this business, price competition, or any other kind.

This gives to these companies a virtual monopoly of flour, the gravest kind of monopoly, affecting as it does the very life of the masses.

I should like to make a comparison between the prices of wheat and flour in Canada and in Australia. I quote the Australian prices because that country has a fairly high standard of living. The ruling selling price of wheat f.o.b. steamer at principal Australian ports was 61 cents for the month of December, 1930; the price of flour f.o.b. steamer at Australian ports per 2,000 pounds was $27.37, which is equivalent to about 1.4 cents per pound of flour. Canadian prices for the same period were: December wheat, fifty-six cents per bushel; December flour, $4.76 per ninety-pound sack, or 2.4 cents per pound of flour. Not only was Australian wheat quoted for sale at five cents a bushel more, but the price of flour offered at Australian ports was sixty-four cents for a forty-nine pound sack as against $1.19 wholesale price in Canada. It is high time that the government should investigate the price of flour in this country and, if necessary, should break up this combine of millers who, I claim, are exploiting the people of Canada to-day in one of the most essential items of our food, namely, flour. To paraphrase the words of Thomas Hood who many years ago wrote a poem entitled The Song of the Shirt:

> O God! that bread should be so dear,
> And men and wheat so cheap.

On behalf of the lower mainland of British Columbia an investigation was asked of the Minister of Labour into the prices of all wheat products. The price of bread was secondary. One of the objects in view was the giving of some protection to the independent bakeries and to all other purchasers of flour. The situation is such as to warrant continued government action, the more so in view of a statement I noticed in the Vancouver Province of the tenth of March last to the effect that the four milling companies are about to amalgamate into one large concern.

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) is not in his seat, because recently he made some remarks which were directed to me personally, and I wish he were present so that I might direct my observations to him personally. The other day, speaking from his place in the house, he said that I had been going around the Estevan district with a pair of white stockings in my pocket. I know he obtained the information from his bosom friend, Doctor Anderson, Premier of Saskatchewan, but the information is not, strictly speaking, accurate. I was not carrying stockings, but for the information of the house and in order to set people's minds right, I will tell the house exactly what happened. It will be recalled that at the special session last fall, the government of which the right hon. gentleman is the head enormously increased duties on many commodities, amongst which were socks, and they did this in such a way that the heaviest burden would fall upon the poor man. Before leaving Ottawa I secured three pairs of socks which I took out to the west to illustrate to the people exactly what the government had done. I had a pair of workingmen's cheap cotton socks, the cheapest I could buy, such a sock as the unemployed would wear—and remember, Mr. Speaker, that this special session was called for the relief of unemployment. I have those socks yet.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Produce them.

Mr. YOUNG: I have them in my hand. I showed these socks to the people of the Estevan district and I explained that under Liberal rule the duty on these socks was 30 per cent, but that under the present Prime Minister the duty was increased at one stroke to 165 per cent of the value of the article. I had also a pair of cheap children's socks, such as the poor man would buy for his child. I have them in my hand. I showed these socks to the people and I explained that under Liberal rule the duty on these socks was 30 per cent, but that under the present administration the duty was increased at one stroke to 185 per cent of the value of the socks. I had still another pair of socks; they were not cheap socks, they were beautiful socks.

An hon. MEMBER: Where are they?

Mr. YOUNG: They are in my pocket. They are socks such as the Prime Minister himself or his wealthy Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) would wear, that

anyone would be glad to wear. I have them in my hand. I showed these socks to the people and I explained to them that the duty on these under Liberal rule was 35 per cent, because the Liberals believed that the rich man should pay more than the poor man, but that under the present administration the duty on these socks had been increased to 51 per cent. At a special session of parliament, called to relieve distress, to relieve unemployment, my right hon. friend increases the duty on the sock of the poor man or the unemployed to 165 and 185 per cent, but on his own sock he is satisfied with 51 per cent. The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) a little while ago pointed out that certain socks were off the market because of that duty. A friend of mine, belonging to the wool producers of Saskatchewan, went into their office in Regina the other day and asked for a price on four-point Hudson Bay blankets, which are the best blanket you can get. The dealer said: "I can give you at a reasonable price some four-point Hudson Bay blankets that have been carried over from last year." My friend said that he wanted new blankets. The dealer replied: "There is no new stock; we are not handling them any more; with the present tariff we cannot handle them any more." The man said: "Do you mean to tell me I can no longer buy four-point Hudson Bay blankets?" The dealer replied: "On account of the present duties imposed by the present government it is impossible to sell those blankets any more in this country." Because of that duty the people of Canada are to-day compelled to adopt a lower standard of living by buying inferior blankets.

Mr. McGIBBON: Does the hon. member not know that most of these Hudson Bay blankets are made in Canada, some in my own town?

Mr. YOUNG: I am not speaking of where they are made.

Mr. McGIBBON: If they are made in Canada, how can there be any duty on them?

Mr. YOUNG: There is the answer to the government's contention. The blankets are made in Canada and the price has gone up

The Prime Minister also said that he would not listen to any such speeches as I made during the short session. That is very much like a statement he made the other day when Mr. R. J. Deachman, representative of the consumers' league, appeared before a committee of the cabinet at the request of the Canadian Council of Agriculture to represent the cause of the farmers of this country when the cabinet was considering increasing tariffs. What did the Prime Minister say to him? "We do not want any arguments from you." That is what the Prime Minister said to our representative before the cabinet. That is what he is saying to us in the west, and that is what he said in his speech on Tuesday—"We do not want any arguments from you." What was the matter with the speeches I made last session? Just let us review for a moment what I said then.

One of the first measures, if not the first measure brought in at that session, was a bill authorizing the government to spend $20,000,000 for the relief of unemployment. As was my duty I arose in my place on that occasion and told the Prime Minister what I thought of his bill. I told him that in my opinion it would not relieve the smallest fraction of unemployment. I tried to explain that the cause of unemployment was that the people had no purchasing power. I tried to explain that before he could spend $20,000,000 or $20 on unemployment, he must first take that money out of the pockets of the people. I tried to explain that if he spent $20,000,000 in one part of the country, creating employment, he would create $20,000,000 worth of unemployment in other parts of the country where he collected that money; for he would by that very act still further reduce their purchasing power. Was I not right?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. YOUNG: Let us see. The minister's own officers told us at that time that there were two hundred thousand unemployed in Canada. To-day there are three hundred thousand. Has that relieved unemployment? Was I not right?

Further than that, the Prime Minister brought down other measures increasing the tariff enormously, to give employment to Canadian labour and encourage Canadian industry, as he said. Again I tried to explain to him that the cause of the trouble was the lack of purchasing power on the part of the people. I tried to explain to him that in no possible way could he legislate through his tariff to bring about higher prices for the commodities that we had to sell abroad. I tried to explain that the purchasing power of the people could not be restored until a parity was restored between the prices of the goods we had to sell and the prices of the goods we had to buy, and that the only way in which the purchasing power of the people of this country could be increased was by bringing

down the cost of the commodities we had to buy. I pointed out to him that the measures he was then taking to relieve unemployment would have just the opposite effect, that they would keep prices up, and that as a consequence we would have less purchasing power and more unemployment. Was I not right? What has been the result? Let us see what the Prime Minister himself said the other day in regard to the work of the special session:

> Where would this country have been had it not been for the session last fall which gave employment to upwards of two hundred thousand people? Study if you will for a moment the figures of industry. In eight months new factories cannot be equipped and built, but they can be commenced, and the numbers that have been commenced in this country during those eight months are more than those during any other similar period in recent years.

I want to deal with that statement. The Montreal Star sent out a man to look over the industrial districts of this country, to find out just what had been effected by these tariff increases, and his observations were published in a series of articles in the Montreal Star, a copy of which has been sent to every member of the house. What did he find? He reported that new industries had been established in this country, because of this tariff, with a capital investment of some $14,000,000. Incidentally he included in that $14,000,000 some $6,000,000 invested in a fertilizer plant at Trail, British Columbia, which plant he forgot to tell us had been established four years ago under the Liberal regime. But we will allow him that $6,000,000. Including that, the most he could find was $14,000,000 of new capital invested in industry, all of which he attributed to the increased tariff. We will be generous; we will double his estimate and make it $28,000,000. Let us say that there was new capital invested to the amount of $28,000,000. Now $28,000,000 in four months is at the rate of $84,000,000 a year; and the average investment of new capital in Canadian industry during the last seven years of Liberal government was $227,000,000 a year. The Prime Minister said that no such amount of capital as had been invested in this country in industry since the new tariff came into effect had been invested in any other eight months' period in recent years. I dare aver, Mr. Speaker, that we never had in the history of Canada an eight months' period when there was so little new capital invested as during the last eight months.

This same writer in the Montreal Star, Mr. MacLeod, writing of the benefits of this new policy, tells us that it has given employment to two thousand hands. We know from the government's own figures that last fall there were two hundred thousand unemployed, and to-day there are three hundred thousand. Let us strike the balance: Two thousand men given employment, and one hundred thousand more men thrown out of employment. Was I not right? What does all the benefit of this tariff policy amount to as compared with what it has cost Canada? It is but "A wrecker's handful of coin gleaned from the beach to which he has beguiled an argosy."

The government also told us at the special session that they had assurances from the manufacturers that if the tariff increases proposed were granted, the manufacturers would not increase their prices. I directed a question to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) at the time, and asked him if any manufacturer had refused to give such an assurance. I did not ask that question just to tease the minister, or to wear out his patience, as the Prime Minister suggested, but because at the time I had information in my possession that certain manufacturers had flatly refused to give any such assurance. Here is an article from the Toronto Mail and Empire, a good Conservative paper. Speaking of the new customs regulation in regard to the valuation of automobiles, in its issue of February 20, 1931, it says:

> General Motors, Durant, Willys-Overland Company, Chrysler and other Canadian manufacturers, it is understood, have been urging the change upon the Dominion government ever since the special session of parliament last year, when it was indicated that the government at that time contemplated increasing motor car duties by some 20 per cent. A promise was then sought that the domestic prices would not be increased, but it is understood, Mr. Bennett and his ministers were told flatly and frankly that to raise the rate of duty would be automatically to increase domestic prices to the consumer and cut down consumption, with consequent increase in unemployment.

That put the minister in a quandary. He wanted to raise the duties on automobiles. He had promised the house and the country that he would first get assurances from the manufacturers that prices would not be increased. When they refused to give any such assurance, the problem that confronted him was: how can I do this thing without it being necessary to extract a promise from the manufacturers? The ingenuity of the customs department came to his rescue. They found a way. Those gentlemen in that feudal castle on the banks of the canal can always find a way. I think the man who designed that castle must have had a rare sense of humour. There it stands on the banks of the canal, on the highway of traffic with its bastions, and battlements, with its

towers, its turrets and its portholes with guns at the door and no doubt a dungeon or an oubliette underneath. It reminds one of the robbers' castles on the Rhine that we used to read about as boys, to which all passers by were compelled to draw near and pay toll. Here is bulletin No. 3684, signed by R. W. Breadner:

Order in council P.C. 297, dated the 19th February, 1931, fixes and determines "a rate of discount of 20 per cent which may be applied to the prices of automobiles or other motor vehicles, excepting motorcycles, so published or listed by manufacturers or producers thereof; such published or listed prices, subject to deduction of a discount of 20 per cent, to be deemed and taken to be the fair market value of such goods on importation into Canada under the general tariff, and to be the value for duty thereof on such importation into Canada by others than consumers, provided, however, that such fair market value be not less than the price actually paid by the importer to the exporter for the goods, and that for duty purposes on importation of such goods into Canada where the discount allowed in the home market is less than 20 per cent, no greater discount shall be allowed from such published or listed prices than is allowed on sales of such goods in the home market to the consumers thereof."

What does that mean? Perhaps I can best explain it by giving a concrete case. Take a car that retails in the United States for $1,000, and is not manufactured in Canada. The wholesale price of that car in the United States would be $700. The wholesale price of that car to the importer in Canada would be the same, $700. The duty on that car would be 20 per cent of $700, or $140. The duty-paid value of that car would be $840. Add to that 5 per cent excise tax and one per cent sales tax, which are based on the duty paid value of the car, and which amount to $50.40, and we have on that car a total revenue to the government of $190.40. That brings the price of the car, duty paid at our border, up to $890.40. On top of that the dealer has to pay freight and has to add his commission. Under these new regulations the Department of Customs says the value for duty on that car shall be $800 and not $700. What happens? The value for duty is $800; the rate is 20 per cent. Twenty per cent of $800 is $160. The duty paid value then is $960. I wish the Minister of Customs and National Revenue would listen to my remarks, because I think if he understood what he has done he might be willing to correct his mistake. The duty paid value of that car is $960. Add to that the 5 per cent excise tax, and one per cent sales tax and you have a total revenue to the government on that car of $217.60.

M. LAVERGNE: Why not?

[Mr. Young.]

Mr. YOUNG: There is $217.60. That is the revenue to the government on that car. The Customs department, however, does not stop there. They say to the man, "What did you pay for this car in the United States?" He replies, "$700." They say, "You should not have paid $700 for that car; you should have paid $800 and because you have dared to buy the car in the United States for $700 when you should have paid $800 we will fine you another $100 in the form of a dumping duty, and that is exactly what is done. My hon. friend may laugh, but that is what his department has done and I have proof of it over the signature of his own commissioner of customs.

An hon. MEMBER: What is the effect of it?

Mr. YOUNG: The effect is this: Before this regulation became operative the car of which I am speaking was selling at retail in Canada for $1,187. To-day in order to give the dealer the same commission as he got before, the car would have to sell in Canada for $1,347.

Mr. LAVERGNE: What is the commission the dealer receives?

Mr. YOUNG: You are depriving the dealer of his commission. This regulation was deliberately passed to put both the dealer and the importer of American made cars out of business.

Let us suppose the purpose of this action is accomplished. The dealer is put out of business. In what position then is the citizen of this country who wants to buy that particular car? What will he do? He will have to go over to the United States and buy that car at the retail price of $1,000. He will have to pay a 20 per cent duty on the $1,000 valuation and on top of that the sales tax and the excise tax which brings the price of the car up to $1,272.

Mr. MORAND: Why not buy a Canadian car?

Mr. YOUNG: I will refer to the Canadian car in a moment.

Mr. BROWN: Surely a man ought to have the right to buy the car he wants.

Mr. YOUNG: As I said, the object of this regulation is to stop the importation of these cars into Canada and to have them manufactured in Canada. Let us suppose for a moment, as suggested by my hon. friend from Windsor (Mr. Morand) that importations are stopped and the cars have to be made in Canada. Of cars valued at less than $1,200 we import some

30,000 in a year. The revenue derived by the government through duties, excise and sales tax on these 30,000 cars amounts to about four and a half million dollars a year. Now my hon. friend says, "Buy Canadian cars." Supposing we accept his advice, the first cost to the country is a loss of four and a half million dollars in revenue.

Mr. MORAND: That is high financing; I would suggest that the Minister of National Revenue pay very close attention.

Mr. YOUNG: Yes, it is high financing and the automobile makers know how to "put it over." The first cost to the country is four and a half million dollars which will be lost to the revenue of the country and paid to the manufacturers.

Mr. MORAND: It will increase the purchasing power?

Mr. VALLANCE: The hon. member who has just spoken ought to be given the floor so that he may talk.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. YOUNG: Four and a half million dollars lost to the revenue because the cars are not brought in. Then the Canadians who buy those made in Canada cars will have to pay an additional price for them. It is estimated that the average increase in price, if the dealers absorb as much of the discount as they can will be about $85 each on the cheaper cars. However I am not going to insist on $85, I will place it at $70, because $70 is the actual increase which has already taken place in connection with one of those cars.

Mr. MORAND: On American cars?

Mr. YOUNG: Yes, on American cars. An increase of $70 each on 30,000 cars amounts to about $2,100,000 to be taken out of the pockets of the people. Taking the contribution from the revenue of this country of about four and one half million dollars and adding to that the additional cost to the consumers of $2,100,000 makes the total of $6,615,000 to be taken from the Canadian people, in order to establish an industry which will manufacture 30,000 cars a year. We know that in connection with the manufacture of automobiles in Canada the average production per annum per man engaged in the industry is about 18 cars. From that we learn that the production of 30,000 cars will give employment to about 1,660 men. That number of men would be employed, and we know from the government returns that the average wage paid to each of these men is about $1,600 a year. We find then that we have established an industry which, when worked out, pays in wages $2,656,000 per year and would cost the people of Canada $6,615,000 in the same period. With those figures we would have a net loss on the industry of $3,959,000 per year. That amount goes to the manufacturers of Canadian automobiles.

Oh, how much has the automobile manufacturing industry cost this country? I well remember when in 1926 we were going to reduce the duty on automobiles representatives of the industry came here with tears in their eyes and we were told that Mr. McLaughlin would have to close his factory if the duties were reduced. Mr. Robb called his bluff and did he close his factories? Yes, for three days.

Mr. MORAND: That difficulty was afterwards overcome.

Mr. YOUNG: Now they come again to the present government and they say, "unless you give us this additional protection we will have to close our factories." The government "fell for it" and gave them what they asked.

I ask hon. members this question: How much are Canadian producers of automobiles interested in Canadian labour and Canadian workmen? How much are they interested in employment in this country? I will tell you. The importer of a certain American automobile adopted the practice of bringing his cars in without tires and equipping them with Canadian tires. The Canadian automobile producers went to the Canadian tire manufacturers, and persuaded them to blacklist that firm and refuse to sell them tires for their cars. That shows how much interest they have in Canadian labour.

Mr. MORAND: Why did they do that?

Mr. YOUNG: That is an instance to show how much they care for Canadian labour. Let us translate the situation I have outlined into bushels of wheat.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. RYCKMAN: Why not socks?

Mr. YOUNG: When the Prime Minister asked the other day why we could not get a better price for our wheat, and I told him "tariffs" he replied in a most irrelevant fashion. The $70 increase in the price of a car translated into bushels of wheat which is selling in the west at 40 cents per bushel amounts to 175 bushels. We know that imports are paid for by exports and that exports are paid for by imports. When we export our wheat we must take goods in exchange. Very well, we export wheat and we want to import a car.

The Minister of National Revenue says, "I will not let you buy that car for the number of bushels of wheat which the Americans are willing to take for it; I insist that you pay an additional 175 bushels for it." Then the hon. gentleman wonders why we cannot get a satisfactory price for wheat. We must take imports in exchange for our wheat. Every obstacle which is placed in the way of goods entering this country represents another millstone around the neck of the western farmer. Every obstacle so placed means to them that they cannot accept the world price for their wheat but must take a lesser price.

My hon. friend from Regina (Mr. Turnbull) stated the other day that the people of the west are not starving. No, of course they are not starving; we have too much food. Why should we starve?

Mr. MORAND: You are lucky.

Mr. YOUNG: On the other hand we are short of clothing, of machinery, of furniture, of buildings.

Mr. RYCKMAN: The hon. gentleman is not short of socks?

Mr. YOUNG: We are short of many of the necessities of life. We want to exchange our surplus food products for the surplus products that other people have to sell, but the government says we must not do so. As the hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. McPhee) explained yesterday in quoting the language of Sir George Paish, the whole trouble of the world to-day is that there is an abundance of foodstuffs in some parts of the world and an abundance of manufactured products in other parts of the world, and governments step in and say, We will not allow you people to make the exchange. That is the whole trouble.

Now, Mr. Speaker, while its intentions may have been good, the government by its every act since it came into office has only aggravated the unemployment situation, it has only aggravated the distress in the western provinces and in all other parts of the country. Never since I have been in the west—and I have lived there all my life—never until this winter have I seen in the stores of the west signs reading: "Butter not wanted." Why is that?

An hon. MEMBER: Too much New Zealand butter.

Mr. YOUNG: No, that is not the cause. In a certain town in my constituency there is a creamery locally owned and operated by the farmers. Last December I had a talk with the operator and he told me: "I supply all the butter that is used in this town. In other years it has taken from 300 to 400 pounds a week to meet the demand, but this year it takes only 50 pounds a week. The people are not using butter." You have reduced the standard of living further and further, until, as was predicted last fall by members on this side of the house, you have ruined the market that you were trying to create.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would urge the hon. Minister of National Revenue to study this matter of automobiles. He laughs and says that it did not amount to anything, but I tell him that what I have stated is correct, and his commissioner of customs will tell him so too if he is only capable of understanding it. I say we should demand an investigation into the whole automobile industry, for that industry has cost this country many, many times what it is worth.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MAURICE BRASSET (Gaspé): My first words will be to extend my regards to the Speaker of this house. At the special session in September last as well as, so far, during this session, it has been my impression that the Speaker has given a fair deal to both sides of the house. So far as I am concerned, and I think I can speak for most of my colleagues on this side, I can say that you, Mr. Speaker, may expect from us the most cordial cooperation. And now, sir, my constituency being composed, in large majority, of French-speaking people, and even though a great proportion of the members of this house are not familiar with the French language, I shall continue my remarks in my mother tongue.

(Translation): Mr. Speaker, my first wish is to congratulate the mover and seconder of the address. They delivered their speeches with much zest, and it is all to their credit. I state that it was all to their credit because it was a difficult task to vindicate the acts of the present government. I could add, sir, that this government, although it has been in power for eight months only, has to its record the harnessing of the country with one of the most unpopular administrations in existence since confederation. In the course of the last election, through public addresses, the radio and every possible Conservative medium of propaganda, we heard sung the praises and exploits of the then leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett).

From one end of the country to the other pledges abound: the ceasing of unemployment, the lowering of the cost of living, work for everybody, high wages, etc., etc. Briefly, it was the golden age returning to earth, and we were told: Elect Mr. Bennett; elect the leader of the Conservative opposition and you will have in this country all that you desire. Everybody will have work, and factories will open their doors again. Well, for eight months the Canadian people have been waiting and what is the result? The people have been waiting eight months without hearing the roar of the guns, without any blasting of foreign markets. The people have waited eight months without seeing the promised millennium; instead what is happening? Let us examine the balance sheet of the Conservative party since they are in power and compare it with that of the Liberal regime. I quote from an extract of L'Avenir du Nord:

Under the Conseratives, the unemployment crisis which they were to relieve immediately on assuming power, is more acute than under the Liberal regime.

Under the Conservative rule that national unity, that harmony between all the provinces brought about by the Liberals, threaten to be inevitably torn asunder.

And if we had many speeches like the one delivered yesterday, in the house, by the member for Regina, I would have to unfortunately admit that the harmony between the various provinces would not last long.

Under the Conservatives, Canada's trade is collapsing, under the Liberals it had reached the highest summit of our history.

Canada lost the fifth rank among the exporting countries, to make way for India. Dominion Bureau of Sstatistics.

Under the Conservatives, the cost of living increases, under the Liberals, it was decreasing.

Under the Conservatives, the taxes increase; under the Liberals they were decreasing.

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): They are rapidly climbing.

Mr. BRASSET (Translation): Yes, unfortunately they are climbing and rapidly.

Under the Conservatives, expenditures exceed the revenues; under the Liberals we had surpluses.

Under the Conservatives, the national debt is increasing; under the Liberals, it was decreasing.

Under the Conservatives, the revenues of the country are decreasing; under the Liberals, they were on the increase.

These are the Conservative balance-sheets and the balance-sheets of the Liberal administration. The Conservatives proclaim everywhere that the Prime Minister has redeemed his pledges. The people of Canada would be easily pleased if they were satisfied with the deeds of this government.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployment question has been broached, it is very much in evidence, and what I would have to say would not alter the situation. However, in listening to the speakers who preceded me these last days, I thought that the government's endeavours to relieve unemployment did not produce the result which the Conservative themselves expected. The then leader of the opposition, the Prime Minister of to-day, had solemnly pledged his word—that everybody heard, members on the right as well as those on the left—not to try to merely relieve unemployment, but to completely eradicate it. What result has the Prime Minister had since his advent to power. Is there less unemployment? Has unemployment ceased? I shall state that not only it has not ceased, but that it has spread more than ever. The calls for help which reach members from all parts of Canada are a sufficient answer.

It is often queried, sir, how the government would fare should elections take place now. We wonder what would be the verdict of the people if after eight months in power our friends on your right, sir, were to face another general election. The almost unanimous views expressed by the people of Canada, is that were we to have elections today the Conservative party would be swept from power. What the Canadian people expected, so as to relieve unemployment, is not a few million dollars given out as charity. The Canadian people have more pride than that. It is not charity we expected, we had hoped, on the present Prime Minister assuming power, that a constructive policy would give works to the people; and not doles. And this charity of $20,000,000 how was it given? It was given with the disdainful gesture of the wealthy man who drops a few cents to the beggar on the street in order to get rid of him. Poor municipalities were forced to bleed themselves white in order to contribute their share and thus assure a few days of work to the unemployed. What happened in my own riding? The unemployed worked eight, ten, fifteen days, and now they are poorer than ever.

It unfortunately happened, in my county, that many poor parishes and municipalities were forced to borrow in order to meet the requirements of the government and thereby help the latter to relieve the distress existing. These municipalities were already relieving much distress and in no way did they need to be forced by the government to help their poor, which they had begun to do long before the government had their measure of $20,000,000 voted.

Mr. DUGUAY (Translation): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Gaspé will allow me, I would like to ask him a question.

Mr. BRASSET (Translation): You will have your turn later.

Mr. DUGUAY (Translation): Whether the hon. member for Gaspé is agreeable or not, I shall ask him to tell us how the money intended to relieve unemployment was distributed in the province of Quebec and in what way the provincial government—

Mr. St. PERE (Translation): The provincial government is in no way interested.

Mr. BRASSET (Translation): Well, I shall say to the hon. member for Lake St. John that the money to relieve unemployment was well spent in Quebec, perhaps better under the liberal rule of that province than it would have been distributed under the Conservative government at Ottawa.

At the emergency session, in September last, I had personally asked the government and the Prime Minister to take the necessary steps to have the right of way of a projected railway surveyed in the county of Gaspé. This would have given work to the unemployed of Gaspé and the money would not have been spent uselessly to draw gravel over the snow in order to relieve unemployment; the money would have been expended in a practical and efficient way and this undertaking would have had as a result the relief of unemployment during the winter. However, the Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) did not even think it worthwhile to answer my query, and brushed aside my suggestion.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed the other day that when the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) commented on the deplorable state of the people of this country, the features of the right hon. Prime Minister took an expression of self complacency. It is said that the Prime Minister is a man with large personal means—and I have no criticism to offer—I fear however that the hon. Prime Minister is unaware of what is going on; because, considering his responsibilities, if he could only realize the distress of the people, we would not see him smile disdainfully whenever the distress of the people is referred to.

In the course of this session, sir, many references will be made to the government's deficit, and the latter will try to place the blame on world conditions, and they will be partly right; they will also tell us that the customs and excise revenues show a decrease of about $50,000,000 since July last and that is the principal cause of the government's deficit.

Then, sir, I can point out that the government is inconsequent since the Prime Minister himself stated, in the course of the special session, that by raising the tariff his aim was precisely to decrease imports and, thereby, restrict the operations of that department. Since it is the government which has restricted the business of the Customs and Excise department, why should they impute this deficit to these branches of the service? It is stultifying itself, moreover that is a poor argument to invoke.

We shall also hear of the Liberal regime and tariff. During the last election, the Conservatives proclaimed everywhere that the Liberal tariff was the cause of unemployment, of economic depression and of all the suffering which existed in our country. But the moment the Conservatives assumed power, their tactics changed, so did their tone. A very few days after the election of July 28, the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) stated in Ottawa: "that the economic unrest cannot be attributed to any government, that it was world-wide." At the special session the Prime Minister made almost the same statement and almost in the same words as the Hon. Mr. Robertson. Finally, on November 8 last, Sir George Perley speaking in Ottawa, stated:

> The world has been passing through a period of serious economic and political disturbance. Canada has not escaped its share of the difficulties of readjustment. The testing-time, however, has only served to prove that strength and solidity of the Canadian economic structure. Few countries have been as fortunate.

This is entirely different from what our friends the Conservatives proclaimed during the electoral campaign, when they asserted that Canada was doomed to ruin and that, thanks to the liberal rule, Canada had perhaps become one of the last countries of the world. Circumstances alter cases.

We have had, sir, for nine years a Liberal administration. What has that administration given us? First, it has given us seven consecutive years of surpluses, which has never been done by any Canadian administration since confederation, not even by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government so highly praised by our friends the Conservatives.

During that Liberal administration, taxes decreased year after year, the debts resulting from the war began to decrease and disappear. In a word the people were prosperous. That means, sir, that we had an excellent government.

Last spring, relying upon the results obtained, the right hon. Prime Minister of the

day (Mr. Mackenzie King) submitted his administration to the electorate. At the outset of the campaign everybody was certain that the Liberal party would be returned to power. I could name many of my hon. friends now sitting on your right, sir, who at the outset of the campaign stated themselves that they would be defeated. I, myself, quoted extracts from conservative newspapers which asserted the the Liberal government would be returned to power. However, by degree, in the course of the campaign, rumours reached us of a super-man who was covering the country from one end to the other, promising marvels. He made pledges right and left, somewhat like one American millionaire, whose name is on every lip, throws handfuls of dimes. The pledges of the then leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) were strewn from one end of the country to the other and there seemed, to be never enough. By degree, the people were caught by those beautiful promises. Mr. Bennett stated that with the advent to power of the Conservative party, there would be no more suffering the world over, that there would be bridges, roads and railways every where. The Canadian western wheat growers would sell their products with considerable profit; Ontario and Quebec would see their factories increase and the output would be at its maximum; the Gaspé and Maritime provinces' fishermen, under the magic word of the leader of the opposition, would have miraculous catches, like of old, twenty centuries ago, the apostles at the word of the Master.

Now, all has changed, and brutal reality has established the truth of facts. The people of Canada are discovering that they have been deceived. They abide their time, and it will come. They will then ask the Conservatives —and I quote here an extract from a newspaper which everybody is familiar with:

> They will ask why, after having pledged their word to put an end to unemployment in the very first months of their taking office the government did nothing to relieve efficiently the unemployed; they will ask why the Prime Minister, after having pledged his word to sell the Canadian wheat, enacted measures which closed the British market to us and increased the agricultural crisis in the Canadian west; they will inquire why Confederation exists; they will inquire wherefor the fiasco of all the meetings of this nature since Confederation; they will inquire why the country must face a deficit of more than $100,000,000, when, under the Liberal administration, there was always surpluses, from 1922 to 1930 inclusively; they will ask why they increased the national debt, when the Liberals had decreased it by $300,000,000 since 1924—

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): Are you quoting from the Soleil?

Mr. BRASSET (Translation): It is a newspaper that tells the truth.

> —they will ask why our export trade shows a deficit on all British markets where, previous to July 28 last, we regularly had a favourable balance.
>
> They will ask why, after having gained rural ridings by promising to increase the price of butter by cutting out the New Zealand imports, they only succeeded in lowering these prices by 2 cents below the prices of 1929;
>
> They will ask why, in the midst of the crisis, while thousands of Canadians are unemployed, they disorganized the import trade of automobiles and threw on the street about 10,000 workers.
>
> They will be made to answer for all their pledges and all their blunders. The people abide their hour and that hour will come.

Mr. H. A. MULLINS (Marquette): Mr. Speaker, before I take up the subjects I intend to discuss to-night, allow me to extend to you my congratulations upon your appointment. I wish also to extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

It is some years since I was last in this chamber and there have been many changes in the personnel, but I see a few of the old faces here and that gives me delight and encouragement.

I have listened to the attacks by hon. gentlemen opposite upon my hon. leader, and I confess that while they were being made I found it very hard to keep my seat. I would not be speaking this evening if it were not for the statements made from the other side of the house that this is a one-man government.

Miss MACPHAIL: Isn't it?

Mr. MULLINS: I represent the constituency of Marquette and I stand here as free a man as any hon. member in this house. Marquette, a purely agricultural constituency, sent me here to represent them, but at the same time I do not forget that I represent Canada as a whole.

An hon. MEMBER: That is right.

Mr. MULLINS: Marquette, in which reside many intelligent voters, is one of the most picturesque constituencies in western Canada. We are engaged largely in the production of live stock, we believe in diversified farming. I cannot sit here and listen to attacks being made upon my leader, whom I have known as long as, if not longer than, any man in this house. I remember when he first came to Calgary and put out his sign, as a member of the legal profession. I have watched his

career and am satisfied that the affairs of Canada are in very good hands irrespective of what the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) may say. I have every confidence in the right hon. gentleman who leads this government.

I was elected in 1925; in 1926 I was defeated by a Liberal-Progressive or a Progressive-Liberal—God knows what.

An hon. MEMBER: He was a good man.

Mr. MULLINS: Yes, but he had a hyphenated name. This time, instead of suffering defeat by a majority of 1,000, I came back with a majority of nearly 2,700.

I agree that conditions in the west are not good. They are not good for the man on the land, but they are all right for the man who has live stock. I stated before on the floor of this house that the sowless, chickenless farmer is not good for the west. You must have diversified farming; you cannot have one crop only, consisting of wheat. I hear wailings from those men south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway from Swift Current to the mountains who are settled on land which should never have been taken away from the rancher. We gave way to the men who came in with the prairie schooners thinking they were going to better conditions, but what happened? The hon. member opposite, the ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) brought in professors from the United States to find out if grass could be sown in order to bring back the land which had been taken from us. We left that land fertile and rich but they exploited the soil with the usual result. That district should never have been ploughed and certainly should never have been taken away from the rancher.

I have a letter here which I received from one of my constituents enclosing two photographs, which delighted me very much, showing what he is doing in regard to the feeding and raising of cattle. He says:

> Every day as I gain experience I am gaining confidence in you. I think I can see from the little bit of experience I have had through North America that we can produce cattle in this western country cheaper than in any other part of the Dominion and also in the largest part of the United States, and you know the condition of producing cattle in Europe.

An hon. MEMBER: Who signed it?

Mr. MULLINS: Edward Dupont, of Binscarth.

An hon. MEMBER: Put the letter on record.

An hon. MEMBER: Go on.

[Mr. Mullins.]

Mr. MULLINS: I am glad the benches are not empty; I am glad hon. members are here so that I can talk to them.

I watched the career of the government which was in power from 1922 up until the time it was defeated in July, 1930. They were always promising to do certain things. The ex-Minister of Agriculture told us that we were going to get a reduction in freight rates from the $20 rate down. What happened? During the whole term of office they never obtained a reduced freight rate or a reduction in any manner, shape or form.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It went down to $15.

Mr. MULLINS: We were in office not more than sixty days when we had a $15 rate. I was brought from Winnipeg to Ottawa—and I came irrespective of my party leanings—to give evidence before what the former Liberal government called the Petersen commission, the greatest fiasco that ever was perpetrated on the Canadian people. I came here expecting that I would be of some assistance in getting reduced freight rates for the people of western Canada. My hon. friends opposite placed the matter in the hands of a man by the name of Preston. I came all the way from Winnipeg without any remuneration, and I found a man named Symington sitting there as counsel, drawing $20 a day expenses, in addition to a charge of so much per diem. He was the man who broadcast over the radio in western Canada a talk which contained statements which were absolutely untrue but which helped to defeat us. I wondered what was behind the scenery of that Petersen commission, and I commenced to look around. There was in England a large shipping company that was standing behind Petersen, and Petersen was not in the picture. He was not putting on any boats, but he was making a deal with a large shipping company called the Thompson line to supply ships. That was what we were receiving from my hon. friends opposite. Now hon. gentlemen opposite are asking for action, asking why we did not do anything; but what do we find? As I said before, we were not elected more than sixty days before the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) got for western Canada a $15 rate on cattle, and before long we shall have a much lower rate than that—we shall have a $10 rate.

The hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Mackenzie King), the leader of the opposition, took the credit for the lifting of the Canadian cattle embargo. I may say for the benefit of the house, and especially the younger members who are not conversant

with the matter, that for thirty years I fought the embargo. I was in Dundee when the Huronia arrived on the other side and they took a cow away, stating that she was diseased, a statement which was absolutely unfair to Canada. They tested her lungs, and they placed a stigma against Canadian cattle. Edward Watson, president of the association for the free importation of Canadian cattle into the British isles, said to me. "Mullins, that is unfair to Canada." I said: "Watson, I will fight that issue as long as Providence permits me to remain here." He said: "I will too." We fought together for the removal of the embargo. I crossed over several times on that issue. In 1917 the question came before the war conference as to what they should do for Canada. The question was raised by Sir Walter Long, and the answer came back from the present hon. member for South Winnipeg (Mr. Rogers): "Remove the embargo and the stigma from Canadian cattle." That is what made it possible for Canadian cattle to get into the British isles. The records are available, and no matter what the leader of the opposition may say, the facts cannot be denied because the official returns and documents are available. The answer came back that a resolution had been passed that they would remove the embargo upon the declaration of peace. Having given this promise, having given their word which to a Britisher was as good as his bond, they let the matter drag along, Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, who was then the British Minister of Agriculture, was antagonistic to it. He contested a seat in Dudley and with a Labour candidate against him was defeated by 10,000 votes on the question of admission of Canadian cattle into the British isles. That made him antagonistic, and when Lloyd George asked him to contest Taunton, the Federal Meat Traders of England kept their hands off Taunton to let Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen into the House of Commons. He came back as Minister of Agriculture, but he was antagonistic and he would not do anything towards removing that stigma from Canadian cattle.

The matter dragged along from 1917 to 1922. In the fall of 1922, as a private citizen, I felt it my duty to go overseas, and I went. I discussed with Lord Beaverbrook the justification for removing the embargo from Canadian cattle. The matter came before the British House of Commons and a measure was passed lifting the embargo. I ask the right hon. gentleman: who made it possible for the removal of that embargo? Why does he take to Mr. Larkin and himself the credit for the removal? I cannot see what justification they can find for doing that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will my hon. friend give the date at which the embargo was finally removed?

Mr. MULLINS: The embargo was removed on December 15, 1922.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Liberal administration came into office in December, 1921.

Mr. MULLINS: Yes, but they did nothing towards having the embargo removed. While I was in England I did not see that Mr. Larkin had anything to do with it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: While my hon. friend was there nothing was done in the way of finally removing it. I admit my hon. friend tried to get it removed, but he did not succeed. All efforts had been in vain until within a year after the Liberal government came into office.

Mr. MULLINS: I did not see any evidence of any work except some that was done by Duncan Marshall who went overseas to receive the first shipment of Canadian cattle and who put a red tape across the gang plank of the first ship which arrived in Glasgow. The steer that he was leading out, the first one that left the ship, took a look at the red tape and nearly put Duncan Marshall into the Clyde. We got into that market, and it was a wonderful market. I do not know what Canada would have done with all the cattle we had out west on feed but for the British market. I can see no reason whatever for hon. gentlemen opposite taking any credit for our getting into the British market or for any reduction in freight rates whatever.

For the benefit of the house I wish to read a telegram, dated March 17, 1923, just after the bill had passed the house, which I received from a gentleman who was coming out to this country:

> Arriving on the ss. Paris the 25th. Address the Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MULLINS: This is no laughing matter, Mr. Speaker. Conditions in western Canada are much too serious to be laughed at. I have never laughed at hon. gentlemen across the floor or heckled them, nor will I do so in the future. I feel my responsibility as a member of parliament from the west too much to treat this matter, which is of vital import-

ance to western Canada, as a jest. The telegram continues:

Intend purchasing one thousand choice feeders immediately. Reply. Put me in touch with the best markets. Immediate purchase and despatch. Confirm wireless to ss. Paris.

That man came out to this country and I helped him to get five hundred steers, which he took over to England and met a wonderful market there. Then we got thousands of cattle going over there at the very time that the trade was dormant. There was nothing doing until the stigma was taken off our cattle and the British market was opened up to us.

While the embargo was on we met with a lot of opposition from Ireland. I am sorry that the former Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan) is not in his seat, because he is a good Irishman. I say, Mr. Speaker, that Ireland could not stand the competition of the Canadian steer. They had that market to themselves over there.

I object, and did object strenuously in western Canada, to our young steers going out of Canada to the United States. The former Minister of Agriculture should have taken steps to stop our young steers from leaving Canada to be fattened in the United States, and then shipped back to Canada as beef. Imagine thousands of our cattle, in a country such as this, leaving Winnipeg, where the cattle could have been fattened, because there is so much coarse feed in that country, and going to the United States to be fattened, and then the beef being shipped back to the leading hotels in Canada. That was another instance of our raw products being exported. I urge the present Minister of Agriculture and this government to do something to stop our young steers going out to the United States. Let us get them back on the land where feed is cheap. There is no country in the world like Canada for feeding cattle out of doors. No country has such wonderful possibilities as western Canada in that respect. What a chance we have to raise these steers cheap, with thousands of tons of hay in stack outside Winnipeg right now; and yet there is not an animal on feed. Think of it! Your beautiful little farms in Ontario could be utilized in finishing off these cattle, and then they could go forward to England. There is one chance for us out west, and that is to ship our cattle over the Hudson Bay route. The road will be finished pretty soon, and it will be a wonderful route. It is a cool route, and the cattle will stand the trip to the old country better.

The Scotch people want our cattle. We have a market over there for hundreds of thousands of our cattle. They want a one thousand pound steer, three parts finished, so they can finish them off. Ireland sent a representative out to this country to make a survey, and he found that there was nothing doing because the former Minister of Agriculture had abolished the policy of putting out pure-bred sires. It was suicidal to abolish that policy of scattering pure-bred sires over the western plains. It was unfair to the cattle trade of western Canada for the former Minister of Agriculture to abrogate that policy, and that is largely responsible for the condition in which we find ourselves to-day in western Canada. We would not be in such a position to-day were it not for the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite.

I do not wish to take up much of the time of the house, but I know the actual circumstances; I tried in years past to lend a hand to hon. gentlemen opposite, who turned a deaf ear to my plea, and I cannot now remain silent in my seat. I expect to see the present Minister of Agriculture bring down a policy which will stop our young steers going out of Winnipeg, and secure a cheap freight rate to the farms where these cattle can be fed on the coarse feed that we have out west. I expect to see a trade develop that has been ignored in the past while hon. gentlemen opposite were in office.

I wish to say a few words on the subject of marketing. I believe in cooperation, but not the kind of cooperation that was applied by the gentleman who held the portfolio of Minister of Railways, Mr. Crerar, in the late government. He put his nose into my constituency, Mr. Speaker, but he did not get recognized. Wherever he spoke I received the biggest majority I ever had. I could not figure out how the leader of the late government ever took a man like that into his cabinet. Mr. Crerar tried to deal with that little group across the floor to my right. He tried to bargain with them, but he did not get them. I have every confidence in that group over there; I know where they stand. Mr. Crerar tried to bargain with them in Saskatoon and said: If you will come into the Liberal fold, we can get three or four portfolios for you. But he did not get them in at all. The people got tired of his bargaining.

What else did Mr. Crerar do? He was president of the United Grain Growers, and he put in a system of this kind—the farmers had some confidence in him as president of the United Grain Growers, and they thought that he would treat them right. They brought in their cattle, and then Mr. Crerar brought

in a man from the United States to sell those cattle, and he did not know a steer from a heifer. Pardon me, Mr. Speaker, if I talk western language, but I am bringing a message from the west. I do not want to break the rules of the house; I simply want to speak plainly, and I will not break the rules of the house by reading my speeches as do some of my hon. friends on the other side. Every time my hon. friends read their speeches they are breaking the rules of the house as laid down in Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms.

The former Minister of Railways Mr. Crerar, put in a system and said, "Go on, ship in your cattle." The farmers were instructed to ship their cattle into a pool. They were told "Put your cattle in a pool." I saw cattle going to the pool valued at 2½ to 3 cents per pound which on the open market in the stock yard would bring about 4 cents per pound. Then they got a division of about thirty cents per hundredweight. What did they do then? They had a little pen near the weigh-scale in connection with which they built a high pinnacle on which the farmer was to sit so that he would not be in the road and could not hear what was going on. That is the gentleman hon. members opposite were pleased to make Minister of Railways. That is the gentleman who was brought down from the west and given a portfolio in the government Farmers' cattle were purchased at ridiculously low prices. I stood one day watching what was taking place in connection with this system and I must say that my blood ran cold as I saw the death of that industry approaching. I would not be in the house if it were not to defend that industry and to point out what is happening in the west.

At the present time there is another pool out west operated by some men whose names I do not know. I did watch the progress of the other pool, however. I watched Mr. Crerar who was at the head of the United Grain Growers, and after the farmers had been pumped about as dry as possible that movement was dropped. The United Grain Growers took nearly all the farmers had and as a result the farmers took the attitude that there was no money in cattle. No, there was no money in cattle. What further did the ex-Minister of Railways do? He induced them to export their cattle, and for the benefit of hon. gentlemen opposite may I say that I never could understand why the ex-Minister of Agriculture did not stop it. An exporter received one dollar per head for cattle shipped to England. They shipped about 100,000 cattle and half of them would not make corks for castor oil bottles.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MULLINS: Do you wonder that the cattle trade was ruined? I stood on the Glasgow market and I saw those cattle there. Scotchmen are shrewd buyers; they know good cattle when they see them. They would not buy the rubbish and it was left there, the returns went home to the western farmers. They did not know what was the matter with the cattle business; they received scarcely any returns and the result was that they went out of the trade. They dropped the raising of cattle because they said it was not profitable. The ex-minister was responsible for the poor condition of the cattle trade, and that condition was brought about by shipping such poor rubbish to the old country markets. In order to make profits the better type of cattle must be shipped. In the past year some development has taken place in the matter of export trade and it has been due to the proper selection of export cattle. The proper men must be obtained to select the right type of market cattle for the various markets. As I stated before, rubbish must not be shipped; the best cattle should be shipped to the proper market.

There is another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of hon. members in this house. I see the farmers selling their barley for 20 or 25 cents a hundredweight. In the constituency of Marquette the farmers are receiving 10 or 11 cents per bushel for their barley, a ridiculously low figure. Then the farmers ship their cattle to the stockyards at Winnipeg and they have to pay $1.50 a hundredweight for it. Is it possible to have a successful cattle trade under conditions of that sort? The farmer must pay $1.40 a bale for hay for which he should only pay from 35 to 40 cents. A channel has to be opened up and something has to be done for this industry by bringing about lower costs.

I prefer the cattle to exclusive wheat growing any time. It is not nearly so laborious; western farms may be commercialized when the cattle trade is properly handled. The farmers say, "If we all go into that trade what will happen to it?" In reply I say that there is an unlimited market across the water; the foreign countries will take all we have if we produce the right type of cattle. I see sitting on the other side of the house the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). He stood shoulder to shoulder with the late Robert Bickerdike who for many years was the desk mate of the hon. member for Labelle.

Mr. BOURASSA: Quite so.

Mr. MULLINS: Mr. Bickerdike was a good friend of the live stock industry, although he

had the idea that capital punishment should be eliminated. However he was friendly towards the cattle trade. This matter may be treated lightly in the house, Mr. Speaker, but I say it must be taken seriously because conditions out in the west are not good. My work as a member of this house is to try to bring back better conditions on the land and make western Canada more prosperous. Not only do I wish to see the constituency of Marquette prosperous but I want to see the western prairies in better circumstances. We have in the west the richest land which lies out doors; God has given us a heritage of six inches of the richest top soil in the world.

The constituency from which I come is the most picturesque in western Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MULLINS: Next summer it is expected that in the constituency of Marquette a national park will be opened. It will be the most picturesque park in Canada and I may say that it does not take second place to Prince Albert. It is situated on Clear lake. The district I represent is absolutely adapted for the raising and production of live stock and diversified farming. When we get the pure-bred sires out on the land and prevent our steers from going to the United States I think the cattle trade will be in a more profitable condition and our western people will be more prosperous. The farmer with one crop of wheat is in the same position as the man with one crop of cotton; he cannot live by wheat alone. The farmers in Arkansas are in trouble at the present time with their cotton crop because that is the only crop upon which they have to depend.

I wish to see greater success for the live stock industry and I have every confidence in the hon. gentleman who occupies the seat of Prime Minister on this side of the house. If I had not confidence in him I would move over to the other side and give my hon. friends over there a hand. This is not a one-man government; I do not want hon. members to think that for a moment, and it is unfair for hon. members to point their fingers and make that insinuation. Our hon. leader has left us free. He has not coerced me; he has never said to me that I must do this or I must do that. He has left me my freedom, and that is why I have spoken to you in this manner to-night.

I am not inclined to take up any more time because I may have something more to say later on. I am not going to dangle a pair of socks in front of you. Having heard the remarks of the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) I priced socks in the stores of this city of Ottawa but I did not find any priced as low as ten cents. I do not know where he got his 10 cent socks; probably they are of foreign origin. I cannot understand the hon. member; I want something bigger, something more convincing. Western Canada does not ask for that cheap stuff, certainly not the people in the northwestern part of Manitoba. They are not sending me here to dangle a pair of 10 cent socks before this house.

An hon. MEMBER: How about the old hen?

Mr. MULLINS: The old hen is all right. I am not responsible for the low price of eggs. I heard an hon. member from British Columbia say that the hens out there had laid 340 or 350 eggs a year. It should be borne in mind that we have had an open winter in western Canada, and if the hens are busy it is not my fault. We have had periods of depression before and Canada has come back; she will come back again. While on my last campaign I saw an old gentleman 84 years of age summer-fallowing his land in readiness for next year's crop. That is the spirit that will bring western Canada back to normal. We in the west beyond the great lakes say to the east: Let us be Canadians, let us have the Canadian spirit, and so hasten the economic recovery of the Dominion as a whole.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Marquette (Mr. Mullins) and I have many times discussed the subject that he has been dealing with. I agree with him in many respects especially in his statement that much of southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta should never have been brought under the plough. I think that is probably one of the wisest statements he has made to-night.

Now that we are not so hurried as we were in the special session, I should like the opportunity of congratulating the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) on his selecting as Minister of Agriculture a member from the province of Saskatchewan. I notice that he is not in his place. I have had the pleasure and privilege of knowing the Hon. Robert Weir, as Harry Lauder says, "for a very considerable period." I knew him first of all as a school inspector in my own school section, and he was first class in that capacity. My wish to Bob Weir, as we affectionately call him out there, is that he makes as great a success as Minister of Agriculture as he did as school inspector.

I was surprised at some of the statements made yesterday by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull), in the course of which he mentioned my name. I propose very briefly to deal with those statements. At page 125 of Hansard the hon. gentleman, referring to my leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) is reported as follows:

> Yesterday we heard from the right hon. leader of the government (Mr. Bennett) what I might call a confession of repentance by the Hon. Mr. Gardiner, the Liberal leader in the province of Saskatchewan. That statement was delivered at Portage la Prairie, shortly after Mr. Gardiner became premier of the province. But I fear that soon after he must have been disciplined by his leader in Ottawa, because he very speedily abandoned that profession, and in the fall of 1926 we find that, instead of trying to promote unity and harmony in this country, he was trying to build up a bloc, preaching the doctrine of a solid Saskatchewan and a solid Quebec to govern Canada.

Now, as I—

Mr. TURNBULL: Will the right hon. gentleman permit me to make a correction?

Mr. VALLANCE: I thank the hon. gentleman for the compliment. I must ask him to wait a minute.

Mr. TURNBULL: Mr. Speaker, may I speak to a question of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, if it is a question of privilege.

Mr. TURNBULL: The reference I made, Mr. Speaker, to the right hon. gentleman who was preaching the doctrine of a solid bloc in Saskatchewan was to the right hon. leader of the opposition in Ottawa (Mr. Mackenzie King), and not to Mr. Gardiner. I know in unrevised Hansard my remarks are in the form in which my hon. friend is now quoting them, but in sending back the proof I made the necessary correction. I think hon. members will agree with me that my reference was to the right hon. leader of the opposition in Ottawa.

An hon. MEMBER: No, you mentioned his name.

Mr. VALLANCE: I do not happen yet to be in possession of the revised Hansard containing the hon. gentleman's corrected statement, so I merely quoted what he stated on the floor of the house, and on that occasion I attempted to ask him a question, but he was not as courteous to me as I have been to him. However, I would point out to him, as I attempted to do at the time, that with Quebec returning 65 members and Saskatchewan 21, it is utterly impossible for those 86 members to control this house. I want also to point out to the hon. gentleman that at all times it has been our policy in Saskatchewan, especially when we elected 17 members in the 1925 general election, to urge that the delegation coming from west of the great lakes, whether you call them Conservatives, Liberals, Independents, Progressives, or by any other name, must always be in a position where they will and can cooperate with any groups from the other provinces. I think, Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me that the 17 Liberal members from Saskatchewan did demonstrate that that was possible. True, on many occasions we had, as I pointed out, the cooperation of other groups from western Canada. So that that statement is hardly accurate. However, he says he has corrected it in the revised Hansard.

The hon. gentleman made this further attack on my leader when he addressed the house yesterday. He said:

> Let me say that there is no substantial secessionist movement in western Canada, and the people there, when they read the press, will resent the suggestion from the leader of the Liberal party in this house that the west is secessionist or that the people in the west are.

What he did say was said by my leader later on. Now the hon. gentleman says that there is no secessionist movement in western Canada. He goes a little further. He says:

> The only talk of secession in western Canada arose from a meeting of six gentlemen in the town of Wilkie in the constituency of my hon. friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance). And the only person who knows about secession in western Canada is the hon. gentleman who represents that constituency.

Now, I have the honour to represent that constituency and I am going to be quite frank with my hon. friend from Regina. I tell him he does not know the condition that prevails in South Battleford or he would not make such a statement. I tell him right now, not because I am a secessionist but because I know the facts, that there were no six gentlemen in the town of Wilkie who held the meeting where he suggests the secessionist movement originated.

I hold in my hand the official document known as the farmers' charter of liberty, and I want to tell the house that at no time during the twenty-five years that I have been privileged to live in that constituency have I seen the people driven to the extremes that they are on this occasion. When I received this official document it was at a public meeting at which there were some four or five hundred people. The organizer or speaker of the evening was dealing with

the charter of liberty. He made certain statements—or read them from the charter—with which I disagreed. I pointed out to him that it was impossible for me to discuss with him intelligently the farmers' charter of liberty as I had not had the privilege of reading it. I asked him if he would be kind enough to give me a copy. He was quite courteous and handed me this copy. I do not propose to read it; I do not think it would do any good. I merely use it as an illustration to direct to the attention of this government, notwithstanding what the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) has said, to the fact that conditions are as bad as most of the preceding speakers have indicated.

This pamphlet is addressed to the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada. I asked the speaker that evening whether they had yet presented it to the Prime Minister and he told me they had not; it was quite possible that the right hon. gentleman would not receive it for probably another year. However, they make five demands of this government, and I do not think I am amiss when I say that when the right hon. gentleman was in Regina they made the same five demands in the memorandum which was presented to him by the President of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan section.

We all know the result of the Regina meeting. I was not privileged to attend that meeting, but like my hon. friend from Yorkton (Mr. McPhee) I listened over the radio. I had gathered around me that night a politically mixed group of farmers. We were all there in anticipation. I was one of those federal members who had participated in the by-election in Estevan, and I can well remember the day during that Estevan by-election when every paper in western Canada came out in glaring headlines with the statement that on the 30th of December the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett would address a meeting in Regina at which he would tell the farmers just what this government proposed to do for them. I want you to mark that a by-election was on, and this by-election meant a great deal not only to the provincial government but also to this federal government. It was, I believe, the first by-election in any province since this government had taken office, and they were very much exercised as to what the public would register. I had the privilege of addressing a good many meetings during that campaign, and the evening on which that announcement came out I took the paper to the meeting with me and pointed out to that audience just what the promise was. I pointed out to them, as I pointed out to this house, that all that the western farmers particularly had been offered—I do not know so much about what has been done in eastern Canada—all that this government had offered to the farmers of the west up to date, had been promises.

I notice that my neighbour across the line, the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer) suggested that this government was guaranteeing the pools. I have never seen any definite statement made just as to the relationship between this federal government and the pools. I am sorry the Prime Minister is not in his seat, because I should like him to tell me or the house or the country just what attitude this government has taken towards the pool. However, I pointed out to those people that this government had offered them up to the present nothing but promises, and I believe it is nothing more than a promise still. Had the right hon. gentleman had anything to give the people of western Canada, considering the by-election was on, I said, now is the time he would give it to you to influence your vote in the by-election. But all he did give was a promise and I watched in anticipation the approach of December 30th. On December 30th he addressed that huge audience in Regina. Thousands flocked to the meeting. They flocked in a spirit of expectation, in a spirit, if you like, to give praise to the right hon. gentleman for the deliverance he was going to bring to that huge audience that night. But I listened and watched the faces of those farmers sitting around; I saw their expressions change as their hope seemed to vanish, and when the right hon. gentleman was through the audience did not rise to give him the praise which they had come to offer for an expected deliverance. Rather they went home to pray, and they are praying to this government still.

We had the privilege in the last federal election of having in Saskatchewan two or three farmers I know who were in the then opposition. One of them, perhaps, did not go as far as Saskatchewan, but we had the member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn) and the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe), two particular friends of mine. I do not see either of them in his seat. I remember the member for Dufferin-Simcoe spoke in the city of Moose Jaw, and I remember also the wail he put up there, pleading for the poor farmers and for the live stock industry. My hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Mullins) has nothing on him. He pointed out to the people that the great industry of agriculture had been ruined by the policies of the gov-

ernment then in power, and showed what the government we now have would do if it could only get hold of the reins of office. I am one of those farmers. I have been watching the policy which this government proposes to adopt for agriculture. Some time ago the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) decided that he would frame a policy, and he called to the city of Ottawa all the provincial ministers of agriculture. There was some controversy in the west as to why he should call merely for the provincial ministers of agriculture. None of the organized farmers were represented at this conference and they thought—and I believe the feeling was justified—that they should have some representation. The omission was called to the attention of the minister but still they got no representation. The matter got to the knowledge of the United Farmers that the wives of ministers were also going to Ottawa and they drew the minister's attention to the fact. The minister denied it and I do not think the wives ever came. However, this joint meeting formulated what is known, or was known at that time, as the agricultural policy of this government.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Do I understand the hon. gentleman to imply that I invited the ministers of agriculture from the various provinces to meet here for the purpose of formulating an agricultural policy?

Mr. VALLANCE: As I pointed out, I want to be fair to the Minister of Agriculture. All the knowledge I have is what I gained from the press. I hold in my hand a copy of a Canadian press despatch. It says here—

An hon. MEMBER: The Saskatoon Star?

Mr. VALLANCE: No, this is the Ottawa Journal. I quote:

> Major the Hon. Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, has called a conference of all the provincial ministers of agriculture in Ottawa November 17 and 18 to formulate a national agriculture policy for Canada.

I do not wish to do the hon. gentleman any injury or accuse him of doing anything that has not been done. If he says it was not done I accept the hon. gentleman's denial. But does he deny it?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I had hoped that I made it very clear that the conference was called entirely for the purposes of administration. I thought I had informed the United Farmers of the west to that effect; I certainly did inform the United Farmers of Ontario.

Mr. VALLANCE: This conference was called for November 17 and 18 and when I read a Canadian Press despatch dated the 19th I thought it covered the business which had been done. This despatch reads:

> A Dominion agricultural policy was to-night proclaimed by Hon. Robert Weir, Dominion Minister of Agriculture. On the occasion of the opening of the Royal Winter Fair, the minister enunciated important policies, adopted after three days' deliberation of the provincial ministers of agriculture and to be known as the national agricultural policy.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. minister must receive the permission of the hon. member to ask a question.

Mr. VALLANCE: I have no objection provided I am allowed time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. member consents it will be all right.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I think the hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) desires the truth and nothing but the truth in connection with our conference. As I said before, the conference was called for the sole purpose of administration, and a policy was not discussed. The announcement I made at the Royal Winter Fair had no connection with it, neither had any report to that effect been issued by myself.

Mr. VALLANCE: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPENCE: Throw the paper away and say something yourself.

Mr. VALLANCE: Who is talking now? Again this government has been misquoted or at least misunderstood.

An hon. MEMBER: Blame it on the press.

Mr. VALLANCE: I want to be fair to the Minister of Agriculture, because he was not in his seat when I started to speak. I have every confidence in his sincerity, because I know he is out in the interests of agriculture. I intend to give him every possible assistance when he does bring down a policy; if I can agree with that policy I will be the first to rise and tell him so. He knows me well enough to know that I will do that. But the farmers of Canada want to know what the agricultural policy of this government is to be. The hon. gentleman denies it, and I accept his denial, but I would point out to the house and to the country that so much of this, shall I call it propaganda, has been appearing in the press about this government and its personnel that one has a right to know whether or not it is true. A number

of the members of the government are new men who are not known to the country, and when I read in the press that these gentlemen are doing certain things I have to base my argument upon those statements. I have other clippings but if the minister denies this one I will not go any further. This despatch states the policy under four headings as follows:

1. The introduction of better blood in herds.
2. The scientific use of home-grown products for herd feeding purposes.
3. Careful study of the science of marketing.
4. The prevention of implantation and spread of poultry diseases.

Here is another one containing twelve headings.

An hon. MEMBER: Read it.

Mr. VALLANCE: From November until March it has grown from four to twelve; where will it be by the next election?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. VALLANCE: I have the floor.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member is right, but the hon. minister is rising to a point of order.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I think the hon. member for South Battleford as well as other hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house know that it has been the custom in the past, as it is at present, that when any new policy—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. VALLANCE: I know the hon. minister is new to the house and I am willing to give him a lot of latitude, but I want to know his point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. minister should state his point of order, but should not attempt to make a speech.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): The only statement I wish to make is this, that any policy formulated—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. VALLANCE: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. minister desires to ask a question he should first obtain the permission of the hon. member for South Battleford.

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): I wish to correct a statement.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. minister can do that.

[Mr. Vallance.]

Mr. VALLANCE: I have discussed this matter with my fellow farmers and they say to me: What is the policy? I hope that before this debate is completed the minister will announce to the country his agricultural policy. I do not intend to read this other clipping, as I believe the house will accept my statement. However, it can be found in MacLean's Magazine for March 15.

A perusal of Hansard for the special session shows that during any discussion on agriculture there was continual hedging upon the part of the government. During that session I attempted to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) as to the interest his government had in agriculture. I inquired of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) and he replied that at some other time we would discuss this matter. The farmers are getting tired of "some other time"; they want to know now. During that special session we voted $20,000,000 for the relief of unemployment. No objection was raised to that, but we did want to know how it was to be spent. The tariffs were increased to give more work to the labouring man. It was contended that if the goods heretofore imported into this country were manufactured here that would give more employment. I had no objection provided the desired results could be obtained, but I did doubt the veracity of that statement. And, Mr. Speaker, you can search the revised Hansard of that special session of parliament, and you will find not one statement that they made regarding relief for agriculture. Seventy per cent of the people whom I represent are engaged in that great industry, and when I returned to my constituency, they said to me, "Well, Jack, what did you do for us? We saw you voted $20,000,000 for unemployment. You raised the tariff to help the industries and the manufacturers. What did you do for us?" What did I tell them? The day before the house rose I asked the Prime Minister that very question. I said: When the farmers ask me what we have done for them during the special session, what shall I tell them? He never answered me; he could not answer me, because the government did nothing. I want to know now from the government: What do they propose to do for agriculture at this session of parliament?

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): Does the hon. member realize that there are farmers in eastern Canada as well as in western Canada? The remarks of my hon. friend have been directed entirely towards western Canada.

Mr. VALLANCE: I realize fully there are farmers in eastern Canada. I am speaking for the farmers that I represent; I am speaking for the organized farmers of Saskatchewan, and the questions which they have been asking me I am asking this government, because the farmers want to know. I hope that before this debate closes the Minister of Agriculture will rise in the house and announce his policy.

When the Prime Minister was in Regina a memorandum was presented to him from the United Farmers. There has been no action; he has done nothing regarding the request contained in that memorandum. But some time ago I picked up a newspaper in which appeared the following item:

Montreal, Quebec, February 6.—The Gazette to-day published the following despatch from Ottawa.

The Prime Minister spoke in Regina on January 30, so that this is some thirty-seven days later.

The Gazette to-day published the following despatch from Ottawa.

So perhaps my hon. friend will not deny it.

While the previous intention of the federal government was to avoid any further revision of the tariff at the coming session of parliament, in view of the fact that an Imperial economic conference is to be held here next August, it is understood that the pressure of the Canadian manufacturers has been so strong and so persistent for more protective measures at an early date that the Prime Minister has decided to accede to their position.

You can realize, Mr. Speaker, how the farmers' charter of liberty is being peddled in western Canada when they send a memorandum to the head of the government while he is in Regina, but it is ignored and then they pick up this item. The hon. member for Marquette was talking about the red tape and the bull. This is just so much red tape in the eyes of the farmers in the west. At the special session of parliament we gave to those same manufacturers increases in the tariff and now, according to this despatch, unless it is denied, the government's proposal is to give them further protection, because their demands have been so persistent. There is only one thing the farmers have to do and that is to be a little more persistent. If the statistics that are given to me are accurate, just a little less than fifty per cent of the population, including my hon. friend who asked me a question a few minutes ago, are farmers, and they have been making demands. I think, Mr. Speaker, you will agree with me that the other fifty per cent are not all manufacturers. The Prime Minister listens to a percentage of the people, but does he listen to the great populace in the west? I ask: What is the government doing? We do not read in the press that he proposes to do anything of this kind for agriculture.

I read in the press the other day that a certain gentleman representing the Russian government suggested to this government a deal with Russia, involving about $10,000,000 for this country. It was turned down. I suppose the government will give the reasons why this action was taken; but whether we believe in Russia or a system of government education or anything else, Russia is still on the map and Russia to-day, as we all know, is attempting to put over a five-year plan. I am not arguing the question whether we may be in sympathy with it or not. She is going to put it through. Russia must have credits and she has only four commodities—lumber, pulp, coal and wheat—with which she can establish those credits. What we are looking for to-day is markets for our wheat. Russia suggests to this government that we take certain quantities of coal from her. This government says, no. Russia, simply because of the fact that our government refuses to have any dealings with her, will make a deal with some other government, to which she may not be able to sell coal but to which she may be able to sell wheat, and every bushel of Russian wheat that finds a place in any of our export markets makes it just that much harder for Canada to sell a like number of bushels on the markets of the world. If we were, shall I say, digging out of the bowels of our own portion of the earth the kind of coal that Russia produces I could see some logic in the government's argument, but we are importing large quantities of coal, and not all from Wales and Scotland. A large quantity is coming from Pennsylvania. I think it would be to our advantage to import a little more coal from Russia than from Pennsylvania because we might at least be able to place some wheat on a market to which Russia might otherwise sell wheat in order to establish credit. Russia wants machinery. For what reason? To develop that great trade of hers. But simply because this country refuses to buy $10,000,000 worth of coal does not mean that Russia is not going to get the machinery, for she will get it and some other country will get $10,000,000 of Russian money or its equivalent in coal or wheat. I might argue at length regarding the employment that would have been afforded, but time is passing and I wish to take up two or three other matters.

A suggestion was made by the three premiers of the prairie provinces that the federal government peg the price of wheat. There

has been some discussion with regard to the matter, and most people agree that this is not sound economics, but as has been pointed out, everything the farmer has to buy is pegged. I do not propose to adduce that argument, but I will state that the price of wheat has been pegged before in Canada and not to the advantage, but to the detriment, of the growers—not in order that they might give the grower more, but that they might keep the grower from getting that to which he was entitled. I think the request now made by the farmers is a very fair one.

I have on the order paper to-day two questions asking for information. I hold in my hand a letter written by a Mr. Whiteside, from Birsay, Saskatchewan. It is rather lengthy, and while I should like to read it all, to do so would take up too much time. During the special session of parliament this gentleman wrote me pointing out that there are certain amounts of money that belong to the farmers of western Canada through the sales agency created by the government in the 1917 and 1918 disposals of their crops. We were under the impression that the wheat for which we got $2.21 the first year and $2.24, I think it was, the second year, was being delivered to the allies at those prices. According to my friend Whiteside, Sir George Foster told him that the wheat was not sold at $2.21 per bushel, but at world prices, and we, the farmers of Saskatchewan, therefore naturally believe and it can be shown by the records, which must be on the government files somewhere, that we were fleeced out of some seventy odd millions of dollars, which money was put into the treasury of Canada. This, of course, may not be true, and it is for that reason that I have a motion on the order paper for the production of papers, that we may know just what the facts are, because I think now is the time to have this matter cleared up one way or the other. Mr. Whiteside says:

> Now I come to the important part of this question and state this statement was put out by our Union government that this wheat was turned over to the British food commisison at $2.21 per bushel, plus handling charges. Desiring to get the facts I wrote the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa, of which Sir George Foster was in charge, and got this amazing statement in reply, that our wheat was sold in the open markets of the world at the prevailing prices from time to time, and after deducting the operating expenses the balance of the money was turned into the funds of the Dominion treasury.

I wrote Mr. Whiteside, asking if he could produce the letter which Sir George Foster wrote to him, but he is not in that happy position, and therefore I am asking for the production of the papers.

Before I sit down, let me say that I have been twenty-five years in South Battleford. I have seen that great country grow up out of the wilderness. For the first two years we were 110 miles away from a railroad, then 72 miles; to-day there are within eleven miles of my own farm seven towns, villages or hamlets—seven shipping points. I have seen highways built, and telegraph and telephone lines, towns and villages and hamlets spring up, and all that goes to make a great civilization. I have seen millions and millions of wealth created in that great country. I have seen trainload after trainload of our produce going out daily. One would naturally expect, seeing that the people of that part of the country have created all that wealth, that they would be in a comfortable position to-day. But let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that after twenty-five years in that country during which they have been attempting to build it up, these people, if their farms were sold for the mortgage indebtedness against them, could not pay that mortgage indebtedness. Where has the money gone? Talk about your charters of liberty! That is the condition of western Canada to-day, and whether the hon. member for Regina believes it or not, the Minister of Agriculture knows that that is the position.

Mr. ELIE-O. BERTRAND (Prescott) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, In rising for the first time in the house, where it is said one labours under difficulty in delivering a speech, I crave, sir, both your indulgence and that of hon. members.

Before broaching the various political aspects, may I be permitted to say a few words with reference to the beautiful riding which I represent, as well as to its people. The history of Prescott county extends quite away back in Canadian history, that is to the French régime, and our county has the honour of being the only one in Ontario which has had a seigniory under the former régime. In fact, about 1755, the present township of Longueuil was, at that time, the seigniory of the Baron de Longueuil.

A little later, about 1798, Prescott county had the honour of selling to Philemon Wright the latter giving his name to the county of Wright. The first wheat sown in the vicinity of Ottawa was sold by Josiah P. Cass of l'Orignal, and his descendants are still excellent farmers of my riding and

village. In 1801, Prescott was represented in the Parliament of Upper-Canada by Alexander McDonnell, a man of rare ability who, at the age of 24, was elected Speaker of that Parliament. While Aide-de-Camp to General Brock, he was killed, in 1812, by an American bullet, at the battle of Queenston Heights.

Our people, descendants of these two great races of pioneers, of settlers under the French régime and later of settlers under British rule, lived together peacefully and progressed in an extraordinary way. If our people are not wealthy, they are however healthy and laborious. The experience of their history explains why they can discern between our political parties, and it is not astonishing that we registered a great liberal victory at the last general elections.

The county of Prescott is almost essentially a farming community, the greater portion of which is clay and endowed with very rich soil well adapted to grain, cereal and hay. However, we have some high sandy soil, also land which is better suited to dairy industry. Moreover, we have the small town of Hawkesbury, our only industrial centre, which rapidly developed, thanks to the lumber and pulp industries. Unfortunately, in recent times the lumber and pulp trade having dwindled the working population of Hawkesbury is not any more prosperous than our farmers.

Before proceeding to discuss the political questions, I am somewhat grieved, sir, for having to allude to it, but, I think, as a French Canadian of Ontario, I must necessarily refer to the unfortunate speech of the member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) which he delivered yesterday. We, from Ontario, are astonished that a Conservative from Saskatchewan endeavours to teach a lesson of unity, accord and harmony to any part of Canada, especially when we read in the newspapers which have helped French culture in the province of Ontario in its most bitter struggles, articles as published by the "Droit", on March 5, 1931:

"The iniquity is consummated—Mr. Anderson, Prime Minister of Saskatchewan deprives the school rights of our people.—French disappears as a language of intercourse.—A new school question.—The conditions of national unity.

The Prime Minister of Saskatchewan has lost no time since his victory at the polls on June 6, 1929. He has outlawed the crucifix in the public schools of his province, and the uniform of the teaching nuns; he has forbidden that religious instruction be given in any other language than English; forced school commissioners to use the English tongue, under pain of imprisonment or fine; dismissed the French Canadian representative from the Provincial Council of Public Instruction; abolished the exchange of teaching diplomas between Quebec and Saskatchewan.

On February 18 last, at the Congress of the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association he proclaimed that the school act would be amended in order to abolish French teaching during the first year of the primary course. Yesterday, that amendment was read a second time and adopted in the Saskatchewan legislature.

Will you contend, sir, that this is done with a view of favouring national harmony and unity throughout our country?

I appeal to the hon. members of this house, of the province of Quebec, and to those who form part of the cabinet—the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) is at his seat, and I ask him, as I ask the others, whether they approve of this stand and believe it likely to promote union and good understanding in our country.

Mr. DUGUAY (Translation): Mr. Speaker might I ask a question?

Mr. BERTRAND (Translation): I have asked the Speaker to show some indulgence because it is the first time I address the house and I would prefer not to be interrupted to-day. In future debates we shall have the opportunity of broaching other questions; I shall then feel more at ease and shall answer hon. members.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Translation): One may put questions only with the consent of the member who is addressing the house.

Mr. BERTRAND (Translation): At the special session held in September, the Conservative party increased the tariff, gave extensive powers to the Minister of National Revenue and had $20,000,000 voted for the unemployed. However, this did not help the farmers, the tariff did not prevent the falling off in the price of their products and they do not even obtain the pre-war prices—that of 1913—for the products they are forced to sell, while the price of articles they are forced to purchase, such as farm implements and other commodities of life which they do not produce, are much higher.

With your consent, sir, I wish to have placed in Hansard a comparative schedule, based upon the statistics of 1930, with reference to prices of a few products sold by the Canadian farmers and also prices that they are forced to pay for certain farm implements.

In 1913, the Canadian farmer paid for a six-foot mowing machine, $43.50; in 1930, $96.50; a six-foot binding machine, $102 in 1913; in 1930, $225.50; a six-foot hay loader $60, in 1913; in 1930, $122; 15 discs seed drill, $69 in 1913; in 1930, $166.

The farmers must necessarily buy these articles which have increased by more than 200 to 250 per cent.

Here are now some products that the farmer must sell at the market price. Let us first take Ontario cheese which sells even a little dearer than that of the province of Quebec, being so classified owing especially to its place of origin. In 1913, the average price was $12.53 per hundredweight. I regret of not having been able to obtain from the Bureau of Statistics the average price for 1930, however, I was told that in December, 1930, cheese was worth $11.50 per hundredweight. Eggs per dozen, averaged 30 cents in 1913; in 1930, 26 cents. Wheat, per bushel in 1913, averaged $1.30; in 1930, 66 cents. Oats in 1913, 69 cents per bushel; in 1930, 28 cents. Steers per hundredweight, $6.90, in 1913; in 1930, $6; pork per hundredweight, $7.80 in 1913; $5.75 in 1930.

These figures were quoted before the agriculture committee of the Ontario legislature and I emphasize this fact in order that there may be no doubt as to their correctness. These figures show extraordinary decreases on farm returns from 1913 to 1930, on products sold, especially when contrasted with what the farmers have to pay from 200 to 250 per cent more, for farm implements which are absolutely necessary to them.

The right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) stated during his campaign, appealing to the farming class: "Listen you agriculturist, you believe in free trade, you have been taught to believe in that policy, when has free trade worked in your favour, I declare that I will make protection work for you."

Now, let us ask the question, since protection began in September last: What has protection done to enhance the price of wheat? What has protection done to enhance the price of oats, the price of hay, of butter, eggs and cheese?

I especially wish to draw the attention to cheese, and I think I can show by selecting a commodity which Canada produces, what could be done through protection to assist the Canadian farmer. As to butter, knowing that local production is not yet sufficient to fill the needs of our own consumers, it may well be that for a time the price of this product may be raised. But one must not lose sight that for a great number of Canadian products, we will necessarily have to seek markets abroad. As we export our cheese, I think, there is nothing we can do to improve the situation.

As to the dairy industry, Prescott especially went in for cheese production. We make an excellent type of cheddar, and we are one of the foremost counties of Ontario in the production of cheese classed as No. 1. I will moreover add that our quantity of "specials" is truly encouraging to that industry, in our county. Has protection enhanced the price of western wheat? No, it went down and so did cheese.

With your consent, sir, I would like to place on Hansard a comparative schedule for the years 1929 and 1930. With this schedule you may judge better of our exact situation. I do not intend to weary the house by enumerating all these figures. However, sir, allow me to mention a few prices and establish comparisons.

Price of cheese No. 1, delivered at Montreal during the years 1929 and 1930, for Saturdays of the first week in each month: in January, 1929, coloured cheese, 17½ cents, white, 16¼ cents per pound; in January, 1930, coloured cheese, 18½ cents, white, 18½ cents per pound. Consequently there is an increase in 1930 over 1929 of 1¼ cent or thereabout. In June, 1929, coloured cheese, 17¾ cents per pound, white, the same price; in 1930, coloured cheese, 16⅝ cents, white 16½ cents per pound. Consequently there is a decrease of 1¼ cents.

But let us examine what has happened since the advent of protection: December, 1929, coloured cheese, 18¾ cents, white, 18½ cents per pound. December, 1930, coloured cheese, 11½ cents, white, 11½ cents. It is a product which must necessarily be sold on the markets of the world and cannot be given assistance, except by creating new openings; it is a product which cannot be protected, the price of which cannot be raised by an artificial tariff and must find a sale on foreign markets competing with other countries producing the same article. I think this shows that it is difficult to protect farm products. Consequently, if it is impossible to protect farm products, how can we protect other industries and expect that the purchasing power of the farmer will later absorb the increased prices brought on by a fictitious tariff in numerous instances, and that this may be added to the purchasing power of the farmer when he is ruined? For there are no two ways out, on our Canadian soil, the greatest purchasing power is certainly the one created by the Canadian farmer.

Now, let us see what the farmer gains by all this. The cost of transportation must be deducted from these prices. Consequently, speaking for my own district, we must deduct half a cent from the prices quoted. I shall return to this subject shortly by quoting more striking figures of the actual conditions existing. The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi

(Mr. Pickel), stated the other day in his speech that Canadian farming was threatened within these last years. Let me say that if farming has been jeopardized within the last years, conditions have been greatly aggravated within these last months, for if you refer back—according to statistics—to the prices which the farmer obtained for his products during these last years, you will find that he was not so badly off as he is at present.

In 1928, for the months of October, November and December, the average price for cheese was 22 cents per pound. In 1929, for the same months, the average was 19 cents, and in 1930 the average price of cheese for the months of October, November and December was 13½ cents per pound. You can now figure out the reduction and small profit that the Canadian farmer derives from this product.

I was stating a moment ago that transportation charges must be deducted from the amount quoted. The cost of manufacture is 2¼ cents and that of freight ½ cent, making 2¾ cents per pound, and the balance of 10¼ cents per pound goes to the producer. Whosoever has dealt in the industry of cheese, in whatever district it may be, knows that this is a good proportion, a good average of production, and if we can obtain 9½ pounds per cwt. of milk, it is truly a good average. Therefore, 9½ pounds of cheese at 10¾ cents per pound would return $1.02 per cwt. of milk, and this is exactly the conditions existing in the county of Prescott. That is why I stated that our farming population is not prosperous at present. This does not include everything, $1.02 on an average is given according to the test of milk, because milk must pass the test, and as during those months the test varies from 3.6 to 4.2, the milk of the farmer who receives $1.02 must contain 3.9 of fat; milk testing 3.6 receives 4 cents per point less; consequently he receives 90 cents per cwt. of milk, and the farmer who has the good fortune of having milk testing 4.2, receives $1.14 per cwt. of milk. This is entirely below the cost of production in our district and I am positive of this fact as I have had careful investigations made by farmers who keep their books in perfect order.

Everybody propounds—not only in political circles, I wish to be absolutely truthful—that we must take care of agriculture because it is the foremost industry in our country, the one upon which rests the whole of our economic structure. May I add, that it is necessary that the Canadian farmer should find broader or new markets, moreover that the prices of farm implements which he needs should be placed within his reach. I heard this afternoon the following remark by a member of this House: "But, are they going to stop manufacturing barbed-wire in this country? A few hundred Canadian workers would be thrown out of work." I say that this would be called protection for a few hundred workers. But what about the safeguarding of the farming industry which is the foundation of our whole economic structure?

Might I be permitted to emphasize the fact that the Dunning budget at the regular session of 1930, had exactly those two points in view: lower the cost of the raw material for the Canadian consumer, not only for the farmer, by giving a preference to the British Empire, and afterwards endeavour to open up not only the English market but those of the whole Empire to our Canadian products, both farming and manufactured.

I think that it would be interesting for the members of this House to know what is the cost of an acre to a farmer and what returns an acre under culture brings. With your consent, sir, I would like to place this schedule on Hansard.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER (Translation): According to the rules of the House, the hon. members has not that right. The Minister of Finance only has that privilege, on certain occasions.

Mr. BERTRAND (Translation): Then, I shall read it. I am pleased, sir, that you put me on the right path which will help me in strictly observing the rules of the House.

Cost of production for an acre of oats:	
Rent of land	$8 00
Ploughing	3 85
2 bushels of seed oats at $1	3 00
Because these oats were registered "good oats."	
Harrowing, drainage, etc.:	
5 hours, men at 25 cents per hr.	$1 25
5 men and horses at 30 cents per hr.	1 50
	$2 75
Sowing:	
2 hours, men and horses	$0 60
Rent of machinery	0 50
	$1 10
Gathering of crop:	
3 hours, men at 25 cents per hr.	$0 75
1½ horse, 30 cents	45
	$1 20
Moving of crop:	
4 hrs., men at 25 cents	$1 00
2 hrs. horses, 30 cents	0 60
	$1 60

Threshing:	
79 bushels at 5 cents..	$3 95
	$25 45
Winnowing of fine grains, free:	
Good grain: 72½ bushels at 25 cents.	$18 13
Operating deficit per acre..	$7 32

1931 will certainly be the worst year of our history and our farmers are disheartened. They can rely on nothing to get returns; on the contrary everything is done at less than cost of production. Their purchasing power is destroyed; and what will our manufacturers do? I again state, if they have no clients able to purchase their products in our own country, if foreign markets are closed to them owing to the government adopting a trade policy hostile to other countries by erecting a tariff wall which prevents a free exchange of our products. If the government wishes to limit the number of unemployed it must necessarily come to the relief of the farming class. The farmer will remain on the land providing he is able to get reasonable returns. We can keep on the farm those who are already settled there, because they do not wish to lose the fruits of the labours of their whole lives. But we shall not succeed in settling the growing generation on the land under present conditions. The farm must provide for his man and to help him, I submit a few suggestions to the Minister of Agriculture and to the Conservative party, and I hope that they will bring down measures which may help in the solution of these farming problems and be beneficial to the whole country. First—and this we must absolutely have—substantial reductions of the tariff and an increase in British preference. Second, taxes levied on those who can most afford to pay. Third, increase in the income tax. Fourth, a decreasce in the sales or business tax. Fifth, reduced transport rates in the interest of agriculture. Sixth, establishment of cooperative principles for the sale of farming products and the purchase of the necessary farm implements. Seventh, direct financial asistance to help in improving sowing, cattle and the farm. Eighth, farm loans at 3 or 3½ per cent so as to assist the farmers in meeting their obligations in cases of absolute necessity.

I think that I have clearly shown what, for the present, is our farming situation. I would not like to close my remarks, sir, without saying a few words with reference to our labour conditions. We know that in September, the right hon. Prime Minister had $20,000,000 voted to relieve unemployment in Canada. I do not intend to criticize this measure. However, the workers hoped, relying on the pledges made in the electoral campaign, that all and each of them would obtain work. The right hon. Prime Minister had made this pledge here and there throughout the country and his candidate in the riding of Prescott carried on his campaign on this question by proclaiming that the prices of agricultural products were to increase in the district and that everybody would be employed in the small industrial town of Hawkesbury. But such was not the case in my riding. Work did not increase. This town subscribed $10,000 of its money against $5,000 of the federal government's money, and $5,000 of the provincial government's, yet, notwithstanding all this the unemployed had to solicit in order to obtain work. They will later on have to pay up that amount by taxes on their property. I shall even state that the unemployed had to beg for work and could but work each in turn and this during a few days only. While these things were happening, it is extraordinary, a road contract was being executed in the vicinity of Hawkesbury, by steam shovel instead of by hand labour. This contract could have given work to about fifty men during the entire winter; but they were replaced by machinery. In time of crisis, do you not think, sir, that it would be proper in this country where we overproduce, that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Robertson) should take the necessary measures —which would not be more arbitrary than numerous other measures of protection—to put an end to this state of affairs. If protection is worth something to our industrial people, to our manufacturers, surely it is worth something to the unemployed. Would it not be better in time of crisis to exclude this progress or so-called progress of machinery which deprives our workers of what they are entitled to.

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): Forward this message to the Quebec government.

Mr. BERTRAND (Translation): Before resuming my seat I appeal to the government to take under its care the worker and the farmer of this country and to give less favours to the large interests whose appetites will never deem their profits large enough.

Mr. J. K. BLAIR (North Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I wish for a few moments to speak in the interests of the locality from which I come. We have some industries which are not in a very healthy condition and certainly we will have to find ways and means to stimulate the progress of our towns and villages. Our stores are filled with goods and our farmers who are unable to buy are looking in the windows, their credit having reached its limit. The towns to which I refer depend

largely upon the farming industry, and if the government could help in some way we would be delighted. Farming is the basic industry of our district, and therefore when the farmers are prosperous everybody is prosperous. May I remind the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) that his photograph was placed in every convenient corner of my constituency and underneath it were placards giving promises to the farmers. At this time I ask your permission, Mr. Speaker, to read some of the messages delivered to the farmers by the Prime Minister:

> We pledge ourselves to foster and develop agriculture and the live stock and dairy industries now so sadly neglected.

The Prime Minister is quoted as having made the following statement:

> This group of mercenaries holding office by sham and subterfuge, look upon them as treacherous to you, and self-confessed, deserving of your passionate condemnation.

At Woodstock the Prime Minister is quoted as follows:

> Our dairy business has been lost. We have 140,000 fewer milch cows to-day than in 1925, and there has been a corresponding depletion of our swine.

At Calgary the Prime Minister said:

> In my opinion the basic industry is agriculture. Agriculture has been the basis of this country's prosperity. The success of the wheat grower, of the wheat farmer, is reflected in the power of the people.
>
> Then comes the problem that is more important, the problem of marketing and of selling wheat. There it seems to me is a fertile field for the endeavour of a government.
>
> France, Germany and Italy have raised tariffs against Canadian wheat. We will look over the top of the hill and beyond the horizon to make provision for the Canadian agriculturist and secure for him markets. That is a question which will have to be solved. I told my audience at Winnipeg and I tell you here and now that condition I will not permit to continue in this country.

Then at Victoria he is quoted as follows:

> It is true we must have foreign markets and as I said the other evening we will blast a way to those markets on a world-wide basis with many exportable surpluses. We do not have to worry about that.

The Ottawa Journal reported a speech delivered at Woodstock, New Brunswick, as follows:

> It gave him great regret, Mr. Bennett continued, to have seen the deserted farm lands of New Brunswick, Quebec and other provinces. "Well," he stated, "I am going to say right here that I shall regard it as my great responsibility if elected on July 28 to see that the collective weight and power of the Dominion of Canada is placed behind agriculture. I would be lacking in qualifications entitling me to head a government if I failed to do so."

The Ottawa Morning Citizen reported a speech delivered at Ormstown as follows:

> The Conservative leader gave strong expression to his party's policy for assistance to agricultural schools, cheaper transportation, distribution and marketing. It was necessary, he continued, that farmers should receive just compensation for their efforts "and rewards equal to the professions" to keep Canadian boys and girls on the farm.

Hon. gentlemen know how those promises were fulfilled. After making such promises the Prime Minister called a short session and did everything in his power to cripple the farmers. Not understanding their critical condition he destroyed their last vestige of hope by his action at the Imperial conference. The farmers of Canada had hoped that the Prime Minister through his deliberations at the Imperial conference would make arrangements for the sale of their wheat. However in that regard they were badly fooled. When the Prime Minister visited the city of Calgary the papers proclaimed that he had a message which would greatly benefit the farmers of that district. They looked forward to his visit. We listened over our radios to this wonderful message, but in the minds of most of us there was extreme disappointment—it seemed just like a flat tire. In my district we had splendid crops and plenty of help to harvest them. Out storehouses are filled with an abundance of grain. In short, we have everything the soul of man can wish for, and yet there is distress throughout the Dominion. This distress is due to several causes. Undoubtedly the freight rates are too high, and there is no statesmanlike guidance of our national affairs. The heavens truly were kind, but the foolishness of the rulers had made the kindness of the heavens of no avail. We have abundance of food and yet our people are starving; a superfluity of clothing on our shelves and yet our people perishing for lack of it. I must insist that hon. gentlemen opposite do something for the farmers. I have repeated their promises to refresh their memories. I do not care how empirical their methods may be, so long as they get results. We are satisfied that their methods—those they have advocated and applied so far—are entirely wrong. We know that high tariffs are no cure for the present troubles of the body politic. To impose a high tariff is to drive a wedge between the rich and poor—making the rich richer and the poor poorer. It lowers the price of what the farmer has to sell and raises the price of what he has to buy.

The Prime Minister said he would guarantee to the manufacturer interest on his investment, a certain percentage on his turnover, and a sufficient balance to pay fair wages. This in my view was simply a declaration against the farmer and the consumer. If he is going to guarantee the economic safety of one class he should similarly guarantee all other classes in the community. What I have referred to was his minimum guarantee; I do not know how far his maximum might go. This is purely and simply class legislation, and if the farmer imagines for a moment that he can thrive under such a law he is making a sad mistake. In other words, he is simply being placed at the mercy of the manufacturer. About 2,000 years ago Plato said that every political party was destroyed by the excess of its basic principle. Now, the basic principle of the Conservative party is high tariff, and that principle developed to excess will not only destroy the party responsible for it, but also, unhappily, the nation whose affairs are entrusted to its administration.

The Prime Minister spoke of his diagnosis. Now, when a doctor sees a patient he makes a diagnosis of the trouble and then a prognosis in order to form an idea of the approximate duration of the patient's sickness and the correct treatment to apply. The right hon. gentleman declares: We do not say we will cure unemployment, we will end unemployment in three days. I think he was correct in his diagnosis, but his prognosis was undoubtedly too short. I think also that the dose of high protection he has administered to his patient is far too heavy. The country—his patient—is pretty well exhausted, and unless another doctor be substituted I am afraid the treatment will kill the patient. Canada to-day is suffering from too high a tariff. I need not quote figures to prove my contention; they have been given to the house so often that I do not think it necessary to repeat them now.

On various occasions the Prime Minister has said that he does not believe in the dole system. I do not think any of us approve of that system. Unfortunately he is so hard-pressed that apparently he is trying to find a way of escape, and to do so he seems prepared to apply the dole system, a system which has been so ruinous to the morale of the working classes in the old land. True, we cannot allow our indigent people to starve, but surely the Prime Minister is capable of evolving some constructive policy whereby employment may be provided for all those who are willing to work. It is a well known law that if people do something for their country they will love their country, whereas if they become parasites their patriotism languishes. Victor Hugo said that men always hate those they have wronged. And if a man wrongs his country he will hate it. Those who rely on the dole will not love their country; only those who have done something for their country will be ready to die in its defence.

May I quote Victor Hugo again? He says that an infallible barometer of hard times is the expense of collecting taxes. Unhappily that has been only too well borne out recently, for a great many of our people have not been able to pay their taxes. This condition of affairs to a considerable extent is due to the policy of the present government. We feel that the farmers of Canada were badly treated by the legislation enacted last September. To make matters worse, when the Prime Minister went to the Imperial economic conference he made no effort to help them. His attitude puts me in mind of the motorist who saw a man walking home. He stopped and said, "Why, John, are you walking? I will bring my car here in a minute and give you a lift." He came round with his car, drove towards the man smiling, and just as he got close to him flipped the wheel round and ran over the poor fellow. He jumped out of his car, rushed over, picked the man up and told him it was all a pure accident. He added, "Wait until I turn the car round, and I will give you a lift home." But the same thing happened again; just as he got alongside the man he gave the wheel a flip and ran over him the second time. He jumped out of his car, expressed his regret for the misadventure and said, "Stand there until I turn round; I will give give you a lift and then everything will be all right." About this time a friend of the unfortunate man came within earshot and he said to him, "You fool! come out of there; he is going to ride over you a third time." My opinion is that the Prime Minister ran over the farmers at the special session, he ran over them again at the Imperial economic conference, and I believe he is turning his car round to run over them a third time. And unless we can find some rescue on the other side I do not think there is anyone on this side who can pull that man out of the rut. The wheel looks all right, and the man's language is pleasant enough, but it means nothing. The language the Prime Minister used in the old country was splendid; its phraseology was attractive. But when it was analyzed, particularly the last clause or two, it did not take the Englishman long to see what was behind it. In other words, the right hon. gentleman did not suit his actions to his words.

One frequently hears about the depression that prevailed in the last year of the government led by the present leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). Our friends opposite are constantly telling us about that time of depression. May I point out that when the present leader of the opposition was captain of the ship of state we were sailing along and making progress to the extent of fifty million dollars a year towards the liquidation of our debt. I wish the Conservative government would usher in a few years of that sort of depression. But while my right hon. leader's government was making that headway, what were hon. gentlemen opposite doing? They were doing their best to rock the ship of state. Every time the then captain attempted to ride a wave hon. gentlemen opposite endeavoured to rock the boat. They succeeded in frightening the public and the consequence was that there was a change of captains. But the country will be fortunate if the future brings the sort of depression we had under the previous government.

The Prime Minister has made great statements about opening new channels of commerce. Why open up new avenues of commerce when the government has thrown sandbags into the ones that we have? They are cutting off in every way possible the present avenues to commercial enterprise, and still they are talking about opening up new waterways and so forth. The government are closing up our ocean ports so that our ships will have little to do. I do not know why the ship of state could not have been left under the old captain, when she was sailing peacefully and, as I have said, to the tune of fifty million dollars annually towards the payment of our national debt. The career of this government so far reminds me of the Greek myth of Phoebus. Phoebus was a very proud star, and while the other bodies were going on their celestial way, suddenly with great confusion she would throw forth great balls of fire; and while she disturbed the harmony of the heavens, yet she satisfied her vainglory by making herself conspicuous for a time.

The conspicuous place which the right hon. gentleman has won for himself he has won at the cost of the country.

I think of Canada as a vast factory, and the travellers who are working in its interests at the present time are the Prime Minister and his colleagues. We sent them to the old country to attend the Imperial conference in the hope that they would come to some business arrangement that would be advantageous to the commerce of Canada. But the attitude of the right hon. gentleman over there was not that of a salesman; it was more that of a dictator. If any of us had commercial travellers of that type coming into our offices they would not stay very long. The Prime Minister did not show that amiable spirit which is likely to promote business. He disregarded the warning of the Delphic oracle which every Greek was supposed to learn before starting out in life—"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." It seems to me that anyone going into public life should memorize that saying. It would have been well if the Prime Minister had thought of it when he was in the old land.

I wish now to say something with regard to the granting of relief to the poor. Conservative governments have always had the habit, when giving grants of this sort, of officiously doing the business of the powers beneath them. In our district many people rushed forward in the hope of getting some relief from the grant that was being made by this government. But it was not for them. If you were too poor you could not get it; you had to subscribe a certain amount before you could receive anything. It was for those who were financially in a position to secure it. It seems to be a characteristic of Conservative governments, not only Dominion but provincial as well, to knife back, if I may say so, the municipalities, very much to the cost of the latter.

Let me now discuss for a moment what is at present transpiring in the Argentine. What is the meaning of all this celebration that is taking place there, with the heir to the throne participating? Why could not such a pleasant relationship be manifested in Canada? I regret to say that I am afraid our birthright has been partly disposed of. All these grandstand performances in the Argentine are, it appears to me, an open declaration of the weakness of our Prime Minister, indicating his failure to direct trade and traffic to this country. We cannot see it in any other way, and we must regard it as a great loss to Canada.

There is one thing further to which I wish to make reference. It seems to me that the Conservative party has a tendency to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. I have here a letter from Imperial Oil, Limited, to the Independent Oil and Gas Company, Limited, of Montreal, and I wish to quote from it in order that hon. members may see what is taking place. The letter reads as follows:

Your inquiry of November 3rd, relative to gasoline for 1931 delivery, has been received and is appreciated.

At the present time we are not in a position to quote you for 1931 shipment but may be able to do so towards the end of the year and will communicate with you at that time. Just at the present time we are running somewhat behind schedule on our shipments, and, while we believe we should be able to take care of your requirements, we prefer to hold the matter over until a little later in the year.

In the meantime, again thanking you for your inquiry, we are,

The increased duty was put on in order that the gasoline should be purchased from Canadian companies, such as the Imperial Oil Company, but from this letter it would seem as though those companies are refusing to sell it. Apparently they are trying to put the independent companies out of business. On October 18 a tank car of gasoline cost $821.95 while by November 5 the price of a similar tank car of gasoline had risen to $949.16, an increase of over $120. Hon. gentlemen opposite will probably reply that although this tank car of gasoline cost $128 more the consumer was not obliged to pay any more for his gasoline. That is quite right, because the consumer has been paying a little less, but it gives an opportunity to the larger oil companies to decrease the margin between the wholesale and retail prices in order to eliminate the small independent dealer. The statement has been made that an increase of duty was granted in order that these companies might be assisted financially. This statement would not seem to be borne out by the following analysis dated March 18, 1930, issued by Financial Counsel:

Dealing with an item of $874,000 set aside for depreciation, he said that $174,000 or $700,000 less than amount set aside, would have been sufficient. The larger amount was written off because 9 per cent of the net revenue is payable to the Dominion government for taxes. With respect to such, a nominal write-off would have substantially increased earnings per share as indicated in the figures presented in the foregoing.

That statement would show that the amount set aside for depreciation was placed at $700,000 too much in order to avoid paying the Dominion government. These are the companies for whom the duty was raised in order to allow them to exist.

On motion of Mr. LaVergne the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Guthrie the house adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

[Mr. Blair.]

Friday, March 20, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

CANADA EVIDENCE ACT

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 10 to amend the Canada Evidence Act.

An hon. MEMBER: Explain.

Mr. GUTHRIE: This bill provides for an amendment to one of the sections of the act covering the proof of the non-issue of certificates. At the present time the issue of certificates or licences can be proved merely by the production of an affidavit sworn by the proper officer in Ottawa and the amendment proposes to allow the same procedure to be followed where no licence has been issued. The proper officer will be entitled to swear an affidavit of the non-issuance of the licence and that shall be prima facie evidence that the same was not issued.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

TICKET OF LEAVE ACT

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 11 to amend the Ticket of Leave Act.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Explain.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The object of this bill is to legalize a practice which has grown up during the last fifteen or twenty years. The present act provides that the Minister of Justice shall advise His Excellency the Governor General in respect to all applications under the act, and this work has been carried on by the Solicitor General's branch of the Department of Justice. There has been no statutory authority for this practice and the proposed amendment is for the purpose of legalization and to provide that the Minister of Justice or such other member of the government as may be designated by the Governor in Council may advise His Excellency in respect to all applications under the Ticket of Leave Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

PEACE RIVER RAILWAY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to ask the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) a question relating to the matter brought up a few days ago by the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy). I

would like to know if the Crysdale joint report made by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canadian National Railways and the province of British Columbia dealing with the Pacific Great Eastern railway and Peace River railway route has been tabled?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The hon, gentleman told me this morning that he intended to ask me this question. I have made inquiry and find that the report to which he refers, and probably the one to which the hon. member for Peace River referred, has not been received. This report covers an investigation which was instituted by the province and the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railways. I understand that nearly $500,000 has been spent in investigating these resources, but a report has not been made to the provincial government nor has it reached my department. I am making inquiry of the Premier of British Columbia and as soon as we receive the report I shall be glad to table it.

DEPORTATION OF UKRAINIANS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) a question based upon a telegram which I have received advising that over 800 girls are on strike in Toronto and that a Ukrainian girl who had been sentenced to thirty days in gaol for throwing snowballs had been recommended for deportation. I would like to know if the minister has received this recommendation to deport this girl.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Mr. Speaker, the matter to which the hon. member refers has not been drawn to my attention. If he will supply me with the name of the girl in question I shall be pleased to answer the question at the proper time.

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Acting Minister of Labour whether the government has under contemplation any special measures to cope with the immediate seriousness of the unemployment situation.

An hon. MEMBER: No. answer.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Are we to assume that there is no answer from the government to that question?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it might be well to advise the house that the government proposes to adopt the practice which the right hon. gentleman himself suggested was the correct one, to decline to answer questions asked as to contemplated action of the government. Upon the occasion to which I refer, the right hon. gentleman in my judgment correctly stated the rule, and to that rule we propose to adhere.

Mr. HEAPS: Am I to assume from the answer given to my question that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) is the Acting Minister of Labour?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) can assume anything he chooses; the Prime Minister is quite within his rights in declining to answer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

QUESTION RAISED AS TO PROPRIETY OF TAKING PART IN DEBATE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a question which immediately affects the rights and privileges of this house. Before the adjournment of the house last night the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), who occupies the important position of deputy speaker, moved the adjournment of the debate. I take it that he did so with the intention of proceeding this afternoon to participate in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I rise at this moment because I would not like to interrupt the hon. member during the course of his speech. If that were his intention it is, I think, important that the house should consider carefully just what is involved in the deputy speaker of the house participating in political discussions.

May I say to my hon. friend that the last thought in my mind at the moment is in any way to embarrass or discourage him in the matter of participation in debates. I confess I was somewhat surprised when I saw that he had accepted the position of deputy speaker because I knew not only of his ability as a public speaker but also of his great liking for public speaking and debate. I assumed that whoever accepted the position of deputy speaker would follow the practice which has been followed, I believe con-

tinuously in this house, of the deputy speaker not participating in debate. I was surprised therefore that my hon. friend had accepted a position which I felt would limit him in the matter of discussion on the floor of the house.

The question which I raise is wholly apart from any individual or the particular occupant of any position, it relates exclusively to the position of deputy speaker, and as such I invite the attention of both sides of the house to the necessity of a non-partisan consideration of this matter which vitally affects the rights and privileges of every hon. member. The position of speaker is the most important of the positions in the House of Commons, with the possible exception of that of the prime minister, if indeed it is not the first position in the land. The position of deputy speaker, while not equally important, is a very important position, and I submit, Mr. Speaker, that with respect to participation in political discussions it should be a rule, if it is not already a rule as well as the custom, that whoever occupies the position of deputy speaker should thereby be precluded from participating in debates in the House of Commons. I submit that the position of deputy speaker, with respect to the practices to be followed, should be identical with that of the position of His Honour, the Speaker. There have been times in the past when the speaker did leave the chair and participate in debate, even in a very partisan way, but that was over a century ago in Great Britain, and such practice has not been followed in this country for a very considerable time. Although there may not be a formal rule covering this matter, I think all hon. members will agree that it has been a custom or tradition that the speaker is not expected to participate in political discussions in the House of Commons and that this has also been the practice. My submission, Mr. Speaker, is that whoever occupies the position of deputy to Your Honour should follow the same rule and the same practice as Your Honour with respect to parliamentary discussions.

May I point out that the position of deputy speaker has been made somewhat different from that of other hon. members of the house in order to give the occupant of that position more in the way of independence during his tenure of office. Like the speaker, his position is a salaried one. The emolument is not as considerable but the salary is voted by the house in order to secure the absolute independence of the occupant of the chair; it is a guarantee of independence. It is quite clear that there is a reason why the deputy speaker receives that special recognition and I submit that one of the grounds on which it is voted by parliament is that whoever occupies the position is expected to give his time and thought to the many important matters which come up under his presidency and that he may not be tempted to take a party point of view of any question which comes before the house for discussion. As hon. members know, the deputy speaker occupies the position of chairman of committees, and the house will agree that about two-thirds of the time of the house is taken up with the work of the committees. He is chairman of the committee of the whole, chairman of the important committee of supply, chairman of the important committee of ways and means, and as chairman of those committees he is in the position of the presiding officer in this house for practically three-quarters of the time that is spent in discussing matters here. Everyone, I think, wishes to have, and I am sure the hon. member himself wishes others to have, a feeling of complete confidence in his impartiality. I submit to my hon. friend that if he were now to participate actively in the present debate and take a party view in regard to many matters that may come up in the course of this discussion, we on this side could hardly be expected to have the confidence in his impartiality that we should like to have, and that we have reason to believe we shall have if he will follow the practice that has been common in the past.

These are some of the reasons. I might add the further one which is of importance in proceedings of the house, namely, the part which practice and tradition play in these matters. It would be unfortunate if we were to depart from a practice that has been, as I say, generally followed since the creation of the position of deputy speaker. I do not say that at no time has there been any participation in debate by the deputy speaker, but I believe I am right when I say that generally speaking, whoever has held the position of deputy speaker has felt that his obligation was to follow, in the exercise of the duties of that position, the same practice that would be followed by his Honour the Speaker.

May I point out to my hon. friend in this very regard that if His Honour the Speaker should not be in the chair at the moment, in all probability, my hon. friend would be the one who would be occupying it and he would then find himself placed at this moment, in view of the representations that I am making to Your Honour, in the position of having to decide a very important point, whether the

deputy speaker should or should not participate in political discussions. If he participates, clearly he is hardly in a position to give a ruling on this matter that affects the privileges of the house as a whole.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Why so?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend says: "Why so?" Because, no matter how sincere he might be in his view, were he to decide that the deputy speaker should have the right to participate in debate, I am inclined to think that the public generally, to say nothing of hon. members, might entertain the idea that in arriving at the decision, my hon. friend had been influenced by his own personal views concerning the office, and what should be permitted its occupant, rather than that he was giving a decision, unbiased altogether by any personal feelings which he might entertain in the matter. In saying this, I am not reflecting on my hon. friend; I am seeking to state the matter in the way which I believe the public would view it. It is as important that those who occupy high offices of state should, in the mind of the public, be above suspicion, if that is possible, as it is that in their own minds their conduct should be above question.

I feel a little more secure in raising this point at this time owing to the fact that it has been brought up in parliament before, and that it has been very fully and ably discussed by two right hon. gentlemen who have each held over a considerable period of time, the position of prime minister of Canada. I imagine there are few names that by opposing parties will be held in higher honour, regard and respect, certainly in connection with matters pertaining to the rights of the House of Commons and its privileges and the privileges of its members, than those respectively of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden. Some years ago both of those gentlemen discussed very frankly on the floor of the house the position of deputy speaker. The question came up in a resolution which Sir Wilfrid Laurier had introduced, in which the position was taken that the deputy speaker should not participate in political discussion outside of the house; that his position as deputy speaker made it such that his attitude as respects participation in by-elections and in political campaigns, while parliament was still in existence, should be precisely that of His Honour the Speaker. I am not going to go into that question; I think it was pretty generally accepted at that time that the view expressed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier had been concurred in by Sir Robert Borden, and that it was unnecessary to lay down any rule; but I submit if any such attitude can be rightly taken with respect to participation in political discussion by the deputy speaker outside of the house, there is even stronger reason why a similar rule should apply to participation in debates within the house. I will give to the house in a few words what was said at that time. The debate took place on March 5, 1914. Sir Wilfrid Laurier had introduced the following resolution:

> That, in the opinion of this house, in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the deputy speaker towards this house, he is bound by and subject to the same rules as apply to Mr. Speaker, and that, therefore, he is debarred from taking part in electoral contests.

Your Honour will notice that the assertion is that in the discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the deputy speaker towards this house, he is bound by and subject to the same rules as apply to Mr. Speaker. That is the position laid down. From that it follows that the deputy speaker is debarred from taking part in electoral contests. It equally follows from it according to the resolution that he would be debarred from participating in political discussions in the house. Sir Wilfrid Laurier went at some length into the reasons for this. He outlined the position of the speaker in the old country, the position as it had become in this parliament and passed on, after giving different authorities in support of his contention, to discuss the position of the deputy speaker. I will not do more than read one paragraph of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's remarks at that time in support of what he then said, but it bears immediately upon the point that I have just raised. Referring to the British practice, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said:

> I must again refer to the fact that in my consultation of the authorities I have not found any discussion as to the possible breaking of that rule by deputy speaker. I have not found in any of the books which I have consulted that at any moment the chairman of the committees departed from this rule and took part in any political discussion. Whether or not Mr. Speaker, or the deputy speaker or chairman of committees, is allowed to take part in any political discussion in Great Britain, I say again I have not been able to satisfy myself; but from the very fact that the books are silent upon this point, I conclude that the rule has been observed, and I believe I am correct in stating that, on the floor of the house itself, neither the deputy, the deputy speaker. I have not found in the assistant chairman of committees takes any part in the discussion.

The text here is evidently not correct. What is meant is that neither the Speaker nor the

deputy speaker nor any presiding assistant chairman of the committee has taken part in the discussion. Sir Wilfrid continues:

If I am wrong in this I would be glad to be corrected; but after what examination I have been able to give to the subject my conclusion is—

And this is the important point—

—that the same rules which apply to Mr. Speaker apply also to the deputy speaker and to the assistant chairman; and, quite apart from any precedents, discussing the question simply as a matter of reason, it seems to me that the conclusion is not only obvious but irresistible, that the deputy speaker should be bound by the same rules which bind Mr. Speaker; that, having to discharge practically the same duties he should be subject to the same regulations and the same exceptions. The deputy speaker presides over the committee of the whole house, over the committee of supply and the committee of ways and means, and I need not tell hon. members that three-quarters of the business coming before this house is discharged in one of these committees. The experience of parliament has forced the conclusion that the Speaker of the house should not be allowed to take part in politics, and that the same rule should bind also the member of the house who has to discharge the important duty of chairman of committees of the whole, of ways and means and of supply—that is to say, the presiding officer in that portion of the time of the house in which the house is occupied in discharging the major part of all its duties. As an abstract principle, therefore, I submit to the house that the deputy speaker is bound by the same rules that apply to Mr. Speaker.

Sir Robert Borden, speaking on the resolution, is reported a little further on as follows—I quote from page 1368 of Hansard of March 5, 1914:

I do not at all minimize the importance of having the deputy speaker of this house placed outside the pale of party politics so far as that can reasonably be carried out.

Sir Robert goes on to state his position in a very concise way. He says a little further on:

The best course, it seems to me, is to surround the deputy speakership, so far as it can be surrounded, with the same tradition of custom and of usage that is applied to the speakership in this country.

Those quotations will be sufficient, Mr. Speaker, to indicate entire agreement on the part of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Sir Robert Borden in the matter of participation in party discussion in the house by the occupant of the position of deputy speaker.

Sir Robert Borden did say, however, further on:

The only question is whether we had better evolve the status of the deputy speaker in the same way as that of the speaker has been evolved, or whether we had better lay down formal rules. I shall be quite satisfied to have the matter considered at the convenience of the right hon. gentleman.

May I conclude what I have to say by informing the house that the reason I have brought the matter up as I have is that I think it can best be proceeded with in accordance with the suggestion of Sir Robert Borden which was accepted by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not press his resolution. He said he thought that the discussion which had been had of the principle would be all that would be necessary to cause the occupant of the position of deputy speaker to abide by what was evidently the general view of both sides of the house as to his position in matters of political discussion. I would not wish to embarrass either Your Honour or the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) in asking that the chair rule this afternoon on a matter concerning which rules are not already laid down, but I would hope that my hon. friend from Montmagny, the present deputy speaker, would view the matter as one which should be the subject of a conference between His Honour the Speaker, the Prime Minister, and possibly the leader of the Opposition as well, with a view to seeing if an agreement cannot be reached which will cause the practice which is to be followed in the future to be the one which I believe will most accord not only with what has been best in the traditions of this parliament, but best in the traditions of the parliament at Westminster as well.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. SPEAKER: No general debate can take place on this occasion. It is usual on the order of the day to allow a statement by an hon. member on a matter affecting him personally, but there can be no general debate unless there is a motion before the house.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE (Montmagny): I rise to a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, if I am in order. I think that my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition is starting from the position that I am going to make a partisan speech. I gave no intimation at all so far as that is concerned, and I think I should have trusted any member of this house to have been more interested in the well-being of Canada than in any party declaration of principle. If that is not the case on the side of the house which my right hon. friend leads, I can assure him that there is

no partisan speech on this side of the house so far as I know. We speak in the interests of Canada.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I am speaking for myself. I go further. My right hon. friend the leader of the opposition is an old parliamentarian. He knows that the position of deputy speaker does not exist. It does not appear in the rules of the house; it does not appear in any of the comments of either Beauchesne, Bourinot or May. I am only the chairman of the committee of the whole house. There have been many of the committees of the house presided over adequately by members chosen by my right hon. friend, the leader of the opposition or his party, and I do not think it has ever been the case that any such hon. member was denied the privilege of speaking as an ordinary member of this house. The presiding member of any committee of this house has the right to speak on any question before the house.

The debate from which my right hon. friend quoted is, I must say, not very apropos because it concerned the deputy speaker taking part in a particular discussion outside of this house. The Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier never pressed his motion, and if my right hon. friend had read a little bit further he would have found that the leader of the opposition at that time, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, gave up the position for which he had been contending and recognized, as was correct, that the deputy speaker was only an ordinary member of this house.

I would go further to satisfy my hon. friends to the left of Mr. Speaker. I have tried by all the means at my disposal to be as fair as I could. I have presumed that when you are in the chair, Mr. Speaker, I am only an ordinary member of this house, and that when I am in the chair I occupy your place for the time being. I have always tried to be as fair as I could, but if it means that the position of deputy speaker, which does not exist, if it means that the chairman of the committee of the whole, who presides over a committee of this house just as hon. members to your left, Mr. Speaker, presided over committees when the right hon. leader of the opposition was prime minister of this country, has not the right to express the views of his riding and say what he sincerely thinks about the welfare and prosperity of this country, if it means that the deputy speaker or chairman of the committee of the whole has to become a slave of the party or is to be so much suspected that his voice has no right to be heard in this parliament, Mr. Speaker, I beg leave, with the permission of the right honourable leader of the house and the right hon. leader of the opposition and with your permission to resign my position. I accepted the position of deputy speaker to promote the business of the house but I do not think it was ever meant that the hon. member for Montmagny should not have the right to express his views concerning those things he thought necessary for the welfare of his country I think that is the action feared by hon. members on the opposite side of the house. I do not think it was ever intended that the hon. member for Montmagny should not be allowed to denounce the campaigns of prejudice which have been raised in the name of one party or another. Mr. Speaker I beg permission to resign immediately the position I have the honour to occupy. I have been appointed by this house to the position of deputy speaker; it is not a government position. The position was given me by this house and if hon. members see fit to ask for my resignation the matter is entirely in their hands. However as long as I have at heart the interests of the constituency of Montmagny I must speak in the interests of that constituency, in the name of the province of Quebec, in the name of my party and of Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I rise in regard to what I understood to be a ruling of Your Honour. As I understood it Your Honour took the view that this matter was one of personal privilege. It is a matter which affects the privileges of the house and as such every hon. member is entitled to discuss the question. The matter being of such importance I think the house should have the benefit of the views of the right hon. the Prime Minister on the matter, and that all hon. members of the house should feel perfectly free to speak. As the matter under discussion is one which affects the privileges of the house as a whole it should as a consequence be open for discussion by all hon. members.

Mr. LAVERGNE: May I retire while the discussion ensues?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, I suggest that the hon. member remain in the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, stay here.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think that the observations of the right hon. leader of the opposi-

tion might have been delayed until such time as the speech delivered by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) could be said in any sense to be controversial. As to the right of the hon. member to speak on any subject in this house I think there can be no doubt. That is my view. As to whether or not he should enter into controversial discussions is a matter of his own choice and is a matter that might be left to his own discretion. There is no rule however, which circumscribes or limits his rights as a member because he holds the position of deputy speaker.

A similar point was raised concerning the Speaker of the house, Mr. Lemieux, in the year 1927. The then Speaker of the house in committee of the whole participated in the debate. My hon. friend the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) who was then leading the opposition said he thought the house should take notice of that innovation, whereupon the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) participated in the debate and intimated that in his judgment the Speaker should not participate in discussions in the house. He went so far as to say he had doubt as to whether or not he should participate in discussions in committee of the whole house. In exceptional cases, however, he thought the Speaker was warranted in taking the action he did. Thereupon the Speaker referred to precedents and quoted them at length. The last case in England in which the Speaker has participated in the debate was in the year 1870 when Mr. Speaker Denison participated in the discussion in the committee of ways and means. There is a very long list of cases in which speakers have participated in discussions in committee, but not of course when the house was sitting. Obviously the Speaker cannot take part in the debate and preside at the same time. Therefore, as a matter of common sense, of reason, as well as by precedent and rule, he is prevented from discussing or debating any question while he is in the chair. As I have said the right of the Speaker to enter into the discussion when the house is in committee has been conceded. One case was a discussion with respect to inland revenue; another was a question concerning a point of order, and public measures at various times have been discussed by the Speaker when the house has been in committee.

Now we come to the position of deputy speaker. In England the position of deputy speaker as we understand it here does not exist. You perhaps will recall, sir, that when the present Speaker of the English House of Commons, Captain Fitzroy, was chairman of committees there was much discussion and a considerable amount of antagonism in connection with some of his rulings and at one time it was thought that when he was proposed for the chair he might be vigorously opposed. However, sounder counsels prevailed and he was elected to the speakership. There being no such office as deputy speaker in the English House of Commons we have to examine the matter as one of principle. If the ruling laid down by my right hon. friend is to be observed the corollary of it must be observed, namely, that if the deputy speaker is not to participate in debate obviously he should not be attacked. That is fair. How but by participation in debate would he be able to answer attacks made upon him? That, Mr. Speaker, seems to be the crux of the whole matter and it will be found that Sir Robert Borden in discussing the matter of a resolution of the then leader of the opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, directed the attention of the house to that particular point. Is it right merely because one of our hon. members has been elected chairman of committees and chairman of the committee of the whole house that he should be deprived of the right to speak to the house?

Mr. POWERS: There is a deputy speaker in our scheme of government.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, I say that.

Mr. POWERS: I understood the right hon. gentleman to say there was not.

Mr. BENNETT: No, I said that no such condition prevailed in England.

Mr. POWERS: The hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) said that.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not say that. I am familiar with the fact that we have provided for a deputy speaker by a rule of the house. I am sorry if my hon. friend misunderstood me; I stated that in Great Britain there is no such official comparable to our deputy speaker. Let us further examine the subject before us as a matter of principle. One of our hon. members is elected deputy speaker and chairman of committees. Has he therefore abrogated his right as a member of the house? He is in the chair only during the time that the Speaker is not in the chair and while he is not said to be the permanent committee chairman he is nevertheless chairman of the committee of the whole, the committee of ways and means and of supply. He exercises a very great power, subject to the general rules of procedure which govern this

house. Let us, however, consider what happened the other day when he was attacked in this house. As a member he takes his seat and as one of the deputies of this chamber is he to be silent? May he make reply? Is it right that he should be silent?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: By whom was he attacked? Any hon. member including the deputy speaker has the right at any time to raise a question of privilege and to defend himself.

Mr. BENNETT: By the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). Surely hon. members opposite heard what was said.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I do not recall it.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, an insinuating question was put to the hon. member for Montmagny. Is he to remain silent? Has his acceptance of the position of deputy speaker placed him in a position where he can no longer reply to the attacks which are made upon him? Sir Robert Borden clearly appreciated that point when he put it to the house at that time. I have not read the debate recently, but, as I say, he had a clear appreciation of the point.

You attack a member in his capacity as member. You say he should be silent because he occupies the position of deputy speaker. I think this is the answer. The deputy speaker of this house has no restrictions placed upon him by rule, by tradition or by practice, because deputy speakers have participated in debates in this house. On one occasion, it is true the leader of the house at the time, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, objected, if I remember correctly, to one of his own supporters, entering into a controversial discussion, and thereupon the hon. gentleman discontinued his speech and said what he had to say upon another item.

My conception of the situation would be this. The deputy speaker is subject, as the right hon. leader of the opposition has said, to the restrictions that are imposed upon the Speaker with respect to his impartiality, in his conduct of the business of the house. His own good taste and judgment must determine whether or not he shall enter into controversial discussion. And I think you can always trust the common sense and discretion and soundness of judgment of any hon. member who is chosen as deputy speaker of this house not to contravene that general principle. In other words, so far as it is necessary to explain his own position, he is free to do so. As to participating in any debate in which highly controversial or—shall I say?—highly political differences manifest themselves, his own judgment, his own good sense, must be the determining factors with respect to the extent to which he does so participate. Because the punishment is clear; he forfeits the esteem and regard of the house, and if he becomes a violent partisan his usefulness as deputy speaker will be regarded as ended. If, on the other hand, he discharges the onerous duties which we have asked him to accept according to the traditions of this house—because there is no deputy speaker at Westminster at the moment—then he will merit the commendation and approval of this chamber. That seems to me to be the rule which should govern in a matter of this kind.

In my view it is premature for the right hon. gentleman to raise the question under discussion until something has happened to indicate that the deputy speaker has in any sense contravened the principle which should govern. I still claim for the deputy speaker, as I would claim for any other member of the house, the right to make any response he thinks adequate to any attack that may be made upon him. In other words, you should not make him a judge unless you treat him as such; and if you enter into controversy with him you must afford him an opportunity to answer the observations directed to him.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No one denies that.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman will continue to discharge his duties with that high appreciation of what is required of him as he has in the past. I trust he will reconsider the resignation he has presented to the house, because those of us who have followed his course of conduct in the chair will recognize that a rigorous adherence to the rules makes for effectiveness in the conduct of our business. I think it is a salutary lesson to have the rules strictly observed where too often they have been violated. I believe the house will agree with me that a thorough knowledge of the rules on the part of the deputy speaker and his enforcement of them against every member, regardless of whom he may be, is conducive to the well being and seemly conduct of the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know that the occasion calls for a ruling by the chair. The incident referred to by the right hon. leader of the opposition was not exactly on all fours with the incident of to-day. By universal consent the house on that occasion refrained from dealing with the matter and left it to be considered at the next general revision of

the rules. Since that time the rules have been generally revised, but the matter was not dealt with.

In my opinion the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) occupying the position of deputy speaker, is perfectly at liberty to take part in the debates of this house. If the house wishes it otherwise it must take action by amending the rules or by an appropriate resolution.

I did not understand the deputy speaker to-day to tender his resignation, but merely to say that if he was to be so restricted he would tender it.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Thursday, March 19, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE (Montmagny) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I fully realize that, under the present circumstances, I must make use of the English language. I beg of my French-Canadian speaking colleagues to kindly allow me to do so because the few remarks I intend to make will be addressed to the English-speaking members.

Mr. Speaker, as the few remarks which I shall offer to the house are mostly for the benefit of my English-speaking compatriots, I deem it my duty to express myself in the English language. In doing so I beg the indulgence of hon. members, and I trust that any mistakes I may make they will attribute to my poor education in English. I think the best way to understand one another is to speak frankly, so that knowing what we think we may come to a quicker and better understanding of our respective points of view.

May I, without transgressing the rules of the house, refer to the remark made by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). Let me assure him that he need be under no uncertainty as to where I stand. I speak to-day as a Conservative by conviction, not by education or birth.

Speaking as a Conservative and not as a partisan, I believe the day of Liberalism has passed. Liberalism, as a great French philosopher has said, is the doctrine that thinks good alone is dangerous and that it has to be mixed with a bit of evil to render it acceptable to the people. It is almost twenty-five years since I had the honour to raise my voice in this house, but I have lived long enough to realize that we must choose between materialism, the spirit of to-day, or Conservatism, the spirit of tradition. That is the conclusion I have come to.

My hon. friend from Yorkton (Mr. McPhee) and other hon. members have spoken of attempts to arouse religious and sectional prejudices throughout the country during election campaigns. I am willing to accept this as true of both sides, but surely my hon. friends on your left, Mr. Speaker, must admit that if ever such prejudices have been appealed to in this country they themselves were conspicuously successful in such appeals in the general elections of 1917, 1921, 1925 and 1926. For instance, it was not the Conservative party that raised the war issue. I admit at once that I was one of those who opposed participation by this country in the Great war, but I defy any hon. gentleman opposite to prove that in the last twenty-five years I have ever appealed to prejudice. Hon. members to your left, Mr. Speaker, were in favour of participation in the war. How is it that in the last four campaigns, nay in the last campaign, on the very eve of the campaign, they had the press publish rumours of a new war in which Canada would become entangled—just for the sake of partisanship, or for the sake of getting back into office? Those are facts which my hon. friends cannot deny. Were they in the interests of Canada? Were they in the interests of the prosperity of this country? I leave it to them. My opinion is this, that whether prejudices are aroused on one side or the other, the fact remains that we are all Canadians. There is no use talking of one language or the other as being spoken in different provinces. We are here to stay, both races; both languages are here for good; and that will be the best and happiest moment for Canada when we forget that we are French or Scotch or Irish and become Canadians.

I listened the other day with much interest to my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). He said he could not become a good Tory, and as a matter of fact, in his opinion, good Tories do not exist. I do not know whether he was right or not. I claim that, being perfectly independent of partisan politics, I have become a good Tory, because I have become a good Canadian.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh oh.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I had hoped that my hon. friends opposite would applaud that senti-

ment. I know there are good Canadians on the other side of the house; undoubtedly there are, and I will come to that later on. So far as I can be impartial, Mr. Speaker, and stating truth as far as I see it, my hon. friends may rely upon me to indicate the faults or errors on both sides. God knows my hon. friend from Labelle had no more loyal supporter than the hon. member for Montmagny. But can we go on nursing old sores and past wounds without realizing, as I do at least, that protection is necessary for our country? Why should we keep on nursing those old wounds and forgetting the duty of the moment? Since the last election I have followed the leader of this party (Mr. Bennett). The first action of this government was to stop immigration. I can go back over the years when my hon. friend from Labelle, the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil), the hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. White) and, unfortunately, myself were members of this house, the only ones now left of those days. If you look at Hansard of 1906, when hon. gentlemen opposite were in power, you will find that when the Liberal member for Montmagny first began to speak of the danger of immigration, I stated to the house that, in the very words of the then Deputy Minister of Immigration, immigration directed to this country was intended to drown the French-speaking people of Canada. And when I see the leader of this government stopping immigration by order in council I must say, as a Canadian of French descent, and a Conservative by education, I had to support that policy.

To-day in this very parliament we hear our hon. friends on the extreme left bringing before the house doctrines which we cannot accept, talking of secession. My hon. friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) said yesterday that there were more than six hundred present at a secession meeting.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. VALLANCE: What I said, was this, that I merely mentioned the fact by way of illustration to show that not six persons as, the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) had said, were paying attention to secession, but that many hundreds throughout the west had been attending secession meetings trying to glean some information on the subject.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I do not think my hon. friend had need to contradict me. I said six hundred; probably there were more. Let me say this: With respect to that talk about secession, in spite of persecution, in spite of being denied rights, the first protestation against secession was put forward by the French-Canadian habitants of the far west. That is the point I wanted to make in this regard, and no other. My hon. friend from South Battleford and many others have spoken of the sorrows of the farmers out west. We understand this. We believe, as he does, in reducing freight rates; we believe as he does that the farmer in the west is not as well off as he might be. But let the hon. member come to the province of Quebec. In our province the love of the soil, the love of Canadianism is such that we do not complain and kick or talk of secession, but accept our duty as due to Canada. And we are willing to undergo many hardships for the sake of Canada. I would go further. Speaking to relieve the mind of the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), speaking as a Conservative but not a partisan—

An hon. MEMBER: How can you be otherwise?

Mr. LAVERGNE: How can I be otherwise? By not being a Liberal, very easily. The leader of the opposition spoke of the attitude taken at the Imperial conference by the leader of the government. He spoke of blasting ways. Why not? The Liberal party has not been blasting since 1897. They attended the conferences with vaseline and glycerine, not nitro-glycerine. Has the right hon. leader of this government taken a position different from that of Sir John A. Macdonald or Sir Wilfrid Laurier? Has he not the right to speak for Canada first when Great Britain has been speaking for Great Britain first since 1897? If I were as much an Englishman as I am a Canadian I would say that Great Britain was perfectly right. This is a question of business and one which has to be discussed from a business point of view. Ireland acquired her liberty simply by talking of herself first, and speaking for myself, I say: Canada first, ourselves first. Of course the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) did not come from Quebec, and I am sorry that the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) is not in his seat. The attitude has been taken that the Prime Minister of this country has been acting in a disloyal manner. That question has been raised before in Quebec, I head it when I was fighting against the hon. members on the other side of the house. Is it disloyal to claim that the interests of Canada are superior to those of Great Britain? If the interests of Great Britain come into conflict with those

of Canada, I stand with my native land, and that was the attitude taken by the hon. leader of this government. The hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) made a speech the other day in this house, and he seems to think alike with the hon. member for Quebec East and Quebec South (Mr. Power). It is considered to be disloyal because this country is trying to make a bargain with the government of Great Britain. We waited since 1897 for what the leader of the opposition calls a generous conciliation, and we did not get a thing. Does the hon. leader of the opposition say that we have no right to maintain our position as the Canadian government? We belong to the commonwealth of British nations and the only way to speak is to speak frankly. Unfortunately, since 1902, that course has not been followed by the Liberal party.

If at any time I felt proud of being a citizen of Canada or felt proud of being a Christian it was when the Prime Minister of this country, speaking not only in the name of the Dominion of Canada, but in the name of civilization said: We shall have nothing to do with Russia. The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) says that the case against Russia has not been proven, but I say that it has been proven to the hilt. Here is the nation that murdered its emperor, murdered three young royal princesses in a dark cellar, and put the czarevitch, a young boy, to death. This country has denied civilization, it has denied the teachings of Almighty God, it has denied the sacrament of marriage and it has denied the right of the individual to hold property. I say the case against Russia has been proven. The statement is made that we will lose money, but a man does not live by bread alone.

An hon. MEMBER: You need bread to live.

Mr. LAVERGNE: That may apply to the animals, but the human being possesses a spirit and does not live by bread alone. Above material prosperity there is something far superior, a mental and spiritual prosperity, and when the leader of this government said that he would not trade with Russia he spoke in the name of those who believe in something higher and more spiritual than the utterances of the leader of the opposition. If I am wrong I am willing to take the blame upon my own shoulders because I am speaking in my own name. When the leader of the government stopped all trade with Russia he gave not only to our country but to the world at large the greatest example of the teachings of the Bible. I speak for myself and as a man who believes in Canada and who lives not by bread alone but by support of a light which cannot be extinguished and which was left to us by our forefathers and the missionaries.

In conclusion may I say that this country —and this is where we owe a debt to the present government for its action—has been divided racially by the introduction of foreign elements, of the bolshevist doctrine which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) disguises well, but which we can see piercing through his speeches. Is this working for the good of this country? I believe not, and I say to my hon. friends of the west: If you had had in your western country Canadians of French descent, of French tradition, or, speaking plainly, habitants of Quebec, instead of the foreign element which you brought in, do you think bolshevist speeches along the lines of those of Lenin in Russia would be possible in Canada? The fault is due to the past leaders of the party of which the leader of the opposition is now the head, who for the sake of speculation, brought into this country people of foreign origin. To my hon. friends from the west I say: probably this is your punishment; chickens are coming home to roost.

We must build up this nation on the two great races that Providence has given us as an inheritance. My hon. friends will, I suppose, expect me to speak plainly and I must speak plainly. A moment ago I spoke of appeals to prejudice in Quebec. My hon. friends did not reply because they have not been entirely frank. In regard to appeals to prejudice in Saskatchewan and Alberta, I will not use my own language because it might not have much weight. I will use a language that is more authoritative. I believe all campaigns against the French language in this country are, in the words of Sir John Macdonald: "Absolument sans fondement," or absolutely without foundation. This applies to the Premier of Saskatchewan as well as to anybody else. If the French language is not recognized in this country or in any province, as far as I am concerned, I accept the challenge. If we look back in history we shall find that under every regime in every province except Quebec the minority has been persecuted and its rights curtailed. But let us go forward; let us get to the bottom of the truth in this affair. If Mr. Anderson is allowed to do to-day what he intends to do out west in Saskatchewan, where does the fault lie? It lies on the other side of the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. LAVERGNE: My hon. friends laugh. Will they laugh when I mention 1896? Will they laugh when I say that the Conservative party went down to defeat for the protection of the constitutional rights of minorities in Manitoba, when Mr. Yeo was allied with Joe Martin and Dalton McCarthy? Who went down to defeat then if it was not the Conservative party? Who betrayed the province of Quebec if it was not the great Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Shame!

Mr. LAVERGNE: Who says "shame"?

Mr. DUPUIS: I do.

Some hon. MEMBERS: We all do.

Mr. BRADETTE: He was a much bigger man than my hon. friend will ever be.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Yes, and a bigger man than my hon. friend will be even with all the Liberal press at his back. But is it not true that in 1896 the Conservative party stood for the Remedial bill? I will go further; in 1905 I was a Liberal member in this house, and if Mr. Anderson is allowed to do what he is doing to-day, where did he get the right and the power? The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and I were the only Liberals who stood up for the rights of the minority. Now is the time to say "shame," but shame on you and shame on your party.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): This is no time to be partisan.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I thought the hon. gentleman was putting a question. If he wants to do so, he is quite welcome. But the hon. member knows what I say is true.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Not at all, I deeply resent that.

Mr. LAVERGNE: The hon. member was not in the house at that time, but I was excommunicated from the Liberal party on account of the stand I took.

An hon. MEMBER: The mask was taken off.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Yes, it is time to take off the mask. You cannot go back to Quebec as you did before. That is why you did not want us to be elected. You did not want us to tell the truth, but now your appeals to prejudice are at an end. Your efforts to set one race against the other are finished, and you are quite well aware of the fact. I was in the house in 1905 and if Mr. Anderson does what he does to-day, it is due to the then hon. member for Quebec East who at that time denounced the hon. member for Labelle. The Liberal party stood on the rock of the constitution on the 21st of February, 1905, but it was down at the bottom of the rock of constitution on the 21st of March, 1905. That is the truth, and my hon. friends know it. Now is the time to laugh, but if my hon. friends laugh, they laugh at themselves.

Hon. members know where I stand. I believe the action of Mr. Anderson in the western province is wrong. I think it is detrimental to the province, detrimental to Canada. We are here in Canada to stay together whether hon. members like it or not. As far as I am concerned, having learned in my infancy the language of the province of Quebec, having learned to love and cherish it, I think Providence has given us a wonderful asset in Quebec. We are here to stay. Why not stop fighting about these questions? If we want this country to remain as it is, if we want confederation to endure, we must admit the necessity, the legality, of the two languages. I read the other day that there was some objection to the proposed bilingual stamp. I take it that every publication of this government should be in the two languages, and I will tell you why. I wish I were an English-speaking Canadian for one moment, but only for one moment, because I am proud of my French blood, proud of my Acadian tradition on my mother's side, proud of the language I speak as my mother tongue, proud of my respect for authority, not believing that Jack is as good as his master, and believing in our sovereign the king as the anointed representative of the Almighty, believing that there is one danger in this country far greater than the one that I denounced before—I have never been backward in denouncing the dangers of imperialism, but speaking to-day as a Canadian of French language and French descent, I say that I believe that the salvation of this country is in the British Empire; and I have paid dear enough to be entitled to say that. I am not a French-Canadian; I am a Canadian, speaking French, but if this country is to live and confederation is to survive, whether we be Scotch, Irish or French Canadians, I think that we will all admit that our only salvation is in the building up of something different from the United States civilization. We have in this country a dual civilization, a dual language. We have the glorious public laws of Great Britain; we have the clarity of the civil law of France; we have also, which is our greatest asset, the great French thought of charity for human misery, charity and love in the name of Christ our

Saviour. In the name of that dual civilization that we enjoy in this country I say that if we want our country to survive, we must build it on the spirit of our forefathers, on the doctrine of Cartier and Macdonald, Lafontaine and Baldwin, and build up a nation where there are neither vanquished nor conquerors, but two races enjoying the same rights and privileges.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver South): I should like first of all, Mr. Speaker, to refer to an incident that happened in this house yesterday and again to-day when the Prime Minister was answering certain questions that had been asked by my hon. friend from North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps). In reply, the Prime Minister stated that the intentions of the government would be manifest by their actions. We all remember that last June the Prime Minister was not quite so reticent in his replies. He was, on the contrary, very profuse and very emphatic in stating what the intentions of the government would be if he were at its head. Are we to assume that now he is in power we are not to have that frankness which he indulged in when he was in opposition?

I should not have taken up the time of the house at this stage to refer to Russia had it not been for certain remarks made by the hon. gentleman who preceded me (Mr. LaVergne) with respect to our relations with Russia. He said that chickens had a habit of coming home to roost. That is exactly what happened in connection with Russia. The chickens did come home to roost so far as the ruling class in Russia was concerned. I should like in this connection to refer to what Lord Macaulay said with reference to the civil war in Great Britain during the seventeenth century when King Charles lost his head. I think his words are worthy of being quoted at this particular time. He said:

> If it were possible that a people brought up under an intolerant and arbitrary system could subvert that system without acts of cruelty and folly, half the objections to despotic power would be removed. We should, in that case, be compelled to acknowledge that it at least produces no pernicious effects on the intellectual and moral character of a nation. We deplore the outrages which accompany revolutions. But the more violent the outrages, the more assured we feel that a revolution was necessary. The violence of those outrages will always be proportioned to the ferocity and ignorance of the people; and the ferocity and ignorance of the people will be proportioned to the oppression and degradation under which they had been accustomed to live.

Is that not the case in Russia? If the Russian people were ferocious when they rose in rebellion, it was because they had a ferocious ruling class in the first place. The same thing happened in the civil war in Great Britain. It was, as Lord Macaulay says:

> Thus it was in our civil war. The heads of the church and state reaped only that which they had sown.

I would like my hon. friend from Montmagny to take particular notice of that. Macaulay goes on:

> The government had prohibited free discussion; it had done its best to keep the people unacquainted with their duties and their rights. The retribution was just and natural. If our rulers suffered from popular ignorance, it was because they had themselves taken away the key of knowledge. If they were assailed with blind fury, it was because they had exacted an equally blind submission.

If those remarks applied to Great Britain during that particular period, I am sure they applied equally well to Russia in the years prior to 1917. He refers to the enormity of the offence where four or five, six or seven or a dozen people were murdered and says not a word about the millions of workers who were murdered by the Czarist rulers? These were workers, and were not worthy of my right hon. friend's notice. They may kill all the working people they wish but if one of the ruling class is taken it becomes a criminal offence. In the view of the group around me the blood of the manual worker is just as precious as that of the greatest ruler in the land. He referred to the fact that we should have no dealings with Russia. As a matter of fact only a few commodities have been debarred from this country. We have not yet debarred caviare which the wealthy must have at their banquets. That commodity is allowed to enter the country free. At least it is allowed to come in without restrictions. We have not debarred gold. The Russian people can buy anything in this country with gold. The Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) believes that the morals of the people of Canada would be corrupted if we were allowed to exchange machinery for coal, but if the same commodity is exchanged for gold our morals will not be harmed. What wonderful consistency. What wonderful logic the leading people of this government use.

Let me at this time refer to an editorial which appeared in the Vancouver Province quite recently. That is a Conservative paper, at least it gives support to the Conservative candidates. It did all within its power to defeat your humble servant at the last election. I assure you it did it's work very

nicely and very subtly. I will quote briefly from this editorial as follows:

Canada has declared an economic war on Russia. That is what the order in council passed at Ottawa on Friday amounts to.

This is not the first time that Canada has made war on Russia without the courtesy of declaring war.

Several reasons are given for the passing of this remarkable order. It is stated that the government is convinced that forced labour is being used in the cutting of timber and the mining of coal. It is held that the standard of living in Russia is far below that in Canada. It is charged that the Soviet government seeks to impose its will on the world, and the statement is made that, since Canada, as a country, is opposed to communism, it must refuse to support it by interchange of trade.

Foreign trade is an entirely selfish thing.

We will all agree with that. Not only is foreign trade selfish but so is domestic trade; all trade as a matter of fact is selfish.

No country goes into it (foreign trade) with any other object than to benefit itself. Canada, as one of the half dozen or so leading trading nations of the world, should know this and should have learned by this time the recognized methods of caring for her own interests—and orders in council of the kind passed at Ottawa are not among them.

That is a quotation from a very respectable Conservative paper, but possibly it came very near the truth as to why these orders in council were passed. I have heard rumours that religious institutions in this country have brought pressure to bear on the government; those rumours may be true or may not be true. If the history of the past is any criterion I would say that it might be true. However that is not the point which is discussed by the Province:

It has been suggested that Russian timber and pulp being produced by forced labour would compete unfairly with Canadian timber and pulp. Very well. Keep them out. There are tariffs for that purpose. It has been suggested that Russian coal would take the market from Nova Scotia coal or from Welsh coal. That is a very good reason for not admitting it. But the coal Russia proposed to ship is anthracite and Canada buys from $20,000,000 to $30,000,000 worth of anthracite from the United States every year. What interest have we in protecting the Pennsylvania mine owners? Has the Smoot-Hawley tariff been so kind to us that we must rebuff a possible customer in the interests of Uncle Sam? He hasn't rebuffed Russia. Last year, while Canada's exports to Russia were falling off 50 per cent or so, American exports were growing. In fact, of the thirty-eight principal countries doing business with the United States in 1930, Russia was the only one that increased both its exports and imports.

The government may answer or they may not but is it not a fact that the reason for the embargo on Russian coal is that it may be made possible for the American coal owners to ship their coal in here and the Canadian pulp manufacturers to ship their pulpwood to the United States. We have heard of conditions existing in the coal mines in the United States and if conditions in the mines of Russia are any worse they must be very bad indeed.

I regret that I have had to touch upon that particular subject at the moment because I believe there are other questions of more importance. It is in pursuance of that belief that I now add something to the discussion which has taken place in this house, something which has not been touched upon up to the present time. With a super-abundance of wealth such as the world has never known we find the greatest poverty that this country has experienced, and those two conditions exist side by side. That is the question we have to solve and it is one which has barely been touched upon up to the present time. Before coming to that point however there is another matter of consequence which I would like to mention. I spoke of it to certain of my colleagues in this corner; it is a matter which might occur to every new member of parliament. I refer to the seeming ineffectiveness and unbusinesslike way in which the affairs of this country are handled. They told me that in time, I would become used to this way of doing business. As a matter of fact they realize the ineffectiveness of our parliamentary methods and have become cynical. It seems to me Mr. Speaker, that if what has happened here during this week is any criterion of the expedition with which our economic ills are going to be remedied then the betterment of our conditions is indeed in the dim, distant future. Six hours and a half were taken by a vendetta between the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition. I think we are all agreed that the speech of the leader of the opposition which lasted about four hours and a half was a wonderful effort and I am satisfied that if the speech of the Prime Minister was not quite as effective in achieving its purpose it was because he is a very busy man and he does not have unlimited time at his disposal for preparation. What does it all mean? Can the problems of the country be solved by such means? Here we have two gentlemen endowed with intelligence above the average—at least we would wish to believe so—who in 95 per cent of the things they would be called upon to deal with in their ordinary business relations would not have the slightest difficulty in

coming to an understanding; indeed, as a matter of fact an understanding would have been arrived at before they met formally. On the directorate of the great business organizations of this country we find Conservatives and Liberals sitting side by side, and certainly they have no difficulty in the world in so directing the policies of their corporations as to fleece the rest of the community. In the other 5 per cent where there might be any differences of opinion it is safe to presume that those gentlemen of conflicting political views would quickly come to a mutually satisfactory compromise. But when we come to deal with questions of national importance the whole situation is changed, and these same Conservatives and Liberals cannot agree on any single item of business that comes before this house; what those on one side propose the others on general principles must oppose. May I say for the benefit of those whom it may interest that the faith of the people in the efficacy of parliamentary institutions to solve our national problems is on the wane. And surely if the exhibition of futility that we have witnessed since the opening of this session is appreciated by the electorate, they certainly will have need of that faith expressed in our hymn-books:

> Faith that will not shrink,
> Though pressed by every foe;
> That will not tremble on the brink
> Of any earthly woe.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I like to be appreciative; it gives one a pleasant feeling. I have perused very carefully the speech from the throne to see if it conveys anything to call for my appreciation. I tried to find in it some promise of legislation that would improve the standard of living for the poor. I did not find very much, but for the little I did find I express my appreciation to the government. True, there are vague references to old age pensions and to continued aid for technical education, but even this is predicated on the satisfactory condition of the national exchequer. Well, if the treasury is not in a prosperous condition, let me remind the Prime Minister that there is an enormous amount of wealth in this country—not potential wealth, but wealth in commodities, in usable form, which is the only wealth there is, that is if you exclude labour, which as a matter of fact is the foundation of all wealth. In the speech from the throne I find these words and they appeal to me very much because of their terseness, and at first I thought they might mean business:

[Mr. MacInnis.]

> The problems which stand between us and ultimate prosperity—

"Ultimate prosperity" has not been defined, but in case the Prime Minister may forget to define it for us I am going to give him the definition now: Ultimate prosperity, as far as I am concerned, is the highest standard of living for the masses of this country that the national wealth and their own willingness to produce will provide.

> The problems which stand between us and ultimate prosperity are manifold and great. To be effectually met, they must first be understood. Confusion between cause and effect will but delay their solution.

I quite agree with that. But I am fearful there is considerable confusion in this house at the moment between cause and effect. It seems to me that must be the case because I have not heard anyone trying to explain the relation between a superabundance of wealth and extreme poverty. There must be a relation between these two conditions, and unless we find that relation we might as well go home and let somebody else make the attempt.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): We have to discover the missing link.

Mr. MacINNIS: Yes, we have to discover the missing link. About a year ago my hon. friend from North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) raised in this house the question of unemployment. The debate continued for about a week. One of the sad features of that debate, it seems to me, was the failure of the then leader of the government (Mr. Mackenzie King) to appreciate the economic condition of the country. I have not yet been able to understand his lack of appreciation of the gravity of the situation. I am surprised that a man of his political sagacity failed to see what was apparent to the public generally. The then leader of the opposition, the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) was fully alive to the fact, and he made unemployment the major issue in the campaign. Thus for the first time in the history of this Dominion, after the most prosperous period on record, from 1925 to 1929, unemployment—the poverty of the people—became the issue in a federal election campaign. After the change of government the right hon. Prime Minister in fulfilment of the promise he had made, called a special session to end unemployment. Certain measures were enacted at that special session to take care of the immediate situation. That was in September. I wish to point out that the unemployment situation to-day is worse than it was in March, 1930, it is worse than it was

in September, 1930, and yet there is not a word in the speech from the throne of what measures the government propose to take to deal with the situation after the appropriation made at the special session shall have been expended.

Mr. COOTE: At the end of this month.

Mr. MacINNIS: That will be very shortly.

Mr. COOTE: The election is over.

Mr. MacINNIS: Yes, we have a right to know the intentions of the government in this respect, because the people are feeling the pinch of poverty. In this connection may I be permitted to read a despatch that appeared in the Vancouver Province of March 12. It is as follows:

> Calgary.—Forced out of Vancouver when civic authorities cut off relief measures on Monday, scores of single unemployed are making the long trek from the coast city to Calgary, and no less than sixty men dropped off two freight trains on Wednesday evening, according to those who saw the men disembark west of Mewata park.
>
> Officials of the Salvation Army hostel said on Thursday that the men are visiting the hostel in droves. They stated that the majority of the 1,500 men cut off relief in Vancouver will eventually find their way to Calgary.
>
> The men are dirty, some of them are verminous, and all of them tell the same story. They were obliged to leave Vancouver when relief was cut off, and decided to stop off at Calgary in the hope of getting food and clothing.
>
> The mayor of Calgary, Andy Davison, said:
>
> I want to say emphatically right now that no relief will be extended to these men by the city of Calgary under any consideration. We have more than enough to do to look after our own unemployed. Begging on the streets will not be tolerated, and every effort will be made to keep these men moving.
>
> But men without food cannot keep moving very long; it requires a certain amount of food anyway to enable them to do that.
>
> There is nothing we can do to prevent them coming to Calgary, but no assistance of any kind will be granted to them by the city.

That is the situation in Calgary at this particular time, and what is the Prime Minister doing about it? He promised less than a year ago that no man in this country would be allowed to go hungry; yet here are men going hungry and in want while there is not a word in the speech from the throne as to what is going to be done with them.

This morning I received through the mail from Vancouver the following figures showing conditions on February 28, 1931. Unemployment at peak registered showed married men, 5,994; single men, 5,399; and women, 155. For various reasons very many more women than are registered are unemployed in Vancouver. But here you have 10,548 unemployed in Vancouver registered; and many more, who have been living on what little they could save since last they were employed, are in very dire circumstances indeed. All the funds for unemployment amount to just enough to keep 2,000 men working until the end of April. I was a member of the Vancouver city council last year and I know the situation is very much worse at the present time than it was then. We are told that in Russia there is forced labour. In this country we have forced idleness. Which is worse? Many of these men would be glad to have the opportunity of being forced to work but they cannot get it. Before we throw stones at other people let us clean up the mess on our own doorstep.

I have further figures showing the trend of conditions and they certainly do not suggest that we may look forward to any improvement in the near future. These figures are taken from the Labour Gazette and are supplied by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. From January 1, 1928, to February 1, 1928, with 6,358 firms reporting, there was increased employment to the extent of 11,993. In 1929, from January 1 to February 1, with 6,391 firms reporting, there was an increase of 12,539. In 1930—and this was the year when we had a serious unemployment condition which the present Prime Minister admits existed and which the present leader of the opposition denies—there was an increase for the same month of 4,234. In the present year, from January 1 to February 1, with 74 more employers reporting, there is a decrease in employment of 8,085.

Does this show that there is any hope in the future of improvement? Is there any hope of a return to prosperity in the very near future? In the meantime what is to be done with these people? I think we are entitled to know, not only when action is to be taken, if it is taken at all, but when it will be contemplated.

If the leader of the government intends to put an end to unemployment I would suggest certain things for his consideration. I am quite sure that the leader of the opposition had nothing to do with bringing it about, and I am equally sure that the leader of the government will have just as little to do with putting an end to it. However, if he wishes to do something to relieve the situation there are certain things he can do. I wish I had time to attempt an explanation of the cause of unemployment, why it is we have distress

in view of the enormous wealth we possess. But let me put it briefly in this way. Under our present social system production is carried on for profit. The worker must produce more than he gets in wages, and he can buy back only a certain amount of what he has produced; while the employers, the owners of the machinery, are limited by the amount that they can consume, as all human capacity is limited. There is a surplus over and above that, and that surplus is continually growing; and with areas where new development can take place becoming gradually more restricted, the amount of invested capital at the same time continually increasing, there is bound to be unemployment until that condition is remedied. There is only one way to remedy that condition at the present time, and that is by reducing the hours of work and increasing wages, so that more of the total product may go to the people as consumable goods and less be available for capital investment. That need not cause any particular trouble, inasmuch as what is available now cannot be invested because there is no place in which to put it.

That is the first suggestion I would make to the Prime Minister. The next is this, that he should find new fields of exploitation for capital awaiting investment. That is rather a hard thing for him to do, but he can take it into consideration. Then there is the possibility of the invention of some new utility which will do for the next decade what the automobile has done for the past.

There is one other alternative, and that is a world war. If we study the depressions that have prevailed in the past we shall recall that we had a business depression in 1913, 1914 and 1915. That depression was dissipated by a world war. We had a business depression from 1921 to 1924, and that was dissipated by an enormous amount of money loaned by the United States to Europe, with the understanding that goods would be bought in the United States, following the reconstruction that took place in Europe after the devastations of the war. The change was also brought about by the enormous development of motor transportation and the amount of capital and labour that went into building that particular industry. It was also brought about to some extent by what we are pleased to call the deferred payment plan in purchasing. All these have reached their limit; the unemployment problem situation is becoming more acute and will continue to be so, and no amount of palaver in this house will solve it.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Mr. J. A. BRADETTE (North Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I consider it my duty to take part in this debate because of the many problems to be faced in the riding which I have the honour to represent. Although I have been a member of this house for the last five years it is still a difficult thing for me to rise and express myself as I would like to, and that is why I offer sincere congratulations to the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier), the mover of the address in reply. It was a fine address, well delivered, and as a Franco-Ontarian, I certainly enjoyed the delightful Acadian accent of my hon. friend. I would like to repeat a few words which impressed me very much. They are:

> This harmonious working together of different races and different religions is most worthy of commendation.

This sentiment is appreciated greatly by every section of the house. However, the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) does not seem to hold this view. I would like to repeat some of the statements which he made at a Conservative meeting held in Regina. He was present at that convention and he gave warning to the effect that the English in Saskatchewan were losing their rights. He said that the French-Canadians of Saskatchewan had had the audacity to hold French debates in their schools and were distributing as prizes books which came from the province of Quebec. He is quoted as having said:

> Here are the proofs. It is only evident that the struggle to deliver the province of Saskatchewan of Quebec domination is only beginning.

The hon. member congratulated the hon. leader of the opposition upon the recovery of his belief in the principle of unity. He should have said the Conservative party instead of the Liberal party, but apparently he expressed it as he did in order to have the advantage of being able to work side by side with his fellow members from the province of Quebec. I am sure that they will broaden his vision in these matters.

Speaking to a large Conservative convention held in Toronto in 1928, the hon. and genial member for Parkdale (Mr. Spence) is reported as having used these words:

> Quebec should be clubbed on the head, for it will never agree with the policy of Conservatism. There should be no more pandering to Quebec. The St. Lawrence waterway should be developed and Canadian wheat should be shipped to the old country from the maritime provinces all the year round—not from Quebec and Montreal in the summer.

Mr. SPENCE: From what paper did the hon. member get that?

Mr. BRADETTE: From the Ottawa Journal.

Mr. SPENCE: I thought he had taken it from a Quebec paper.

Mr. BRADETTE: This shows the care which should be taken in making statements of this kind. The hon. member for Regina was afraid of Quebec domination, but I believe he is mistaken. The hon. gentleman, who is a very prosperous lawyer, a capable speaker and a man of ability, should make a point of visiting the province of Quebec and certain sections of northern Ontario. Such a visit would not prove harmful to him. It would broaden his vision and make him realize that the French Canadian has a natural right to work shoulder to shoulder with his fellow Canadians, for the development and prosperity of our beloved country.

As the Deputy Speaker (Mr. LaVergne) said a few moments ago, we can live and work shoulder to shoulder. We are all Canadians and it ill behooves the hon. member from Regina to take the stand he does.

Canadian politics should be clean, but what a spectacle was offered to the country during the last general election when in Ontario a man who has recently left our shores to fill a high office, said that he was not in the campaign against the Liberals as a party but was taking part in it because he hated one man. When a minister from Ontario spoke in Port Arthur last June he called the attention of the country to the fact that he was in the federal election not because he hated the Liberals, in fact he stated he liked them, but simply because he hated the then Prime Minister. Is that being fair? And some members on the other side have the audacity to raise these questions in this house. It is our duty to answer them as briefly as we can, but we must set this matter right before the people of this country.

Then we had the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) casting an aspersion upon the good name of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). He accused him of disloyalty to Canada on the ground that the present leader of the opposition was a pro-American. He stated that he was not fit to govern this country and that he should be sent to Australia or to New Zealand. It is the duty of every member of this house to put a stop to such practices as occurred during the last general elections.

I made allusion to my genial friend from Toronto. There was not much in what he said, but I suppose when he said it he did not think that at some time there would be French Conservatives in the house—and they all get along together very nicely. We should have unity at all times. The present situation in Saskatchewan is, I believe, merely a matter of ignorance rather than a matter of belief. I believe that after the hon. member for Regina has had the opportunity of being in this house a little longer his vision will be widened and he will think more from a national point of view. I would like to read a very short article which was published in the United States, and in doing so I hope I will not be criticized by hon. members on the other side, because there is quite a moral and a philosophy in that brief statement. This article is right to the point, and reads:

> The theory has long been held in some quarters that two nations sprung from the same stock, and using the same language, were more likely to have sympathies, tastes and viewpoints in common than those that are alien in blood and speech; that they were less likely to come to misunderstanding, quarrels and war. But the new Lord Mayor of London is of a different mind; he thinks that the fact that the English and Americans clearly understand one another is a liability rather than an asset and to a certain extent acts as an obstacle to true friendly relations. A Frenchman or a German might call you all the bloodcurdling names in his vocabulary and leave you unmoved, but let an Englishman greet you with some of his favorite, high-flavoured expletives, and ringside seats at once bring a premium. So, too, every contemptuous innuendo, every rhetorical pinprick that an American or an Englishman employs in a newspaper to belittle or irritate his cousin across the water goes straight to the mark with undiluted venom.

That was the spectacle offered recently at the Imperial conference, when representatives speaking the same language used words which had a repercussion throughout every section of the British Empire.

I wish to commend the seconder of the address (Mr. Porteous). He said that it was with diffidence that he arose to address this body, but he did not need to be because he certainly made a good speech, and a very eloquent one. One gesture that I want to compliment him on is his giving precedence to the mover of the address. If the Speaker were in the chair, I would also compliment him on the knowledge he has acquired of the French language in the short period of six or seven months. This is appreciated by every French-speaking Canadian, in fact every Canadian throughout the length and breadth of the country. It makes people realize that we are all working together for the advancement and prosperity of Canada as a whole.

Only a few days ago I saw a statement issued by the Minister of Labour to the effect that during last winter and through the provi-

sion made at the special session 220,000 people had been given employment. After perusing these figures quite carefully I asked myself where the information was obtained. I have on my desk several letters containing dozens if not hundreds of names, complaining of the fact that in my riding very few people can find employment. Of course I quite understand it is impossible to distribute all that money in a way that will satisfy everybody, nevertheless the fact remains that in my riding many people cannot find employment, under the unemployment relief funds while their neighbours are working all the time. There are some who have received under the Dominion government grant the magnificent sum of $2.40 for an eight-hour day, and could work only one day. Just a few minutes ago you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, were talking about the spirit of the people. We possess that quality, particularly in northern Ontario. We believe in the wonderful spirit of Canada; and we believe in the spirit of those pioneers who made out of a wilderness one of the finest sections of Ontario, but coupled with the right spirit there must be something solid; the spirit must be translated into proper action. Hon. members I am sure will agree with me on that score. How are you to build up a vigorous people on spirit and promises alone? How are the people going to get, on $2.40 a day, enough bread to enable them to live? It is absolutely beyond my comprehension. We also wonder, in our section of the country, why, under the unemployment relief scheme, we received only $2.40 for an eight-hour day while in southern Ontario—and this statement was made by one of the Ontario cabinet ministers in Hamilton during the last election—they received $2.80? Why the difference between the two sections of Ontario? Everyone knows that not a single soul in this country could live on $2.40 a day and some getting work for only three days a week. It must be remembered that in many cases the men working under the unemployment relief program worked only three days a week. This meant that they were receiving $7.20 for a whole week, or something like $30 per month without board. A driver with a span of horses received the ridiculously small sum of $5.20 a day. During the last election the present government was saying to every section of the country that what the Canadian people wanted was not charity, but work. Is this real work and proper remuneration? Let me give some quotations from papers which are absolutely independent in politics. This is from the Northern Tribune of Kapuskasing:

[Mr. Bradette.]

We have not yet seen in the Ontario press even an attempt on anybody's part to explain discrepancies in pay on northern development payrolls in the Cochrane and Kenora districts.

Why this difference? The Prime Minister is not in the chamber at present; I do not know who is leading the house, so that, if this is a so-called one-man government, I am going to be out of luck so far as getting an answer is concerned. Why should there be a difference of fifty cents a day between southern and northern Ontario in the wages paid to these workers? The only conclusion that one can come to is that political partisanship has been played in some sections of the country. Is it due to the fact that the northern district is represented by a Liberal? I do not want to believe that this is so, but I can draw my own conclusions. That was not playing fair with the money which was voted unanimously during the emergency session last fall. The statement continues:

When relief work started in the north under the emergency federal scheme, with its compulsory eight-hour day, the rates became $2.80 at Kenora and $2.40 here, respectively. Hon. Peter Heenan, ex-minister of labour, has been at pains to point out that $2.80 per day is disgracefully insufficient pay for any settler to draw and try to sustain a family; so according to that, $2.40 per day is even worse. But why any disparity at all?

I know I shall not receive any answer. The following is a quotation from a good Conservative paper, the Porcupine Advance, under date of December 11, 1930:

Men working on the relief work program undertaken by the Ontario government in this north land are being paid at the low rate of two dollars and forty cents per day. They lose any holidays and also days on which the weather may prove unsuitable for work to be carried on. At the best they can hope to make no more than six hundred dollars a year. Hon. Wm. Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests and in charge of northern development, pretends to believe that the rate of pay given the men in question is all right. Hon. Mr. Finlayson himself has an income well over ten thousand dollars a year. On this account he may be able to estimate that another man may be able to live decently and bring up a family on six hundred dollars a year, but in friendly fashion The Advance would point out to Hon. Mr. Finlayson that people in general have little but bitter sneers for men in comfort who endorse wage rates for others below the standard of decent living. The Advance will be much disappointed in Hon. Wm. Finlayson if he does not rouse himself and see that in all lines of work in his department decent rates of pay are establishel. Relief work at the rate of $2.40 per day is an irritation and offence. It means that the man with a family has to spend his strength in the work and then must seek further relief if he would live and maintain his family.

That is the situation which the people in our section of the country have to endure; that is where the bread is coming from, but under the promises made by this government, in certain sections of my part of the country they are finding it impossible to get sufficient bread.

Only a few days ago the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) delivered a speech in Fort William to the effect that the Canadian National had kept practically all their staff working on their lines. He has been more fortunate than I have been. I do not want to criticize the administration of the Canadian National, but I am firmly convinced that while the local administration in our section is playing the game, the central administration is not doing its part in keeping up the work in our section. In the district from Fitzpatrick, Quebec, to Nakina on the Ontario side, a distance of a thousand miles, they have laid off 250 employees. The Minister of Railways and Canals may broadcast throughout Canada that no men have been laid off by the Canadian National, but that statement is not true so far as my riding is concerned, and the railway system in our section of the country has not been maintained to as high a standard as it has been in other sections. During the special session I informed the house that the line between Quebec and Winnipeg is not getting sufficient funds for capital expenditure let alone for improvements. The system should at least be maintained at a uniform standard. In this respect I do not blame the local administration but rather the central one.

I wish to comment briefly on the matter of the tariff. Only a few weeks ago the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman), after a five weeks' trip to British Columbia and the western prairies, came back to Ottawa and had a wonderful message to deliver to the Canadian people. Here is the message as I read it in the Toronto Globe of November 10, 1930:

> Hon. E. B. Ryckman, Minister of National Revenue, has returned from a five weeks' tour to the Pacific coast, and he finds much to be cheerful about. The people of British Columbia won't even admit hard times. True, there were complaints from coal miners and operators, and Alberta farmers asked that wheat be pegged at $1.15, irrespective of low market prices, but in many places the minister was surprised to find that a protective tariff was actually favoured as a panacea for many agrarian ills.

I wish the Minister of National Revenue was in his seat. It is unfortunate that when a humble member of parliament speaks and wishes to address a question to a minister of the crown he rarely finds him in his seat. If the minister had visited my section of northern Ontario and asked the people there if they were satisfied with the increase in the tariff, he would soon have found that they were very much dissatisfied with it. I wonder if the people of British Columbia and the prairie provinces are really satisfied with the high tariff. Judging by the tenor of the speeches that I have heard in this house by members from the west and British Columbia speaking in this debate, I gather that the western provinces are certainly not satisfied with the tariff increases. The speaker who has just preceded me (Mr. MacInnis) has told us that the tariff is no solution of the problem of unemployment in British Columbia. The same thing applies to northern Ontario. Raising the tariff will simply increase the cost of production and increase the cost of living, either directly or indirectly. It will simply block the extension of the Canadian frontier that we are pushing northward in northern Ontario. Settlement in northern Ontario is very different from settlement in the southern section of Canada or along the shores of the St. Lawrence. We have a very different climatic situation to face, and so far as our part of the country is concerned, to increase the tariff is simply to choke the life out of the greatest section of Ontario.

The settlers in northern Ontario are seeking a market for their pulpwood. Pulpwood buyers came to me during the last election and told me that they were withdrawing from the American market. On account of the policy of the Conservative party, our good friends the Americans, who in the past had usually bought four hundred thousand cords of pulpwood in northern Ontario, found it possible to get their supplies from Russia, and they withdrew from our market because the Conservative party had threatened to impose an export tax on pulpwood leaving this country. Here is one of the main planks of the platform of the Conservative party during the last election:

> A policy that will prohibit the free export of pulpwood instead of allowing it to be shipped out to keep American paper mills operating, while Canadian mills are working part time.

That shows how little the Conservative party knows of what is going on in our part of the country. In the riding of Timiskaming there are three large pulp mills, one at Kapuskasing, one at Iroquois Falls, and one at Smooth Rock Falls. They are buying as much pulpwood as they can use from the settlers within a radius of 30 to 60 miles from their mills, and the settler who is too far distant

from the mills must necessarily find a market for his surplus pulpwood elsewhere. If he has not a domestic market, it must be an outside market, and the only other market that we ever had for our pulpwood in northern Ontario is the American market. Mr. Finlayson, Minister of Lands and Forests in the Ontario government, and also the hon. member for East Algoma, during the last election urged that there should be an export tax on pulpwood going to the United States. So we had the spectacle last fall of this government calling an emergency session to deal with unemployment by increasing the tariff, which had the effect of increasing the cost of production and the cost of living in our part of the country, and taking away from the settlers the only market they had for their surplus pulpwood.

The settler in northern Ontario is in exactly the same position with regard to his product as an automobile manufacturer. Once an automobile is manufactured, it must be sold. Similarly the settler must find a market for his pulpwood, and unfortunately he is not in as good a position as the farmer of the west who, if he cannot sell his wheat, can at least turn it into flour. Without an export market for that pulpwood our settlers must simply starve.

Again I ask the leader of the government if he is going to drop that plank from the platform of the Conservative party. I repeat, the only market our settlers have for their surplus pulpwood is the United States market, and to carry out this plank of the Conservative party platform would simply be depriving them of their market. I say that to carry out such a policy would not be playing fair with my section of the province or with Canada as a whole. The only part of northern Ontario that might have benefited by the increase in the tariff last session was Sault Ste. Marie, where they have a steel industry. The rest of northern Ontario is paying tribute to the big industrial centres by reason of the tariff increases that were put into effect.

I am not like the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan). I do not believe in an east and a west; I believe that we are all one solid unit in this country. As was well said by one hon. gentleman, the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George tried to create the impression in this country that the west had been getting more than its share from the east. I wish to say to him that the development of such industrial centres as Toronto, Hamilton and Windsor is largely due to the growth and settlement of

[Mr. Bradette.]

northern Ontario, and the western provinces, and the best market these centres have for their products is northern Ontario and the provinces just named.

How is a high tariff going to help us in the agricultural sections of northern Ontario? How is it going to help the newsprint industry or the mining industry? The gold mines are the most prosperous mines at the present time, and some of them are working on ore as low grade as seven dollars per ton. The slightest increase in the cost of their machinery of production means that they will have to shut down, and thousands of men will be thrown out of employment. That is true also of the newsprint industry. In my riding three trainloads of newsprint are produced every day. We can produce enough newsprint to supply the requirements of all the newspapers in Canada. Necessarily we must find an outside market. I have listened with amazement to the present Prime Minister urging us time and again not to export, but to consume at home. I repeat, in my own riding we produce enough newsprint to supply all the requirements of all the Canadian newspapers. What would the other Canadian mills do with their production if we supplied the whole requirements of the Canadian market? My point is that we must necessarily find an outside market, and the only market we have is the American market. This government finds it possible to help some sections of the country, while paying no attention to the requirements of the settlers of northern Ontario and to the situation of the newsprint and mining industries.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): How does my hon. friend account for the fact that five out of eight constituencies in northern Ontario supported the policies of this government?

Mr. BRADETTE: They were caught with humbug. They would have voted almost solidly for the Dunning budget, but the issues were camouflaged. The Dunning budget was never mentioned to them by the Conservative party in the last campaign. The campaign the Conservative party waged was a campaign of hatred and personalities. I know what I am talking about, and I say that never would the Conservative party have won those constituencies on the straight issue of a higher tariff. It has never done so in the past because it did not have such a policy at that time. Hon. members opposite say that northern Ontario wants a high tariff. This is a deliberate falsehood. My friend opposite—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. BRADETTE: I shall retract the word, but I will say something of a similar nature. My hon. friend wishes to imply that the industries were not receiving protection under the Liberal regime. Is that what you wish to say?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): I would ask the hon. member to go ahead and make his speech.

Mr. BRADETTE: I want you to answer it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): This is not a witness box.

Mr. BRADETTE: I wish it was. Some hon. members would have to answer more directly if it was. They ask about high tariff; I am going to read part of an article appearing in the Ottawa Journal in the issue of January 24, 1930. Listen to it:

> Mr. Bennett protested against the "malicious representations" of the tariff policy of the Conservative party. It was not, the opposition leader stated, a policy of high tariff, but a policy to give fair treatment, equal opportunity in competition with the peoples of the world, for the protection of agriculture, labour, industry and the consumer.

Those are the words of the Prime Minister. Is the right hon. gentleman talking about high tariffs now? He certainly was not talking high tariff at that time. To quote further from the Ottawa Journal:

> There are some in the Conservative party to-day who boast that it stands where "Sir John Macdonald stood in 1878." It is not a boast of wisdom. The problems that confronted Sir John Macdonald in 1878 are not the things that challenge statesmanship in 1930. Sir John Macdonald's fiscal policies encompassed but central and western Canada.

That is what the party of the right hon. gentleman is doing at the present time. They have to-day the same policy they had twenty-five or thirty years ago.

> Sir John Macdonald's fiscal policies encompassed but central and eastern Canada, and did not visualize the mighty changes of the past quarter of a century. It is morally certain, indeed, that if Sir John Macdonald were alive to-day he would not stand rigidly where he implanted himself in 1878. His was a different kind of statesmanship.

Now, my hon. friend was not elected by his high tariff plea in northern Ontario. I am going to explain how you and others in your section were elected.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. BRADETTE: You were elected on the building of the trans-Canada highway.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. BRADETTE: I am sorry; I do not wish to break the rules of the house. You were elected—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. BRADETTE: The hon. member was elected on the construction of the trans-Canada highway. Do you deny that statement?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. BRADETTE: Will the hon. member deny that statement?

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): Did the hon. member support the proposal for a grant towards the building of the trans-Canada highway when he had the opportunity?

Mr. BRADETTE: When was there such a motion asking for the trans-Canada highway?

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): There was one.

Mr. BRADETTE: The hon. gentleman does not know the history of his own part of the province because in 1919 there was money voted from the public treasury for the construction of highways in the province of Ontario. And, listen to this, not a cent of it was spent north of the Severn river in northern Ontario. Is my hon. friend aware of that? Not one cent of that money which was granted in 1919 was spent in my constituency.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): It was spent when the Liberal government was in power.

Mr. BRADETTE: No, it was under a Tory government in Toronto. I would ask my hon. friend not to get away from that fact. The local legislature had control of the distribution of that money. Of the money granted in 1919 for unemployment relief not a cent was spent in northern Ontario. Why not? During the last session the Prime Minister said that the routing of the trans-Canada highway would be accomplished and the money taken from the federal treasury. Is the hon. member ready to tell me that the route in northern Ontario has been decided upon?

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): No.

Mr. BRADETTE: No, because this government and other governments want to wash their hands of their responsibilities. That is why I have placed a motion on the order paper to discuss the routing of the trans-Canada highway. We in northern Ontario contend that the northern route is the best route between the Atlantic and the

Pacific. During the last session after reading an article from the Toronto Mail and Empire I put a direct question to the Prime Minister and instead of answering directly he said that I was making reference to the words of a distinguished statesman. We do not know, but we hope that he will live up to these words and become a great statesman. I have never heard an answer from the Prime Minister. I now quote the words of Mr. Ferguson as they are contained in last Saturday's issue of the Toronto Mail and Empire:

As soon as the federal government makes a start for the construction of the trans-Canada highway money for which is included in the $20,000,000 asked for by premier R. B. Bennett for unemployment relief the Ontario government will offer every assistance towards constructing the Ontario section of the highway.

This was the statement made by the Hon. Mr. Ferguson when he was asked what steps would be taken by the province in the matters of route, cost and other phases, of the construction of the national highway. Premier Ferguson further stated:

It is a federal matter and no doubt the question of route will be decided. Ontario will offer every assistance to the Dominion authorities.

The most important question so far as my riding is concerned as affecting the construction of the trans-Canada highway has to do with the routing. The hon. Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Gordon) was in favour of the northerly route; I was in favour of it. Everbody in northern Ontario was in favour of it and we still feel the same way. We must come to some understanding, some compromise and a policy of routing must be pronounced. In northern Ontario we must have an alternate route. You in the southerly section will have a route and we in the northern section of the province have a primary right to that road from North Bay, Cochrane and Winnipeg. This government must realize its responsibility, the responsibility for the routing of the trans-Canada highway. A few weeks ago speaking at Fort William the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) said that during last winter money was spent for the construction of the trans-Canada highway and that the money had been taken from the $20,000,000 voted at the last special session. If that is so may I say that not one single dollar was spent in my constituency on the construction of the trans-Canada highway. In addition to that the Prime Minister of this country speaking at Winnipeg is reported as follows:

Premier predicts all of trans-Canada way will be paved in decade. Two announcements of outstanding importance to Canada from the standpoint of national development, prosperity and integration, both of especial interest to the motorists of this country, were made at the recent annual meeting in Winnipeg, of the Canadian Association of Tourist and Convention Bureaux.

Premier R. B. Bennett, His Worship Mayor Ralph H. Webb, stated in the course of his address, had declared during his conference with the western mayors, that within a decade the trans-Canada highway would be paved from its Atlantic to its Pacific terminus and that federal aid would be provided for the completion and improvement of the "Nation's Main Street" on a "fifty-fifty" basis with the provinces.

Now that the Prime Minister is in his seat I would like him to answer my question, if it is possible to have it answered.

Mr. BENNETT: Go on.

Mr. BRADETTE: Has the routing of the trans-Canada highway in northern Ontario been decided upon?

An hon. MEMBER: The right hon. gentleman has not answered.

Mr. BRADETTE: It shows, Mr. Speaker, that to-day we have no responsible government. We have had the spectacle of members of this government during the last election campaign saying that they were going to build the trans-Canada highway on a fifty-fifty basis, and to-day they are denying their responsibility. The highway was a plank in their platform during the last election. They said that their intention was to build a national highway across Canada so that tourists would not be forced to use the American roads to get past the great lakes. The result would be that instead of leaving money in the United States supplies would be purchased in Canada and this country would benefit. The High Commissioner for Canada in London, the Hon. Howard Ferguson, made the definite statement last fall before he went to the economic conference that the responsibility for the routing of the trans-Canada highway rested entirely upon the federal authorities. Was this statement true? I ask the question of the right hon. Prime Minister and await an answer. His silence shows that no satisfaction is to be hoped for. The section of country that I represent has a right to have its view heard on the floor of the house. We want our problems discussed in a national way. I maintain that this is not a political matter. It should not be, for northern Ontario is willing to accept a reasonable compromise, but we want to know where we stand. Some of the ridings in northern Ontario were won at the last general election on the definite promise

of the present government to build a transcontinental highway. To-day we have the spectacle of the government not willing to answer the question that I have put to it, although every section of the country awaits an answer.

On motion of Mr. Casgrain the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Monday, March 23, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Bill No. 12, respecting Guaranty Trust Company of Canada.—Mr. Robinson.

Bill No. 13, respecting Grain Insurance and Guarantee Company.—Mr. Kennedy (Winnipeg).

Bill No. 14, respecting The Kettle Valley Railway Company.—Mr. Stirling.

Bill No. 15, respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.—Mr. Willis.

GARMENT WORKERS' STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): In view of the fact that there is a strike in Toronto on the part of eight hundred girls on the question of maintaining the principle of collective bargaining. I would like to ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) whether the government will not intervene for the purpose of trying to get the employees and employers together?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon), who is responsible in the house for the Labour department, happens at the moment to be absent. When he is in the house, perhaps later in the day, or, if not, to-morrow, he will give a reply. I am not familiar with the matter. No appeal has been made to me in connection with it.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): I have two other questions to ask which I will endeavour to combine. One is based on a newspaper clipping contained in the Hamilton Herald of March 21, in connection with a meeting of the unemployed in the city of Guelph. The sentence I wish to refer to reads:

> In the meantime, nothing can be done to relieve the unemployment in Guelph, as the council has no money to spend on the matter and no work to be done for some time.

There is also an article in the Fort Frances Times stating that the provincial government has stopped highway work between Kenora and Fort Frances owing to the fact that the appropriation has been spent. The work stopped in the middle of March and it is not anticipated that it will start again until some time in May. I should like to know what the government intends to do towards relieving the unemployed in those parts of the country?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The question can stand. The same answer applies.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ST. WALBURG-BONNYVILLE BRANCH LINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): May I ask a question of the Minister of Railways? What progress is being made in connection with the completion of the loop branch line extension of the Canadian National railways between North Battleford and Edmonton? It is an important branch line, and not only are Edmonton and North Battleford concerned, but other places such as St. Walburg, Red Cross, Loon Lake, Makwa and other points in "The North" on the Beaver river.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Does the hon. gentleman refer to the St. Walburg-Bonnyville line?

Mr. McINTOSH: Yes.

Mr. MANION: I have had many telegrams from bodies out there, claiming that the Canadian National Railways have discontinued the work. The reason for this action is that the earnings of the national railways have been decreased this year, necessitating a lessening of the charges on the railway. But having received so many complaints with regard to the great hardship that will be caused, I have made enquiries of the national railways and I am at present consulting with them in an effort to have at least enough work carried on to relieve unnecessary distress.

PENSION EXAMINER AT SASKATOON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Pensions, arising out of a telegram I have received from the Unity branch of the Canadian Legion. The telegram reads:

Strongly protest any action regarding rumoured dismissal Doctor Cox, pension examiner at Saskatoon.

Is the rumour true?

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): That is a matter that comes more especially under the Board of Pension Commissioners. I understand the rumour is not correct.

ACOUSTICS OF CHAMBER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. PETER McGIBBON (Muskoka-Ontario): I should like to ask the Prime Minister if his advisers have found any way of improving the acoustic properties of this chamber. It seems too bad that probably one-third of the members can hear nothing that is being said. Something should be done at once.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The former administration exhausted every scientific method at the disposal of governments for the purpose of endeavouring to make the necessary improvements, but without effecting the end to be desired. I can only say to the hon. member for Muskoka that what they did not accomplish we may be able to do, but so far such is not the case.

VANCOUVER—SECOND NARROWS BRIDGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. E. MUNN (Vancouver North): Has the Minister of Marine received any report of the engineers on the Second Narrows bridge at Vancouver, and if so, what action will be taken? I understand the report was made recently.

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): I have already answered a similar question asked by another hon. member.

Mr. MUNN: Several days ago.

Mr. DURANLEAU: Yes. A report has been received, but it is a very long one, and it has not yet been sufficiently considered. I do not know whether it will be advisable or not to table the report.

[Mr. Manion.]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, March 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. PIERRE F. CASGRAIN (Charlevoix-Saguenay): Mr. Speaker, in listening on Friday last to the remarks of the hon. member for Montmagny (M. LaVergne) one must have been reminded of the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. The hon. member stood in the temple of pretence and proclaimed his merits at large: I thank Thee, O Lord, because I am a good Canadian, because I am a good Tory, because I am a man who lives, not on bread alone, but on the spirit of life that cannot be extinguished. I thank Thee because I am not like the materialistic Liberals who still believe that bread is necessary to the sustenance of life, and who are such bad people as to raise prejudices and to dare to love their country in a different way from that in which I do. Amen! Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not a Tory, as everybody knows. I claim to be a good Liberal and a good Canadian.

The hon. member for Montmagny, in his virtuous indignation, said that he wanted to unmask the Liberals. But in his haste to do so, he pulled off his own mask and exposed himself in his true colours. We know now where he stands. He is a bitter partisan, a Tory, and a bad one at that. If the hon. member sits where he is to-day, it is because he cannot find any other place in party politics elsewhere in this country, and surely we do not want him here; we want him to stay there. The hon. member went far back into history to revive dead issues and accuse us of raising prejudices. I shall not attempt to cover all the ground he travelled over, because I do not think it would be in the interests of the country at the present moment, and certainly it would in no way help to solve the problems of the day. The hon. member for Montmagny, however, ought to know that if prejudices were raised to the highest pitch in this country at any time, it was not by the Liberals of Quebec, but by some other people who are called Tories in various parts of the other provinces of Canada, and particularly in 1911, again in 1917, and at the elections following. It will be a great source of comfort to the house to know that the hon. member for Montmagny can be re-

lied on to indicate the faults and errors of parties on both sides of the house. We feel sure that his hon. leader will appreciate the sense of criticism of his new recruit and will thoroughly enjoy the performance of the Liberal-Nationalist, now the Tory member for Montmagny.

The hon. member for Montmagny also said he felt proud of being a christian and a good citizen of Canada when he read the announcement by the Prime Minister that Canada would have nothing to do with Russia. Most of us in the province of Quebec also felt as proud as he did on that occasion, but I think the hon. member for Montmagny, if he has a little bit of good in the bottom of his heart, could not have felt himself to be such a good christian last Friday when he made such a bitter attack on the memory of our past revered leader, the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It was really sad to hear the hon. member accusing such a noble statesman, one of the greatest and one of the most cherished in our history, and yet the hon. member for Montmagny spoke of his having betrayed his country and his people. Such words, Mr. Speaker, bear in themselves their own condemnation. Suffice it to say, that posterity will judge who best served his country, whether the hon. member for Montmagny or the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. When the hon. member will be no more, his name will have fallen into complete oblivion, while the memory of our revered leader, the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, will live on forever, and his name will go down in history as one of the greatest statesmen that Canada has ever produced, indeed as one of the greatest statesmen of the British Empire.

Coming back to the speech from the throne, a reading of it is rather amusing. It conveys the impression that the people of Canada ought all to rise and sing for joy at having at the head of affairs in this country such a wonderful government to direct Canada at this time. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have been sitting here for over a week listening to speeches in this debate, and as yet we have heard no member of the administration of to-day but the Prime Minister himself, in defence of his own administration. Not one of his ministers dares to stand up. Possibly the Prime Minister might not allow them to do so, and yet the right hon. gentleman is sad at heart when we call this a one-man government. The Prime Minister was the only member of the government who attempted to say anything in answer to the speech of my hon. leader the other day, and in his attempt I think you will admit, Mr. Speaker, that he utterly failed. The speech made by my hon. leader last Monday stands, I think, as one of the most wonderful and serious indictments that ever was laid at the door of any government, and yet to-day that indictment stands unanswered. As one newspaper so well put it, anyone who had any doubts that the speech from the throne was written by the hand of the Prime Minister was grievously mistaken. Anyone who is familiar with the doings of the leader of the government must have known from a reading of the speech that from beginning to end it was the work of the Prime Minister. A more nebulous pack of promises there never was—vague promises, nothing definite in relation to the problems that we have to face to-day.

Some hon. members from the west have asked questions of the hon. leader of the government, and quite properly so. They have asked him where was the agricultural policy of the government of to-day—a policy that is so badly needed to settle the difficulties of the west at the present time. No answer. Then hon. gentlemen on our side of the house have put to the leader of the government some most pertinent questions affecting their ridings. No answer. Apparently the right hon. the Prime Minister is not so much concerned with these matters as with running his own government alone—all the departments of the administration. Instead of immediate relief being afforded or in prospect, the man on the street looks in the speech from the throne in vain for anything constructive. There cannot fail to be anxiety in the face of such a world crisis as that through which we are passing at the present time, when the only thing in prospect in the near future for the people of this country is more taxation to meet the huge deficit which the speech states we have to face to-day, and also to fulfil some of the costly promises which the government has made in order to get into power.

The speech from the throne states that in this period of universal distress our country has not suffered as much as other nations have. We are willing to admit the truth of that statement. But we disagree with the government when the speech from the throne states that our difficulties are not the consequence of the universal crisis, but are antecedent thereto, and that domestic factors have largely determined the degree of economic distress from which this country is suffering to-day. Let us examine those two statements for a moment, Mr. Speaker, to see if we can

reconcile them. It is a well-known fact that in an influenza epidemic, for instance, those who suffer most are those who are tired out, worn down, and unable to put up any resistance. Yet we are told in the speech from the throne that Canada of all nations in the world will perhaps get on its feet the quickest. If that is so, the policies of the late administration could not have been so nefarious and injurious as the government has pretended that they were.

I need not repeat here to-day the figures that were placed on Hansard by my hon. leader in his speech last Monday. They show the wonderful progress of Canada under Liberal administration during the nine years my hon. leader was at the head of the government. Everybody knows that up to the middle of July last year, Canada stood fifth in world trade, but to-day it has receded from that position, and since the 28th of July last Canada has had to take a back seat.

When the speech from the throne also comments on the Unemployment Relief Act passed last session, we cannot all agree with what it says, nor can we agree when the speech talks about the marked improvement in the domestic situation that has come about as a result of the changes made in the tariff last September. The government promised that factories would spring up here and there to keep our people employed. We were promised that work would be procurable in abundance throughout the country. During the last electoral campaign in every parish of my constituency my opponent promised that following July 28 the pulp and paper factories would be working six days per week instead of three days. To-day the same pulp and paper factories with few exemptions are closed. To-day I received letters from my people at Beaupre saying that the main industry there, the paper mills of the Ste. Anne Paper Company, Limited, are closed for a period of over a year and a half. The government now in office promised it would give employment to everybody and that the factories would be working full time. To-day we read in the newspapers that even in the good city of Toronto things are not as satisfactory as they should be. In the paper of March 22 we read:

Unemployed angered. Arson attempted when work was not forthcoming.

In this instance certain people went to obtain work and conditions were so bad that apparently they had to take the law in their own hands in order to get it. Mr. Speaker, the conditions I have outlined should not exist in this country especially in view of the bill passed by the government last September.

[Mr. Casgrain.]

A hundred workers are going to Russia.

This is proclaimed in a headline of the Gazette of March 18.

Toronto Star says party of mechanics will leave in May.

Then the Gazette despatch continues:

Toronto, March 18.—"Soviet Russia's world-wide plea for skilled mechanics and expert craftsmen has been answered by 100 Toronto bricklayers, carpenters, technicians and contractors, who have been guaranteed employment in the Soviet Union and will leave Canada early in May. Arrangements for sailing have been made," the Toronto Star says to-day.

The party will be composed of Russians, Canadians, Frenchmen, Finlanders and other nationalities. Wives and children will travel with the heads of the households and many will carry with them their personal belongings.

We were promised that we would have more work after the present government took office but in a great city like Toronto where work is supposed to be procurable in abundance and where factories are working full time the people are forced to leave their own land in order to secure work in Soviet Russia. Will this government countenance such actions when it has placed a ban on Russian goods and has said "We will have nothing more to do with Russia"? I would be pleased if the government would take such action in the matter as would obviate the necessity of our own people leaving Canada to go to Russia. We know that the unemployment situation in Canada is as bad as, if not worse than, it was last July. I think previous speakers have placed figures on Hansard to show that the number of unemployed in Canada has now reached over 300,000. As one who has been looking around in the city of Montreal I say the Unemployment Relief Act of 1930 has not brought the results hon. members opposite expected it would. To my own knowledge Mr. Speaker, in the city of Montreal there are many unemployed and too many asking for help and assistance. Out of the moneys which were voted last September a certain amount was allocated to the city of Montreal, but up to the present time the best help and assistance which the unemployed have been able to secure has been derived from money received as the result of the few snow storms which we have had in that city. Certainly the leader of the government is not able to take credit for those storms. The works in the city have barely begun and employ but a few hundred people. The Canadian National terminal in Montreal is the only public work being proceeded with and God knows the work has been systematically hindered and delayed by the executive council of the city

of Montreal which was more anxious to promote its own interests than those of the community. I learn from to-day's issue of the Montreal Gazette that the same city council has visited this city of Ottawa during the week end and has succeeded in obtaining from this government another extension of time and delay. They are trying to have their own views prevail in the matter which means, Mr. Speaker great delay in the relief of the unemployed in the city of Montreal. The operations of the Canadian National Railways have reached a standstill and an attempt has been made to spoil the policy adopted by the late government in the year 1929. If we have read the Montreal newspapers we will have seen that the situation is not satisfactory. For instance on March 13 Le Canada contained the following heading, over an article prepared by one of the reporters who had been around the city of Montreal and had visited the various works being carried on by the city:

The relief of unemployment

Such are the facts ascertained by a reporter of the "Canada" in the course of a visit to each yard

We notice that some of the men who were working were not our own good French Canadians but were foreigners. In the Montreal Gazette of March 6, 1931, under the heading Unemployed Relief System Described as Totally Wrong we have a statement made by Dr. Pedley who is at the head of the Hygiene Faculty of McGill university. In the article Dr. Pedley tells of the conditions in the city of Montreal. I think I shall read his statement as contained in the newspaper to which I have referred; so that you may have his opinion concerning the working of the relief act of 1930. I quote as follows:

Money voted might as well have been thrown into sewer. Director of Montreal Council of Social Agencies charges demoralization follows haphazard policy.

Criticism of Montreal's unemployment relief methods coupled with the declaration that the moneys voted for direct relief by the government might just as well have been thrown in a sewer, marked an address by Dr. F. G. Pedley, director of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies and assistant professor of industrial hygiene at McGill university, on "Unemployment relief in Montreal in 1930-31," before members of the Lions club yesterday at a luncheon meeting in the Mount Royal hotel. Unemployed men in Montreal had been given much food but no constructive help, he maintained. Their stomachs were filled, but neither the city nor the relief agencies had an intelligent plan to "put the men on their feet."

"Our whole system is wrong," Dr. Pedley maintained. "Giving something for nothing is a faulty system, one which undermines the morals of the unemployed, makes them dependent upon others. We should demand some services of those to whom we administer unemployment relief."

He stressed that in some cities—particularly in the west, those to whom relief is given are made to pay for it by working. Winnipeg had its unemployed earning relief by labour in the municipal wood yards. Until Montreal was in a position to make the men work for relief, the system of relief as practised at present in the city was dangerous and devoid of constructive help.

The Dominion government, at a special session, had voted $20,000,000 to the direct and indirect relief of the unemployed, the speaker recalled. Of this sum $4,000,000 was scheduled for direct relief. Montreal's share of that sum was $150,000, granting that both the Quebec government and the city council would give similar amounts. The total in the city for direct relief, therefore, was $450,000, and this sum was already nearly exhausted with the worst part of the winter still to come.

Public Works Fail

"The public works undertaken by the city to relieve the unemployed have given little relief," Dr. Pedley declared. "Our records show that unemployment in the city has hardly been reduced through these works. The number of destitute men, helpless because they are unemployed, has not changed."

"We have been giving relief," he continued, "but we have tried to do the job too well though we are criticized for our parsimonius attitude. We have given Montreal a name as a good place for the hard-up to spend the winter in; next winter we will probably be stormed by destitute people who have heard this despite our great reluctance to give publicity on what relief work we are doing, of what is being done here for the hard-up and unemployed. Our system is entirely wrong."

He added that Montreal's relief system was productive of demoralization in the ranks of the unemployed. Their morale went with the definite assurance that they could keep on benig unemployed for they would always have a bed and three meals a day, and this without work or effort.

"The money being spent by the government on this kind of relief might just as well be thrown in the sewer," Dr. Pedley stated, adding: "The situation is this: No man goes hungry in Montreal. There is an abundance of food, but no intelligent plan to put the men on their feet. There is great laxity in the system.

The system of relief work in the city of Montreal has been in the hands of the executive committee of the city of Montreal, which is friendly to the present government, and this is the result. The money voted by parliament at the special session last September has been spent without bringing about any substantial relief of the unemployment situation in that city. In the rural districts the situation is not much better. As was said by the Hon. Mr. Francoeur, Minister of Public Works in the provincial government, the Dominion government should have consulted the various provincial governments with respect to the distribution of the unemploy-

ment relief fund. At many places the works for which money was appropriated are not yet under way, and will not be before the snow is all gone. In other words the rules and regulations framed by the hon. Minister of Labour are such as to render it practically impossible for municipalities to undertake any work for fear of running into debt and thus being obliged to tax the ratepayers to make good any deficiency in the federal appropriation. Under those rules and regulations money from the unemployment relief funds could not be used for repairs to churches or to public buildings belonging to school commissions or fabriques, and as a result many municipalities were unable to avail themselves of that measure of relief for their unemployed.

The late administration, Mr. Speaker, in the last session of the last parliament voted large sums of money for various public works in the province of Quebec, but some of those works have not yet been undertaken. In the city of Montreal, for instance—and the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret) referred to it last week—$1,500,000 was appropriated for the purpose of constructing certain wharves in the harbour. That work has not yet been proceeded with. Certain votes for public works in my own riding have not yet been applied and, of course, no work has been done. I refer particularly to proposed public works at Pointe au Pic and Baie Ste. Catherine. If the money so voted had been expended on those various undertakings it would have afforded substantial relief of the unemployment situation in that district where now the people are idle. Is the government playing politics? Is it delaying expenditure of the money because of the fact that the member for the county is sitting on this side of the house? Does the government think that if the money is expended on certain public works at a later date the political effect of such expenditure will be to its advantage?

As has been stated by other members who have preceded me in this debate, farm products to-day are selling at lower prices than ever before. Butter—that played so prominent a part in the campaign of my hon. friends opposite—is selling at lower prices than prevailed last July. The same remark applies to cheese and eggs. Wheat has touched the lowest point for over thirty years and is selling at less than the cost of production. At the special session the Prime Minister promised to find a market for our wheat and to eliminate the competition from Russia and the Argentine. He went to England, and we all know he failed to secure the British market for our wheat. He tried also to find a market for it in China, but there again he failed. He went to France, and as a result of his interviews with the French authorities we were led to suppose that France would take a substantial quantity of our wheat, but from what I have heard recently our exports to France will be in the neighbourhood of what she usually buys from us.

An hon. MEMBER: Less.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Yes, the amount will be less. He tried also to negotiate a treaty with France to supersede that negotiated by the late administration. In this instance also the results do not appear to be very encouraging.

The treaties with Australia and New Zealand were denounced on the floor of this house by our hon. friends opposite and during the general election of last July they told the people that if returned to power they would negotiate new treaties that would be of much greater advantage to Canada. After the Imperial conference we were told the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) had been able to come to a very satisfactory arrangement with the representatives of the Australian and New Zealand governments, but we have heard no more about those proposed treaties, of the wonderful attempts made to negotiate better treaties than those negotiated by the late administration. I dare say that the results will not show any improvement on those obtained by the late government.

During the absence of the Prime Minister in England a plan was launched by the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for a credit organization to help the farmers of the west through their present difficulties by enabling them to adopt mixed farming. I should be ready to commend this plan if it were likely to be productive of good results, but from what I have heard from members from the west during the course of this debate the plan does not seem likely to be of much practical use to the farmers of western Canada. We need at the present time—and this view is shared by hon. members from the west—wider and freer markets, better credit facilities and lower freight rates, and until these are obtained the government will not be in a position to say that it has been able to settle any of the economic problems now bearing so heavily on this country, particularly the prairie provinces.

In the speech from the throne we are told that the government intends to reduce the cost of production to the farmers in an effort to help them in their present difficulties. How can this possibly be brought about when the cost of nearly all the commodities needed by the farmer has been increased by about 300

per cent as a result of the tariff amendments that were put into force at the special session? At that time we were promised that the legislation then enacted would stimulate business and relieve unemployment, if not cure it, without raising prices to the consumer. But the Prime Minister had not reached England when the glass producers in Canada increased their prices to such an extent that he was communicated with and authorized his Minister of National Revenue to withdraw the increased tariff duties on glass. The tariff amendments at the special session were also intended to help the textile and steel industries, but statistics show that the greatest decrease in employment is found in those two industries and also in the pulp and paper industry. As a result of the legislation brought down by the government last September, trade and industry to-day are stagnant. Business during the last six months shows a downward trend. It is useless to think that by closing our markets to imports we shall be able to increase our exports. To-day we have to face a substantial increase in the national debt with a decrease in revenue from customs and excise duties and sales tax. We have a deficit of over $100,000,000. Yet we are told by the government that they intend to make a further revision of the tariff. Nobody after our experience since last September can believe for a moment that such a policy will bring about good results. We cannot but deplore the fixed idea of the government that protection and still higher protection is the only panacea for the evils of the body politic. The sooner the government changes its ideas on the tariff the better it will be for the country. The tariff policy of this administration appears to be an expedient rather than a solution of our economic troubles. In fact for a country such as Canada with its diversified production a high tariff wall is not at all feasible. I think I cannot do better, Mr. Speaker, than to read to this house an opinion that was given by an economist in the review published by La Banque Canadienne Nationale during the month of October, 1930. This opinion was as follows:

> The greatest danger of protectionism is that it lends itself to abuses. Producers are organized while consumers are practically unorganized, so that the claims of the former are always much more strongly put forward than those of the latter. Moreover, the advantage which an excess of protection confers upon a group of producers are far more in evidence than the hardships inflicted on the masses of consumers. Protection calls for protection. When the government intervenes on behalf of an industry others in their turn claim intervention on the score of fairness, and when a state initiates a measure of protection other states are inclined to follow in its footsteps in order to equalize the competition.
>
> Likewise excess of protectionism includes its own corrective protection by becoming general, loses part of its efficiency. The countries which adopt high protection strive to develop their exportations and restrict their imports. However, when a great number of countries endeavour to sell to other countries the greatest quantity of goods possible and purchase the least possible, it is a foregone conclusion that international trade must slow up so much the more so that in all these countries the excessive customs duties increase the cost of living as also the cost of production and reduces the purchasing power. Hence the necessity of negotiating trade treaties, in order to abate the ills brought about by protectionism. So through force of circumstances, we are brought back to this basic principle, that trade is an exchange.

This, Mr. Speaker, is the view expressed by a person who is not supposed to be a partisan, but who is engaged in finance and who expresses this opinion in a review published broadcast throughout Canada by such an outstanding bank as La Banque Canadienne Nationale.

In the speech from the throne, we are promised a new tariff board. Well, Mr. Speaker, we had a tariff board previously, appointed by the last administration. This tariff board acted in an advisory capacity; it was supposed to collect and as a matter of fact did collect most valuable information, after numerous hearings at which manufacturers, producers and consumers alike were heard freely and at length as to the changes which might be made in the tariff. The government then had the advantage of such intelligent investigation, and knew what it was going to do. Why should this board have been abolished six months ago, when the government of the day apparently finds it necessary to appoint a new one now? Is it to promote some friends of the government? This is hardly being done nowadays, under the new regime. This new board apparently will be composed of members selected by the present administration, and knowing the leader of the government as we do know him I dare say that those who will be appointed to the board will be staunch protectionists. We all know that under this board appointed by the present government there will be only one idea, that of raising the tariff and protecting industries in which there are numerous friends of the present administration. That will be the case if the new board adopts the attitude of the members of the government who received delegations which came to present their views in Ottawa about a month ago, and to which my hon. friend from St. James (Mr. Rinfret)

referred the other day. Certainly if that is the case this new board will attain no results, because when the leader of the government was to have received a delegation which appeared a few weeks ago, he did not listen to the members of the delegation at all but went away before they arrived. I am afraid that under the present administration this new board will be not a tariff board but a tariff farce.

We are also given to understand that possibly this board will have statutory powers, which was not the case with the old board. These statutory powers may give this board the right to raise or lower the tariff at its own discretion. Well, Mr. Speaker, if the government really intends granting such power to this board we on this side of the house could not possibly vote for such a measure, because I think it would be a direct departure from the rights and privileges which the members of this parliament must exercise with regard to the supervision of the taxation of the people of this country and the raising of revenues. Those are the exclusive rights and privileges granted to members of parliament by the British North America Act.

Another most amazing statement in the speech from the throne, Mr. Speaker, is the allusion to the success of the Imperial conference. Those who listened to the enlightened speech of our leader must realize that nothing is so far from the truth. The propositions that were brought up by the Prime Minister of Canada at that conference were, after careful consideration, flatly turned down and dismissed. The other members of the conference said, "We cannot accept that proposition." They nearly sent the Prime Minister home. The conference was practically a fiasco because of the Prime Minister of Canada, and it was only to save his face that the conference was adjourned to meet this summer in Ottawa. After the conference the Prime Minister travelled extensively through Europe. Wherever he went I do not think he brought any credit to this country. He has acted as a stormy petrel, and I believe he did nothing that could be called good advertising and good publicity for this country. Rather I would be inclined to say that he has lowered Canada in the estimation of the other nations of the world. The right hon. gentleman who runs this country is full of schemes.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I think "running this country" is the proper expression. He had many great schemes during the last election and during the last session of parliament.

[Mr. Casgrain.]

My right hon. leader has pointed out all his promises and all his schemes, and they are in Hansard both for this session and for the short session in September last. To-day, however, we have a new scheme of national development, including old age pensions, technical education and highway development. But, Mr. Speaker, the government is more careful to-day; they say that these matters will be proceeded with after careful consideration, and by progressive stages. I am glad to see that the right hon. gentleman who runs the government is progressing, in a way. We heard all about old age pensions, technical education and national highways during the last session of parliament, but the right hon. gentleman then promised that we would have these things immediately. He wanted to get into power then, but to-day, now that he is in power, he asks for more time.

According to the speech from the throne we are also to have more effective control of finances and over government purchases. With such a leader as the present leader of the government I am a little afraid of all these controls; I fear they may injure the credit of this country and they may even be detrimental to the party headed by the right hon. gentleman. We had such controls before, under the Union government, and God knows what they cost the country. If the government really wants to practise economy and do something useful I think they should cut off some of the departments that perhaps are not necessary to-day, such as the Department of the Interior. If the right hon. gentleman who leads the government is going to do all the work of all the departments he might even do away with some of the ministers who at present are not so over-burdened with work that they are necessary to this house or to the federal government. The hon. gentleman appears to have been very busy since he came into power; he has made many attempts to solve the problems of to-day, but has had little success. Let me show what one of his own friends said about him in 1917. I find in Hansard for that year that the late Sir Sam Hughes, referring to the right hon. gentleman who leads the government to-day, and speaking in connection with another scheme of his, the National Service Commission, said:

> He has brought bad luck to every undertaking, every interest, every man with whom he has been associated. . . . He stands as having been the head of the greatest failure that ever occurred in the public life of the Dominion of Canada.

Yes, the right hon. gentleman indeed has brought bad luck to this country; I think he has brought failure as well, and I believe

if he stays in office for any length of time he will bring bad luck and failure to his own party.

Mr. J. L. BOWMAN (Dauphin): May I join with those hon. members who have already spoken in extending to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne my congratulations upon the very able and excellent manner in which their duties have been discharged. May I also commend the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and his cabinet for the very earnest and sincere efforts put forth by them towards the solution of those grave problems with which they have been faced since assuming office, and the great measure of success with which these efforts have met. I would also express the appreciation which is felt by the people of Canada.

It is, of course, to be expected that remarks of this nature would be made on this side of the house. But to my mind a much greater tribute to the government of the day has undoubtedly been paid them unconsciously by hon. members opposite. This debate has been in progress for approximately a week. During that time the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) has spoken in a fervent and eloquent address, every word of which denoted the most careful preparation; and he has been followed by many hon. members opposite in addresses in similar vein. But during all those addresses we have not had a single constructive suggestion from the opposite side of the house, saving that which I think was made by the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) with respect to currency. This, it seems to me, indicates pretty definitely that in the main what should have been done in the way of good government has been done by the government in power to-day.

May I, as representing a constituency in western Canada much interested in agriculture, say a few words in that regard. Sentiments with respect to agriculture have been expressed by so many hon. members that it is pretty difficult to speak on the subject without more or less repeating what has already been said. But very briefly, the situation in agricultural communities is this: that the farmer is not realizing for his agricultural products returns in proportion to what he is paying for the goods which he purchases. There are one or two matters in that connection to which I might definitely refer. There has been in the west for many years a very strong feeling that the price of machinery to the farmer is too high. That opinion has been prevailing in my own constituency not only since 1929 but for some years previously. They have the idea, and I must say it is an idea shared by myself, that the cost of farm machinery is altogether too high. I have not seen last year's financial statement of the Massey-Harris Company, but I understand that that statement purports to show a loss of approximately two million dollars. If that is true—and I have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement—then something is wrong somewhere. Judging from the experience of the farmers in my own district, I would say it is because of one thing at least. The company were not selling as much machinery as they should, and the only reason they are not selling that machinery is the fact that it is beyond the means of the farmer in western Canada.

Personally, I do not know, I frankly confess, whether the price of farm machinery is too high or not. But there surely is a way for this house to find out the facts, and I would offer this very humble suggestion. We have a standing committee on agriculture empowered, I understand, to bring before it any person or persons to give evidence upon any points respecting which evidence is desired, and I would suggest that the machine companies of Canada be brought before that committee. In that way we should find out what ought to be proper prices, or whether prices are right or not. We shall know definitely just what margin of profit there has been on these articles and whether or not they can be sold at what would appear to be a less prohibitive price.

The hon. member who has just spoken (Mr. Casgrain) referred to the Canadian Pacific Railway scheme announced by the president of that railway, Mr. Beatty. I agree with the hon. gentleman that some good may come of this cooperation. But I say this, that the amount of capital is so small that it is entirely inadequate to meet the call even in western Canada or in a very small portion of western Canada to-day. I do think there is one thing that the farmers throughout Canada desire to-day, and that is credit. I think perhaps the west would have been better off in years past if we had had less credit. But the fact remains that we have become accustomed to receiving credit from the banks, and now when it is needed most we find it pretty well cut off in agricultural communities. I say that in no spirit of animosity to the banks at all; I am merely stating the simple fact that in my own constituency, as well as in others in the west, credit to farmers who are deserving of credit has not been given.

The question of interest rates is important. I think the interest rates in the west are too

high. They might very well be adjusted. I am not asking credit on behalf of the farmer without any means or without something behind him; all I ask is that the banks extend reasonable credit on a reasonable basis of security.

Much has been said with respect to the price of wheat. Surely no fault can be attributed to this government for the present price of wheat. I note in the reference to wheat by the hon. gentleman who has just spoken, that he simply calls the attention of the house to the fact that the price of wheat has gone down since this government assumed office. I note this, however, that there has been no suggestion at any time since this house opened, from any hon. member opposite, as to what could or might have been done by the government to increase the price of wheat. And so in respect also to the matter of butter. Had we not so many millions upon millions of pounds of butter in cold storage brought in from New Zealand, perhaps the price in Canada to-day would be much better than it is.

There have also come from many quarters of the house tales of hardship from western Canada. I would say, in respect to the province of Manitoba where I have lived practically all of my life, that the people of that province are not broke. They may be badly bent, but they are still in the field and they will see this thing through. All that we in Manitoba ask is that the agricultural interests of western Canada be assisted to the greatest possible extent.

I wish to refer to certain remarks made in the house on Friday last by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) when he intimated that the foreign elements of western Canada were undesirable, inclined to bolshevism and the cause of racial division in the west. Surely my hon. friend has been misinformed. Let me say definitely and positively that western Canada is not racially divided. What little talk of secession there has been in the west has been grossly exaggerated; a mountain has been made out of a molehill, and anyone having a knowledge of the situation will agree with the statement of the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) that there is no substantial movement for secession in western Canada. Let me further emphasize that the few in number who have been responsible for all the furore are by no means all foreign-born. Speaking for Manitoba, the oldest province in the west, I have yet to hear of a single suggestion of secession from any person in my province. The bare thought of it does not exist and I would remind the house that the population of Manitoba is approximately 675,000. In the next place, if there are in Canada people holding bolshevistic or communistic ideas, they are certainly few in number and are not confined to the west any more than to the east, nor are they people of any particular nationality.

Speaking with particular reference to my constituency, I represent a fairly large riding in the western provinces. I think those on the voters' list number 15,000 to 17,000 people. Approximately one-half of the population of my constituency is composed of people from continental Europe. These people came to Manitoba after the lands close to the railway lines had been picked up and settled by our own Canadian people. The lands were of poorer quality and harder to bring under cultivation. Nevertheless, these people tackled the proposition, and under these handicaps they have made good. They have brought under cultivation and production and made revenue-bearing lands which but for them would be idle to-day. Operating as they do, perhaps, on a smaller scale, being more interested in mixed farming and being more economical in their methods of operation, they are coming through these trying times better in many cases than some of our own people who have operated on a much larger scale. These people are exceedingly anxious to learn the English language. Their children all go to the public schools. Their children are particularly apt and bright, and in many instances they are at the head of their class in both the public and high schools. Many of the young men and women have attended the university and they are to-day occupying positions of honour in professional and business life in all parts of Canada. Owing to their thriftiness and industry they form an integral part of the business life of western Canada. In their homes, as anyone will testify who has visited them, they are most hospitable. They are interested in all things that tend toward the betterment of conditions in the home or in the community. Moreover, practically all these people are naturalized Canadians, and as such, they are entitled to all the rights and privileges of citizens of Canada. To sum the matter up, giving my personal opinion, I would say they were industrious, home-loving and loyal Canadian citizens.

I do not ask the house to accept my opinion alone. I should like to refer to a competition which was held in western Canada last year and which I understand will be held again this year amongst continental Europeans in the west, a community progress competition which originated with Doctor Black, Director of Colonization and Immigration on the Canadian

National. Let us see what the objects are of this contest. I have in my hand an off-print from Queen's Quarterly, setting forth an article on "continental Europeans in western Canada" by Doctor Walter Murray, President of the University of Saskatchewan. In this pamphlet Doctor Murray states that the basis of judgment of the committees which had the matter in hand was as follows:

The committees were to be judged by their progress in education, in agriculture, in citizenship and in the arts, handicrafts and activities that minister to the home and social life.

Doctor Murray goes on to give a little more definite information as to education, agriculture, citizenship and so forth.

For evidence of citizenship, a considerable variety of activities were considered, such as participation in cooperative enterprises, community organizations, such as agricultural societies, homemakers' clubs, clubs for boys and girls, school fairs, and, above all, activities for the promotion of health in the school, the home and the community.

May I call the attention of hon. members to the personnel of the judging staff. In Manitoba there were Doctor Mackay, principal of Manitoba college, Mrs. David Watt, at one time president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and Brother Joseph, principal of Provencher school at St. Boniface. For the province of Saskatchewan, Doctor Murray, president of the university, headed the committee, with Mrs. McNaughton, for years a worker and leader among the farm women, and Doctor Hugh Rose of Dartmouth college, a Manitoba Rhodes scholar who spent fifteen years studying the background of the European races and in Alberta Dr. Wallace, president of Alberta university, Miss Gunn, for years president of the United Farm Women and Dr. Fairfield, superintendent of the Dominion experimental farm at Lethbridge.

I think that hon. members of the house will agree that these judges were leaders in education and in social welfare and community work in western Canada.

What did the judges say with respect to the conditions which they found among these continental Europeans who had settled in Canada? Dr. Black went to Saskatoon during the time the competition was on and there delivered an address to the Canadian club. Subsequently he made a summary of that address, which summary I have in my hand. Dr. Black opens this summary in the following manner:

The community progress competitions among European settlements in the west, which we inaugurated last year, have already demonstrated that among the many thousands of settlers who have come to us from other countries in the past half century, there is found material of the finest type for the building of a splendid Canadian citizenship, with great gifts of industry and integrity.

I omitted to mention in the proper chronological order that in this contest in the three provinces forty communities entered representing about 125,000 persons, 600 schools and nearly 25,000 school children. Thirteen different nationalities of European extraction were represented. What did the judges find as they went about during their judging of the contest?

Everywhere the judges were received with kindness and a courtesy characteristic of Europe at its best. It is difficult to give an accurate picture of one's impressions. Perhaps the most general impression was great surprise and pleasure at the progress made, and the prospect of further advancement. These people have come to Canada to make homes for themselves and their children, not to make fortunes to take back to Europe or to the coast where they may live in idleness. They were industrious and thrifty and have a love for the soil. While they retain an affection for the land of their birth, its customs, language and history, they are anxious to be regarded as Canadians. Some groups resent the use of any other name than Canadian, and all sing "O Canada" and the National Anthem with a fervour and a vigour that put the native-born to shame.

That quotation is from the pamphlet by Dr. Murray, to which I have already referred. Dr. Murray goes on to say:

It may be said that the school buildings, their equipment, sanitary arrangements and grounds are as good as those found in eastern Canada, in some cases better. The efforts put forth for their school by these settlers from continental Europe, and their appreciation of the value of education surpass those of the Canadian or British. In some districts the rate for schools exceeds thirty mills. In one district three families practically assumed responsibility for a new school building and the support of a teacher. The ambitions of the children and of the parents for their children to go to high school, normal school or university, was surprising.

Let me read what Dr. Black has to say in summarizing the results of the competition in each of the three western provinces:

In Alberta our first prize community is a twenty-year old settlement of Ukrainians, with a highly satisfactory record of progress. Most of the farm homes in the district are of a modern type, and the schools are astonishingly well equipped and conducted.

Dr. Black summarizes the situation in Saskatchewan in the following words:

In Saskatchewan the story was one of continual surprises. Our first prize community is a German settlement of more than thirty years' standing peopled by hard working, thrifty settlers, who radiate an air of plenty and prosperity, but who have their own stories of hardships endured.

The findings of the judges in Manitoba were summarized as follows:

In Manitoba we found communities of Ukrainians, Poles, Dutch and German Mennonites, and other nationalities, which not only revealed to us amazing tales of pioneer struggles and hardships, but gave evidence of success won from agricultural conditions which I doubt very much if many Anglo-Saxons would have had the patience and fortitude to stick it out. In the far northern Ukrainian community of Ethelbert—

I might mention that Ethelbert is in my own constituency. Ethelbert won a prize in this contest. I must admit, however, that they took second place to the prize won by Rossburn in the constituency of my hon. friend from Marquette (Mr. Mullins). To continue:

In the far northern Ukrainian community of Ethelbert the judges saw again examples of success won over thirty years of struggle with difficult agricultural conditions, and heard educational records of the large public and high school in that community which were on a level with the best in the province. . . .

Wherever the judges went they heard continually of the sacrifices made by these people from other lands that their children might have full advantage of the educational facilities we provide here for them. No sacrifice seems to have been too great for this purpose.

In all the communities visited our party had evidence in abundance of the industry and genius of the people in these communities, and of their wonderful attainments in handicrafts and music, for everywhere they went they were entertained in the most charming fashion with music of choirs and of gifted soloists; with native dancing, and in all places we saw exhibits of exquisite handicraft.

With respect to the English language and the learning of it, may I quote again from Dr. Black's speech to the Canadian club? He says:

It has also established beyond question, I think, that there is no English language problem in these communities. In every school visited, and the judges made it a point to visit at least four schools in each community, the language was well taught and well spoken in all grades above grade one.

While my own opinion in matters such as this would only be my own opinion, I do submit to this house that the opinion of men and women of the character of the judges who were in charge of this contest is entitled to the respect of hon. members of this house. In this connection may I say finally that as a new member of this house I have endeavoured to render a small measure of justice to those new Canadians in western Canada of whom I think we have no reason to feel ashamed.

Mr. ALFRED SPEAKMAN (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, rising as I do after so many members have spoken and after so many moving and eloquent speeches have been delivered to this house, it might readily be suggested that everything has been said, that every phase of our present situation has been laid bare, that every possibility has been explored, and every shade of public opinion as it exists throughout Canada expressed. Yet, Mr. Speaker, as I see it the chief value of this debate must lie in the unique opportunities it affords for bringing together in this house the various conditions and varied shades of opinion as we find them throughout Canada. This debate offers us an opportunity to view Canada as a whole, an opportunity to seek a clearer understanding of our problems and suggest the desired remedies. Mr. Speaker, in view of the inhibition imposed upon me of limiting my speech to forty minutes I may be pardoned if I make no remarks concerning the many able speeches which have been delivered. Many of them have been thought-provoking, most of them have been characterized by sincerity and fluency of expression. Particularly, may I express my gratification concerning the contribution made by our new colleague from Dauphin (Mr. Bowman) and I would refer especially to the fairness and kindliness evinced by him throughout his address. Due to the same inhibition may I be pardoned, Mr. Speaker, if in offering my fragmentary contribution to this great and complex mosaic we call Canada I confine my remarks largely to the discussion of the situation I best understand and a resume of those circumstances in connection with western agriculture with which I am most intimately acquainted. Not so many years ago the mere utterance of the words "western farmer" or "agriculture" by any member of the group with which I am associated was a signal to launch upon his devoted head a barrage of taunts and jeers, sometimes amounting to vituperation. Fortunately, however, that day has passed due no doubt to a number of causes and possibly due in part to a realization on the part of hon. members of this house that a man may be a farmer, that he may belong to a farmer group, that he may represent a rural constituency and still may give full recognition to the essential interdependence of our institutions and our industries, and may still view with sympathetic understanding the various problems which come before us, whether of a local, national or international character. The present depression is probably the most far reaching and intense which we have experienced in this country. However, out of most evils some good comes and out of the depression has come a greater realization on the part of every right thinking member of this house, of every thinking citizen of Canada, of the

fact that agriculture and the primary industries are in truth the foundation of this nation and that this foundation cannot be imperiled, cannot be shaken or destroyed without imperiling every phase of our economic structure in every part of Canada.

True it is that we still find individuals, decreasing in number, who brush aside lightly any reference to agricultural depression with the statement, "Oh, those farmers always have something to growl about, those farmers are whiners." Mr. Speaker, that word is a libel upon the most courageous, the most optimistic class of men we have in this Dominion —the western farmers.

Then too, there are two classes of thought which have been expressed in this house, both of which are repugnant to my sense of the situation. One view was that expressed by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) who seemed to be of the opinion that although the situation was not very good it might be worse, that it was rapidly improving and that everyone was looking forward in high hope to the near future and that—this conclusion is my own—nothing therefore need be done. The other view was that offered by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) who in extolling the good qualities of the farmers of Quebec, which he was justified in doing, referred to them as not complaining and not kicking, stating that they were prepared to accept willingly all the hardships imposed upon them. The hon. member stated that the farmers of his province were prepared, as a matter of duty to Canada, to accept the present situation. Mr. Speaker, I do not know which of those two views represents the attitude of the present government. I hope neither does because neither view offers any prospect of an adequate attempt to solve our present economic situation. I am fairly well acquainted with the western farmers and I say that they are not content with the present conditions; it would be a libel upon the intelligence of the western farmer to say he was content. He is not content nor will he be content until his standard of living is equal to that of other people in this country; he will not be content until he receives for himself a fair and just share of that wealth which he has created. I have lived in central Alberta for about forty years, having gone to that district in the spring of 1891. During those forty years I have lived as all farmers have, through good years and bad, through times of depression and times of expansion and in my experience I have learned, I hope, something of that philosophy and something of that sense of proportion which must come to any sane thinking man in that period of time. I think my record in this house will be ample proof of the fact that I am not prone to exaggeration. I can say without exaggeration that I never have seen a time so discouraging or an immediate future so black in relation to our western farmers as it is at the present time. A few days ago I had the privilege of listening to that gentle soul, the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins) He forgot however for a moment his sense of fairness and kindness when he spoke of the wheat farmer, as that cowless, sowless, chickenless man upon whose own head might be placed the burden of much of his present distress. I pass for a moment without discussion the tremendous contribution made to this country by the wheat farmer, than whom no class has contributed more to the export trade and upbuilding of this country, as well as the fact that many areas in western Canada are totally unsuited to any kind of farming but that of grain growing, and I ask: Is the mixed farmer any better off? For forty years I have lived in the constituency of Red Deer and the adjacent district, and I may say to this house that that section of central Alberta is considered one of the best diversified farming areas in the western country In Red Deer there was organized the first cooperative live stock shipping association in Alberta and from that point and adjacent points have been shipped through the years many millions of dollars worth of live stock and live stock products. I can say without exaggeration that the condition of the diversified farmer is on a parity with that of the wheat farmer. I do not know of one product of his toil, grain, hogs, beef, poultry, dairy products, live stock, which can be sold now at a price to equal the actual out-of-pocket cost of production.

But it means a little more than that. Not only are conditions bad—and we gain nothing by attempting to delude ourselves by a fort or imbecile optimism—but I have never seen the morale of the men in that section so low as it is to-day. To understand how serious this condition is you must understand the type of men there. During the early nineties we went through some very hard years. At that time the population of central Alberta was composed of a few hundred families living in little log and sod shacks. They faced hardships almost insuperable. They came from eastern Canada and from countries across the sea. They had left behind them the comforts and conveniences of civilization and they had

come out to the prairies to push the boundaries of civilization further westward, to open up for Canada and the empire a great new country. They faced the future with unparalleled courage and boundless optimism. They faced with a smile all the troubles of drought, hail, frost, wind and insect pests, all the privations and the loneliness which must be the lot of a pioneer community. As I say, they went through it with a smile because they always saw before them as a sure objective that comparative comfort, that modest competence which was their aim. I will give the house one illustration of the type of people they are, because, as I have said, you must understand the type before you can appreciate what a lack of morale means there and how serious must be the situation to-day.

Amongst my neighbours, a few miles from my own farm, were a young married couple, a soldier settler and his wife, with a family of three young children. That year by dint of tremendous sacrifice and unstinting labour, they had brought under cultivation and seeded in wheat a fairly large area for a small farm. The prospects of a good crop were very promising, and day after day, night after night, the husband and wife would talk about what that crop meant for them. It meant to them all those things that they had been obliged to do without, all those little conveniences for the home and farm which they needed, new clothes for the wife and children, a new suit for the husband, boots and shoes and toys for Christmas. Then like a bolt from the blue came a western hailstorm and in five minutes not a vestige of their crop remained. Gone were all their hopes. But they did not sit down and whine about it. The wife said to the children, "Let us gather up the hail and have ice cream for dinner." The man said, "With all that moisture what a splendid crop we shall have next year." That is the type—the greatest "next year" people in the world; the world's greatest optimists. And, Mr. Speaker, when I hear those men whom I have known for forty years characterized as whiners and growlers, my gorge rises.

Now, what is the situation at the present time? Bad, as I have stated it; for the first time hundreds of men I know are wondering whether it is worth while to put in a crop. They are prepared to gamble with nature, but to-day they say the dice are loaded against them. If they do get a good crop what is the use of selling it at present day prices? Many more are without a dollar with which to carry on. They go to the bank—that institution created by the law of this country to meet such an emergency—and find that their credit is gone and not one dollar is available for them. What are they to do? Sometimes when I have nothing better to do I read the addresses given by some of our bank presidents and leading financiers in which they state in glowing terms the future of this country of illimitable natural resources, and in particular they express their confidence in the inherent soundness of our western agriculture and their belief that it will enjoy a state of prosperity greater than was ever known before. But, sir, actions speak louder than words, and which conveys the true opinion held by those at the head of our banks and financial institutions, the words they address to their shareholders at the annual meetings, or their attitude when a western farmer goes to his local bank for a loan? Our western farmer finds it impossible to obtain a loan. There is a growing feeling to-day throughout western Canada that a financial system which can only function when times are good, when there is business expansion and rising prices, but which fails miserably and abjectly during times of distress, is not an adequate financial system for this country. The people of western Canada appreciate the statements of the bankers that their duty is to protect their depositors—those overworked widows and orphans whom we always hear about at such a time—whose meagre savings are placed in the care of the banker. Anyone who gives the most superficial study to banking knows that only a very small percentage of loans are made from deposits. But, taking the statement of the bankers at its face value, we have come to the conclusion that if their main function is the safety of their depositors, and if to perform that function they must sacrifice the credit, the needs of the nation,—I say we have come to the conclusion that if that is the case we must find some other financial system with which to secure that credit. We may have to have a national system of banking—and that is my own thought—but if the present system will not function we must establish another that will where we have the necessary security. I am more optimistic than most of the bankers themselves as disclosed by their actions. I believe that eventually when things have gotten so bad that every government will be obliged to face the situation, proper policies will be adopted and we shall have a great future for agriculture.

As I have said the present outlook is discouraging. The future is somewhat black. I have been asked many a time, is it the fault of the present government. Well, Mr.

Speaker, to be perfectly frank, I will say, no, in the main it is not. The present government, in my opinion, is not largely responsible for the situation; nor was it fair, months ago, to attribute entire responsibility to the former government. In the main these conditions are due to world conditions, conditions which might have been corrected in days gone by, which might be corrected now, if governments were not so wedded to old concepts of what was good and what is good. But I am not blaming the present government. I do suggest, however, this—and I shall at this moment saddle the government with no greater responsibility than they themselves have assumed, no more, no less. The members of the present government when in opposition stated that they had diagnosed the complaint and had a remedy. All over the country, men—those who supported them and those who opposed them at the last election—are asking that some of those pledges be redeemed. I am not blaming the government at the moment. They have been in power only a few months, and they have had neither the time nor the opportunity to go into the present situation in any large way. But it is fair to say to them: This is the session when we expect that to be done. This is the time of opportunity, and upon the attempt at least made this session they shall be judged. Not only do I wish them well, in that effort, Mr. Speaker, but as it is their bounden duty as a government to provide these remedies it is also my bounden duty as a Canadian, representing agriculture, to do all I can to help them if they are willing to try.

We can go a little further than that, however. As I said, I am not seeking a scapegoat; I am seeking a remedy, and perhaps nothing can be more ironic or can more completely illustrate the futility of many partisan speeches than what is actually happening to-day. For nine years—and I am taking the words of my hon. friends opposite—we had a government in power which sacrificed agriculture, which gave away their markets and which did nothing for that industry. Now we have a government in power pledged to restore those markets and to see that agriculture has a fair deal. Yet during the last two or three months, for the first time in the history of my province Danish bacon is displacing local bacon on the markets of Alberta. That is not altogether the fault of the government; it simply shows how little governments have done or can do, in a general way. But there are some reasons for that. Coming down to the facts, how is it possible for the Danish farmer to buy grain in Alberta, to pay the transportation costs to Denmark, to feed and process his hogs there and to ship the bacon back here and undersell us? Here is one reason. Some little time ago, when hogs were selling at 5½ cents per pound, the average price of bacon was 40 cents per pound, a spread of 7 to 1 as between the hog and the finished article. I am not taking breakfast bacon and the higher grades, but merely the average price. In Denmark at the same time the Danish farmer was receiving 7½ cents and bacon was selling at 22 cents, a spread of only 3 to 1. It is impossible for any class of producer in this country to compete on terms like those, with the processing spread of 7 to 1 on his part between the raw material and the finished article, as against a 3 to 1 spread of his competitors. It cannot be done. I urge upon this government one thing at least that they may do to help; they should establish one or more experimental processing plants to see if it is not possible to diminish that tremendous spread and allow us to compete.

Then I will go a step further. Our only hope as far as bacon is concerned—and that is important because of the prospect of continued low grain prices and because even now a tremendous increase has taken place throughout the prairies in the number of feeder hogs in the pens, and in a few months there will be a tremendous surplus of hogs—our only hope is to get on the foreign and particularly the British markets. What keeps us from doing that? It is not because of the quality; our bacon is as good as can be found anywhere, and is welcomed by the British consumer. The fact is that the British dealer will not take the trouble to build up a demand for Canadian bacon unless he is sure he can fill that demand from week to week and month to month. In former times we only sent a little shipment to England when prices were low locally or in the United States, and that movement was cut off when prices went up again in our local markets. I ask the government—and I am only expressing what was asked by the convention of the United Farmers of Alberta last January—that a conference be called as soon as possible, because the need is urgent and there is no time to delay, between the packers of this country and representative producers, to see if we cannot guarantee a weekly or monthly delivery of some percentage of our hogs to the British market, in order to build up and hold some kind of market there.

We have been asked to give some practical suggestions. These are not very large, but I believe they are practical suggestions which, if applied, might at least assist us during

these hard times which are ahead of us. These are small matters, but they are none the less important.

There is something, however, much greater and much more necessary than these. Assume for a moment, Mr. Speaker, that some intelligent inhabitant of Mars or of some other world could be dropped into our midst to-day, someone capable of surveying the situation as it is and of comprehending the condition of affairs, without any previous knowledge of our history or of the systems we apply. What would he find? I think he might be pardoned if he said we were a strange race, a mixture of wisdom and imbecility, of knowledge and utter lack of wisdom, because he would find here a people above the average in intelligence and in the application of mechanical science and ingenuity. He would find a country second to none in native fertility and natural resources. He would find everywhere an accumulation of wealth in usable form side by side with the most abject poverty. We speak of markets, and I understand the need for outside markets as well as any man. I know that upon our foreign trade, our export trade, the western farmer must live, and that without it he must die as far as production is concerned, but there is another market than that. Our friends opposite like to speak of a home market. So do I. Do my hon. friends opposite realize for one moment the potential extent, the potential value of that market? I will give another illustration, because sometimes illustrations will convey a fact which it is difficult to drive home in any other way. A few months ago I was in Calgary, and I saw two things which impressed me tremendously, taken in juxtaposition. The first was that the terminal elevator was full of wheat of excellent quality which could not be sold. The second was that during the same week the Calgary council put the unemployed on one meal a day because they could not purchase food for them.

There is one of our markets at least, a market at our doors separated from us by no adverse tariff walls and by no great distances involving huge transportation costs. We must remember that every hungry adult and every under-nourished child is a potential customer for the goods produced by our farmers. That market is separated from us only by the folly of man, by the inadequacy of a bookkeeping system and a system of distribution and finance which no longer functions as it should. Can anybody say that system does function as it should? Why do we have recurrent cycles of depression? I cannot tell you, but I say I am no pessimist in that matter. Your true pessimist is the man who says that depressions, such as we have had at different times and in varying degrees, are inevitable, like the law of gravity and the rising and setting of the sun. There is your true pessimist. I am an optimist, because I say that those depressions arise from man-made causes, and they are susceptible to human control. I am an optimist because, from the beginning of the world's history, every major problem which threatened the dissolution of civilization as it then existed, has been met and solved. This is a problem which must be met and solved also, but it will not be done if we are content to sit still and wait for times to be better. It will not be solved unless we are prepared, as courageous men—

Miss MACPHAIL: And women.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I thought it was unnecessary to speak of the courage of the women. It will not be done unless we have the courage to go forward with new ideas and bring about new conditions. I have heard people speak of the menace of communism to this country, the menace of the ultra-radical who walks up and down this land scattering his false doctrines throughout the country. No man has ever accused me of having sympathy with those doctrines, Mr. Speaker. I have been accused sometimes of not being sufficiently radical, but I have never been accused of being too radical. I have no sympathy with those doctrines, believing them to be destructive rather than constructive, although I have a great deal of sympathy with the conditions out of which they have arisen. However, they are not the menace to-day; their own violence defeats their ends. The menace to-day is the self-complacent inertia of men who, themselves in comfortable circumstances, fail to realize what is going on in the world around them. If we do reach a state of chaos; if we do find ourselves in the midst of revolution, which God forbid, it would be those self-complacent gentlemen who would be responsible, those who having ears hear not what is going on and what is said around them; those who having minds, supposedly, understand not, and who having eyes close them to the human suffering around them.

I have made two or three small suggestions in my own way; beyond that I have no power to go. But I do suggest, as I suggested before—and it will stand reiteration for the sake of emphasis: We must first understand the situation, and to that end I have spoken in what sounds like a pessimistic strain. I have outlined the truth, as I know it, during these forty years and during late months. We must first recognize the problems and con-

ditions. There is no use being blind to them; there is no use saying all is well when all is not well. And then we must set ourselves to solve those problems. The responsibility must in the nature of things lie on the government in power; it cannot be otherwise. They have accepted the responsibility, and that responsibility they cannot evade, of going forward and doing what they said they would do—study, understand and apply the remedy. And this session is their opportunity. By it they will rise or they will fall. Never, in my opinion, was such a responsibility laid upon a government in late years; never was such an opportunity as that which belongs to this government to-day. I for one will reserve my judgment as to the agricultural policy of the government because the speech from the throne may mean anything or nothing. It may contain, within its vague references, the most beneficial legislation, or it may mean nothing. But for myself and for the constituents whom I represent, I say that we are prepared to give every opportunity, to make every allowance for the difficulties. But we are not prepared to accept any alibis. We are simply asking that the government in power, realizing the situation, and realizing the weight of the obligation which is theirs, shall perform what they undertook to do. If they do so, or if they make an honest attempt to do so, I can only assure them of all the assistance and sympathy which I can give.

Mr. E. R. E. CHEVRIER (Ottawa) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, to the hon. members who have moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech from the Throne, I extend my congratulations for their deserving efforts. Indeed, it needed great courage to say the things they uttered with reference to the present administration, and I trust that their constituents, in the next election, will not be too severe in this regard.

Before I discuss the speech from the throne I desire to say a few words in reference to the situation in which we find ourselves to-day. It is with considerable reluctance and with considerable diffidence that I do so, and my task is rendered easier by the fact that the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), who is Deputy Speaker of this house, is at the moment occupying the Speaker's chair. For that circumstance at least I am not responsible. True, the high office of deputy speaker allows that the deputy speaker may take the chair on occasions such as this. The hon. member for Montmagny on Friday last took it upon himself to deliver to this house a speech which, Mr. Speaker, in my humble opinion, it would have been better had it not been delivered at all. The hon. gentleman invoked as a reason for the delivery of that speech the fact that he was speaking in the interests of his constituents. I have read the contents of that speech and have not found anything in it that related directly to the interests of the constituents of Montmagny. The hon. gentleman also said that he wanted to put an end to old sores and wounds, but he spent four-fifths of his time in scratching the old wounds and laying bare the old sores, leaving the scrapings at the door of the Liberal administration. I shall not follow him in that way; I shall not endeavour to show that the hon. member was right or that he was wrong. But there has arisen out of that situation on Friday last a very peculiar one. The hon. gentleman has said that the position of deputy speaker does not exist in this house. I take his words from Hansard of March 20, at page 177:

> It does not appear in the rules of the house; it does not appear in any of the comments of either Beauchesne, Bourinot or May. I am only the chairman of the committee of the whole house.

I think it is most important that we should know whether there is such a position as deputy speaker in this house. I want no better authority than Beauchesne's Parliamentary Procedure. I am not so much concerned with May or Bourinot. I take Beauchesne, and at page 372 of the 1927 edition, under Standing Order 56, I find the following:

> A chairman of committees who shall also be deputy speaker of the house shall be elected at the commencement of every parliament,—

Then section 2:

> The member elected to serve as deputy speaker and chairman of committees shall be required to possess the full and practical knowledge of the language which is not that of Mr. Speaker for the time being.

Then section 3:

> The member so elected as deputy speaker—

And so forth. Then section 4:

> In the absence of the deputy speaker—

And so on. That might be conclusive in itself, but I want to refer to the Rules and Forms of Beauchesne, the 1927 edition. Surely the hon. member for Montmagny, who is deputy speaker, is not without knowledge of the provision of rule 480, which I am about to quote. It reads:

> The deputy speaker—
>
> Not chairman of committees.
>
> —receives an annual salary of $4,000, in addition to his sessional indemnity.

Surely the hon. member for Montmagny, who occupies the position of deputy speaker,

if he should desire to draw this salary over and above his indemnity, must do so as deputy speaker and not as chairman of committees.

The hon. member for Montmagny, at page 201 of unrevised Hansard of March 20, proceeds:

I trust that any mistakes I may make they will attribute to my poor education.

I have never heard such expressions of modesty from the hon. member for Montmagny in the past. His poor education? A little further down he says:

I speak to-day as a Conservative by conviction, not by education or birth.

Let me discuss these various words together. At page 202 the hon. member says:

I must say, as a Canadian of French descent, and a Conservative by education . . . .

Well, Mr. Speaker, I find myself in a very difficult situation, in that the hon. member for Montmagny is not in his place; the deputy speaker is not in his seat. I have to solve the difficulty as best I can. The hon. gentleman cannot get away with statements of that kind. His poor education; a Conservative by conviction, not by education or birth. The hon. member, I remember well, was at Ottawa university with me, we studied at Ottawa university together. In the biography of the hon. member for Montmagny, in the Parliamentary Guide, I find that he was born in 1880, and was educated at College du Sacre Coeur, Arthabaska, Quebec Seminary, Ottawa university and Laval university; and around 1896 or 1898 he attended Ottawa university. I remember those days, Mr. Speaker, when the distinguished father of the present Deputy Speaker was Mr. Justice LaVergne. The Parliamentary Guide brings us back to the days of 1887 when the Hon. Joseph LaVergne was member for Drummond-Arthabaska in the federal house as a supporter of the Liberal party. He was elected in 1887, again in 1891 and again in 1896. Then my hon. friend's uncle replaced the Hon. Joseph LaVergne in 1900 and was elected in 1904 and re-elected in 1908. I remember those days when the hon. gentleman was a close attendant at the house of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when his distinguished father lived in this city; he had practised law with Sir Wilfrid. No man in the city of Ottawa has been in closer intimacy with Liberal principles than the hon. member for Montmagny. In 1904 the hon. member for Montmagny was elected to that constituency by the efforts of Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself.

Mr. LAVERGNE: If my hon. friend will allow me, if he looks in Hansard of 1906 he will find a copy of a document which I handed to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and which I was asked to sign. He will see I refused to run as anything but as an Independent Liberal.

Mr. CHEVRIER: It is a good thing the hon. gentleman is now in his seat.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Not for my hon. friend.

Mr. CHEVRIER: The hon. gentleman was elected in 1904. He may later have become an independent. Then he resigned in 1908. He became a nationalist. That was the privilege of the hon. member. In 1917 he ran as an independent Liberal in Montmagny, and was defeated. In 1921 he ran as a straight Conservative in Quebec county.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I beg your pardon; I ran as a Liberal.

Mr. CHEVRIER: So much the better. The hon. gentleman is showing good taste. In 1925 he ran as a Conservative in Montmagny and was defeated. In 1926 he ran as a Conservative in Montmagny and was defeated. I understand that in 1930 the hon. gentleman ran, not as a Liberal but as an Independent Conservative, and was elected.

The hon. member, as reported just a few words lower down on page 201 of unrevised Hansard, has this to say:

I claim that, being perfectly independent of partisan politics, I have become a good Tory.

If the hon. gentleman has become a Conservative it is either as a result of education or of evolution. It is pretty hard for him to say that to-day he is a Conservative because of the Liberal education he received. If he travelled on the road to Damascus in that way, the road was rather rough. I can only apply to the hon. gentleman, after that wonderful experience of conversion, the words of Sir Wilfrid: "What a salad!" If the hon. gentleman has reached the stage of perfection now that he is a good Tory, nonpartisan, and if that be the result of evolution or education, in whatever way the hon. gentleman means it, I want to leave him with the words uttered by the Prime Minister at Guelph on May 11, 1930. If the hon. member for Montmagny is a convert, those words of the Prime Minister may fittingly apply:

Whenever you have any convert doing something he has not been brought up to do, he will always make a mess of it.

I find in Hansard words that never should have been spoken, words that never should have found their way into Hansard, and more particularly, as coming from a son of the old province of Quebec, words, which, being unparliamentary, should be ruled out. I turn

to Beauchesne's Parliamentary Procedure, and it is with the greatest reluctance that I repeat the words as I find them on page 183 of Hansard:

Mr. LaVergne. . . . Who betrayed the province of Quebec if it was not the great Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

Why associate the name of the great Sir Wilfrid Laurier with an expression of betrayal? I cannot read the hon. gentleman's mind, and for many reasons, but why associate those words in that way? The definition of "betrayer" is "traitor." I could ask that those words be removed from Hansard, because according to May and Beauchesne expressions of that character have previously been ruled out of order. But far be it from me to demand that the words be expunged from the record; I want them to remain in Hansard as a sword in its scabbard. I want them to remain there so that they may forever ring in the ears of the hon. member for Montmagny. I want them to remain there so that they may be read by his constituents and by the people of the province of Quebec, English and French, and of every denomination. I want them to remain there so that the people of Canada may be able properly to appreciate the hon. gentleman's worth. I desire to conclude by saying to the hon. gentleman, in the words of Victor Hugo, "L'oeil était dans le tombe et regardait Cain." —The eye was forever there looking at Cain.

Mr. LAVERGNE: If the hon. member wants to discuss the question with me in the province of Quebec, he will be welcome, but I do not think he will do so.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Yes. I will be glad to consider that in due course. I want to conclude by quoting the words of the Prime Minister which will be found at page 179 of Hansard. They are words that exactly fit the occasion and apply aptly to it. This is what the Prime Minister said:

As to participating in any debate in which highly controversial or—shall I say?—highly political differences manifest themselves, his own judgment, his own good sense, must be the determining factors with respect to the extent to which he does so participate. Because the punishment is clear; he forfeits the esteem and regard of the house, and if he becomes a violent partisan his usefulness as deputy speaker will be regarded as ended. If, on the other hand, he discharges the onerous duties which we have asked him to accept according to the traditions of this house—because there is no deputy speaker at Westminster at the moment—then he will merit the commendation and approval of this chamber. That seems to me to be the rule which should govern in a matter of this kind.

I leave the hon. gentleman; I leave his speech and I leave his fate to hon. members of the house.

I daresay if the Prime Minister were to summon sufficient courage to return to the city of Calgary, he would be unable to use more aptly the words he uttered there last summer. Undoubtedly he would see that there is now a much larger body of white-buttoned men parading the streets. The words he used on that occasion are certainly fitting to-day. He said:

Surely he could not stop his ears with smug complacence and self-esteem to the cry that carries across the nation, the cry of the destitute and hungry, the cry of the fathers and mothers of little children who call to us as Canadians and as christians to heal their pain.

Those words fit the occasion to-day better than at any time in the past. Now more than ever is the opportune time for the right hon. gentleman, after his sterile trip to the Imperial conference, after his failure to "blast" new roads into the markets of the world, to repeat the words he used at Calgary on the 13th of June last. May he find some consolation in them, and may they give the Canadian people some relief. These are the words he then used, and this is the situation he is now facing:

We will look over the top of the wall and beyond the horizon to make provision for the Canadian agriculturist and secure markets for him.

After looking over the top of the wall and looking for markets for the agriculturist! A new Moses in quest of a promised land.

In order perhaps better to describe the present situation I might quote the words of the Prime Minister, speaking at Regina, as reported in the Regina Leader-Post of the 11th of June last. Perhaps we may find some consolation there. He is quoted as saying:

There is a good time coming.

But he adds:

We may not live to see it.

I want no better authority to describe the present situation than that of the editor of the Liberal-Conservative organ in Ottawa, Mr. O'Leary. He contributed, under his name, an article to the Commonweal Review, entitled Canada Faces Her Problems. It appears in the issue of January 21, 1931, and reads:

Canada, like the United States, is beset by political unrest and economic depression. Mr. Hoover may be bowed down by the problem of prohibition, the plight of the northwestern farmers and the insurgency of congress, but it is doubtful whether his position is more onerous than that of Premier Bennett back from the London Imperial economic conference empty-

handed, confronted by farmers who want a fixed price for their wheat; by nation-wide unemployment; by the threat of an enormous budget deficit.

Never since the post-war depression, which produced an agrarian uprising in the west and brought a new orientation in party politics, has the Dominion experienced such vicissitudes.

Mr. O'Leary, writing of the Prime Minister's attempt to secure better trade facilities with Great Britain, does not call that humbug, but he says:

Mr. Bennett's course lacked the approval of his warmest supporters.

He adds:

It was therefore a hard blow to Canadian homes when the London conference failed to offer even a ray of promise to the western farmer.

He says further:

The chief effect of the conference, indeed, so far as Canada is concerned, was that Mr. Bennett, who went to England with a high ambition for imperial economic unity based upon tariff, left London with a veiled threat of economic separatism.

Mr. O'Leary continues:

Nor was this the end. Mr. G. Howard Ferguson, premier of Ontario, who was recently appointed Canadian High Commissioner to London, committed the extraordinary indiscretion of making a vigorous attack upon the socialist policies of the Labour government to which he has been accredited. This, not unnaturally, has added to the strained relations between Ottawa and Downing street, and has made cooperation between the two governments difficult, if not impossible. Mr. Philip Snowden, the acid-tongued socialist Chancellor of the Exchequer, has a good memory.

But what is most interesting is the summing up of the present situation by Mr. O'Leary in these words:

So Mr. Bennett has returned to Canada, which has still some 250 million bushels of unsold wheat, and which has an acute unemployment problem, and whose declining revenues threaten an enormous deficit at the close of the fiscal year. The weakness of his position is like that of Mr. Hoover in the United States, who took office on a platform of prosperity.

He goes on:

After four months—

It is now six.

—and millions voted for unemployment relief, the western wheat problem remains unsolved.

That is an appreciation from one of the Conservative party's staunchest supporters.

I should like to quote from another article, written in about the same tone, which appeared in MacLean's Magazine. I am not saying that Mr. O'Leary is the author of this article, but he is a very frequent contributor to MacLean's. We in Ottawa have good reason to remember that, because Mr. O'Leary wrote an article about the civil service some years ago entitled The Pork Barrel. The civil service has always received the considerate attention of the Conservative party. Mr. O'Leary wrote the article to which I have just referred. It was the hon. member for East Algoma (Mr. Nicholson) who some years ago made some nasty remarks about the civil service. It was the hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. White) who some weeks ago recommended a general slash in the civil service, and it was a Conservative member of the Ontario provincial house who called civil servants "parasites."

The article to which I am about to refer is entitled Back Stage at Ottawa, by a Politician with a Notebook It reads:

Governments begin to die when they are born,—

Never was truer word said about the present government:

—and some old politicians, looking under the surface, and knowing something of what transpires behind the scenes, agree that Mr. Bennett's ministry, launched with such seeming virility, has ingredients of decay. They admit its good record in some fields. They concede the Prime Minister's resolute will to get things done; they praise his vigour and courage in the special session of parliament; they applaud his provision of work. Yet a lot of them stop there. They stop at the point where they hold that Mr. Bennett's strength is his weakness; that his attitude of domination toward nearly everything and everybody, coupled with his aloofness from his ministers and the rank and file of his party, bodes no good for the future. He is, said one hard-bitten veteran, Woodrow Wilson over again. Yet though reefs and shoals be ahead, no impenetrable gloom encircles Mr. Bennett. Some in his party may furtively complain or express whispered doubt, but the majority are loyal or well-disciplined and are prepared to give him a blank cheque.

An authoritarian, a terrific, dynamic force, brooking no opposition, and with a certain intellectual superiority, he is master of his administration, and it would take a pretty formidable palace revolution to put another in his place. His ministers often disagree with him. Some disagreed with his reply to Britain's Thomas; disagreed with his standing behind the banks to steady the wheat in the west. But Mr. Bennett had his way. And as long as his policies succeed, or promise to succeed, he will go on having his way. As much as a government can be, this is a one-man government.

I take this from the Ottawa Journal of the 11th of March last. Speaking of the anticipated stand of His Majesty's loyal opposition, the editor says:

They will seek to show—and at this Mr. King is a master—that Mr. Bennett is a tyrant, an autocrat, a sort of Mussolini and Marshal Pilsudski rolled into one; a dictator who is running the nation in blinkers, governing it by order in council.

After saying that, the same editorial goes on to say:

When the proper time comes and orators are weary, Mr. Bennett will bring down his policies, put on his whips, bring on his divisions, produce his necessary majorities.

I should like to refer to what the Prime Minister said when he was speaking at Vancouver. He is reported in the Montreal Gazette of June 19, 1930, as follows:

So would I, when the government is mine, continue to blast a way through all our troubles and difficulties.

Much more recently, in Hansard of the 17th of March, at page 60, he said:

I came into power—our government came into being.

When the Liberal administration came into power in 1921, they found that the coffers of state were depleted and the revenues gone, just as they shall find them when they get back at the next opportunity. During the session of 1930 we brought down our budget. We showed reductions in taxation; we showed reductions in the national debt; we showed payments made out of the revenues; in fact, the nation was in a state of uncontradicted prosperity. A few months later the election took place and the present administration took over the reins of office. At once they proceeded to disturb, change and destroy the fundamental policies of the previous administration and to replace them by new principles. The reaction was great and spelled disaster. Now verily the country is in the state of distress which was described by the present members of the government during the last election. Canada under the policies of the previous administration, although facing aggravated special conditions fared better than any other nation. But the sudden changes brought about by the present government absolutely interrupted the avenues of commerce and trade and placed fear, dissatisfaction and lack of confidence into the hearts and souls of the Canadian people. The great fears they entertained before the election were at once realized when the present administration assumed office. Immediately our revenues began to decrease. Unemployment instead of being checked increased; financial distress increased. In connection with unemployment I wish to quote from the Labour Gazette of February, 1931. This article is published by the authority of the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson), who yet has no seat in this house. At page 208 I find the following:

During August and September, very little variation from July conditions was shown,—

Bearing out exactly what I have said above.

—the tendency, however, being in a less favourable direction. Unemployment continued to rise steadily—

After the special session called to end unemployment.

—until the close of the year; the contractions being more extensive each month until the last day of December, when the percentage of idleness stood at 17·0, being the peak of unemployment for the year.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, as soon as the doctor took charge of the patient and administered the medicine the condition of the patient became worse. I do not wish to enter into any controversy as to whether or not the historical words of Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the colonies, fitted the occasion about which he spoke, but I am sure they most fittingly suit the present circumstances in Canada in reference to the policies recently enunciated by the present administration.

I must hurry on, but in passing may I say a few words about the legislation contemplated by the hon. the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan). I extend to him my congratulations for advocating these necessary changes in respect to copyright. I sincerely trust that after the bill has been fully considered the aims and purposes surrounding the introduction of the bill will be achieved. It is time that the voice of those for whose protection the law is drafted should be given some attention and that the Copyright Act should be an act to protect copyright owners and not one to make easier plagiarism and the unlawful and detrimental exploitation of authors' rights by unscrupulous captains of industry.

I wish to deal with one further point. I have learned that suggestions have been made to the effect that large reductions are to take place in civil service salaries. Some of the changes are to come about by superannuation, some by retirement and some by reorganization. I want to warn the administration that it should not attempt to lower salaries in the civil service; such action would be disastrous. The state has not the right to set such an example for manufacturers or people in industry over whom they have no immediate jurisdiction. If the state begins to reduce salaries of its employees it will be setting a tremendously bad example for the rest of Canada. Not only should the government refuse to reduce salaries but it should stand by every word of the contracts entered into with these people who are employed in

the civil service. I understand some employees are to be superannuated. There are two systems of superannuation: Under the new law the government may superannuate an employee at the age of sixty-five; under the old law there is no age limit at which the employee may be retired. Removal from office must be in the public interest, or because the employee concerned is physically or mentally unfit to continue in the position he has occupied. I warn the government that they will not escape liability simply by asking the Civil Service Commission to make a reorganization and by placing upon its shoulders the responsibility of saying who ought to go who ought not to go. We have had just recently a most glaring example of the power of the government to do as it pleases in the matter of dismissal; in that connection I shall say more at a later time. If those who have reached the age of sixty-five are to be retired it is unfortunate that through the indiscretion of the publishers of the Parliamentary Guide we learn that the right hon. the Prime Minister is approaching the age of sixty-five. Who would believe that the hon. Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) will be seventy years of age on April 1 of this year? The Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) will be seventy years old on October 31. The hon. gentleman who so ably represents the Prime Minister in his absence, the hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley) will be seventy-five on September 12. He is hale and hearty enough and is at present in Buenos Aires. No one would believe that the hon. the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) will be sixty-six on August 15. The Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) will be sixty-six on April 13. So the government would do well to take care when it tampers with the payrolls of its employees. If such action is in the public interest great care should be exercised. The changes may be made through a desire to inaugurate the patronage system after an election. It may be that the changes are to be made to allow promotions to under employees. It would be most unfair if those who are to fill new positions discharged their duties at a remuneration smaller than that of the previous incumbent. If the one who is promoted receives the minimum salary of the person who has been superannuated there would be very little difference financially because someone would have to be appointed to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of other clerks. It would be most unfair to ask the new incumbent to carry on at the minimum salary. I say therefore that in the public interest the matter has to be very carefully considered. When the proper time arrives I will check up the various appointments and changes. The same applies to statutory increases. I think hon. members take it for granted that it is the intention of the government to do away with statutory increases of salaries exceeding $2,500. I say the government has no right to take that action because when these employees took office it was understood, and it is the law, that so long as they filled their positions to the satisfaction of their chiefs or deputies they were entitled to statutory yearly increases. I say the government has not the right to break those contracts. The government has no right to supervise or direct the salaries of people working outside the civil service—we sympathize with them, but they are not employees of the state and parliament has no control over their pay; but the government has no right to deal in this way with salaries within the service. The government should at once give instructions to the Beatty commission to continue and perform the work for which it was appointed. I do not think the right hon. gentleman intends to balance his budget at the expense of the servants of the state. I do not think he intends to set a bad example to the rest of the nation in that regard.

At all times there rests upon the shoulders of the members of this house a great responsibility, charged as they are with the passing of measures most conducive to the material comfort, happiness and prosperity of the Canadian people. But at no time is that responsibility greater than it is at present. We have to-day to do with conditions that are worse than those that obtained before the war. But to face this world-wide depression the nations are not resorting to armed, defensive tactics and operations. In this financial and economic crisis they are seeking means to dispel and forever extinguish those disturbing factors and principles. There are now two great factors or systems being tried and opposed to each other, high and low tariffs. The question is, which of the two, a high or a low wall, will produce greater financial and economic safety to the nation, protect its interior trade and at the same time allow the expansion of its exterior trade. The right hon. Prime Minister and his followers believe that the financial security of Canada resides in building around its borders tariff walls of such height as were never before built. Those ideas and doctrines I respect. I believe our friends on the other side are sincere, but in my view Canada's destiny can-

not be marked out in that way. I do not believe that its financial and economic salvation can be assured by the erection of high and inflexible trade barriers, but rather by the putting into effect of such tariffs as will meet circumstances and conditions as they arise, having as their foundation such basic principles as will permit elasticity and flexibility.

Sir, I feel sure that when the time comes again for the Canadian nation to select between the two doctrines, it will unhesitatingly and resolutely turn its eyes to, and again embrace, those principles and doctrines under which it lived in peace, progress, happiness and contentment from 1921 until July last, under the Liberal standard.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. T. A. THOMPSON (Lanark): Mr. Speaker, in rising to continue this debate I wish to congratulate the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address for the splendid speeches which they delivered in this house, reflecting as they did great credit not only upon themselves but also upon the constituencies which they have the honour to represent.

It was a herculean task that confronted the present administration when they took office. Conditions for which they were not responsible had to be faced, and they went about it in a businesslike manner. True to his promise the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) called a special session of parliament, and notwithstanding the criticism of hon. members opposite, that special session relieved a great deal of distress throughout the Dominion of Canada. The $20,000,000 voted on that occasion lifted a great burden off many shoulders and provided food, clothing and fuel which many families throughout the length and breadth of this country otherwise could not have secured. Not only was the money voted; tariff changes were made, and notwithstanding the criticism that has been offered regarding those changes, they also were a great aid in relieving unemployment. They gave heart to the people of this country; they put new life blood into the veins of industry and gave courage to the dairymen of Ontario and of Canada at large. I am speaking particularly of eastern Ontario when I refer to the dairy business. The importation of New Zealand butter had almost driven the dairy business to the wall; the bringing into this country of millions of pounds of butter annually, which could have been and would otherwise have been produced here, was a great reflection on the administration which permitted it. To-day new courage is felt by dairymen all over the country and already the production of butter has been greatly increased.

I might give an instance from the county of Lanark, which I have the honour to represent, with regard to the effect of what was done at the short session in order to relieve existing conditions. In the four towns in Lanark county $150,000 has been spent during the past winter in unemployment relief. That represents the amount granted by this government, supplemented by contributions from municipalities. Hence we had no unemployment in any of the towns or in the country districts throughout Lanark; any man who was willing to work was provided with work, and in that regard conditions were all that could be desired. However, that was not all. An English firm name Hearst, which had worked up a large cloth trade in Canada, having a wholesale house in Montreal and agents travelling all over the country, sent their representatives to Canada to look up a suitable location. They wished to retain their Canadian business, so they purchased the Hawthorne mills in the town of Carleton Place, which had been idle for some six years, and since last fall have spent half a million dollars on that property. To-day that mill is running to full capacity and employing some two hundred men. The other day the president of that company informed me that they could not keep up with their orders and would be obliged to increase the capacity of their plant. At a dinner in the town of Carleton Place not long ago Mr. Hearst, president of the company, said he was manufacturing in Carleton Place as a result of the policy of the Conservative party.

I ask hon. members of the house to compare that policy of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) for the relief of unemployment and the bringing back of prosperity to this country with the policy of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), the policy of "not a five cent piece for a Tory province." Where would we be to-day if that policy had been carried out? I was indeed surprised to hear the right hon. leader of the opposition express the opinion in this house that the tariff changes made during the short session were a sop handed out to certain industries or big interests in this country. The right hon. gentleman is a great student of political economy; he knows as well as any man in this house knows that

there is nothing to be gained but everything to be lost by sowing the seeds of distrust among the people of this country who are engaged in different occupations.

I believe a great deal of the distress which existed throughout the country when the present administration took office might have been avoided had there been foresight, vision and proper administration during the last nine years. We have heard hon. gentlemen opposite complain that conditions are not better. I say it took the Liberal administration nine years to demoralize the trade, the industry and the agriculture of this country. Do any sensible men think business can be built up again in a few months. However, I believe the present Prime Minister is administering the proper medicine and that in due course the patient will recover.

Further I want to say that the building up of industry in Canada will be a great boon to our agriculturists. No farmer can dispose of his goods to his fellow farmer; for the consumption of our farm products we must depend wholly on the men and women engaged in the industrial life of this country, and all other countries. If men engaged in industry have good pay and steady employment they will have purchasing power and we will have a ready market for our goods. You could not place upon the statute book a law which would injure any one class of our community without the result being felt by every other class. Our interests are indissolubly linked together and cannot be separated; we must stand or fall together, and the man who sows the seeds of distrust is doing a very unpatriotic thing. What do we care whether or not the man at our right hand or the man at our left hand speaks the same language or kneels at the same altar? What do we care whether he was born in Canada or has made this the land of his adoption, so long as he is a good Canadian citizen ready to develop this country and build upon the foundations so well and solidly laid by the fathers of confederation?

The hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer), speaking in this house the other day, was asked the question across the floor by some hon. member on this side, as to what it cost to produce a bushel of wheat, and after some hesitation he said, 70 to 75 cents, according to differing conditions. I want to give this house a short story of a neighbour of mine who, about twenty years ago, with very little capital, went to Saskatchewan. He has been returning for a number of years, and spending his winters in Ontario, when he has not gone to Florida or California. This winter he was in Ontario. I asked him the same question: What does it cost you to produce a bushel of wheat in Saskatchewan? He told me that at the present time he was cultivating five thousand acres of land, himself and his son; and he said it was costing them 40 cents a bushel to produce wheat in Saskatchewan. And he was not boasting. I asked him what was the secret of his success and he replied, "The secret of my success is living within my means and keeping away from the banks". I am giving you what he told me—a successful farmer from Saskatchewan. I believe he was correct.

We hear a great deal about easy money, and I should be sorry to see any farmer who required it, and who was in distress, who could not get a reasonable loan so long as he had security to give. But I do say that the prosperous farmers, in either eastern or western Canada, are those who have kept away from the banks. There are very few agricultural operations to-day, either in eastern or in western Canada, in connection with which a man can borrow money and pay the interest charged at the banks and make a profit. Therefore personally I must say that I have always kept away from the banks, unless I had a cheque to cash or money to deposit.

There is one thing that confronts Canada to-day and we must not minimise its importance, and that is the menace of Russia. And this government is to be commended upon its prompt action in saying to the people of Canada that, no matter whether it is profitable or unprofitable, we shall have no truck or trade with the soviet government. Russia to-day is producing practically the same things that Canada is producing. The products of their forests and farms, the products of their mines are coming into competition with those of Canada on the markets of the world. And they are produced to-day by serf labour. They are produced by a form of slavery, and until Russian conditions have become normal no self-respecting country should trade or make trade relations with them. Russia to-day, in her present condition, is a menace to the whole civilized world.

The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) the other day in the house held up a pair of socks. That was no new thing; I was quite accustomed to such an exhibition. There was a gentleman carrying a pair during the campaign last summer, and they had the same price on them, 10 cents. We had an investigation made and found that those socks were made in Japan, and the girls who operated the knitting machines were receiving 12 cents a day. I ask the hon. gentleman whether he wants goods manufactured

in a foreign country under those conditions to be sent to Canada to compete with our manufactures here. Personally, if I had the doing of it, I would put a wall as high as Haman's gallows against any importations from a foreign country whose standard of living and scale of wages are so far beneath those in the Dominion of Canada.

In a young country like Canada there should be no permanent depression. We have great natural resources and we have a great people. We have sprung from a great stock; we are the children of two great races. We are the descendants of two great empires which for over a thousand years have taken a leading part in the civilizing and peopling of the whole known world. What have we to fear?

Mr. POULIOT: When the French settlers came to Canada, France was not an empire; it was a kingdom.

Mr. THOMPSON (Lanark): I thank the hon. member for the information. It is quite true that conditions in Canada are not just as we should like to have them. But I have no fear for the future of this great country. Canada in her distress has thrown aside the fallacies of the Liberal party and pinned her faith to the principles and policies of the Conservative party. And the Conservative party, under the leadership of the right hon. Prime Minister, will not betray the confidence which the people of Canada have placed in them.

Mr. A. F. TOTZKE (Humboldt): Before making a few remarks on the questions raised by the speech from the throne and the amendment to the address in reply moved by my right hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King), I wish to say a few words regarding the speech made the other day by the hon. the deputy speaker (Mr. LaVergne).

May I say at the outset that for a good many years I have lived among French Canadians and I know them well. I have fought for them and with them. Some of my closest friends are of that race. I have a great admiration for them. I have heard many of them express admiration for my hon. friend the deputy speaker, but after the speech of my hon. friend I am afraid that admiration will change to something else. It may be that it will change only to pity—pity such as one feels when he finds that a great mind has broken under the strain. My hon. friend would have this house and country believe that he is working for a united and harmonious Canada, but I wish to say this, Mr. Speaker: Although I am not of French, English, Scottish or Irish descent, when it comes to loyalty to the land of my birth, when it comes to a desire to do whatever lies in my power to help Canada, I will take off my hat to no one, and more especially not to the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne). He says he is a Canadian. Mr. Speaker, if Canada is to depend for her future on Canadianism of this kind, then I say, may the Lord help Canada. I have in my constituency a good many people who are not of the races mentioned by my hon. friend, but they are loyal, law-abiding Canadians. The younger generation, born in this country, are as loyal Canadians as we have. They are studying the history of their country; they are anxiously looking for anything that will increase their loyalty and love for the land of their birth, the land chosen by their fathers. I pray that those young people may not see the speech of the hon. member for Montmagny. The hon. member says in his speech as reported at page 182 of Hansard:

> If you had had in your western country Canadians of French descent, of French tradition, or, speaking plainly, habitants of Quebec, instead of the foreign element which you brought in, do you think bolshevist speeches along the lines of those of Lenin in Russia would be possible in Canada?

In spite of what the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) has said, there has been in western Canada some discussion on the question of secession. I do not want to discuss that at this moment, except to say that the originators of this idea were not of the foreign element my hon. friend describes, but belong to the favoured races, the races that he says are the only ones who can possibly make a united and harmonious Canada.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I think my hon. friend is misquoting me.

Mr. TOTZKE: I am not misquoting; I am not quoting at all just now.

Mr. LAVERGNE: If my hon. friend is not quoting me, I rise to a point of order. He has no right to put into my mouth words that I have never used.

Mr. TOTZKE: I read the quotation from my hon. friend's speech. He said:

> If you had had in your western country Canadians of French descent, of French tradition, or, speaking plainly, habitants of Quebec, instead of the foregn element which you brought in, do you think bolshevist speeches along the lines of Lenin in Russia would be possible in Canada?

If that is not working against the harmony of Canada, I would like to know what is. I do not say there are not people of those races

who have joined the movement, but they did not originate it, and they do not dominate it. I deplore as much as anyone can appeals to religious and racial prejudices to gain party advantage. I have at times had to suffer from that myself. I deplore as much as the hon. member the attitude of the Premier of Saskatchewan toward the French language, but this is what my hon. friend says as reported on page 182 of Hansard:

If Mr. Anderson is allowed to do to-day what he intends to do out west in Saskatchewan, where does the fault lie? It lies on the other side of the house.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Hear, hear.

Mr. TOTZKE: My hon friend says "Hear, hear." I am not misquoting him now.

Mr. LAVERGNE: No.

Mr. TOTZKE: Again he says as reported on page 183 of Hansard:

And if Mr. Anderson is allowed to do what he is doing to-day, where did he get the right and the power?

I hope my hon. friend agrees that he is being quoted properly.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Quite correct.

Mr. TOTZKE: Surely the conversion of the hon. member to the Conservative party has been thorough. He denounces the action of the Premier of Saskatchewan and then he proceeds to excuse it. He says that if Mr. Anderson gets the right and power to do these things, it is because years ago the Liberal party did not protect the rights of minorities in Canada. Is that not wonderful logic? The action of the Premier of Saskatchewan is wrong, but he has the right and power to do this thing that he has done because at some time in the past someone else did the same thing.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Will my hon. friend allow me to correct him? I said that in 1905, when the autonomy bills were passed, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and I asked Sir Wilfrid Laurier not to grant that power to the new provinces, but to protect the rights of the minorities, and on the 21st of February he was in favour of that but on the 21st of March he changed.

Mr. TOTZKE: I think I have been very fair to the hon. gentleman. I have quoted his remarks and I am drawing conclusions from them. I leave it to the house and to the people of Canada to say whether my conclusions are right or not. I say again the action of the premier of Saskatchewan is wrong; I say that just as strongly as my hon. friend does, but my hon. friend says that the premier of Saskatchewan has the right and the power to do the thing he has done because sometime, years ago, someone else did the same thing. We cannot have peace, harmony and prosperity in this great country until the hon. member for Montmagny and other men who think as he does come to realize that there are in Canada staunch, loyal and true Canadians who are descended from races other than French, English, Scotch or Irish.

May I for a few minutes discuss some of the questions that are before us at this time? We have heard a good deal in the house lately about conditions in western Canada. The hon. member for Regina has told us that conditions in western Canada are not too good but at the same time they are not too bad. Before I quote from a letter that I received from a constituent of mine, and from another letter that I have on my desk, I should like to point out that the hon. member for Regina is a city member. He represents largely the city of Regina. Whether he is in a position to judge as to conditions in the rural parts of Saskatchewan I doubt very much. I am glad to hear from the hon. gentleman that conditions in Regina have not been too bad this winter. I should like to ask the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. MacMillan) whether conditions have been as good in the city of Saskatoon as they have been in Regina. The hon. member for Saskatoon must tell the house, if he says anything about conditions there, of the hundreds of unemployed men they have had out in the exhibition grounds and have been feeding all winter. He will, I am sure, say that conditions in Saskatoon have been far from good. He will admit, in fact, that conditions there have been very bad. I want to quote from a letter that I received from a constituent of mine since I arrived in Ottawa. I am not going to give this gentleman's name, but he is not one of the races referred to by the hon. member for Montmagny. He is descended from a foreign race, from the same race as my own. Let there be no doubt as to the fact that his English is very good. This is what he says:

You can tell your friend the Prime Minister that if he thinks our hard times are mostly in our own imaginations that I will swap jobs with him in a minute and then he could see what a person has to contend with.

You know the ideal location of my farm and there never was as good a crop threshed on it before as last fall. I worked day and night till I nearly dropped in my tracks and so just by brute force was fortunate enough to get the last bushel threshed before bad weather set in and every bushel I hauled into the elevator just put me that much deeper in debt. By doing all the work myself this spring and

straining my credit to the breaking point I should be able to get my crop in this spring but unless conditions change and my crop shows a substantial profit I might as well declare myself bankrupt. That will be a pretty hard pill to swallow after twenty-eight years of hard work and doing my full share in building up this community.

Mr. POULIOT: What is the date of that letter?

Mr. TOTZKE: March 16, 1931. That is not an isolated case in Saskatchewan. This gentleman, whom I know very well, is one of the best farmers in my district, and if anyone had been able to keep on his feet, he is one of the men who would. In my constituency and in Saskatchewan generally there are many people who are in far worse condition than this man.

I want now to quote from a petition handed to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) when he spoke in Regina last December, that meeting of his to which not only the farmers of Saskatchewan but the members of his own party looked forward with great expectation, trusting that he would throw some ray of hope on conditions then existing in Canada. This is the letter referred to by my hon. friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) in his address the other evening. It was handed to the Prime Minister at his meeting in Regina last December:

> The conditions of the farmers of the west are nothing short of deplorable, and these conditions, unless rectified, sir, are bound to be reflected first by corresponding distress among urban dwellers of these prairies, and latterly, in the city dwellers of eastern Canada.
>
> There is an erroneous impression that portions of the province are in a fairly safe and secure position because they have had very few crop failures in past years. This, Sir, is wrong. The truth is that always the farmer has had to pay so much for necessities of production—

Hon. gentlemen opposite will please listen carefully to what follows:

> The truth is that always the farmer has had to pay so much for necessities of production, such as machinery, necessities of life such as clothing, and has been forced to pay such high interest rates that, in the vast majority of cases, even in good crop areas, no reserves were built up and now that a general condition of crop failure, on the one hand, and spoiled crops on the other has occurred, coupled with a general price depression, the small reserves have been swept away and the general condition is one of want.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that those quotations answer very fully the contention made by my hon. friend from Regina that conditions are not as bad as they might be in western Canada. I agree with what my hon. friend from Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) said this afternoon, that conditions are the worst they have ever been in western Canada. I wish to repeat also what my hon. friend from Red Deer said about the farmer of western Canada not being pessimistic. He is anything but pessimistic. He is the most optimistic man in the world. Out in the west we have from year to year suffered from various conditions —frost, hail, and drought, and even from that little animal that my hon. friend from Yorkton (Mr. McPhee) mentioned the other day, the gopher. The people of western Canada are optimistic generally. They are the greatest "next year" people that exist on the face of this globe; but they are not optimistic now. Why? Let me quote again from the speech of my hon. friend from Regina. At page 113 of Hansard of March 18 last he says:

> Personally, as representative of the capital city of Saskatchewan, I am listening anxiously for any word from any side of the house that will point a ray of hope and progress to this Dominion.

Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Saskatchewan are not optimistic at the present time? That they are pessimistic? The hon. member for Regina says that he has listened to his leader and he has not been able to find a ray of hope for bettering the conditions that exist. I agree with him. I also have listened to his leader the right hon. the Prime Minister of this country and to the speeches of all hon. gentlemen from that side of the house, and I am still looking for a ray of hope.

Mr. COTNAM: Perhaps the hon. gentleman would point out one.

Mr. TOTZKE: I am going to do so later on. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, what has something to do with the depression that now exists in western Saskatchewan is the fact of their representation in the cabinet at the present time. In the past, Saskatchewan has had representation in the cabinet in the person of the Prime Minister, in the person of the Minister of Agriculture, and in the person of the Hon. Charles Dunning, Minister of Finance in the late government. Saskatchewan is represented in this government to-day by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), whose constituency is just north of mine. I am sorry the minister is not in his seat at the moment because I should like to hear what he has to say in connection with conditions in western Canada, and what he thinks is the solution for our difficulties. We on this side of the house are looking for a ray of hope. We have an idea of what should be done to do away with the depression and alleviate present conditions. The people of Saskatchewan are

waiting to hear from the Minister of Agriculture as to what he has to offer to alleviate present conditions.

The hon. member for Red Deer, speaking this afternoon, said that he was very anxious to do whatever he could to help find a solution for the difficulties that exist in Canada at the present time. In spite of the fact that hon. gentlemen opposite may laugh with derision, I also would say that I am ready to do whatever I can in any way, irrespective of party advantage, to help find a solution for the present conditions in this country. We on this side of the house believe that when the May day budget of 1930 was introduced into this house, we had found to some extent a solution for our difficulties. We felt that through the granting of preferences to Great Britain on goods coming into this country, we would create a feeling of good will on the part of Great Britian towards the people of Canada. We realized that the main market for our wheat was Great Britain, and we wanted to do whatever we could in return as she was buying our wheat from us. We were certain that what did happen at the Imperial conference as a result of the visit of the Prime Minister, with his colleagues, would happen if we tried to deal with Great Britain in that way. We realized that it was impossible at the present time, and perhaps for a good many years to come, to induce the people of Great Britain to impose taxes on their foodstuffs. We knew that Great Britain had been our best customer and had bought two or three times more from us than we had bought from her, and we thought that it would be a friendly gesture on our part to give certain preferences to her, to enable her to sell more of her manufactured goods in this country. We believed that we could profitably transfer to Great Britain some of the business that we had been giving to the United States. That was the object of the May day budget of last year. We went to the country on that policy, and hon. gentlemen know what the result was; we are sitting over here, and they are sitting over there. They told the people of western Canada, they told the people of my constituency, I know, that if they were returned to power all this depression would be relieved. They said: You will immediately get relief, and get higher prices for your wheat. My hon. friends from Saskatchewan will know that I am not telling an untruth. I do not say that hon. gentlemen opposite made those statements, but men campaigning on behalf of the Conservative party and on behalf of the members from Saskatchewan on the other side of the house made those statements. They said: Immediately the prices of wheat and butter and of eggs will go up, and immediately unemployment will be done away with. What has happened? Our friends opposite have been in power for about eight months. I do not know what their meaning of the word "immediately" was, but out in Saskatchewan and in western Canada generally, by "immediately" we mean at once—pronto. That was the condition, Mr. Speaker. We put before the people our policy, what we thought would revive trade and enable us to sell our wheat to Great Britain to better advantage.

Let us look for a moment at the policies of my hon. friends opposite, so far as we know them. We know them only from what was discussed during the last campaign, what was said by Conservative candidates and by those campaigning on their behalf. Their policy was to put a tariff wall all around Canada, to make that tariff wall so high that it would keep out the manufactured goods of all foreign countries, that we would have to ourselves the home market for all the goods that we could by any chance make in Canada. This, Mr. Speaker, was to relieve unemployment. Now, if we relieved unemployment in that way, if we placed a high tariff wall around Canada and kept out of this country all the goods we could manufacture, and if we gave our farmers of western Canada the home market what would be the result? In this country we have about nine or ten million people. It is estimated that the average consumption of wheat per person is five or six bushels, so that there would be a total consumption of fifty or sixty million bushels. The remainder we must export; we must ship it to the markets of other countries. If we do not do that, what can we do with our surplus production? Under those conditions what would happen to the farmers of western Canada? They would have to stop the production of wheat. My hon. friends opposite take much pleasure in stating that as a result of a high tariff the number of people employed in factories of eastern Canada will be increased and we will have a greater market for our home products, including wheat and other agricultural products. What does it mean to us? With a tariff at its maximum height 200,000 more workmen might be employed. That would mean an increase in consumption of wheat of a million or two bushels. We would still have to look for a market for the remainder of our wheat; we would have to look for a market in the other countries of the world. At the present time the farmers

of western Canada must operate on an export basis; there is no possible chance of developing a home market sufficient in extent to take care of the surplus produced in the west. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has suggested that the farmers of western Canada should develop mixed farming. He suggests they should abandon the idea of raising wheat only. There is a considerable amount of that type of farming being carried on in western Canada at the present time. True, mixed farming has not been developed to its greatest extent. In explanation may I say however that in the province of Saskatchewan alone we have about 12,000,000 acres of land under cultivation which are not suitable for mixed farming. There is a lack of pasture and a lack of water for stock, and those two factors alone make it impossible for the western farmers to adopt mixed farming methods. If they did undertake on a large scale that type of farming I wonder where they would dispose of their cattle and hogs when at the present time hogs are selling as low as 5½ cents per pound? How long would the farmers of western Canada be able to exist under those conditions?

At this time may I say a word about the Imperial conference? My right hon. friend the Prime Minister went to that conference, accompanied by his advisers. It is reported that he intended to find the solution for this condition of depression with which we are now faced. He was going to find a market for Canadian wheat, and as has so often been said, he was going to blast his way into the markets of the world. Mr. Speaker, that blasting has turned out to be a fizzle. Instead of reaping a benefit the western farmer as a result of the conference is more depressed to-day than ever before.

Let us suppose that we could secure for our wheat the entire British market. The average imports into the British market for the last three years has been 166,000,000 bushels. Our share of that was 66,000,000 bushels. We export from 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 bushels per year. Where are we to find a market for the remainder of our wheat? Obviously we have to find other markets. We have to establish closer relations with the other markets of the world. What will happen if we follow the policies of our hon. friends opposite and raise a high tariff wall against other countries? We will lose the trade of those countries just as the United States is commencing to lose the markets of those nations against which she has raised high tariff walls.

I wish to say a few words, Mr. Speaker, in connection with the position I take concerning the tariffs of this country. On many occasions it has been said that all the western members are free traders. In a sense that is correct; at heart we are free traders because our products in western Canada cannot be protected. We sell our products on the markets of the world and anybody can see that a tariff would not be of advantage to us. We do not however expect to get free trade in the near future. Personally I do not expect that in my day we will get free trade in Canada. I have made the statement in eastern Canada that we are not seeking to injure any of the established industries of this country. We believe however that under our present tariff the majority of industries in Canada are receiving too high protection. Under the tariffs as laid down by this government, undoubtedly they are. Under the former administration the industries received too high protection, and during the term of that administration efforts were made towards the reduction of those tariffs. The former administration appointed the tariff board for the purpose of hearing applications concerning the reductions or advances in tariff duties on goods entering this country. That tariff board eliminated the hole-in-the-corner method of allowing industrial experts to make applications secretly. Under the old method they were allowed to approach the Minister of Finance and lay the facts before him in a more or less closed hearing. The consumers of Canada did not have a chance to offer suggestions. Those who were most affected by tariff changes were not given an opportunity to hear the arguments of the claimants, and were not in a position to present arguments against the proposed changes. The present Prime Minister abrogated that tariff board; he wiped it out of existence. Through a series of editorials coming from eastern Canada and Ottawa in particular, the people of western Canada have been told that through the abolition of the tariff board the country has saved about $200,000. To-day the people of western Canada are wondering how much more the abolition of the tariff board will cost them because of the increase of tariffs on goods which of necessity they must buy. We are told by the Prime Minister that he is going to form another tariff board. He has not given details, however, and we are not going to criticize until we learn his plans.

Before I conclude I want to repeat that I am sorry the Minister of Agriculture is not in his seat. During the Easter recess a number of us will be returning to the province of Saskatchewan and we are going to be met by the farmers of western Canada. We will be

asked "What is being done to help us; what did the Minister of Agriculture say?" Up to the present time the Minister of Agriculture has said nothing. As stated by the hon. member for South Battleford the Minister of Agriculture has already intimated that he has two or three different policies for the solution of agricultural difficulties. Yet in this house we have heard not a word from the hon. gentleman. Before we leave for western Canada I hope the minister will tell us from his seat in the house and tell the people of western Canada and of Canada as a whole what his policy will be.

Mr. E. F. WILLIS (Souris): Mr. Speaker, as a very junior member of this house. I rise with great diffidence to pay the customary compliments to the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address. I think I should also pay a compliment to the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Hepburn) in that since the special session he has been appointed leader of the Liberal party in the province of Ontario. I trust he may long continue to be leader of the opposition there. May I also express the wish that when he retires his successor will take his seat in this corner of the house bringing with him his binoculars and ear trumpet. I well remember the bright speech of the member for West Elgin when he spoke of certain members of the Conservative party who visited his constituency. I may say that I also had certain visitations from men on the other side of the house during the last election. I had a visit from Thomas Alexander Crerar, then Minister of Railways and Canals, who came to the town of Killarney in my constituency. Then the former Minister of Finance, Charles Avery Dunning, who has been referred to this evening, came to the town of Boissevain. My third visitor was Joseph Thorarinn Thorson, who I understand, used to delight hon. members in this corner of the house; he spoke at the town of Deloraine. I bring these matters to the attention of the house, not because in the town of Killarney, where Mr. Crerar spoke we had the first Conservative majority since 1904; not because where Mr. Dunning spoke we had the largest Conservative majority in the constituency, not because where Mr. Thorson spoke—he used to be my teacher—we had the first Conservative victory since Manitoba was carved out of the Northwest Territories; no, I do not mention their visits because of those facts, but rather for the reason that there came into my constituency three wise men from the west, brilliant boys bearing bulging briefs of meaningless matter, and where are they to-day?

[Mr. Totzke.]

The constituency which I have the honour to represent is situated in the southwestern corner of Manitoba. In that constituency, as in the constituency of Marquette, we have a beautiful forest reserve, 36 by 6 miles, containing a large number of lakes, meadow land, forest, hay land and pasture for cattle. At the southern extremity we have the international boundary, on the west the province of Saskatchewan, on the north the Souris river, and on the east that great dynasty that has been presided over by the member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) for ten years. I like the clerical stories that the hon. member incorporated in his speech last week, but I trust he will not repeat them from the pulpit. In my constituency, as the hon. member indicated, we are engaged in mixed farming; we grow wheat, oats, barley, and we raise cattle, pigs and poultry; but wheat is our major crop. Barley is our next crop in importance, and, after all, this is a great crop in Manitoba. Manitoba exceeds every other province in the production of barley. Ordinarily our farms average 320 acres, but sometimes their acreage is ten times that figure.

I want to speak in particular on the question of barley. This is the production for 1929 and 1930:

1929: Manitoba, 36,518,000 bushels; Saskatchewan, 30,755,000 bushels; Alberta, 12,514,000 bushels.

1930: Manitoba 49,974,000 bushels; Saskatchewan, 40,522,000 bushels; Alberta, 18,999,000 bushels.

Those are the figures given by the Bureau of Statistics. It will be seen that we in Manitoba are largely interested in the production of barley. This year to date we have marketed from western Canada only 14,000,000 bushels of barley. Last year up to the same period we had already marketed 23,500,000 bushels. Deducting the marketed barley from the production figures, we have on hand in western Canada over 95,000,000 bushels of barley. In addition we have a carry over from last year of 23,000,000 bushels. Deducting from that total the amount which has been fed to our cattle, I think the house will agree with me that we have at the present time over 100,000,000 bushels of barley in western Canada with no market. That is worth around 10 cents a bushel to-day.

But I want to point out that at the same time we are bringing in from the United States and from the Argentine corn in very large quantities. With the consent of the house I want to place on record the import figures of corn for the last twelve months. These are the imports for other than purposes of distillation. The figures cover the period

from March, 1930, to February, 1931, and they show we have imported for purposes other than distillation more than 10,000,000 bushels of corn. The Bureau of Statistics have estimated for me that of that amount over 8,000,000 bushels were used for feed purposes, mostly in eastern Canada. Corn is admitted free for purposes of feed; for distillation it is subject to a duty of 7½ cents a bushel. That is the condition with which we in western Canada are confronted. We paid out to our great competitors, the Argentine and the United States, more than $6,000,000 last year for corn for feeding purposes. The Toronto price on March 2, as given me by the Bureau of Statistics was as follows: barley, 38 cents a bushel; corn, c.i.f. Port Colborne, 63 cents. This indicates that even in the east there is a spread between corn and barley of 25 cents a bushel.

Now, I would direct the attention of the house to the fact that in practically every case barley is as good as corn for purposes of feed. The federal government through its experimental farms for a considerable period has been carrying on experiments with a view to finding out whether barley cannot be substituted for corn, and with the indulgence of the house I wish to place on record certain results that they have arrived at. I have in my hand pamphlet No. 127, new series, issued by the Department of Agriculture, headed Greater Use of Barley in Live Stock Feeding. These are some of the conclusions contained in the pamphlet. After conducting experiments throughout Canada in regard to feed for beef cattle it says that 66 per cent, or even 75 per cent, of barley may be used, and it may be substituted at any time for corn in any way in which corn is used. For dairy cattle barley should not form more than 25 to 33 per cent of the grain ration. For horses it can be used up to 25 per cent or more. It is used largely now in Africa, the orient, Europe and the United States. For swine feeding it is the equal of corn. Corn is slightly more fattening, but otherwise barley is better. When one considers the difference in price there is no comparison at all. That is why I am urging that our people in eastern Canada particularly who are feeding corn should now feed barley instead, thereby serving their country, assisting western Canada and getting prices as good as they can get now for whatever they are feeding. Let me read to you the conclusions at which this pamphlet arrives:

It is generally recognized as the most useful Canadian grain grown for swine feeding.

It is almost equally useful in the feeding and finishing of beef cattle.

With oats, it forms a good base for dairy cattle grain mixtures where the additional protein required to balance the ration is otherwise supplied, for example, by alfalfa or high protein cereal-legume hay crops.

Barley may be safely and economically fed to work horses as a part of the grain ration. It is best rolled or bruised.

Barley, rolled, cracked or coarsely ground, combines well with oats in fattening of lambs.

I also wish to refer to another pamphlet which has been issued by the Department of Agriculture, and just here I might say that anyone may get these pamphlets by writing the department at Ottawa. I refer now to pamphlet No. 128, new series, which covers the feeding of poultry, and which arrives at the same results. For those who may be experts perhaps it might be well to refer to certain figures given me by the Manitoba Agricultural College covering actual tests in regard to the feeding of hogs. This schedule indicates the first weight of the hog, the last weight, the gain, the number of days on feed, the total feed consumed, the feed per hundred pounds gained and the daily gain, showing exactly the result of the hog feeding with barley instead of corn. Of course in western Canada there is a marked difference between the price of corn and the price of barley. At present in Winnipeg corn sells for 66 cents per bushel, whereas barley may be bought for 15 cents a bushel. The difference in the east, where we wish to sell, may not be so great, but there is a spread of at least 25 cents per bushel.

Mr. REID: Would the hon. member tell us whether he has any statistics regarding the feeding of corn to poultry?

Mr. WILLIS: Yes, I have some statistics which I will give my hon. friend. I am just coming to that subject. The animal husbandry department of the Manitoba Agricultural college states that corn is less than 5 per cent more valuable than barley, and with the difference in prices it is much more economical. Then in regard to poultry I may tell my hon. friend that the results obtained at the Manitoba Agricultural college are these: As a growing ration it is just as good as corn; as a laying ration it is just as satisfactory as corn, but in other respects it is slightly inferior. These are the conclusions at which they have arrived after actual tests: The cost of producing one hundred pounds of chicken with a barley ration is $9.54 as against $9.90 with a corn ration, or a difference of almost a half cent per pound. Those figures are given as of May 1, 1930. On the basis of this year's prices, however, the cost of producing one hundred pounds of chicken would be $7.38 per 100 pounds with the barley ration and $8.02 with the corn ration.

In case there may be those hon. members present who do not think much of the Manitoba Agricultural college, I have a letter here from the professor of animal husbandry at the Ontario Agricultural college in which he says:

> It has been our experience that corn and barley are, in nearly every case, interchangeable when fed in a mixture for cattle, sheep or hog feeding.

Now I may say that there are three considerations in connection with this problem. The first consideration which I bring to your attention is the fact that barley is interchangeable with corn. The second fact is that we are permitting to come into this country free of duty ten million bushels of corn, which is being used as feed and which should be replaced with barley. The third consideration is that we have freight rates in this country which are too high. As an example, it costs 13 cents a bushel more to ship barley to the maritime provinces than to ship barley to Denmark, and it costs 3 cents a bushel more to ship barley to Vancouver than to ship it to Shanghai. Those are the conditions which exist at the present time. There has been a great deal of talk to-night concerning agriculture, and I must say that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), ever since he came into office, has been striving to have these freight rates reduced.

In this connection may I say that I am not one of those who believe the east is always trying to choke the west. I have heard that opinion expressed here, but I do not agree with it. Neither am I one of those who believe the west is just a group of whiners. I was born in that great western country, and the longer I live the more firmly I become convinced of the fact that the east and the west are interdependent and that the sooner they find that out the better it will be for both of them. I say this is an opportunity for us to put that principle into operation. Every man who is feeding corn to live stock in this eastern country has the opportunity to say to himself, "If I were feeding barley I would be helping someone in western Canada make a living." That is the attitude which should be adopted, and it would not be detrimental to the live stock, the swine or the poultry of eastern Canada if that change were made.

It has been said that the last election was a butter and egg election, and we have heard a good deal lately with regard to butter and eggs. So far as I may, I should like to still some of the discussion and get down to the facts. I have secured from the Bureau of Statistics the actual imports of butter into Canada by months, commencing March 1, 1930, and continuing to February 28, 1931. We find that in March, 1930, we imported 8,029,435 pounds of butter, whereas in February of 1931 we imported only 468,851 pounds. I wish to place this statement on record, and I want to show exactly what those imports were. I do not want to pick out a month here and a month there, although of course it is true that at the present time we have in store over 11,000,000 pounds of butter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not wish to interrupt the hon. member, but I have noticed that he has sent to Hansard various documents intending them to be copied into the record. I should like to quote rule 291, which states:

> It is not permissible for a member to hand in to Hansard any writing or statements which have not been orally addressed to the house in his speech. Although occasionally, by the courtesy of the house, the finance minister has been allowed to do so in making his budget speech wherein important financial statements and abstracts have been referred to.

I wish to call the hon. member's attention to that rule in case, under a misapprehension, he may leave out statements he would otherwise make but which will not appear in Hansard, having been handed in and not read.

Mr. WILLIS: I shall be very glad to read what I wish to appear in Hansard. This table is as follows:

Canada's Imports of Butter

(By months—March 1, 1930, to February 28, 1931)

	Quantity	Value
1930	Lb.	$
March	8,029,435	2,733,265
April	2,698,270	893,182
May	2,952,367	904,749
June	2,855,415	771,859
July	438,559	121,074
August	1,806,472	497,222
September	878,298	246,181
October	2,243,196	593,655
November	124,943	41,820
December	404,902	120,781
1931		
January	448,447	134,172
February	468,851	130,864

Those are the imports of butter into this country. In that regard I was very much surprised this afternoon to hear the New Zealand treaty still being discussed. As a matter of fact, I have only three things to say with reference to the New Zealand treaty: First, I believe I am here as a result of the New Zealand treaty; secondly, if the New Zealand treaty was a good thing why was it abrogated? And thirdly, if it was a bad thing, why was it defended for four years? That is all I have to say with reference to the New Zealand treaty.

I come now to the importation of eggs, because that comes in also for discussion. Under the Speaker's ruling I shall not be able to quote you full details on this subject owing to the forty minute limitation. However, I have the figures for the last year and I find that in March, 1930, we imported, in dozens, 1,177,513 valued at $325,238, and in February, 1931, 3,972, valued at $1,361. That in effect, is the result of that treaty.

I wish for a few moments to speak in regard to that famous speech made in Regina. Mark you, I am referring now to the speech made by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and not the past prime minister. In a Canadian press despatch which appeared in the Manitoba Free Press under the heading Salient Features, giving a summary of the Prime Minister's speech, I find the following:

Regina, Sask., Dec. 30—Premier Bennett to-night announced the federal government's policy on the wheat situation.

Salient features of his speech were:

1. Creation of a private corporation to lend money to assist farmers in getting into mixed farming.

2. Promise of grain rates on Hudson Bay railway, when placed in operation, fixed on basis of Crow's Nest Pass rates.

3. Assistance for the provincial governments in providing free food, clothing and seed grain for needy farmers.

4. Credit arrangements to prevent forced selling of the 1930 crop.

5. Guarantee of French government to purchase 7,000,000 to 9,500,000 bushels of 1930 crop.

6. Opening of negotiations with Chinese government for sale of Canadian wheat in China.

Strangely enough I find directly under this despatch an item with the following heading:

Bracken says Bennett speech encouraging.

That in itself ought to be good testimony. But in regard to the credit corporation, I know that when I am home I receive at least one letter a day with reference to the matter, inquiring when the corporation is going to open up, because the people in my constituency feel that it will be of great benefit to them and they are looking forward to the time when it will be started.

I have heard here a discussion concerning a gentleman named Mussolini. I have in this house heard the Prime Minister referred to as Benito Mussolini. But after all, was it not Mussolini who was the saviour of his country? In the press, however, I find that Mussolini is not compared to the right hon. the Prime Minister; rather is he compared to the leader of the opposition, as to which of these gentlemen holds the world's record for the longest speech.

We are thankful in our constituency for the things which came from the special session, and it might very well be remarked that, whatever else you are getting from this government, you are getting action. And at a time like this that is what the people want—action. I remember a story which I could repeat in regard to the Mussolini incident. I was at one time a student in the province of Alberta. It will be recalled that in 1920 the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) was there, and in the language of Amos 'n' Andy he was then the "head man"; and I remember that one evening he came to speak to a group of students. I recall one resounding phrase he used on that occasion. He said, "The more I see of democracy the more I believe in a good autocracy". There you have it from the hon. member for West Edmonton himself. I have heard much criticism is regard to the Prime Minister and I would ask hon. members to check me on the facts as I shall state them. It seems to me that the Prime Minister of this country was elected at the largest convention ever held in Canada. I think that is true. It is true also that the Prime Minister has been perhaps the biggest business success of any man who sits in this house. It is true too that he has been the biggest professional success of any man in this house, and also the biggest political success of any man in the house. I say that, because the greatest journal in the empire has said so; it said he was the most outstanding statesman at the last Imperial conference. But the greatest thing the Prime Minister has done has been to break those blocs which formerly we had in the province of Saskatchewan and in the province of Quebec. We have therefore in the government now in power the greatest guarantee that all the interests of this country will be properly looked after. We have adequate representation in this government from every province in the Dominion. When I give the figures I think hon. members will agree with me in the statement I have just made. We have on this side from the province of British Columbia, seven out of fourteen; we have in Alberta four Conservatives, three Liberals and nine United Farmers. And may I say in passing that for my part I am happy at the way the United Farmers of Alberta have taken part in the debate. We have from Saskatchewan seven Conservatives and from Manitoba eleven out of seventeen. From Ontario we have fifty-nine, which is a majority, and from Quebec twenty-four Conservatives. Perhaps I might repeat something a press man said to me just recently. He said, "You have on the

right of Mr. Speaker the most brilliant group of Canadians speaking French who have ever sat behind any prime minister in this country". From New Brunswick we have ten Conservatives and one volcanic Liberal, from Nova Scotia ten Conservatives and four Liberals, and from Prince Edward Island three Conservatives; while from the Yukon we have one Conservative. So that on this side of the house we have agriculture represented as never before, and when hon. members on the other side rise and say, in a loud voice, like a radio, that they speak on behalf of agriculture, let them remember that there are as good agriculturists on this side of the house as anywhere in this chamber.

With regard to western conditions, I do not altogether like the way the banks are acting in western Canada; nor do I think that the mortgage companies are taking advantage of the great opportunities which are theirs. In addition to that I am assured that the machine companies in the west will not sell their products until they reduce prices 25 to 50 per cent. We can do without a good many things that are given us. We can do without alemite and springs under the seat, without ball bearings and other things. The machinery we used to get served us for fifteen years and that was long enough. Only in this way will the machine companies be able to sell what they produce.

In the west conditions are not good; there is no use saying they are. This is no time for passive optimism. This is no time for taking the attitude that it is just a matter of psychology. It is useless to say that prosperity is just around the corner. Rather is it a time for clearer thinking and harder working, a time for making greater sacrifices on behalf of one another. If we could but get the spirit of those pioneers who came to the west about the year 1880, many of our problems would be solved, for they made sacrifices then which we shall never have to make in this country again. Prosperity is not just around the corner, but rather does it remain on the hilltop. We in western Canada grow the finest wheat in the world, and we grow it more economically than any living people. We are served in this country by two of the finest railways that ever served ten million people. The world must eat and we must feed it, and by these means we shall succeed. By these means we shall march out of this valley of depression up on to the hilltop and into the sunshine.

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): In rising to make a few observations on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, I intend to follow my usual course and be brief. In the first place I regret that Mr. Speaker himself is not at present in the chair, because I wish to extend to him my congratulations on his acquisition of the French language since his elevation to the high position which he now occupies. It is gratifying to all Canadians who love their country and have the spirit of the confederation pact that the Speaker of the House, although English is his mother tongue, is able to read the prayers in French. Moreover, I think a man in this bilingual country who can recite the prayers in both French and English, has probably a better chance to have his prayers answered.

I also wish to congratulate the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address. It is no small task to move or second the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I had that task once myself and I found it rather hard because the eyes of the newspaper correspondents and of all the members are on one. Those two gentlemen acquitted themselves admirably, especially in view of the fact that they had to defend a government that to my mind, as far as the masses of the Canadian people are concerned, is the worst government that Canada has ever had. I shall qualify that statement later.

May I also refer to the speech of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins). How he loves that old cow! He told us the other night how he won his election and the large majority he had. I am going to tell the house how he won his election. He went to the tinsmith and had a miniature cream can made. At every meeting he talked about the old cow and the price of butter fat, and producing this can he said: "If I am elected and if Mr. Bennett becomes Prime Minister, this cream that the old cow puts into the can, instead of being twenty-six cents, will be forty cents a pound for butter fat."

Mr. MULLINS: The statement that the hon. member is making is absolutely incorrect. I do not see how the house can permit a statement of that kind to be made. I said nothing of the kind. It was unnecessary for me to do so.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I trust, Mr. Speaker, you will allow me the time that the hon. gentleman has taken from my speech. Every time he mentioned the butter fat, the old cow which was outside of the building would let out a bawl of approval. That is how the hon. gentleman obtained his 2,700 of a majority. If the same hon. gentleman went back to that constituency with the same cream can and talked to the same old cow, she would not bawl in approval, she would horn him. I was really surprised to hear the hon. gentleman

the other day attacking the Hon. T. A. Crerar and stating how Mr. Crerar farmed the farmers. Mr. Crerar was President of the Grain Growers' Grain Company; he was really the man who formed the company, the greatest company the grain growers ever had in western Canada, a company which was composed of 36,000 shareholders who were farmers, and which returned in dividends thousands of dollars that went into the pockets of the farmers. Is that the man who has farmed the farmers? The hon. member for Marquette, although I have a great deal of respect for him, does not always preach the same thing. Judging by his actions, when he is out in the country he is the best Liberal that I know of, because he preaches Liberal principles. The only help that the hon. member for Marquette ever gave for the farmer was to talk about the old cow and "shoot the bull" when the bull got rough. During the election campaign the hon. member for Marquette also referred to the old hen. He did not look after the spring chicken; it was the old hen he was looking after.

I wish to refer now to the remarks made by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) the other night. He rather accused the western farmers of being lazy. I think the hon. member from Brome-Missisquoi knows as much about farming conditions in western Canada as I know about medicine and that is nothing. But I will invite my hon. friend, after this session is over to visit western Canada, and if he will send me a telegram I will devote some time to him in order to educate him as to conditions out west. Let me also inform my hon. friend that the sun in western Canada sets a good deal later in the evening than it does in the east.. Therefore the day is much longer and the farmer works longer hours than the farmer does in the east.

I should like to congratulate sincerely the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis) who preceded me on his presentation to-night. Although I do not agree with all he said, he made a very fine presentation, and I am sure it is no small task for a new member to make his maiden speech in the house.

I wish to make some reference to the speech of the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Bowman) who spoke this afternoon. May I be pardoned if I refer to Mr. Deputy Speaker, who is at present in the chair? The other day the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) took the stand that the deputy speaker should not take part in house debates which are controversial. Whether that is right or wrong is probably a matter for argument, but in listening to the speech delivered by the hon. member for Dauphin today, I could not help thinking that the leader of the opposition was right, for this reason, that almost the whole speech of the hon. member for Dauphin was a denunciation of what Mr. Deputy Speaker had expressed the other day in regard to the foreign-born population of Canada. I agree with what the hon. member for Dauphin said. I am just as much a Canadian as anybody else in Canada, but I say without fear of contradiction that if we allow a man, no matter from what shores he comes, to enter Canada, and if we permit him to become a British subject, he should enjoy all the rights and privileges that any British subject enjoys. These people who come from foreign countries, whether from central Europe or elsewhere, are making in that western country a contribution that many people do not appreciate. They are bringing here their literature, their traditions. They have settled on land which is more or less inferior and they have made a success where many of us would have made a failure. We have allowed them to come to our shores and to become subjects of our country, and it is up to us to accord them every right and privilege which a British subject should be accorded in this country.

Another discovery which the hon. member for Dauphin made was that the price of machinery was too high. I think he is right. He also discovered that the prices of all the commodities that the farmer has to buy are too high. We on this side of the house know that they are, but every move that the government and hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house make is a move that is going to raise the cost of those commodities that we need so badly on the farm. How can my hon. friend from Dauphin complain of the price of machinery and at the same time support policies which inevitably have the effect of increasing the price of machinery? How is he going to expect a reduction in the price of machinery so long as he supports a government which will allow the manufacturers of machinery to hide themselves behind a tariff wall of 25 or 30 per cent? It cannot be done. The manufacturer is a human being, and of course he will take advantage of the tariff, and has always done so.

I come to the speech from the throne. I have read this document through several times, both in French and in English, but up to the present I have not been able to find anything in it which would enable me when

I go home at Easter to tell my people that the government is going to do something to alleviate the situation as it exists to-day. There is only one paragraph in the speech from the throne that refers to agriculture to any extent. It reads:

> 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.

When the right hon. the Prime Minister came back from the Imperial conference I read a statement in the press that some arrangement had been made to secure an orderly marketing of the wheat crop of this country, but I have yet to find the details anywhere or to hear any statement which would give us any indication of what that orderly marketing scheme is. I do not know if any other hon. member has heard anything more about it than I have. I say that the Prime Minister right now should tell the people of western Canada and the people of this country generally just what that arrangement is. The agricultural industry is looking for information in that regard, information that is not forthcoming. Why keep the man on the farm, whether it be in eastern or western Canada, in the dark? Why not let him know what is being done, if anything is being done to give him a new lease of life and alleviate his condition? Here is the farmer ready to sow his crop and begin all his spring operations, and he does not know what to do. If the Prime Minister or the Minister of Agriculture has some scheme for alleviating the condition of the farmer, let them tell the farmer in order to give him new courage.

Some people say that the farmers who ask for a pegged price for wheat are on false ground. Can you blame the farmer for asking for that? The government has found some means of protecting the manufacturers by pegging the price of manufactured goods. The farmer knows that all the commodities which he has to purchase for the operation of his farm are protected by a tariff wall, and naturally he says: If the manufacturers are going to dig into the jack-pot, I want to get in too.

We hear a lot of talk about prosperity being just around the corner, but we have not found the corner. Bank presidents and the presidents of great railway companies and financial institutions have all told us in their annual statements for last year that prosperity is just around the corner. The average individual, whether he be a farmer or a workingman, when he reads these financial statements of institutions which are choking agriculture with high interest rates, when he sees the whole page of a newspaper taken up with an annual statement showing that the banks have made a tremendous amount of profit in the past year and have been able to pay the same dividends that they paid in 1929, and in some cases more, and compares their flourishing condition with his own or with that of the farmer who has a large deficit at the end of his year's operations, can hardly be blamed for becoming dissatisfied. Prosperity will be brought back in this country as soon as the industry of agriculture is put on a paying basis, and no sooner. How are you going to bring that about? You can bring it about by reducing the rate of interest which the farmer has to pay for the money he needs; you can help to bring it about by reducing the cost of the goods which the farmer has to buy; you can help to bring it about by reducing the freight rates which press so heavily on the farmers to-day; and that is the only way you can do it. If the present prices of farm products, whether grain or other products, remain as they are, the farmer will have to lower his production costs tremendously, and he cannot do that unless these interest rates are reduced, and unless freight rates are reduced, and unless this madness of tariff wall is eliminated.

I want to deal shortly with the Beatty scheme that was proposed some time ago. Mr. Beatty is president of one of the finest transportation companies that we have in Canada. He is a very influential man, and whatever Mr. Beatty says is taken notice of by almost everybody. I do not know whether Mr. Beatty was chosen by design to deliver that famous speech in Winnipeg, or whether it came about by accident. It seems, however, that Mr. Beatty and the financial interests of this country are prepared to lend $5,000,000 to the farmers in western Canada to enable them to go into mixed farming. May I at this moment remind my hon. friend from Brome-Missisquoi that I left Quebec forty-nine years ago this May, and when I was a boy ten years of age we milked ten cows on my father's farm. Mr. Beatty, I say, and these financial interests are going to lend $5,000,000 to the western farmers to go into mixed farming. Well, we have had several schemes of that kind before. In 1921 we had a steer fattening epidemic. The bankers advised the farmers to buy steers and fatten them, and the farmers could borrow money from the banks to buy steers at high prices. The consequence was that most of the farmers in western Canada went into the steer fattening business. Then what happened? The market went right down, and practically all the farmers who went into

that business lost money, but they still had to pay the banks the money they had borrowed and the full interest charges. A couple of years ago some financial people came into western Canada, and said that we ought to go into the sheep raising business. I think the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) was to some extent responsible for that, because he had complained a lot about Australian mutton coming to Canada. What was the consequence? They went over to the United States and bought a great many ewes and sold them to the farmers at $14.50 per head. Many farmers went into the sheep raising business, although they had no facilities for raising sheep, knew nothing about them, and consequently the whole project was a failure. The result is that to-day we are selling spring lamb on the Winnipeg markets for $3. Now Mr. Beatty comes along and wants us to go into another adventure. This time, however, he has taken Sir Herbert Holt's scheme and advocates the raising of hogs. In my constituency about three weeks ago Mr. Burnell, president of the Manitoba wheat pool, made a statement to the effect that a 15 per cent increase in the production of hogs would flood the market. I do not think Mr. Burnell would have made the statement if he had not been accurate in his figures. If the scheme of hog raising were adopted, instead of an increase of 15 per cent there would be an increase of 300 or 400 per cent. If that were the case what could we do with our production? I am reminded of a cartoon I saw in the Manitoba Free Press, and I feel free to mention that journal because it has been mentioned by my friend from Souris (Mr. Willis). The picture shows a farmer standing in a mountain of wheat. Beside him is standing the Prime Minister. The farmer is asking the question, "What am I going to do with my wheat?" to which he receives the reply, "Eat it." I wish my hon. friends to understand that that is merely a cartoon, and that the Prime Minister might not have used those exact words. I think, however, that the farmer will have to eat his hogs. If Mr. Beatty, Sir Herbert Holt or any of our great financiers want to help the farming situation in Canada let them surrender their high profits. Let Mr. Beatty surrender a part of that $39,000,000 net revenue made by his company in the year 1930. Let the banks which have been making fabulous profits from year to year shoulder some of the loss. Let those people surrender until the depression has passed, some of the profits they have been making. I will give a concrete example: Let us suppose that we have a quarter-section of land in western Canada, that upon that land there are buildings valued at $5,000 or $6,000 and on the farm a mortgage of $3,500. That is not a large mortgage because many western farms carry heavier mortgages than that. Hon. members could not sell that land to-day for the mortgage against it. What does that mean? It means that the whole equity of the farmer is wiped off. Is it right and proper that one part of our community should stand the whole loss of the economic depression? I say it is not. If Mr. Beatty, Sir Herbert Holt and other financiers are sincere in their wish to help the agricultural industry, let them take smaller profits. I know the conditions which prevail in the province of Quebec as well as does the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne). I know that farmers in his constituency are as hard up as we are. Conditions in Ontario are not very good either. If the financiers are sincere let them surrender some of their dividends and some of the profits they have made.

I do not suppose that we on this side of the house could influence the Prime Minister in his policy of protection. I am however going to attack him in another way. He has been accused of being a one man government. His followers, the hon. member for Marquette, the hon. member for Souris, and the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) have said that statement is not correct. If it is not so I am going to give these hon. members a scheme by which they might prevent the economic destruction of this country through their high tariff madness. I am going to ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Murphy), the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Burns), the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Beaubier), the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. J. H. Stitt), the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis) the hon. member for Nelson (Mr. B. M. Stitt), the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Bowman), the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Hay) and the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins) to have a little caucus to-morrow morning. They are familiar with conditions in the west. They know that no farmer can continue on his farm if we are to have a restricted market wherein he must buy his goods and compete with the rest of the world in the sale of his commodities. They know that as well as hon. members on this side of the house know it, and no hon. member knows it better than the hon. member for Marquette.

Mr. MULLINS: The people in Marquette are tired of that kind of song. They gave me a majority of 2,700; that is proof of the fact.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: What must be the state of mind of the electors during times of depression when in a weak moment they send to this house the hon. member for Marquette in place of Mr. Allison Glen, his predecessor? I cannot account for such things. I am going to ask these hon. members to have a meeting to-morrow morning. I have taken part in the discussions of such little groups.

An hon. MEMBER: What about the Seven Sisters?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I know nothing about the ladies. I would ask those hon. members to say to the Prime Minister: Here are the conditions of the western farmers; you must stop this madness of erecting tariff walls or you are going to ruin the agricultural industry of the west. If we have not a one man government those hon. gentlemen may have a chance to convince the Prime Minister; he may listen to them rather than to us.

Before taking my seat may I say that if the policies the Prime Minister and his government put into force in September are to continue, if this tariff madness is not to end, the agricultural industry instead of improving will become much worse.

Mr. W. J. LOUCKS (Rosetown): Mr. Speaker, I deem it a great privilege and pleasure at this time to address the house. As I am making my maiden speech I feel that hon. members might well extend some slight indulgence if I transgress in any minor details. At the outset may I be permitted to congratulate both the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Conditions in western Canada have been outlined by many previous speakers and it would seem unnecessary at this time for me to add to their observations. I would however like to endorse the views of the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) to the effect that we should consider such steps as would bring relief not only to western Canada but to the whole Dominion. Many splendid recommendations have been made which if acted upon would bring assistance to western Canada.

First, I want to deal with the subject of our trade relations with soviet Russia. Some criticism has been levelled at the government because of its action in placing an embargo on certain imports from Russia. At this time I wish to compliment both the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and the cabinet in that connection. Probably one of the best things that ever happened to the western farmer was when the government put on that embargo. I was asked by many people in my constituency, some of them my strongest political opponents, "What is your government going to do now with that $10,000,000 proposition from Russia?" They added, "We will know now whether the Prime Minister and his cabinet are sincere in their sympathy for us farmers. If they are more concerned with the manufacturer, of course they will accept the proposition." May I say that some of my political opponents came to me after the Prime Minister rejected Russia's offer and said, "We are convinced now that both the Prime Minister and his cabinet are thinking of the farmers rather than of the manufacturers; we believe they must be thinking about us farmers in western Canada."

Let me refer now to something that happened in 1929. In that year a trade deputation, not from Russia but from Great Britain, came to Ottawa. Our friends opposite were then in power, and if my memory serves me correctly the Right Hon. J. H. Thomas headed the British party. He proposed to the government of the day that the British government would take the greater portion of our wheat at $1.47 a bushel if the Canadian government would undertake in return to buy a certain tonnage of British coal. I assure the hon. members that as a farmer in western Canada I was very anxious about the outcome of that offer. I expected the government of that day would be considering the welfare of us farmers in western Canada; but to my disappointment the then leader of the government, now the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), implied by the course he then took that "your wheat of course will find its way into the various markets of the world." Had the government at that time accepted Mr. Thomas' suggestion it would have meant to me on my own crop over $4,000.

When I hear our friends on the other side express their belief in the British preference and their deep concern for the poor farmers of western Canada, I cannot help wondering whether they are sincere. I say this advisedly, because at the time Mr. Thomas' offer was rejected Russian coal was being permitted entry into eastern Canada. I may be asked how that affected the farmers in western Canada. Well, the president of our wheat pool went over to Great Britain and he found a decided change in the British attitude towards our wheat, due to the fact that our government of that day had antagonized the people of Great Britain by turning down Mr. Thomas' offer of British coal in exchange for our wheat and allowing

Russia to dump coal into eastern Canada. Again I desire to express my commendation of the action of the present government in declining to accept the recent Russian proposal. In effect they said to Russia, "We are more concerned at this time in looking after the interest of the farmers of western Canada". The best market we have for our wheat is Great Britain, and I am glad to think that to-day the government of this country is looking after our interests along those lines. Had the mistake of the late government been repeated, Great Britain would have been still further antagonized.

The hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), addressing the house yesterday, stated that there were more important things to be considered than bread. I agree with him. I think at this time we would be well advised to pay a little more attention to the bolshevistic propaganda that is being carried on throughout the Dominion. I am a little surprised when I hear my hon. friends representing labour pleading for the soviet government. A few days before leaving the west for Ottawa I was told that soviet schools or classes are being conducted in 121 of our towns and cities. In those classes our boys and girls are being taught to pay no attention to the future; materialism is stressed, the spiritual is ridiculed. In all sincerity I ask hon. members, what can we expect of the next generation if our boys and girls are taught such pernicious doctrines? Not long ago I had occasion to address a meeting in my constituency. The hall was crowded and I concluded my address in these words: "Ladies and gentlemen, if materialism is all important, then you can endorse the government of soviet Russia or communism; but I think you are not thinking only of the material." Even some of those who opposed me in the last election shook me by the hand and congratulated me. They said: "You are right, Mr. Loucks, after all there is more than the material. After hearing what is going on in western Canada we are beginning to think more about the soviet menace than we did in the past."

In discussing the speech from the throne my hon. friend from South Vancouver (Mr. MacInnis) said he could see no results at all favourable to the farmers so far as orderly marketing was concerned. I wish to assure him and other hon. members that the farmers of western Canada have been helped very substantially by the action taken by the government to ensure orderly marketing. I am convinced by his remarks that he has little conception of what orderly marketing means to the west. But for the steps taken by the government, the farmers of western Canada would have been much worse off to-day. If the government had not persuaded the banks to guarantee the wheat pool we would have had to dump our wheat on the market. If ever there was a time when orderly marketing was essential it is to-day, especially when we have such overproduction. Let me point out some of the results from orderly marketing. The wheat pool never would have come into being had it not been for the fact that some of us farmers were convinced that we had to change our attitude with respect to the marketing of our grain. The operations of the old wheat board demonstrated that there was much to be gained by orderly marketing. I hear much criticism of the wheat pool, but notwithstanding all its mistakes I have no hesitation in stating that the farmers of western Canada will never go back to the old system of marketing their grain through the grain exchange. That system never eliminated market depression in the fall of the year. We farmers in western Canada have our obligations to meet at that season. What happens? Every creditor is after us for money. There is only one thing to do, hurry our wheat off to the market. That depresses the market. We found under the old system that individually we could not do anything to eliminate that depression, but that collectively we could. Now our creditors have to stand back and wait until we have received our initial payment; then we pay off part of our indebtedness and later the balance.

I have sat here and listened very patiently to all that has been said during this debate about the tariff. One would think from the arguments submitted by hon. members opposite, especially by those from the west, that western farmers are going to be put out of business by the tariff. I am safe in saying that in my constituency we export more wheat than any other district in western Canada. I ran against the most rabid free-trader in the whole dominion, Mr. John Evans, who represented the riding for nine years. I am told that free trade was about all he spoke of here in this house; I know that is all he talked about during the campaign, but he nearly lost his deposit. I went out and preached tariff, right from the commencement, and the farmers of my constituency supported me because I had the assurance from the Prime Minister that there were to be no exploitations. I have heard a great deal from the other side with regard to exploitations, but I ask any hon. member to prove to me that there has been exploitation in any one case since this government came into power.

Just a few days before I left I attended a meeting, where I said, "I am here seeking information; before I go to Ottawa I want to know if you can tell me one commodity in which there has been exploitation since the tariff was increased last September," and not a man in that large audience could give me one instance.

I want to say something else, Mr. Speaker, in connection with the tariff on corn. I can see where that will bring about results. We have been told by the opposition that as yet the farmers have received no protection. I feel that this is not quite true; we have obtained protection, in connection with butter at least, since this government came into office. If tariff means anything, Mr. Speaker, it means protection to the farmers. We have received that protection with regard to dairy products, but we want to go further than that. I have pledged myself to support this tariff on corn; before I left home my supporters asked me if I would do my best to have that tariff imposed, and so I came here supporting that proposal.

I think it is only fair that hon. members should ask me a question or two in this regard. The first question I think should be asked is this: "Will you, as western farmers, exploit the eastern farmers if we do put up the tariff against corn?" A question of that kind would be only fair, and my answer would be that we would not do so. Some hon. members may ask, "How can you be sure?" My answer is this: We know there will be no exploitation. We know what happened last fall in connection with the tariff on glass. The government made an example in that case, and I am safe in saying that the same thing would rightly happen to us if we should exploit the farmers of eastern Canada in connection with corn.

There is another question which I think you should ask, and it is this: "Are you western farmers sure you can meet the demand?" I think the statistics which were given to-night should leave no doubt as to that. Surely with millions of bushels of grain in the bins of the west there should be no need to worry about that, so my answer is, yes, we will meet the demand as far as eastern Canada is concerned.

Then I want to come back to the subject brought up by my hon. friend who is interested in the ranchers. I can see an opportunity for great benefit to the farmers of eastern Canada who are feeding cattle as well as to the farmers of the west; I think you can help us out and we can help you out. Some of you eastern farmers can come out to the west; we can provide you with feeder steers and also with barley and oats with which to finish them, and I think in that way you can help out the ranchers. I mention this with no other thought than that perhaps because of climatic conditions it would be good business to cooperate along this line. You could give us a fair price for our feeder steers, as I think you would, and we could give you plenty of coarse grains for finishing, also at a reasonable price.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I come to something else; I am going to advocate what is practically interprovincial preference instead of empire preference, and I think this question should be considered at this time. In order to make this proposal a success, however, something will have to be done in connection with freight rates. I think the time has come when it is only fair to bring our domestic freight rates in line with the export rates. For years, as I understand it, the domestic freight rates have been about double export rates. As a farmer I received a great surprise when, during the campaign, I made some investigations along this line. I went to the extreme western part of Alberta and found that from Calgary to British Columbia the domestic rate was just a little more than twice the export rate. Under the present system it would pay us, as farmers, to ship our wheat all the way to England and bring it back again in order to sell it in British Columbia. I have every faith in this government; I think they will take action and get the domestic rate down to the export rate, and I will be disappointed if that is not done. I think we are going to show some of the hon. members opposite who have been criticizing us that this government is trying to do something for us in western Canada.

Some reference has been made to our banking system in western Canada. I am not much in sympathy with it, and neither is any other western farmer. I am just an ordinary farmer, and I had no idea that the legal rate of interest was only 7 per cent. Surely the hon. gentlemen who are now in opposition, and who had control of affairs for nine years, must have known that fact, but I did not know it. I am told now that the legal bank interest is 7 per cent, but I have been in western Canada for twenty-six years and I have never been able to borrow money from the banks for less than 8 per cent interest. If I go to the bank to borrow $100, the banker takes my note and hands me only $92 on which to do my financing. I went to the manager of the bank and said, "Are you not violating the Bank Act in this procedure?" He said he was not, and when I asked him

why he said that, his reply was, "We do not call it interest at all; we call it discounting your note." In that way they get around the Bank Act. Again I have every confidence in the ability of this government to see that something is done to make the banks stay within the law. I have received many resolutions from different farmer organizations asking that something be done in this regard, and I believe something will be done. I go further; I do not believe the farmers can afford to pay more than 6 per cent interest on loans. We will do a great service to western Canada if we see to it that the interest rate is reduced, and I am here from western Canada pledged to do my part in seeing that cheaper money is provided for the farmers of the west.

To an ordinary farmer parliament is rather a funny place, if I may use those words. For over a week I have listened to this debate; I have heard ridicule heaped on the government by hon. members opposite, but I have not heard anyone suggest a remedy. It seems to me that the opposition have taken the attitude of saying, We can wash our hands of the matter now; the whole responsibility is on the government. If the leader of the opposition were in his place I think I could tell him without fear of contradiction that he would do better in the west at the next election if he just sat back and folded his arms and did not interfere with the program of the government. Some of my neighbours were at the station to see me off and they said, "Well, Bill, you are going to have a long drawn out session down there, I suppose?" My answer was, "No, I do not expect it; I think there will be a sort of coalition government down there this time. I think the opposition has enough vision to cooperate with the government in order to see if something cannot be done to relieve present conditions." All these conditions have not arisen during the last eight months; do not let us fool ourselves. When hon. gentlemen opposite get up here and ridicule the present government, misrepresenting things, and saying that the responsibility for prevailing conditions rests with a government that has been in power eight months, those hon. gentlemen must think that our intelligence in western Canada is not very high. Are those hon. gentlemen going to support us and see that the farmers of the west get the protection they need? Are they going to vote against a policy which is intended to benefit the west? Every gentleman across the way should be nodding his head now in assent. If they are sincere I do not see how they could help agreeing to give the farmers some protection. But I do not see any of them nodding their heads. There must be something wrong with their necks. I would give them a prescription; they had better get a little lubricating oil, if their necks are so stiff that they cannot nod in agreement with a policy which is intended to further the interests of western Canada.

What is the attitude of those hon. gentlemen in regard to freight rates? They were in power for nine years but did nothing to help us out in that regard. Will they accept the invitation now to lend us their support in regard to an export rate which will help to improve conditions both in eastern Canada and in the west? They should be bowing their heads to show that they endorse what I am saying. If they do not endorse that position they will not be back after the next election.

There are many things I should like to mention, but naturally as a new member I am somewhat embarrassed. Imagine an old farmer living away back in the prairies, and the farmers of the district coming after him and saying, "We want to put this matter into your hands; we know that we can trust you; you know the situation in this constituency and we want you to represent us." I know they thought that way or I should not be here. But let me suggest some of the reasons why I am here. One of them is the fact that we have in Canada to-day a prime minister who was not afraid to go from the Atlantic to the Pacific through all our manufacturing concerns and say, "When I protect you there will be no exploitation." I am glad to say that we have such a man at the head of the government; and so long as the present Prime Minister conducts the affairs of the country in that spirit we need not worry very much about conditions in the west. We are behind him. The trouble with us heretofore has been that we were exploited; but we are not going to be exploited from now on. We feel confident now that exploitation will be a thing of the past.

I received a letter from the former member of the constituency, written in very sympathetic terms, before I accepted the nomination. It was written in language to this effect: "Mr. Loucks, I would advise you to have nothing to do with either Liberals or Conservatives. You will be subjected to severe trials. You will be under a whip." I was quite amused. Of course, as a farmer accustomed to using a whip, I pondered what sort of whip this gentleman was referring to, whether it was a cat o' nine tails or what. I am glad to say that so far I have not seen any evidence of any whip of that description.

But when the leader of the opposition got up to speak I must say I began to quiver. When he referred to the way in which the Prime Minister was running the country I said to myself, " May'be Mr. Evans's word has come true." And the only thing that I could see was this, that if there was a whip it must have been used on the Liberal side during the past administration, when Mr. John Evans was here. It seemed to me that that gentleman must have been thinking in terms of the past administration when he warned me that I might be subject to such punishment.

Before I close I wish to assure the government, as a farmer of the west, that they will have my sincere support so long as they do those things which they have undertaken to carry out. So long as they take such steps as will help to alleviate the distress in the west, I can assure them of my support; and I have no doubt that, before the session is over, those things which I have pointed out to-night as being necessary in the interests of the country will cease to have been matters of theory and will have been put into practice.

Mr. HARRY BUTCHER (Last Mountain): I have noticed that three or four of the newer members who have recently spoken have said they have risen with diffidence. To say that I have risen with diffidence would be altogether to underestimate my feelings at the present moment. I must confess that I have not yet overcome the sense of awe I experienced when I first entered this chamber. When I looked upon the faces of men whose names have been household words in Canada for many years, whose speeches I have been reading for many years, men on both sides of the house, men I have come to feel that I knew personally, although I had never met them or spoken to them, I felt it would be almost an impertinence for one like myself, with so little knowledge, with so little ability to express himself, to rise and give utterance to the opinions I hold. Nevertheless I hold certain opinions that are the result of reading, the result of meeting with other men who have become possessed of knowledge in the political world, and I feel it is my duty to give expression to those opinions to-night, because that was one of the purposes for which I was elected in July last.

I should like to say first of all that I frankly and freely admit that the Conservative party in power to-day is not and cannot be held wholly responsible for the unhappy conditions that exist at the present time both in the matter of the lack of market for our farm products and in the matter of unemployment. I must say however that in my opinion, in the matter of a market for farm products, the situation was aggravated somewhat by the legislation passed at the short session of parliament; and I firmly believe, in the matter of unemployment, that time will prove that even in that respect the legislation of the last session has been an aggravation rather than otherwise.

During the election campaign our opponents in the west, and in the east too, were blaming the policies of the Liberal party for the unhappy conditions then existing. We did not believe that we were to blame. On the other hand, we were willing to accept the reasoned opinions of those who were fully conversant with world conditions. I have before me an opinion expressed by Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor, vice-president of the Bank of Montreal, as published in the Financial Times of London, England. He said:

> Canada, except for the wheat situation which is slowly correcting itself, has been less affected than almost any other country by the economic and industrial crisis through which the world at large is at present passing.

About the same time Mr. J. C. Waugh, President of Brydges and Waugh Limited, financial agents of Winnipeg, said:

> I had the pleasure recently of meeting a very prominent English business man. He was on his return from a tour around the world. I was telling him of our grain situation here. He said, "You know, your situation is not peculiar. Australia's wool market, Mexico's silver market, Brazil's coffee market, Cuba's sugar market, the United States' grain and cotton market, and practically the market of every producing country in the world, is each in just as difficult a position as yours here. In England we have been going through these conditions for nine years, and I should say that Canada seems to be the last place to have been affected.

I am led to the conclusion that even our Conservative opponents in the west were not quite sincere when they said that they held us responsible for those unhappy conditions to which I have referred. I notice to-day they are inclined to blame world conditions for this situation. I notice that even the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) at Calgary on January 3rd is reported by a Canadian Press despatch as having made a statement to this effect. He himself did not use the following words; they are the words of the correspondent. I quote:

> Application of temporary measures to correct present economic conditions will not satisfy Premier R. B. Bennett. He is determined to unearth the final causes of the present depression and lay a secure foundation for permanent future prosperity. So he told a large gathering of his fellow-citizens of Calgary assembled Friday at a luncheon arranged jointly by the board of trade, the young men's section of the board of trade and the Kiwanis club.

"I cannot make up my mind," he said, "why this country between the lake and the mountains should experience the depression, why people who have lived here for years should now find themselves without any accumulation of goods, sometimes without the barest necessities of life."

Mr. Bennett said he had no fixed idea as to the answer to the questions which came to his mind, but was determined to find it. With a country with the credit of Canada palliatives could easily be supplied, but it was essential to provide for lasting security. The government was confronted not only with a problem of adjustment, but with the necessity of finding and eradicating the ultimate causes of depression.

From that it seems clear that the Prime Minister himself did not believe that Liberal policies were the cause of the depression that existed; but on the other hand he declared that he was setting out to discover what those causes actually were. Notwithstanding the fact that I cannot find it reasonable to blame the Conservative party, the government of to-day for the conditions that exist, I think I am quite justified in again reminding the Prime Minister and his followers that they were pledged to remedy the situation at once, forthwith. The Prime Minister himself said that if he were returned to power he would end unemployment; he would cause unemployment to be a bogey to be laughed at. He further said that he would force a way into the markets of the world for our wheat. Surely we have a right to believe that the Prime Minister was sincere when he uttered those words, and we have a right to say to him: Redeem your promises; you were returned to power upon the understanding that you would fulfil this promise forthwith after your election.

I am going to add that the present Prime Minister did redeem two promises which he made, and he redeemed them very promptly. The first of those promises was that a special session should be called to deal with these matters; the second was that at that special session provision would be made for unemployment relief. Both of those promises were kept. The special session was called as soon as possible after the people had recorded their verdict. At that special session an amount of $20,000,000 was, as we all know, voted for the relief of unemployment; but this vote of $20,000,000, important as it was, for the relief of unemployment, was but a trifling matter when compared to the vote to the vested interests, to the manufacturing interests of this country, by way of increased tariffs. All this was on a special plea of "Canada first." Within the breast of every man in this chamber to-day there is a "Canada first" heart, a heart that beats first for Canada. I was not born in this land; I was born in old England. I did not come here until I was thirty years of age, but I will yield to no man in my love for this Canada of ours. I have good reason to love it. It is twenty-seven years ago to-day that I passed for the first time a few miles south of Ottawa. I think the Canadian Pacific at that time ran some thirty or forty miles south of this city; at any rate, we did not enter Ottawa. I know this country has been for me and mine a land not only to have been desired before we came here, but in which we have been glad to find our home during the last twenty-seven years. We yield to no one in our love for Canada, but we say that in the matter of how best we may serve the Canada we love, there is a difference of opinion between us. Our friends to your right, Mr. Speaker, think we best serve Canada by having a very high tariff wall that will close out the manufactured goods of other countries. I had thought of a comparison I was going to use, one that had already been used, a tariff like unto the Chinese wall, suggesting not so much height, as mass, impassability. But I think the illustration that was used by another hon. member was a better one. He used the term "as high as Haman's gallows." May I remind the house of one or two facts in connection with that tall structure that has come to be known as Haman's gallows? The idea of building that gallows was conceived by a great man who might justly have been called the Hon. Mr. Haman.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BUTCHER: We know he was honourable because he enjoyed the confidence of his king. He built this structure with three objects in view. The first was undoubtedly to benefit his country; the second was to elevate himself, and the third was to eliminate his rival. I need hardly remind hon. members that in his design he was at first more or less successful. He succeeded in erecting the structure and at first it seemed as though all were going well. His progress was forward and upward, but when he reached the summit of his career, the pinnacle of success, he experienced a very sudden drop, with a very abrupt termination. The result was an end to all his schemes and a further result was the elevation once more of his rival to a position of power. I do not think it was very kind of the hon. member on the other side of the house to suggest that the high tariff structure of this country bears a resemblance to the structure known as Haman's

gallows. I am not superstitious, but I hope it was not premonition that led the Prime Minister, before he assumed that office, to refer to a possibility of his perishing on behalf of his country.

We have before us to-day some outstanding examples of the fact that a high tariff wall does not always mean prosperity for any country. We have the United States and Australia. The United States has been building her tariff walls higher and higher until they have certainly become prohibitive, yet in the United States to-day there is a greater percentage of unemployment, greater distress and more discontent than we have in Canada. I am quite sure that no person can justly hold the United States as an example of the good of having a high tariff wall. Australia has been emulating the United States in that respect. Australia is certainly not prosperous. I noticed in reading a book which I have here, which has no doubt come into the possession of a great many hon. members, the Journal of the Parliaments of the Empire, that Australia has to provide something like £800,000 to cover the balance of exchange against her in her negotiations with London, England, which does not look as though she is exceedingly prosperous.

But we need not go to the United States for an example; we need not go to Australia. We can find in the history of Canada evidence that a high tariff wall does not necessarily mean prosperity. I have in my hand, the Life and Letters of Sir Wilfrid Laurier by Oscar Douglas Skelton, and at page 242 I find these words:

> In the federal arena the tariff continued an important issue. The government lost no time in carrying out the mandate given it in the elections of 1878. "Tell us what you want," Macdonald told the manufacturers, "and we will give you what you need." For textiles, furniture, boots and shoes, sugar, foodstuffs, and iron and steel products from pig iron to farm implements, wants and needs were held to be not far apart. The budgets of 1879 and succeeding years brought marked tariff increase, accompanied by a general substitution of specific or compound for ad valorem rates. At the same time the long depression which had shadowed the whole continent came to an end. Trade revived in the United States, giving a filling to industry in its northern neighbour. The building of the Canadian Pacific and other roads created a lively demand for men and goods and credit. Soon Canada had passed from soup-kitchens and bankruptcies to rising factory chimneys and feverish speculation. Naturally, the general public gave credit for the improvement to industrial health to the widely advertised patent medicine which had just been taken. They were prepared to give the N.P. a glowing testimonial.

[Mr. Butcher.]

A little further on, at page 351, I find these words:

> In 1887 Canada had experienced twenty years of confederation, and nearly ten of the national policy. What did the stock taking show? Confederation was to bring national unity, to create a common Canadian sentiment which would submerge provincial prejudices, end all hankering for union with the United States, and prepare the Dominion for a relationship of equality with the mother country. Had this unity developed? For the most part it was still a hope unrealized.

At page 358 I find this:

> Whence could escape be found—

This was ten years after the inauguration of the national policy:

> —from national disunion and economic stagnation? Desperate conditions called for drastic remedies. Canada had failed to find salvation in her own resources.

At that time it took ten years, Mr. Speaker, for Canada to discover that the national policy did not provide relief from her economic ills. I venture to say that it will not take ten years this time, it will take less than four years, probably, for Canada to discover that a mistake has been made in adopting this particular policy. I believe furthermore that this policy is going to be detrimental to the interests of the manufacturers themselves. In fact, already I believe we have evidence of this. In the National Revenue Review, of which doubtless every member has a copy, I find that during the eleven months ending February, 1931, the decline in total exports from this country amounted to $302,538,151, and the decline in total imports to $303,969,259. The decline in our income from customs and excise amounted to $74,430,972. What does that mean in terms of unemployment? Think of the number of men that would have to be employed to deal with that amount of exports and imports.

I have also here a copy of the annual report of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company published on December 31 of last year, and my attention has been specially drawn to this one paragraph:

> The reduction in gross earnings is accounted for by lower than average grain movement and a lessened movement of manufactured products and general merchandise due to the lack of purchasing power which was so conspicuous during the year.

I venture to predict, Mr. Speaker, that it will not be very long before the manufacturers themselves realize that a mistake has been made, as they realize that there are two results accruing from the policy of the government at this time: first, the lessen-

ing of the purchasing power of the farmers of Canada, and particularly of western Canada; and second, the loss of export business because of our refusal to make reciprocal purchases. We cannot expect other countries to purchase from us unless we purchase from them. I know that some hon. gentlemen opposite will say that already the forward movement has begun. They will refer, no doubt, to this booklet, The Tariff and Business, being a reprint of a number of articles published in the Montreal Star. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I want to refer to the advantages which this writer says have already accrued to Canada as a result of the government's policy:

Concretely, therefore, may be tabulated as follows the results so far from the tariff increases of last September which The Star has verified:

1. The location in Canada of twenty branch factories of foreign industries involving a capital expenditure of $5,000,000, and employment for more than 2,000 Canadian workers. (The cheapness with which firms from abroad are able to locate here, which is a feature of the foregoing figures which will immediately strike one, is due to the fact that there is no scarcity of idle plants for them to occupy, and that in practically no cases are they being required to erect their own buildings.)

2. Plant extension programs on the part of nine existing Canadian industries entailing the spending of $7,045,000, and the employment, when completed, of 3,500 more workers.

3. The establishment of five new Canadian industries with expenditure plans totalling $1,600,000 and employment for more than 500.

4. The reopening of four Canadian mills which have been closed for years, with employment for 400 hands.

5. Increased operations in a host of industries, which cannot be measured in terms of new employment, but have meant full-time and over-time in place of part-time for thousands of operatives throughout the country.

6. More inquiries within three months than have been received in the country within the past three years from foreign firms interested in locating in Canada.

An hon. gentleman on this side of the house, speaking yesterday or the day before, pointed out that this volume of investment is in fact less in value than the normal investment for the average year in the past nine or ten years. In any event I would like to draw the attention of the house to the closing words of this booklet. On the last page you will read this:

If no country had a tariff—in other words, if Canada lived in an ideal instead of a practical world, protection as a policy would be unnecessary. But it is as important for nations as for individuals to adapt themselves to their actual environment if they are to survive. Thus, when Canada's closest economic neighbour chooses to raise a tariff barrier so high that it cannot be surmounted, then Canada is only courting economic disaster if she continues to furnish a market for the goods of a nation which will not purchase from her in return.

I purpose to take those very words and paraphrase them slightly. Allow me to read the article to you in this way: When England's neighbours and other nations choose to raise a tariff barrier so high that it cannot be surmounted, then England is only courting economic disaster if she continues to furnish a market for the goods of a nation which will not purchase from her in return. I would ask hon. members to note the warning I have just read from this little book. Certainly we will find Great Britain unwilling to purchase from us if we continue to be unwilling to purchase from her. I know that my hon. friends to the right of the Speaker will say, "But we do purpose to purchase from Great Britain." What do they purpose to purchase? Do hon. members purpose to say what Great Britain shall buy from us and also what we will purchase from her? What does Great Britain want to sell to us? She wants to sell cotton goods, woollen goods and goods composed of iron and steel. We say however that we will not buy those articles and we erect a tariff wall so high that goods of that character cannot enter Canada. We have closed the door in the face of British manufacturers. In view of our action can we be surprised Great Britain adopts the language of this gentleman writing in the Montreal Star, Mr. MacLeod, to the effect that if Canada chooses to raise a tariff barrier so high that it cannot be surmounted, then Canada must not be surprised if Great Britain refuses to purchase the goods of a nation which will not purchase from her in return.

At this point may I be permitted to say a few words in reference to the speech from the throne? I come from a farming constituency. I can truly say that 75 per cent of the electors in the constituency of Last Mountain are either farmers or the wives of farmers. In addition to that from sixty to seventy per cent of the farmers are at the present time insolvent. I am in close connection with my constituents because many of them come to me and together we review their affairs. From personal conversations I know their financial and economic conditions; they are practically insolvent. I have been somewhat surprised by the statement of hon. members from the west sitting to the right of the Speaker. The Prime Minister, returning from the west, stated that observations which had been made concerning hardship in the west were exaggerated, or words to that effect. I do not feel disposed to blame the Prime Min-

ister for making that statement. I assume he came in contact with people who are not aware of existing conditions. I was also very much surprised to hear the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) say that conditions were bad only in spots and that they might be much worse. Probably his statement is due to the fact that he has been sitting in his well appointed office in the city of Regina and has not come in contact with the actual sufferers. I notice further that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), a farmer from a farming constituency, is reported to have given an interview to a newspaper in Saskatoon wherein he stated that he had had no complaints from his constituents. I would like to tell hon. members that the Minister of Agriculture is respected by all the farmers and townsmen throughout the district in which he lives. He is very popular, but I think he may expect a little criticism when he returns to his constituency. Shortly after the interview which he is reported to hace given I was passing through his constituency and happened to be sitting opposite four farmers who were discussing conditions in the west. I heard one of them say, "Well, we will have to give the Hon. Bob"—I suppose they were referring to the Minister of Agriculture,—"a talking to when he returns to the west." As a matter of fact there is tremendous hardship in western Canada. Some hon. members on the opposite side of the house seem to think that we cannot talk about anything else but those hardships. It may be that we are not conversant with the conditions of the farmers in eastern Canada, but we do know of the suffering of those who live in the west.

I would extend an invitation to any hon. gentleman on the other side of the house who may be disposed to visit the west on the understanding that he adopt one of two methods which I am about to suggest. In the first place we might leave Winnipeg, having met at the Fort Garry hotel. From the hotel we would go to the station and board a pullman car. We would choose our companions, and upon reaching Regina would stay at the Hotel Saskatchewan. At Calgary we would stay at the Palliser, and in Edmonton at the Macdonald. Having completed our journey we would return to Winnipeg and stay at the magnificent Canadian Pacific hotel. Having taken such a trip we would be justified in saying that there is no hardship in the west. We would meet a few of the wealthy people and our impression would be that there were no complaints from that part of the country. There is a second way of travelling, however, which might leave a different impression. Instead of travelling by pullman from Winnipeg we might go back to the smoking or second class car and sit with the men who work on the land. We would travel with those men rather than with our wealthy associates and we would not be long in learning that conditions are much different from what we had originally supposed. We could visit the district in which I live and would find farmers who have laboured from twenty to twenty-five years and are to-day bankrupt. One of the hon. members who spoke a few days ago—I have forgotten the constituency from which he came—stated that the men who went west from his constituency were the lazy ones. I think if that hon. member were to visit the constituency of Last Mountain he would find the contrary to be the fact. In that district there are many men who have worked hard for years and years and have nothing to show for their labours.

I would like to say a few words on behalf of these farmers and with that in mind I refer to the following paragraph in the speech from the throne.

> 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.

I believe there is nothing more true than the last sentence in that paragraph. Undoubtedly the welfare of all parts of Canada depends upon the satisfactory returns received by the grain growers. In that connection I refer to an editorial which appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on December 16 last. This article refers particularly to the necessity of finding a market for our grain, and is as follows:

> And it cannot be too emphatically stated that it is not merely the livelihood of the people directly dependent on the land—there are at least half a million of them—that is in peril. Involved almost equally, though not so directly, are the much larger number of people engaged in every conceivable line of endeavour, who live by serving these people on the farms whose future is now in question: Workmen in eastern factories, railway men, commercial travellers, employees of every kind of distributing agency, dealers in every sort of goods in general demand, professional men, school teachers. Investors—not only those who are direct creditors, but nearly everybody who has money invested subject to market risks—are in danger of suffering heavy losses. We are all in the boat that is labouring in the heavy seas.

Nothing more true has been said concerning the situation. But hon. members have the right to ask me: "What do you propose?" I have been rather struck by the fact that hon. gentlemen on the other side have complained more than once that we are not making suggestions. Of course not. Why should we? Our friends opposite have said that they know the remedy and are going to apply it; they know exactly what to do and they are going to do it.

I was very much struck by this sentence in the speech from the throne:

> The present situation has emphasized the necessity of effecting a reduction in the costs of production and marketing.

What are some of the things that enter into the costs of production? The high cost of implements has already been referred to. Then we have the high cost of heavy machinery such as tractors and separators, high rates of interest, and high freight rates. I may be asked what I would propose should be done. Well, I think it would be wise for the government to do what has already been suggested by the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Bowman). I think he gave us a splendid address. He expressed the view that it would be wise for the government to investigate implement prices and see whether they should not be reduced. In my opinion these prices should be reduced. I think also that the prices of tractors, separators and threshing machines should be reduced to something approaching parity with the price of wheat. Freight rates have already been referred to; they too might well be reduced. While there is a flexible shield for the protection of the manufacturer against the winds of adversity, and while large corporations, such as the railways, are assured a certain standard of profit, yet the farmer is not protected at all against the cold east winds. I would suggest that the government advise those who are responsible for the prices of farm implements and heavy machinery, the high rates of interest and high freight rates, that unless those prices and rates are reduced they will not continue to receive the protection which they now enjoy.

But, Mr. Speaker, I feel the hour is approaching when hon. gentlemen want to see the house adjourn, and therefore I will bring my remarks to a close, although there are other matters that I should like to have discussed.

On motion of Mr. Cowan (Long Lake) the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Guthrie the house adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

22110—16

Tuesday, March 24, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

GARMENT WORKERS' STRIKE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Yesterday, on the orders of the day I asked two or three questions, and the Prime Minister promised that the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) would give me an answer by to-day. I wonder if he is now in a position to do so.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration): With respect to the question asked yesterday by my hon. friend regarding the strike of eight hundred girls in Toronto, a representative of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union came to Ottawa when the organization was attempting to negotiate with the employers, and after a discussion with the Minister of Labour it was agreed that the matter, being a local dispute, should properly be brought to the attention of the provincial government. This was done, and the Minister of Labour for Ontario did summon representatives of both parties to a conference prior to the strike being called. The Department of Labour at Ottawa has kept constantly in touch with the situation and has kept informed on its progress. A substantial majority of the employees who went on strike have since reached agreements with their employers. These agreements are said to be mutually satisfactory to both parties, and work has been resumed in those plants. The remainder who are still out on strike are endeavouring to reach similar understandings with their employers, and the Department of Labour is continuing its efforts to effect complete reconciliation between the employers and the employees. I have every reason to expect that satisfactory settlements will shortly be made.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration): My hon. friend from Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) also asked a question regarding unemployment said to exist in the city of Guelph. The Department of Labour has had no representations made to it by the municipal authorities. Certain works are being carried on there by the municipality in conjunction with the province, the amount involved being $92,500. If representations are made to the department by the authorities at Guelph with respect

to any acute unemployment situation, then, of course, the department will take the matter under consideration.

Mr. HEENAN: There was one other question that I asked. I referred to an article in the Fort Frances Times stating that the provincial government had stopped work on the highway between Kenora and Fort Frances, and that it was not anticipated that work would be resumed until some time in May. I would ask what this government is going to do towards helping the unemployed in that part of the country.

Mr. GORDON: The department has had no representations made to it in respect to that matter. If representations are made they will, of course, be considered by the department.

Mr. HEENAN: Then, Mr. Speaker, I should like, on the orders of the day, as their representative, to bring to the attention of the government now the fact that there are hardships amongst the unemployed in that part of the country. These men want work.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

PENSION EXAMINER AT SASKATOON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): I would ask the Minister of Pensions (Mr. MacLaren) if he is now in a position to give us a definite answer with regard to the telegram I read in the house yesterday. Many of us who come from around Saskatoon are receiving a great many telegrams of this nature. The minister stated yesterday that the rumour was not correct. Is he now in a position to say definitely that Dr. Cox will not be dismissed?

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): I do not know anything about the rumour, but I do know the facts.

Mr. VALLANCE: Is this only a rumour?

Mr. MacLAREN: I cannot speak for the rumours. I presume that rumours do exist, because my hon. friend has had a telegram regarding a rumour. I say that the facts do not justify the rumour. The dismissal is not under consideration.

WINNIPEG VETCRAFT SHOP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. P. HOWDEN (St. Boniface): The vetcraft shop in Winnipeg was burned down in June, 1930. The employees of that establishment were given to understand that it would be rebuilt by August of that year. It was pointed out to them that as this was not a political matter but was entirely under the control of the Civil Service Commission, there would be no difficulty. As yet there has been no sign of any step being taken towards the rebuilding of this institution. I would ask the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) if he is aware of the facts in this case, and if there is to his knowledge anything that is holding up the reconstruction of this institution.

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): So far as I am aware, there was no such assurance given, nor do I know that there was any expectation held out as to the reconstruction of that building. There was, however, certain compensation paid to the workers there—two months' pay, I believe, was allowed—in view of their being unexpectedly deprived of employment.

Mr. HOWDEN: Are we to take it, then—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MacLAREN: I am willing to answer the question.

Mr. HOWDEN: If the minister is ready to answer the question, as we are receiving letters from these people and wish to reply to them, I would like to know if I am to understand that this building will not be reconstructed.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, March 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. W. D. COWAN (Long Lake): For eight years or thereabouts, Mr. Speaker, the Liberals of this house from the province of Saskatchewan have been having just one whale of a good time. Not only that, but their followers out in Saskatchewan have also taken up their cry and have elaborated upon it so that they also have been having a whale of a good time. It is the same old story—when the cat is away the mice will play. Those who have been in this house know that there have been no Conservatives here from Saskatchewan for some time, and consequently there was nobody on the Conservative benches to

keep our Liberal friends on the straight and narrow path. They wandered and wandered and wandered, and they have not stopped wandering yet. What they have told the people about Saskatchewan is simply amazing, astounding. You cannot wonder at the frame of mind of the people of Canada towards Saskatchewan after what the Liberal members from Saskatchewan have been saying about our province. But, Mr. Speaker, times have changed. The many false and misleading statements which have been made and elaborated upon regarding Saskatchewan, I am sorry to say have caused many in Canada to believe that the people out in Saskatchewan were secessionists, socialists, bolshevists, communists, almost anarchists. If there are any other "ists" I do not know, but if you have any, Mr. Hansard reporter, please stick them in because I mean them all. The people of Canada have received an entirely wrong impression of the people of Saskatchewan because of this propaganda which has been carried on and which has been entirely misleading. We now have in this house some Conservative members from the province of Saskatchewan, and I may have something to say to my hon. friends opposite from that province. I will speak for myself; I am going to address my remarks entirely to the Saskatchewan members on the Liberal side of the house. I am going to concentrate upon them until we get them back into their own trenches, and soon it will not be long until they are back into their own safety dug-outs, to stay there. I hope that in so doing I shall not be considered parochial. In Saskatchewan we are as broad in our conception of Canada as Canadians anywhere else, but after eight years of misleading propaganda as to conditions in our province, we are going to concentrate on the authors of that propaganda until the enemy is licked. I am delighted beyond measure with the change of policies and methods of administration adopted by our present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir).

An hon. MEMBER: What are they?

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): The other day one of my hon. friends from Saskatchewan stated that there have been some changes in the policy of that department. At first he said there were four planks in the platform as drafted by the minister; later he said there were twelve planks and at a later time he said he did not know whether or not there was a policy. I can understand that statement, because the hon. member to whom I refer has always been in a confused mental state. Possibly the Minister of Agriculture took office under the impression that there were four planks in the policy under which the previous government had operated and endeavoured to cover them up. Afterwards the minister may have found there were a dozen and with the interests of the farmers at heart he mended those defects. This government has taken action in regard to agricultural difficulties but for years my hon. friends opposite sat behind the late Minister of Agriculture and did not make any move whatever. They did nothing and they did it for years. Where will we be at the next election? In answer may I say that hon. gentlemen opposite will never keep pace with the improvements inaugurated by the present Minister of Agriculture. I would suggest that my hon. friends opposite should have the sand taken from their eyes and the cobwebs removed from the insides of their heads.

Last night my hon. friend from South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) discussed the new agricultural policy. The hon. gentleman attempted to analyze the policy. His analysis did not amount to very much however, because it was quite apparent the hon. gentleman did not understand the policy. Briefly the policy adopted by the Minister of Agriculture is to replace the current practice of the exclusive production of wheat in the province of Saskatchewan by that of mixed farming. Although I come from the province of Saskatchewan I am prepared to admit that the industry of agriculture is as important in the province of Prince Edward Island as anywhere else. However I have the interests of the province of Saskatchewan at heart. We had the spectacle of my hon. friend from South Battleford opposing mixed farming. Mark you, my hon. friend comes from South Battleford—South Battleford, of all places in Canada suited most to mixed farming methods. The area comprising South Battleford and North Battleford constitutes some of the best country under the sun, a country well suited for mixed farming methods. However instead of my hon. friend telling the house of that fact he states that such methods could not be adopted.

Mr. VALLANCE: Might I suggest that the hon. member confine his remarks to his own constituency.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER: Take it; take it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Mr. Speaker, I have been through the constituency of South Battleford and I knew it long before the hon. gentleman was there. It is a magnificent country and particularly suited for

stock raising. To the south lies the Battle River country with fertile hills all about constituting the very best pasture land. There is an abundance of native grass. The valley is perfectly fertile and meadows are on every hand. There is not a part of Canada better suited to stock raising than the constituency from which my hon. friend comes; yet he states to this house that he is opposed to mixed farming in his constituency.

Mr. VALLANCE: I rise to a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER: Take it, take it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. VALLANCE: I will not sit down.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. VALLANCE: I will not sit down. The hon. member for Regina has just made the statement that—

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Excuse me, but I am not from Regina; I am from the constituency of Long Lake.

Mr. VALLANCE: The hon. member for Long Lake has made the statement that I was opposed to mixed farming methods. I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw that statement. I defy him to read my speech and to place any such interpretation upon it.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): I will not take back any statements. I lived for twenty-six years in the province of Saskatchewan, and the Liberals of that province received the worst jolt in their history a year ago last June. Since then we have heard nothing but groans, wails, and everything of that nature. We have listened to the most extraordinary statements by hon. members opposite. One of them, I forget who it was, made the statement that 70 per cent of the farmers of Saskatchewan were insolvent and bankrupt. That, Mr. Speaker, is an absolute untruth. There is not the slightest trace of truth in it. I will admit that 70 or 80 per cent, probably more, temporarily, are in an embarrassed financial position.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Yes, "oh, oh." And hon. members opposite must know that many of the leading business men in Canada may be in similar circumstances on many occasions. Do they become insolvent? No, certainly they do not. I am temporarily embarrassed all the time.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

[Mr. W. D. Cowan.]

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): The statement of my hon. friends opposite will go out to the whole world; I wish it could be expunged from the record. The world should not be misled by such assertions as that. What effect will they have? Even at the present time we have difficulty in getting money from the bankers, but with such statements broadcast throughout the land we can picture a gentleman being introduced to a bank manager and being refused help simply because of that propaganda. I wish to say to hon. members opposite that they should not broadcast that kind of reputation to those who are interested in the development of our country. What are the facts in regard to Saskatchewan? Are we bankrupt? My hon. friend does not know what he is talking about. For the information of the house I shall recite some facts in regard to the province of Saskatchewan and hon. members will have the opportunity of judging whether we are "bust" or not. The information I am about to quote was given to me by responsible officials of the government of Saskatchewan:

Net Taxable Land Assessment

Rural municipalities..	$887,122,979
Villages..	10,690,294
Towns..	15,610,180
Cities..	60,604,753
	$974,028,206

Those figures do not include the value of stock, cattle or anything of that nature. May I repeat that I am quoting these figures merely to show that we are not bankrupt. There is a little over $200,000,000 chargeable against $1,200,000,000. And yet they say the country is bankrupt! I admit that this money is largely tied up, but it is tied up in excess security. I am asked what I mean by that; I will tell you. The Minister of Agriculture was perfectly right when he admonished the banks of Canada and suggested that they had better mend their ways. This is an illustration—and I have a stack of similar cases—here is what I mean by "excess security." The farmer I am referring to has a section and a half of land near Long Lake for which he paid $55 an acre. I may say that land in that district has sold at a higher rate than that. For that section and a half he paid $16,200 cash; he built a house worth $6,000; his stock and implements cost between $5,000 and $6,000. He had a $5,000 mortgage on a half-section. A year ago he went to the local bank and borrowed $1,800, his crop having been a failure. His moral standing in the com-

munity was sufficiently good to justify a much larger advance. But before loaning him the money the bank manager said, "Now, you have got to secure us on that $1,800." There was no attempt at repudiation, none whatever. The farmer said, "All right, what do you want?" "We want a second mortgage on your section and a half of land, and you will have to pay the legal costs." "All right." "You own a half-section in the adjoining township; that land cost you $6,400 and you have a clear title to it. We want a first mortgage on that land." "All right." He gave them the first mortgage. But the bank manager was not satisfied. He said, "We want a chattel mortgage upon your stock and implements as security." He said, "All right." There was no attempt at repudiation. That is not the attitude of our farmers, they want to meet their obligations and are ready to give all the security that they think is necessary. So he gave them a chattel mortgage on the whole of his stock and implements. Thus the bank had three mortgages to secure $1,800. Three weeks ago that farmer went to the same bank and said, "Now, I have 670 acres of my land summer-fallowed and I want enough money to buy seed to sow it." The bank manager replied, "You cannot have it." "But I must have the money to get some seed to sow the lands." "No matter what you want, you cannot have any advance. We haven't the money to give you." "What do you mean?" "We mean you cannot have it. "How am I going to get a loan?" "You will have to give us more security." "I cannot." Now the bank had that excess security for an $1,800 loan and they would not advance him enough money to buy seed to save themselves.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Shame.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Yes, it is a shame. Now if you say that that is finance, I do not, and I do not care who hears me. I say to the bank managers and the bank superintendents, that is not right, and I think the Minister of Agriculture was fully justified in the stand he took towards the banks. We have a stable system of banking. We do not want anything else. There are not enough bolshevists out there to run a peanut stand. But we do want a bank system which will enable us to do business and carry on agriculture in this country.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Hon. members opposite say "Hear, hear." But although they were in power for some eight years they did not do as much in that time as the hon. Minister of Agriculture has done in two months. I have absolute faith in the Dominion. Our various provinces have been developed under different financial systems. I was born in the old province of Ontario. There is no better place on the face of the earth that I know of. I have dragged myself all over this continent, but I would not give Ontario and Saskatchewan for all the rest of North America. Ontario necessarily had to have a slow development. Her pioneers did well if, having built their log house and barn, they brought under cultivation two or three acres a year; but conditions are entirely different in the west, and our bankers have to recognize that fact.

Our bankers should wake up to another aspect of the question. Recently in Toronto Sir William Mulock suggested that we should take the communists in hand. Well, I think he had better start right at home. People down here do not know what is going on out west, they are ignorant of the first thing about it—and I doubt very much whether my hon. friends opposite are any better informed. I should like them to come out with me and go among the people as I have done for the last forty years. In Saskatchewan we have community halls scattered all over the province and a school system that cannot be beaten anywhere. The school buildings are of the very best and they are the centre of our community activities. The people from miles around come to the community halls to discuss economic, social and political questions, they sing songs and have a real good time. During the evening some persons will address the meeting. But what do they say? Why the foundation is there for all this communistic propaganda; that is, the very fact of the failure of our financial system to meet the present depression provides such a foundation. I am going to tell the house what some of the speakers say. Let me see how much hon. members like this. I am going to relate what those men say of some of our bankers. Let me tell you that when it comes down to propaganda the socialists have it all over both Liberals and Tories; they can show us how to go about it. They are clever; they have the ability. We are face to face with this fact and we should consider what steps are necessary in the circumstances. I wish to read this one article, which has been in circulation for almost ten years, and I should like to know if our financial interests know anything about it. I doubt it; they stay in their parlour cars and do not bother much with the people. The article to which I refer is an editorial which

appeared in the Bankers' Magazine—and I did not know there was such a publication—under date of August 26, 1924. This editorial was reprinted in the Idaho Leader and then brought into Canada. The assertion is made that the Bankers' Association of the United States and the Bankers' Association of Canada are working together and are really one and the same and then the editorial proceeds:

> Capital must protect itself in every possible manner through combination and legislation. Debts must be collected, bonds and mortgages must be foreclosed as rapidly as possible. When through a process of law, the common people have lost their homes they will be more tractable, and more easily governed through the influence of the strong arm of government, applied by a central power of wealth under the control of leading financiers. A people without homes will not quarrel with leaders. History repeats itself in regular cycles. This truth is well known among our principal men now engaged in forming an imperialism of capital to govern the world. By thus dividing the voters through the political party system we can get them to expend their energies in fighting over questions of no importance to us except as teachers of the common herd. Thus, by discreet action we can secure for ourselves what has been generously planned and successfully accomplished.

Imagine getting up before an audience of four or five hundred people and making a speech of that kind. I say that sort of thing is simply damnable, and we must meet it. We might as well get busy, and the only way we can do anything is by letting the people know the conditions which exist in this country not only in regard to finance but in regard to other matters as well. The only way we can counteract this propaganda is by getting the level-headed, reasonable farmers of our country together to discuss these questions. We must find out for ourselves just what the farmers are doing, what it is they want and why they want it, and then try to bring about conditions which will be more or less satisfactory.

There is one other matter to which I should like to refer. Hon. members opposite have been saying that we have not done anything for the farmers. They seem to think that as soon as you get goods a little bit cheaper you have done everything the farmers want. At every meeting I attended during the election campaign I made the statement that the income was the thing, that if a man has an income he will get along all right. Well, what is the situation? I have some figures here; they apply to Saskatchewan only, but hon. members from other parts of the country will find that the same thing applies. Out in Saskatchewan we have become absolutely tired of the assertion that the tariff changes made last session must result in increased prices. We knew at the time that statement was false. The government secured a table of prices right in Regina and submitted that table to the legislative assembly, which prorogued before this parliament opened. These are the figures given at that time:

Percentage of Reduction in Prices

Table oilcloth	6½
All-wool grey blankets	11
Ladies' best class hose	28⅓
Ladies' second grade hose	26½
Children's cotton hose	13
Fingering wool	14
Men's balbriggan combinations	6
Men's merino combinations	10
Men's silk combinations	20
Men's wool and cotton socks	7
Men's merino socks	10
Men's khaki drill shirts	15
Men's fancy drill shirts	15
Men's red-back overalls	9
Men's horse-faced leather gloves	12½
Pillow cotton	14
Sheeting	21½
Grey sheeting	15
White cotton	11
Grey cotton	23
Standard prints	15
Sail and tent duck	24
Sateen	8
Flannelette	12½
Denim for overalls	20

There is a list comprising many of the articles needed by farmers throughout this country, and that list was submitted to the legislative assembly of Satskatchewan. Hon. James Gardiner was sitting in opposition. Did he challenge the accuracy of those figures? Did any of the Liberal leaders of Saskatchewan say these figures were not correct? They certainly did not do so, because within a radius of two miles of the parliament buildings in Regina there are from fifty to one hundred wholesale houses supplying all these articles for that section of the country. These gentlemen knew these figures were correct, and they did not dare deny their accuracy. Does that prove that the increased tariff has been a benefit or an injury to the purchasing community? You can take your choice but as far as I am concerned, if that is an injury, pile on the injury.

Mr. BROWN (Lisgar): I hope now that the hon. member has dealt with the hon. member for Lisgar—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): Again, our friends from Saskatchewan have asked what benefit has come to the farmers from the relief work authorized last year. They understood at the time how that policy would affect the wheat growers; they knew full well there

would be no more harvest that year. There is a natural law governing agriculture in Canada; we sow our grain in the spring and reap it in the fall. That special session was held in September of last year. Did hon. members opposite expect the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to tell the farmers of the west to sow a lot of wheat at that time of year? I beg to assure my hon. friend from Lisgar that we do not do things like that in Saskatchewan. The farmers of that province do not raise pumpkins on icebergs. There is a natural law; under that law there is a right time to seed, and that is in the spring of the year. My hon. friends know that the necessities of the prairies had to be taken care of as an emergency measure, and that is what was done. Hon. gentlemen from Saskatchewan know perfectly well what happened. Before the money had been voted by the house the hon. Minister of Highways in Saskatchewan, Mr. Stewart, said to me, "I knew that when the Hon. R. B. Bennett made the statement that the money would be voted this would be done when he came into power; because we know that when the Conservatives make up their mind to do a thing it will be done." The result is that the whole of that drought-stricken area will be considerably improved. There have been nine thousand farmers furnished with work in the province of Saskatchewan—nine thousand farmers with twenty-five thousand horses. They have been engaged building roads. They were not given a dole; they were not given sops. They were given work, and throughout the province camps were provided to house them. Every man was given an opportunity to work until he had earned one hundred dollars, and then he went back home and enabled someone else to come along. And the work was well done. The sum of ten million dollars was spent to good purpose, and then my hon. friends ask: what did they do? Let me say that never in the history of Canada has work been more economically or better done than the work which was thus carried out in the province of Saskatchewan, employment being provided through the use of money furnished in part by this government for the relief of people in the drought-stricken area. But were the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta the only ones who have suffered in this regard? Why, in a large part of the United States the people were stricken by the drought worse than we were. Yet the Americans were not crying and groaning and yelping; they did what they could to ameliorate the conditions that faced them. And that is what we are doing now. The drought that has stricken us is a temporary condition, and I for one absolutely refuse to despair of the province of Saskatchewan because of what has happened in the past two years, and to say to the people there, "You are no good, you cannot produce enough." I am prepared to base my estimate of the productivity of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, not on what has been accomplished during those two years but on the average of production since I first settled there some thirty years ago. I do not hesitate to say that the average for that thirty years will greatly exceed the average of the last two years, and that is the standard by which I shall judge. And what do we find over that longer period? Ask the people of Saskatchewan and you will find thousands of farmers who have been successful in that time. You could find nothing better in Ontario and Quebec. I could take hon. members out there and show them very many farm houses as comfortably furnished as any in the east. Many farm houses have their own electric power plants and many are modernized. They are well built and comfortable. I can assure the house that as a result of thirty years of labour the farmers of the province can show very satisfactory results, and I do not understand how anyone could stand up anywhere and try to make out that Saskatchewan is not capable of agricultural development. We are just as good in this respect to-day as we have ever been. The soil is just as good; all it needs is a drink. It is thirsty, if I may say so. I am pleased to say that within the past few days I have received news that there has been a rainfall. That is the best news I have received in a long time and I hope there will be ample rain there.

Mr. JEAN-FRANCOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I must first congratulate the hon. members for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) on his excellent speech. When he moved the address he stated that the Canadian people now feel that they have a saviour. What candour! May I be permitted to quote an extract from La Russie des tsars by Maurice Paléologue, who relates an interview which he had with the great Russian metallurgist and financier Poutilow, in 1917:

> Mr. Paleologue.—However, you have no doubt that Russia will end by once more coming to her senses and making good? After a solemn silence, he spoke again with a strange keenness in his eyes:
>
> Mr. the Ambassador, I shall answer your question by a Persian metaphor. . . . There once happened in the plains of Khorassan, a severe drought, from which the cattle suffered cruelly. A shepherd, seeing his sheep dwindling away, called upon a famous wizard and said to him: "You who are so skilful and

powerful, could you not cause my grass lands to become verdant again? Oh! nothing easier, answered the other. This will only cost you two tomans." On the spot, the bargain was closed. The magician immediately begins his incantations. However, neither the following day nor thereafter does there appear the lavish with reassuring words and advices of patience. Nevertheless the drought still continues, the land becomes utterly arid. Again, the shepherd in despair hurries to the wizard and inquires with anguish: Are you quite sure of causing grass to grow over my meadows again? Absolutely so; I have a hundred times accomplished harder tasks. I therefore assure you that your meadows will recover. . . .

However. I cannot promise that this will happen before all your sheep are dead."

I therefore think, sir, that my colleague has mixed up the saviour with the wizard of Khorassan.

Mr. Speaker, I wish also to congratulate my hon. friend from Stormont (Mr. Shaver), on his very able speech on the address. The hon. member stated that a very small quantity of butter had come into Canada on the basis of 32 cents a pound since this government came into power. My hon. friend from Souris (Mr. Willis) quoted figures yesterday to the effect that from August 1, 1930 to February 28, 1931, 6,375,109 pounds of butter had been imported into this country. From October 1 to the last day of February over 3,690,000 pounds were imported into this country. I replied to the hon. member for Stormont that he could not eat that quantity of butter in a single meal. My remark did not appear in Hansard; I desire to withdraw it and say that in all probability the hon. gentleman has not only eaten that quantity of 6,000,000 pounds of butter for dinner, but he swallowed my remarks as a pousse-café.

During the last campaign the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) demonstrated that he is a great psychologist. He knew that his remarks to the butter industry would be received with favour. During the last campaign we heard considerable talk about New Zealand and Australia. However, in 1928, the Tory party was singing another song. The Montreal Gazette of December 3, 1928, quotes the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) as saying in Victoria:

The trouble with Canada and Canada's side of the Australian treaty is that the present government has never showed a friendly spirit toward Australia.

On March 17 the Prime Minister declared that the relations between New Zealand were at the present time so strained that it would be difficult to understand their being worse. I am sorry he is not in his seat as I would have been pleased to ask him if that condition is good or bad. I would like to know what progress has been made with regard to the present treaty betwen Canada and Australia, as drafted by this government.

At the special session my hon. friend, the member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon), seconded the address in a very able manner. I have known the hon. gentleman for some years and although we take different views in politics we have always been good friends. On that occasion he said that the reason for the success during the last elections was the return of the Conservative party to the traditional policy of Macdonald and Cartier, a policy of common sense, of stability in the order of things, of harmony and mutual respect of the two great races which on the soil of America were given the mission of maintaining civilization and liberty. He continued:

And look what has happened within a few hours. Quebec now holds in its hands the balance of power.

For the present, I give it to the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan). The hon. member for Dorchester continued:

Whether it casts its weight on one side or the other or whether it holds aloof, the fate of the nation depends on its attitude. It is my province which gives to the hon. Prime Minister power and the means of governing. Had she turned a deaf ear to his voice, things would have remained as they were.

On September 9, the Prime Minister replied to those words with the following:

It is a great satisfaction to all of us who are Canadians to have associated with us in government those from the old province of Quebec who have, for so many years, really believed in the principles of the Conservative party.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. POULIOT: I hear an hon. member banging his desk. If he is from the province of Quebec will he assume the responsibility for what his government has or has not done up to the present day?

It is stated in the Montreal Gazette of March 20 that the Hon. J. A. Macdonald is going to Havana in connection with the exporting of maritime potatoes to Cuba. Nothing is mentioned of Quebec. I would direct the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to the need of the potato growers of the province of Quebec. He should endeavour to remove the charge of $3 which has to be paid for the inspection of carload lots of potatoes and vegetables.

I congratulate the Tory members upon their meritorious efforts to defend a bad cause. If the government is playing a game, it is playing it with too many dummies on the front benches. It has been said that this is a one

man government. That statement must be true because up to the present the Prime Minister is the only member of the cabinet who has taken part in this debate. Some members of the Conservative party complain at times that we Liberals are very impolite in referring to them as Tories. I congratulate the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) for having had the courage to say:

> I became a good Tory because I became a good Canadian.

He was born on February 21, 1880, and was elected on July 28, 1930. For fifty years and six months was he not a good Canadian? According to his view, has he been a good Canadian for six months only? That is why he has always been treated by all as a spoilt child. Instead of becoming a Tory he should have followed the advice of the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) and continued to keep his speech in his pocket. If my hon. friends on the other side of the house are ashamed of being referred to as Tories, there is a remedy; they have only to change their policy and then their consciences would be quieted.

The Montreal Gazette of November 29, 1927, contains an excerpt from a speech delivered in Toronto by the Hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion). This speech was delivered after the Winnipeg convention when he was full of enthusiasm and was able to speak in all candour and with frankness. He is quoted as saying:

> I believe the Conservative party has been too honest in the past. Our party in the past has been too honest in strictly defining its position and policy on controversial and sectional questions.

I trust the hon. minister will change his views during Lent in that respect.

The hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins) stated that the Conservative party should be given credit for the removal of the cattle embargo. This embargo was removed in 1922, one year after the Liberal administration had come into office. I need not say anything more with reference to this matter, which would appear to be an anachronism.

In referring to farm implements, the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Bowman) said:

> We shall know definitely just what margin or profit there has been on these articles and whether or not they can be sold at what would appear to be a less prohibitive price.

During the last campaign it was stated in many constituencies in the province of Quebec that the farmers should not complain about the price of farm implements as they were purchased only once in a lifetime and the higher price paid would be more than offset by the price received for butter. It was said also that the labouring man should not complain of having to pay more for butter because he would have more work at higher wages once the Conservatives were put into power. Instead of that we are faced with unemployment.

The hon. member for Rosetown (Mr. Loucks), speaking yesterday, said:

> I wish to assure the government, as a farmer of the west, that they will have my sincere support so long as they do those things which they have undertaken to carry out.

Nothing has been done yet and we will be watching the hon. member to see if he keeps his word.

In commenting upon labour and unemployment the Montreal Gazette of February 28, 1930, said:

> It is impossible to quarrel with the general position taken by the Prime Minister in replying to the delegation from the western provinces which interviewed the government on Wednesday with the object of securing federal aid for the unemployed, Mr. King was right—

The Gazette says that, not during the election campaign, but six months before the election.

> —in stating that no duty rests upon the Dominion as regards the cost of local undertakings designed for the relief of unemployment. So far as the general question of unemployment is concerned, the responsibilities of the Dominion are quite distinct from those of the provinces and municipalities, and they are, as the Prime Minister reminded the delegation, sufficiently onerous.

During the last election Canada was pictured by the Tories as a land of desolation, although every town visited by the present Prime Minister was a land of promise. The Tories are responsible for conditions in this country being worse now than they ever were. Votes were passed by this parliament under the late administration for work in my constituency, and that money has never been spent.

Mr. CASGRAIN: That is what they did all over.

Mr. POULIOT: They have done that in nearly every parish along the St. Lawrence river in my constituency. The late government, in order to relieve the unemployment situation, was generous enough to vote sufficient sums of money to provide work for the unemployed in my constituency. What happened in connection with Riviere du Loup station is something that I must denounce in this house. I have already given to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways a complete explanation of this case.

The facts are these. The money was voted and tenders were called for. Then what happened? The Tory candidate was interested, I suppose, in the tenders that were sent in and the first thing he asked the Minister of Railways was not to take action at once on the tenders that had been submitted to the Canadian National Railway Company. The minister is present in the house and he cannot deny that. Moreover, no action was taken for one month and a half after the tenders wer received.

Mr. MANION: Would the hon. member kindly quote the gentleman's statement asking me not to take action? I do not remember anything about it.

Mr. POULIOT: The fact is that no action was taken for a month and a half, and then when I ask for information from the Minister of Railways, he says that it is not in the interest of the country to tell anything about the Canadian National railway.

Mr. MANION: I think my hon. friend had better quote my words instead of putting into my mouth words that I did not use.

Mr. POULIOT: My hon. friend knows that I like him, and that is why I chastise him. The tenders were due to be received on August 26. They were received on that date, but no action was taken until October 7. I know that my hon. friend the Minister of Railways is a very active man and a good minister so far as the administration of his department is concerned; so these tenders must have been held up with his approval; they could not have been held up by the angels.

Mr. MANION: May I inform my hon. friend that the department does not deal with the tenders at all? They go to the management of the railway company. We do not deal with them.

Mr. POULIOT: Then the minister must have corresponded with the railway company in order that it should take no action in the matter in the meantime. In the advertisements for the tenders it was mentioned that the station was to be completed by the end of February, and this delay that took place prevented the building of the station for the reason that the contractors had figured their costs, and therefore the amount of their tenders, on a station to be built in the summer time, and not during the winter, which makes a great difference in the costs. My hon. friend cannot contradict that, because I am giving the facts. I say that for a month and a half the tenders were held up and no action was taken on them. According to my information, the Conservative candidate in my county was interested with one of the tenderers in getting the contract. That is my first statement.

Afterwards, when the minister was on his way to Fort Churchill, the acting minister took the responsibility of refusing to sanction the construction of that station, although enough money had been voted for the purpose. That was done upon the same day that the Minister of Labour was giving away $1,500,000 for works additional to what had been authorized by the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways, to the amount of $21,000,000. That man was here in Ottawa on that very same day—the thing was checked—when this government was giving away millions of dollars and was asking the two railway companies to build works not voted by parliament, and amounting to millions of dollars.

Mr. MANION: May I say for the information of my hon. friend that Mr. Dube, the mayor of Riviere du Loup, worked just as hard to get that station built, and has done so ever since, as the hon. gentleman himself. Mr. Dube has been fighting continuously to get that station.

Mr. POULIOT: That is very good, and it helps my argument. My hon. friend says that he tried to get the station. That is true in a sense. He wanted the station to be built, provided that he could have his share in the tender secured by a friend of his, by a partner.

Mr. MANION: He made no conditions to me at all.

Mr. DUPRE: Perhaps I might say—

Mr. POULIOT: I am very glad to see the Solicitor General addresssing the house. I hope that we shall hear from him in this debate.

Mr. DUPRE: My hon. friend appears to be misinformed. His friend, Dr. Dube, the mayor of Riviere du Loup, complained to the Minister of Railways and to myself because that station had not been built, and contrary to what my hon. friend says, he wanted the contract to be awarded to any tenderer so long as it was awarded.

Mr. POULIOT: I take the word of my hon. friend, but that is all humbug.

Mr. DUPRE: Is that the only reply my hon. friend has to what I said?

Mr. POULIOT: Give me a chance, please to conclude my remarks. You will have a chance to speak when I sit down.

Mr. DUPRE: With my hon. friend's permission—

Mr. POULIOT: The hon. gentleman cannot interrupt me like this.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) has the floor, and he can be interrupted only with his consent. Apart from that, he has the right to continue his speech.

Mr. POULIOT: I am not going to treat anyone gently when my county is discriminated against. The man who did that is at present in South America, the hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley). I am very glad to learn from the Evening Journal that the hon. member is learning how to box the compass. I will tell you, however, what a friend of mine, an American democrat, wired me from Buenos Aires. "You have a wonderful representative here," he said, "and I am very proud of him. He would be a wonderful emblem for our party in the United States."

I see by the press of December 9, 1930, that the representatives of twenty-eight nations have established twelve causes of unemployment. A few days later, on December 12, the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, the former leader of the Conservative party, explained the unemployment situation, and said that we should look into the root causes of unemployment. Then a few days later, my right hon. friend the Prime Minister said that he wanted to find the final causes of unemployment. In 1913 Mr. Arthur Meighen was called by the present Prime Minister the "gramaphone of Mackenzie and Mann." I notice that to-day the Prime Minister is but the echo of that Mackenzie and Mann gramaphone. Speaking in the city of Quebec of the Imperial conference, my hon. friend the Solicitor General said that Great Britain is properly considered to be one of the nations of the world which keeps her head solidly on her shoulders. That would seem to be a good reason why the Prime Minister of Great Britain, speaking of the proposals of the Prime Minister of Canada, said, "We cannot do it." My hon. friend the Solicitor General spoke about Sir Wilfrid Laurier. He said that Sir Wilfrid Laurier established the British preference as a follower of Sir George Foster. I suggest that the hon. gentleman must have been reading the Toronto Daily Star which states that Sir George Foster is the daddy of them all. It may be that Mr. Arthur Meighen was acting as the daddy of all Conservatives when he made his speech regarding the soviet policy of this government recorded in the papers of February 9, before it was defined by the government.

But what about Saskatchewan? We have been told that charity begins at home. I listened to the able speech by my hon. friend, the brilliant sophomore from Regina (Mr. Turnbull). At one time the hon. gentleman was in favour of unity, and I am pleased to learn that the Conservative party is returning to the principle of unity and harmony. However he did not speak of that when he moved the address in reply to the speech from the throne last session, but he spoke as follows on Wednesday of last week:—

> They (the Liberals) never ran an election in western Canada, at least within the last twenty years, without the most bitter appeals to sectionalism. Elections in western Canada have been fought by my hon. friends opposite on the basis of telling our foreign-born citizens that if the Conservatives should be elected to office in the federal or in the provincial field their churches will be burned down.

That is exactly what happened to St. Joseph's and St. Jean Baptiste Churches in Ottawa. I do not blame the Conservative party for it, but who could say that it was not the Ku Klux Klan which did it.

My hon. friends opposite speak about unity. At a meeting where my hon. friend for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Laurin) was present there was a gentleman named Charles Edward Guerin who spoke as follows:

> Do you still believe that talk about prosperity that he (Mr. Cardin) gave you in 1925 and 1926? he inquired. "Ask your wife; ask your neighbour if they are going to believe those good Liberals again—those good Liberals who allowed their hands to be tied by the west. Are they going to believe our naive premier, Mr. King, who makes treaties and doesn't know where they are liable to lead us?"

Mark you, Mr. Speaker, the expression is used "those good Liberals who allowed their hands to be tied by the west." The last government was also blamed for having given several portfolios to the west. Another gentleman whom I personally respect is the hon. the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé). He is a big gun. I will translate to you what he said at St. Eustache in June last, and quote from Le Devoir. This report is dated June 2, 1930:

> The budget was prepared by four western ministers, all four born in England, Messrs. Dunning, Crerar, Stewart and Motherwell. We know those western people are ready to admit into this country all English products provided that they can sell their wheat to England.

Mr. Dunning was born in England, but he could not be blamed for that. Mr. Crerar

however was born in Ontario and Mr. Stewart also was born in Ontario. Mr. Motherwell was born at Perth, Lanark county, Ontario. If the hon. the Postmaster General takes part in this debate he ought to apologize to his colleagues in this house for his mistake, whether it is a deliberate mistake or not. Undoubtedly hon. members on the other side of the house read the western papers and if they had read the Edmonton Bulletin of July 30, they would have learned that my hon. friend from East Edmonton (Mr. Bury) is a great friend of the Ku Klux Klan. That body celebrated his victory by the burning of flaming crosses on the side of a hill near Edmonton. They were there with their nightshirts, and may I say that I was very much surprised that the member for Long Lake who spoke this afternoon did not wear his official nightshirt. Probably when applied to a member of this house we should call it a robe, because there must be some dignity attached to the wearing of it. The hon. member for East Edmonton is one of the Ku Klux Klan delegates to whom I wish to refer. There is another gentleman who is very friendly with that body, the one who has been preaching unity. There is the Regina sophomore, who attended the dinner with the nightshirt from Long Lake where a speaker protested against the issue of bilingual stamps. I have referred to two Ku Klux Klan members. Mr. Speaker, I wish to use parliamentary language.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. POULIOT: I will not say that the hon. member for Long Lake is a whited sepulchre. I will not make that statement. In fact he is not, because a whited sepulchre cannot speak.

I wish to dedicate a few remarks to the French members who support the government. I make these remarks to the Tory French members, as they were termed by my hon. friend from Montmagny. I dedicate these remarks to those men who are the backbone of the present government. In that connection I present a financial statement prepared by Messrs. Dawson and Rosborough, chartered accountants, Regina. This statement is dated January 9, 1929, and is directed to the officers and delegates of the Invisible Empire, knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in "klonvokation" assembled. The text is as follows:

I have prepared and attach a statement of the receipts and payments of the imperial office, knights of the Ku Klux Klan since last klonvokation on October 26th, 1927. Our imperial treasurer, Dr. W. D. Cowan, is not in good health—

[Mr. Pouliot.]

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER: That explains his speech.

Mr. POULIOT: The text continues:

—and could not prepare a treasurer's statement, so I have made this statement to take the place of both the financial statement of the secretary and treasurer.

The kloncilium appointed a chartered accountant of Regina to audit the books, he being a member of the klan, but he made other arrangements whereby he will be away until about the end of March and not wishing to place our records in the hands of a non-klansman—

We on this side are non-klansmen, but surely there are some klansmen among my hon. friends opposite. They are cheered by my hon. friend without distinction.

Mr. COTNAM: You have some over there.

Mr. POULIOT: Name them.

Mr. COTNAM: Look them up.

Mr. POULIOT: Name them and challenge your seal. Let me continue this citation:

I have undertaken the preparation of this statement myself and trust same meets with your approval.

Here are some of the entries:

Kloctoken received..	$33,437 42
Dues received..	6,604 41
Overpayments and loans.. ..	873 36
Supplies sold..	1,753 35

Mr. McINTOSH: Put it all on Hansard.

Mr. POULIOT: All right. The next entry shows a small sum received from books sold. This is accounted for by the fact that most of them are distributed free of cost.

K.K.K. books sold..	$ 30 00
Receipts from Maloney..	549 90

That apostate is more honest than I thought—he gives the amount of the collection. The entries I have given represent some receipts; now I come to some of the expenditures:

Imperial wizard's expenses.. .	$1,284 50
Imperial kligrappy, salary.. .	2,170 00

The member for Long Lake is the Imperial Kligrappy.

An hon. MEMBER: What is that?

Mr. POULIOT: It is something with long hair. He has travelling expenses when he goes to the various meetings:

Travelling expenses..	$87 57

Then they have payments to imperial office assistants, and there is nearly $300 for kloncilium and klonvokation expenses, and also

payments for office furnishings and janitor service. Why have a janitor? The Kligrappy could have performed that service.

Advance re J. J. Maloney meeting libel case and one issue Freedman..	$912 26
Sundry rents for halls for meetings..	631 95

A man named Elliott received $698.15. He has been appointed by the Bennett government a commissioner to investigate charges of political partisanship against federal employees. What chance would a French Canadian have at his hands? The Klu Klux Klan men have a publication called the Klansman. The issue for July, 1930, published at Regina, Saskatchewan, has on the front page among the table of contents:

How Shall I Vote?

Turning to the article I find it contains the following sentence:

At the command of Quebec Mr. King withdrew his pledge from Alberta, sold body and soul to Quebec.

I wonder if the Kligrappy approved of such propaganda or signed the cheque himself. This is a sample of what is being done by the Tory party.

My hon. friend from Montmagny said: Who betrayed the province of Quebec if it was not the great Sir Wilfrid Laurier? I answer him that Laurier's policy was to unite the Canadians of all creeds and all racial origins. The doctrine of the Tory party is divide ut impera —divide to reign.

An hon. MEMBER: Don't believe it.

Mr. POULIOT: You don't believe it, but you are willing to swell the cry against French-Canadians, whereas your duty as their representative should be to kick the Kligrappy out of this house. The Tories are working to destroy the great work of Laurier. But his influence is still such that twelve years after his death the present Prime Minister has to hide himself behind his name in order to try to justify his stand at the Imperial conference last fall. Laurier has been vindicated by those who were so unfair to him during his lifetime. That is the law of compensation. The same thing is occurring to-day. I may instance the abolition of the tariff advisory board. My hon. friends opposite were against it because it was wanted by the Liberals, and they disbanded it, but now they have to acknowledge the necessity of establishing another tariff commission simply because the old tariff advisory board did such good work and was absolutely necessary in the scheme of things. We on this side do not wait until the leader of the opposition dies to support his policy. We support him while he is alive because his policy is sound. It is a great pity that those who have eyes to see do not see.

Mr. GOTT: Here is one who does see.

Mr. POULIOT: I put this question to my hon. friend opposite: how did you escape from Jack Miner's bird sanctuary?

Mr. GOTT: That is just as sensible as your remarks during the last forty minutes.

Mr. POULIOT: That is the greatest compliment that I could possibly receive. Who has betrayed the province of Quebec? Who has betrayed Canada? The betrayers are those who sit on the other side and their supporters, the Ku Klux klansmen in the ranks of their party. My hon. friends opposite are now doing tardy justice to Laurier. We support his successor as leader of the Liberal party while he is alive because his policy is sound. I am confident that some of my friends to your right, Mr. Speaker, will live long enough to admit that after Laurier the greatest Canadian prime minister is the present leader of the opposition, Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. SAMUEL GOBEIL (Compton) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, as representative of a Quebec riding, I should express myself in French. However, desirous as I am that my remarks be understood by the English-speaking members, I shall take the liberty of speaking English, although I am not quite familiar with that language.

I have just been saying in French that as a member from the province of Quebec I should prefer to speak in my mother tongue, especially as my knowledge of the English language is very limited; but as I wish the English-speaking members to understand what I am about to say I hope they will take into consideration my inadequate knowledge of their tongue.

Hon. members opposite have criticized the policy of the government, especially the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in the short address he made. His principal argument was that this is a "one man government." We have also been told about the new blasting methods, and they have been compared, unfavourably, with the conciliatory approach of the right hon. gentleman when he was in office. We have heard about secession talk in the west. There has also been criticism of the Russian embargo, and of course the policy of protection has been assailed. I am not exaggerating when I say that at least 75 per cent of hon. members on the other side who criticize protection are just as sound protectionists as we on this

side. But it is a well known fact that the Liberal party for the last twenty-five years has been in the habit of upholding protection when in office and denouncing it in favour of free trade when in opposition. So no one is surprised at what we have heard from hon. gentlemen opposite.

I intend to consider in the few remarks I wish to make, Mr. Speaker, some of the matters which have been brought up by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I wish in a few words to follow the very brief argument of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). The remark has been made that this is a one-man government. Surely the leader of the opposition has paid a great tribute to the Prime Minister in making that remark, because if he alone is responsible for everything this government has done during the short period it has been in office, he is still a better man than we Conservatives thought he was, and we thought quite a lot of him. But the leader of the opposition is much worried about it, and I should like to relieve him of some of his troubles in that regard. I should like to suggest to the right hon. gentleman that the people of Canada are not going to bother their heads very much about finding out whether this is a one-man government or a party government, so long as the government administers the affairs of Canada in the best interests of all the citizens of our country. I should like to suggest to the right hon. gentleman also that this is a matter which primarily concerns the Conservative party, so he need not worry about it so much. He might better devote his efforts to his own party; he might try to conciliate the views of the free trade wing of his party from the west with those of the protectionist wing of the east.

Then we have heard about blasting methods, so let us compare them with the conciliatory methods of hon. gentlemen opposite. For the last nine years this country has been given a mixture composed of a large percentage of conciliatory approaches; a little bit of "down on your knees"; and quite a large proportion of "do not provoke the Yankees." The leader of the opposition mixed up that medicine and gave a little dose of it to Miss Canada about every month during the nine years he was in power. What was the result? After nine years of this medicine most of our factories were closed, because Canada had become the dumping ground of the world. At the beginning of that nine-year period agriculturists in Canada were exporters of their goods, but at the end of that period they had become importers of agricultural products, to the extent of importing 50,000,000 pounds of butter during the last year the late government was in office. That being the case, Mr. Speaker, why not try some of those blasting methods referred to by the right hon. leader of the opposition and see what the result will be?

The right hon. leader of the Liberal party seems to speak of these methods as if they were new discoveries but, Mr. Speaker, they are very old. I would like to remind the right hon. leader of the opposition of a certain passage in the Bible, which I hope he has not forgotten. Some two thousand years ago our Saviour went to the temple in Jerusalem and found within it dishonest merchants. What did He do? Did He try these conciliatory methods? Did He go to those gentlemen, pat them on the shoulders and say, "My dear sirs, will you please go outside and carry on your commerce?" No, Mr. Speaker, He did not do that. He took a whip that happened to be around and whipped them out of the temple, and while He was doing so he said, "My house is a house of prayer, and you have converted it into a cave of iniquity." This seems to me, Mr. Speaker, pretty much the same idea as that behind the blasting methods referred to by hon. members opposite. The right hon. leader of the opposition does not need to worry; if this government gives the people of this country the prosperity to which they are entitled—and which this government will give them—they will not bother whether blasting methods are used or whether conciliatory methods are adopted.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we come to the embargo on Russian goods. The right hon. leader of the opposition and the hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) criticized that embargo, and judging from what they said this embargo never would have been put on if the late government had been returned to power. The hon. member for South Battleford said Canada had lost millions of dollars by turning down this offer. I shall not endeavour to answer that part of his sepech, because the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) reminded us that bread and meat are not the only things in this world. The hon. member for Montmagny said the Prime Minister spoke in the name of civilization, but I shall go even further; I say the Prime Minister spoke not only in the name of civilization but in the name of Christianity. As soon as the people of Canada learned of the decision of the government, from Liberals and Conservatives from one end of Canada to the other congratulations and messages of approval reached the government. Strange to say, however, we did not hear anything from the Liberal members representing Quebec con-

stituencies. Public opinion in Quebec was so unanimous that the legislature of that province passed a vote approving of the embargo placed against Russian goods by this government, but still hon. members from Quebec sitting on the opposition benches have not even mentioned it. The hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret) has spoken during this debate; he is quite prominent in the ranks of his party, but he closed his lips on that question and spoke not a word about it. The hon. member for Gaspe (Mr. Brasset) and the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) both spoke, but neither mentioned this subject.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I think the hon. member is not quite fair. I said a word about it the other day during the course of my remarks.

Mr. GOBEIL: If I am wrong I apologize. But I thought I was correct in stating that the hon. member did not mention it.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I did mention it.

Mr. GOBEIL: I cannot remember that the hon. member approved of it.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I did.

Mr. GOBEIL: I may be wrong there too, but that is my recollection. Now, the electors of the province of Quebec would like to know from the Liberal members of that province whether or not they approve of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). May I suggest to them that they might just as well speak now because they will have to sooner or later. Here is another instance where the leader of the opposition might direct his efforts to the adjustment of difficulties within his family; if he does he will perhaps get better results than he is likely to from criticism of the so-called one man government.

Let me also mention another omission on the part of Liberal members from the province of Quebec who have already spoken. I refer to the question of immigration. From several provinces in late years complaints have come that immigration should be restricted if not altogether stopped, and in Quebec the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and his newspaper Le Devoir have always been champions of that cause and have always claimed that the policy of the late government was disastrous to Canada. The late government would not listen to these complaints, and one of its ministers, the Hon. Mr. Crerar, always advocated a policy of wide-open doors when he was one of the members of that government. Only a few weeks after this present government came into power immigration was stopped or practically so. Yet what do we find here from Quebec Liberal members? Not a word; silence. None of the Liberal members from that province have even mentioned the matter. I am not so much surprised at that on the part of Liberal members; but I am sorry to say that I was very much surprised that the hon. member for Labelle did not give any credit to the present government for their gesture in this matter. Considering his opinion in the past I was expecting that he would make it a point of honour to approve the government on this question. However, I desire to place myself on record as being perfectly in accord with that measure. And here again Liberal members from Quebec are expected by the citizens of that province to state what opinion they profess on this question, and I hope they will do so.

An hon. MEMBER: We will tell you.

Mr. GOBEIL: Some hon. gentlemen have had a chance before now to state their opinion but they have not done so.

I now come to the Imperial conference. I admit at once that I do not know anything about the matter, and realizing that I am not an authority on the question of the Imperial conference I am not going to discuss it. But I should like to say this much regarding the subject. Permit me to remind the leader of the opposition that when he criticizes the present Prime Minister he criticizes not only the Prime Minister of Canada but, as well, every other government in the sister dominions.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Oh, no.

Mr. GOBEIL: Because every one of them has emphatically endorsed the policy of the Prime Minister of Canada. Is it not strange —and the people of Quebec will remember this—that before the last election the present Prime Minister was represented as an imperialist of the worst kind? He was said to be even worse than a former prime minister, the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen—and this is saying much so far as hon. gentlemen opposite are concerned. We were even told that we were going to have a war if the present Prime Minister and his party were returned to power. But what do we see to-day? The same right hon. gentleman is criticized by the leader of the opposition as a traitor to the empire. No wonder hon. members from Quebec who sit on your left, Mr. Speaker, are not so anxious to speak about the embargo;

they are not anxious to discuss the Conservative policy with regard to immigration, any more than they care to refer to the stand taken by the present Prime Minister of Canada at the Imperial conference. But they can rest assured that, in this regard also, they will have sooner or later to face the electors of the province of Quebec, and we shall force them to explain their position and to say whether they are for or against these different matters.

Now may I be allowed to say a few words in regard to the unemployment relief legislation. I am not aware of the experience of different members of this house, but I have here, Mr. Speaker, several letters from mayors and secretary-treasurers of different municipalities in my constituency. Every one of these letters complains that the experience has been that too great delays have occurred in the payment of moneys after the work has been done. Permit me to quote a few paragraphs from one of these letters, which will fairly well illustrate the situation. This letter was written to me by a parish priest in my county. I quote a few paragraphs:

In December last, we spent $4,000 out of the $9,000 which had been granted to us. Then we tried to obtain the 70 per cent due by the governments. Our lists were returned. We increased the salaries. Our lists were again forwarded, but no news has been forthcoming for a month.

Will you be kind enough to call at the office of the unemployment committee, Ottawa, and inform me whether the lists for Whitton are there, and when the order will be sent to Quebec to pay.

He states further—and this will greatly interest hon. members on the other side:

Owing to the stand taken by the Dominion government of procrastinating, municipalities are uneasy. They are unwilling to borrow at their own risk, or to carry on the work. Our people are idle for the last two months, to say the least. They are outspoken in their condemnation of Bennett and his confounded law. They put it all in the same bag.

What do the hon. gentlemen think of that? The letter continues:

You will observe that disposition of theirs, when you return in the course of the summer. I trust I am doing you a good turn by warning you. It is well understood that our municipality will not resume work until they have their cheque in hand.

The letter continues:

If you conferred with the people who voted for you in July last, you would be astonished at their present state of mind. On the other hand, opponents are making capital out of this. I had occasion to read a few days ago a letter from Mr. Lacroix, member for Beauce, addressed to Mayor Filion, of Spalding, in which he stated that the grants toward the relief of unemployment would not be paid before spring, after the work is done. And he questioned strongly the good faith of this legislation.

I am sorry the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Lacroix) is not present. The letter continues:

I bring these facts to your notice in no offensive mood, but to put you on your guard and allow you to satisfy those who complain, and they are very numerous in your riding.

Some people contend that Quebec is purposely setting up obstacles, with a view to showing the inefficiency of this legislation and better pave the way for the forthcoming elections. It is up to you to protect yourself. I cannot conceive why French Canadian ministers, like Messrs. Sauvé and Duranleau do not improve the opportunity of throwing light on the causes of this delay, which spreads discontent everywhere.

In connection with the letter written by the hon. member for Beauce to the Mayor of Spalding, stating that the unemployment grants would not be paid before spring, I made inquiry of the Department of Labour and what did I find? That municipality started work early in December and has been corresponding for the last three months with the government of Quebec and yet the Department of Labour has received no correspondence from the province in regard to this particular work. A certain sum of money was allotted last summer by the commission, to this municipality but the agreement between the government and the municipality has not yet been signed. An officer in the department told me no later than yesterday that if that agreement was not signed before the end of this month the municipality would not be entitled to any money. The hon. member advised the mayor that he had no faith in this law and that the money would not be paid before next spring after the work had been completed. Did he come to Ottawa and make an effort to find out if those statements were correct or if the accounts had been filed? In the face of the statements contained in this letter I cannot come to any other conclusion than that the Quebec government has an organized system to antagonize the citizens of Quebec against the present government in order that advantage may be gained in the coming campaign in that province. I say it is a disgrace that to gain political advantage the provincial government should take advantage of the hardship and poverty of its citizens.

The hon. members of this house have an illustration of Liberal mentality in the province of Quebec. They are willing to do anything to gain political advantage for their party. That is the reason why during the

last fifteen years we have had a party which in this house favoured participation in the war to the fullest extent, but which on the hustings in Quebec carried on campaigns of prejudice and indulged in racial appeals.

Before taking my seat, may I say a few words in regard to the policy of this government on tariff matters? Hon. members on the other side do not like to admit that the changes made in the tariff have benefited Canada, especially with reference to dairy products. They will not admit that the eight cent duty on New Zealand butter has helped the Canadian farmer. It is quite true that to-day the price of Canadian butter is not eight cents more than it was last August, but let us compare the situation of the butter producers as it is to-day with what it was previous to the special session last fall. The present price per pound of butter on the Montreal market is 31 to 32 cents; the New York price is 29 cents, and the London price is from 23 to 25 cents. New Zealand butter is quoted on the London market at around these prices. Canadian prices are higher than the New York prices by three cents, and are six cents over the London prices. What was the condition in August last? The Canadian price was 28 cents per pound, the American price was 33 cents per pound and the London price 29 cents per pound. Therefore, since that time the New York price has dropped from three to four cents, the London price from four to five cents, while the Canadian price is to-day three cents higher than it was last August. The Canadian farmer is receiving the full benefit of the eight cent duty put upon New Zealand butter.

These are the figures and anything said by hon. members on the other side will not change them. I am elated to hear members of the opposition speak in the way they do. The more they try to make the citizens of Canada believe that the financial position of this country is not in good condition, the better it will be for us at the next elections.

Who in this house is not a protectionist? We know that the Conservatives are, every one of them, but who among those on your left, Mr. Speaker, are not protectionists? We all know that every member on the Liberal side of the house from Quebec, Ontario and the maritime provinces is a protectionist: The hon. gentlemen in the far corner are also protectionists. When they ask for a minimum price for their wheat, what is that but protection? When they ask for reduced freight rates to bring coal to the central provinces, is not that protection? When the members from the maritime provinces ask for reduced freight rates on their products, is not that protection? Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are all protectionists.

I listened very attentively yesterday to the speech delivered by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) and I wish to say to him that I sincerely sympathize with the present condition of the western farmer. I say to all hon. gentlemen in the far corner of the house that there is no reason why we cannot agree because we all want protection from whatever part of Canada we come. The hon. member for Red Deer yesterday mentioned the case of a certain farmer in the west who was in a very critical condition, and said that there was at least something that that farmer should get, and that was employment from his own country. That is exactly what we say, Mr. Speaker, and I repeat, there is no reason in the world why gentlemen from the west, from the central provinces, and from the maritime provinces, cannot agree to pass legislation that will assure to Canadian citizens the full home market. Then our farmers will find a market for their goods, and labour in our country will have the opportunity to manufacture the goods that Canadian citizens consume.

Mr. MICHAEL LUCHKOVICH (Vegreville): I should like, Mr. Speaker, to emulate the humour and the wit of the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan) and the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), but at the present moment I am not in the mood for any humorous subject at all. My main purpose in rising to participate in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne emanates from an earnest and sincere desire to bring to the attention of the government the anomalous situation in which agriculture now finds itself, and to point out the peculiar idiosyncrasy of that human element in society which has so perversely precipitated agriculture to the bottom rung of the ladder so far as prosperity, profit and a decent standard of living are concerned.

At the outset, therefore, I wish to point out to the cabinet members sitting on the government benches that you cannot degrade agriculture and at the same time have prosperity in the other industries. Nor can you have prosperity in the other industries unless the same condition obtains also in agriculture. For if the tiller of the soil, who has been the mainstay of civilization ever since the dawn of ages, and who, like Atlas, has been bearing the burdens of the world through countless centuries, were now to lay down on his job, there is no doubt at all in my mind as to

what the result would be. All the other industries would stop, and mankind would go back to primitive conditions.

Many thousands of years ago, when farming as an industry was still unknown, when man led a more or less precarious and predatory sort of existence, wandering from place to place in a murderous quest for food, civilization in our sense of the word was unknown; and why? The reason is obvious. Because in those days there were no settled agricultural communities; and where there are no settled agricultural communities there is no progress, no opportunity for development of a philosophy of life. But when man finally learned how to care for herds and flocks, and to plant seeds, communities began to spring up in which some of the workers supplied food for all, and other workers applied themselves to the different handicrafts, trades and arts, giving rise to a division of labour based on agriculture from which have developed all the numerous activities that make up our present-day modern civilization. This condition could not have been possible had agriculture not supplied the nucleus from which has sprung the progress, culture and civilization which have been left to us as a heritage of the thousands of struggling, but now extinct, generations.

I think it is universally recognized—I am sure it is recognized by all members on both sides of the house— that agriculture in Canada is our basic and most important industry. The hon. member for Compton (Mr. Gobeil), who has just spoken, said that he would like to have cooperation between the members on this side and the members opposite. I would like to have that cooperation, especially with regard to freight rates, and especially with regard to agricultural credits and interest rates, as well as other things that I would mention were my time not so limited. Agriculture is our most important industry. In Canada, at least, it constitutes our basic industry; and yet, Mr. Speaker, how vast is the difference in comparative compensation so far as agriculture and the other industries are concerned.

Take the case of agriculture and manufacturing. A general survey of our national wealth, published by authority of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, reveals the following facts for the year 1928:

Farm values (land, buildings, implements, machinery and live stock)	$6,251,081,000
Agricultural products in the possession of farmers and traders	1,801,440,000
	$8,052,521,000
Manufactures (machinery and tools, and estimate for lands and buildings)	$1,356,306,000
Manufactures (materials on hand and stocks in process)	795,775,000
	$2,152,081,000

Although farm values surpass manufactures by about six billions of dollars, the following figures will show the great disparity which exists between the value of production in agriculture and the manufacturing industries:

Manufactures	$3,769,847,364
Agriculture	1,905,311,580

Hon. members will see from these figures that there is a great discrepancy between agriculture and manufacturing. It is not my purpose to exaggerate or to depict a situation which does not exist, but when one realizes that since confederation agricultural distress has never been as great as it is at the present time; and the prices of the implements of agricultural production and the necessities of life were never before so high, while the prices of farm products have sunk to levels far below costs of production, with consequent lack of purchasing power; that farmers have found it impossible to meet their obligations and in many cases to secure the bare necessities of life, and that constant pressure and demands by creditors have promoted the bankruptcy of farmers in the west —when hon. members take cognizance to these facts I am sure they will come to the same conclusion that I came to. It is therefore not difficult to understand that such conditions could easily relegate the industry of agriculture to the level of serfdom and peasantry of bygone days. One can readily anticipate the reaction of the government to a picture of this nature and the inferences contained therein. Undoubtedly hon. members opposite will condemn my remarks as being far-fetched or not in accordance with the facts. I am sure however that my colleagues in this corner of the house, or for that matter all conscientious western members, will substantiate my statement and will agree that I have correctly described the conditions which exist in their respective parts of the country. If, however, the government believes my remarks to be true its proper course would be to give agriculture more substantial relief than it is getting at the present time.

In this respect I should like to congratulate the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) for the stand he has taken with respect to credits. He has given a lead to his colleagues in the cabinet which should not go unheeded by the government. I believe the hon. gen-

tleman is a brilliant and sincere man who has a great future. The following paragraphs from a magazine article indicates the minister's attitude, in regard to credits:

In the meantime Hon. Robert Weir, federal Minister of Agriculture, has been engaging with the banks in a debate over credits to farmers who have still substantial equities in their farms, own stock and implements and buildings, but who have because of low prices run out of ready cash for winter supplies and spring operations. The strength of Mr. Weir's position is that he was recently out west and while there was given authenticated cases of refusal by banks to loan money even where the security was of a high type. The banks have answered him by challenging him to produce the evidence of what he alleged, but that does not embarrass Mr. Weir, because he has the goods in his office here.

He is taking his time in answering the banks, because he has been invited to speak in Montreal to the Canadian Club, next Monday on the western situation, and to the business men of that city he will quote verse and chapter to prove his assertions.

Mr. Weir's object is not that of developing sectional feeling or of castigating the banks, but of taking away a weapon which he feels may otherwise become a powerful one in the hands of professional western agitators, who are making hay while the sun of prosperity is in temporary eclipse. The federal minister is determined to see that the western farmer who is reasonably entitled to help gets it, and has warned that if the banks will not provide such assistance, someone else will.

By a coincidence, the magazine in which I read the statement of the Minister of Agriculture contains also two excerpts, similar but widely divergent in point of time. I read the following:

The idea that the "farm problem" is something new or peculiar to modern times occasionally gets a jolt when we are permitted a glimpse into the forgotten past. Recently on the site of an ancient city a clay cuneiform tablet was unearthed which recorded the fact that 3,500 years ago one Arilludupti, a Mesopotamian farmer, was forced to pledge his entire farm as security for the loan of three and a half pounds of lead. Whether lead was high in price or farm credit low this farmer was undoubtedly facing a problem, as farmers have faced, and solved, since man first tilled the soil or tamed wild beasts for his own use. The farm problem is part of the struggle of the race, first for existence, then for comfort and now for the multitude of things which go to make up our complex civilization.

I shall now read an excerpt describing an incident which took place in my own district, and which attracted so much attention that even a Chicago paper saw fit to publish an account of it. I quote:

Grain Grower's Dilemma
(Chicago Drovers Journal)

Something less than a generation ago sheep and lambs were so low in price that not infrequently western shippers found themselves indebted to the commission firms that handled their consignment. A Winnipeg, Manitoba, message tells of the similar predicament of an Alberta wheat farmer.

The story concerns a farmer in the Vegreville district of northern Alberta, who was required to make immediate delivery of certain grain which had been assigned to the bank as security for a past-due note. Obedient to the banker's instructions, the farmer forthwith hauled the first load to the elevator, but it was pronounced of low grade and rejected on account of its moisture condition.

The farmer was in a quandary both as to what he should do about his rejected grain and his past-due note, when suddenly an inspiration struck him. He had assigned the grain to the bank. The bank has demanded settlement of his note and, since the elevator had refused to accept the grain for storage, the logical thing to do was to deliver it to the bank.

Accordingly he drove over to the bank, backed up to the rear door, and before police arrived he had succeeded in shoveling the bulk of the grain in on the bank floor. He still has the past-due note and is $25 poorer, this being the penalty exacted for illegal tender.

There is a sequel, however, even to this. Having reloaded the grain, Mr. Farmer was still at a loss as to how he should dispose of it. This problem he solved by dumping it by the roadside as he proceeded back to his farm. Thus the episode would have closed, but for the fact that a neighbour's horse spied the wheat, ate it, swelled up and died. Now the hero of the story faces a suit for damages.

In this instance, Mr. Speaker, both man and horse suffered from the same malady. In the case of the man the malady was due to inflation and deflation of currency, whereas in the case of the horse it was due merely to inflation of the horse's stomach. The difference, however, lies in the fact that while the horse died immediately after inflation of the stomach set in, the man is still eking out a miserable existence under conditions that were brought about by inflation and deflation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to indicate further the farcical situation into which our farming industry has been forced to recede, I read the following article, from Commerce of the Nation, issue of February, 1931. The article is headed Partners in a Great Enterprise, and the text is as follows:

"Agriculture has been the pioneer and developing partner. Without it there would have been no western Canada and no eastern Canada. Agriculture is one of the real foundations of our national prosperity and development."

Senator W. A. Buchanan, at the 1929 convention of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, on "Canada's Economic Partnership."

Agriculture has been a vital factor in the dominion's progress. It has made possible the dominant position of Canada—wherein her foreign trade per head is higher than any other country in the world. Wheat and wheat flour are her greatest single commodity of export trade, constituting more than one-third of her total exports for 1928.

The Bank of Toronto has played its part in the development of agriculture. Its resources of capital and experience, always at the disposal of legitimate enterprises have been available to farmers and farming interests for three-quarters of a century. Loans and credits and friendly cooperation have been given to the Canadian farmer. To-day, in a firmly entrenched financial position—

I emphasize these words:

To-day, in a firmly entrenched financial position, and with an enviable record of service behind it, the Bank of Toronto is of increasing importance to agriculture and to all other ventures of integrity and vision.

No one will quarrel with Senator Buchanan's conclusions with respect to agriculture, or with the statement made relative to agriculture as a vital factor in the Dominion's progress; but when the Bank of Toronto refers to its "firmly entrenched financial position" and its "ever increasing importance to agriculture" in face of the aforementioned contraction of credits and the farmer's lack of purchasing power, its high-falutin magnanimity as expressed in this advertisement appears ludicrous enough to make a horse laugh.

The advertisement, Mr. Speaker, nevertheless is not without some merit—it at least has evoked, wittingly or unwittingly, the admission of the existence of firmly entrenched vested interests in Canada ever ready to play the part of godfather to agriculture. And here is where the rub comes in; it is doing nothing of the kind, for the actual relationship that exists is rather that of stepfather and stepson.

Three thousand five hundred years have passed since the Mesopotamian incident, and yet how similar are conditions to-day. One does not wonder at the terrible hardships of thirty-five centuries ago, but in this supposedly enlightened age of industrial development it is hard to understand why agriculture still languishes in its chronic and seemingly eternal poor man relationship, waiting for the crumbs that fall from the master's table. Indeed with wheat at 35 cents a bushel the farmer is not even getting the crumbs.

One of Canada's chief troubles is a lack of balance between country and city—between agriculture and the other industries. In our present condition we are like a pyramid balanced on its apex, in mortal fear of our industrial structure toppling over and collapsing—which on final analysis is just about what might happen at any time. To prevent such a condition the structure must be overhauled and altered to bring it into proper balance with all the other prerequisites that go to make up soundness, efficiency and stability. Our industrial system must be very badly out of gear when the prices available for agricultural produce fall to unprecedentedly low levels, while the prices of other goods and services remain at pre-war boom levels. I agree therefore with the contention of Business Trend:

That the reduced prices which the farmer has been obliged to accept for his products, while paying relatively high prices for his manufactured requirements, form a situation that demands correction before business in general can return to its former state of prosperity.

Why is it that the farmers of Canada during times of depression must accept heavier losses than the manufacturers? Why is it that manufacturing is being aided through numerous tariff increases and other bonuses, while agriculture is left to shift for itself without being given any corresponding relief? If the farmer asks for a bonus on wheat he is immediately confronted with the argument that a fixed price for wheat is conceded by grain expert, economist, business man and banker alike to be outside the pale of practical politics. But how about the $20,000,000 which we voted last September for unemployment relief in our cities and towns? How about our bonuses to railways, coal mines, the steel and iron industry? What is right for one should also be right for the other. But possibly in this regard, while the government consider it just in the case of the aforementioned industries, they do not give the same degree of recognition to agriculture.

A noted western economist says:

If agriculture is the greatest of Canadian industries—and it is generally acknowledged to be—then all natural conditions should be taken advantage of and all artificial handicaps that may in any way hinder its development should, as far as possible, be removed. By so doing not only would agriculture itself tend to become more permanent and prosperous but as a direct result every other industry in Canada would benefit.

I have great faith in Canadian agriculture. It is a great industry. It can be made still greater; and if the people of Canada generally, farmers as well as business men, easterners as well as westerners, could be made to see the complete picture, could be given a vision that would show them all the varied and interlocking parts of this greatest of all Canadian industries; they would then understand the supreme necessity of cooperating in an endeavour to remove as far as possible, all handicaps in order that it may be placed on a permanent and prosperous basis, that Canada as a whole will be made to prosper as never before.

Other industries there are in Canada most certainly, but none reach the same standing or affect so many people as agriculture; and yet so little is being done to foster this basic industry. It is true that the government, even

at the risk of their political lives, are trying to improve conditions by a rigid application of the policy of protection. But the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) surely cannot seriously contend that a high tariff wall will aid an industry dependent almost wholly upon a foreign market for the sale of its produce. It appears to me that the only person who can benefit thereby is the individual who owns a factory or lives on the stock dividends of a manufacturing enterprise; generally speaking it has very little consideration for the western prairie farmer. When one considers that only sixteen per cent of the national revenue is paid by the income tax levied on those privileged classes for whom protection has been primarily intended, and that most of our other taxes are raised by our excise and customs duties, which bear most heavily on those poor classes who are least able to pay, one cannot but feel that protection is an obnoxious form of legalized domestic piracy that allows the individual to rob the state by forbidding importation in order to prevent reasonable competition, and by creating monopolies in which rich men, who care more for coins than for human souls have absolute control.

My advocacy of agriculture as the basic industry of Canada, and my condemnation of protection as the weapon of the vested industries, will no doubt invite a charge of sectionalism; but my reply to those who may harbour such contradictory thoughts is to ask whether they honestly believe that farming is sectional. If my geography is correct, it is the most all-embracing industry in Canada. Show me a single province where agriculture is not a major calling; as for the prairie provinces, the other industries are so insignificant that they may be regarded as an almost negligible quantity. Agriculture is not sectional, Mr. Speaker; it is the most significant national problem which confronts us in Canada to-day, and as such should be given primary consideration in our deliberations during the present session.

In his pre-election speeches the Prime Minister promised to blast a way into the markets of the world and to foster agriculture in Canada. The unfortunate thing about dynamiting a channel to the foreign markets for our wheat, however, is the utter impossibility and futility of Canadian dictation with regard to the price our customers pay and also with regard to the fiscal policy that should be maintained in their respective countries. I do not believe our market in England can be retained by any hypothetical British political upheaval and consequent fiscal change; for it is hardly likely that any overseas government, whether it be Liberal, Conservative or Labour, will ever dare put a tax on food products. Even if the British Isles were gravitating in that direction the Canadian farmer, in his present deplorable state, cannot afford to wait another hundred years for improved trade conditions depending upon a supposedly salutary political and fiscal uniformity in the British countries on both sides of the Atlantic ocean.

I think we can safely discount appeals to sentiment in matters of business. Kith and kin mean nothing in business relationships. As proof thereof, Mr. Speaker, witness the manner in which the British dealers and traders have passed up Canada in favour of the Argentine and Russia. It is all a matter of dollars and cents, the buying where goods are cheapest and the selling where it is most advantageous to do so. In my opinion that is the paramount reason why Russia, the Argentine and other countries have beaten us in the markets of the world. Therefore I say that the only way for the government to blast its way to the markets of the world is by beating our competitors at their own game, and in order to do this we must first successfully solve four problems. The first problem we must solve in Canada is how to produce more cheaply, how to bring about lower production costs. The next problem is how to produce better products, a better quality of exports. The third problem is how to market more economically, bring about better and cheaper marketing facilities, and the fourth is the provision of cheaper credit.

So far as the British market is concerned these fundamental questions apply just as they apply to any other country. For generations we have been accustomed to believe that the mother country should buy from us simply because she was the mother country. In recent years, however, the relationship has been more that of a stepmother. What Great Britain says to us is virtually this: "You are now grown up and it is time to look out for yourself. If you want to sell us anything you will have to do it on the same terms as any other country. You cannot expect to get something for nothing. If you want us to purchase more grain from you you must purchase more goods from us. We want reciprocal trade with you, but that trade must be of mutual benefit to both of us."

If reciprocal trade is the only common ground on which we can trade with Great Britain, Mr. Speaker, the government of the day should forthwith begin to pull down the barriers and handicaps that stand in the way

of that trade, so that both countries will give each other what nature intended them to give and exchange their products freely for commodities they need but cannot manufacture or produce economically or in sufficient quantities at home. The proper way to foster agriculture is not by imposing new burdens but rather by lessening those burdens which already exist. What does it avail the Canadian farmer to have the tariff on his machinery raised from 6 per cent to 25 per cent? Undoubtedly the price of a binder is not lowered thereby, and as for the written promises about which this house has heard so much, with regard to the maintenance of existing prices, the western farmers has as much chance of a square deal in that regard as a race horse has of maintaining its usual pace with a dead weight attached to its neck.

If agriculture is to be fostered in Canada it will not be done by tariff increases, which tend to stabilize the prices of manufactured goods at their present high level without a corresponding increase in the levels of prices of agricultural products. While it is true that the grain growing industry cannot be protected by any kind of tariff legislation, it does not follow that the other industries should be given a hand-out which ultimately will have to be paid out of the pockets of the Canadian farmers. Prosperity in Canada can never return unless agricultural purchasing power is restored in proportion to agriculture's importance as an industry. I know this is a big bill for any government to fulfil, but it is nothing more than the economic justice which farmers have always claimed as the inherent right of agriculture. Surely, Mr. Speaker, the men who constitute our ultimate consumers and primary producers, the men who pay greatest proportion of our taxes, our freight rates and our interest, the men whose investment represents the largest part of our tangible wealth, but the earning power of which has remained much lower than that of every other industrial investment and development, have the right to demand through this house the same treatment for agriculture that is being given every other industry.

Let me repeat, Mr. Speaker, that in order to foster agriculture the handicaps which lie in the way first must be removed. One of these handicaps is our taxation system, of which as usual the farmer is made the goat. He pays a larger proportion of our taxes than any other class in Canada and gets hit coming and going in the process. Being an ultimate consumer he has no come-back. Although when he buys a pair of shoes the tax is included he cannot pass on that tax by adding it to the price of the wheat he sells in the markets of the world. Therefore I sincerely hope, in view of these facts, that the government will refrain from making a bad situation worse by increasing the tariff, which will only tend to add to the already over-onerous burden the farmer has to bear.

I should like to say a great deal about freight rates also, but my time is very limited; I understand I have only five minutes left. I am very sorry that the speech from the throne gave no assurance of a decrease in freight rates to meet the depression now existing in agriculture. The farmer not only pays more taxes, more freight rates and more interest than any other class in Canada, but as between east and west the western farmer pays from 2 per cent to 3 per cent more interest than is paid by the eastern business man. Here again the government has a chance to foster agriculture by appropriate legislation which would not discriminate against the farmer. He has been discriminated against through excessive interest charges and his industry is in danger of going on the rocks by reason of an almost total withdrawal of credit.

I do not know what the Minister of Agriculture meant when he suggested that if the banks did not supply the farmer with credit someone else would do so, but I do know that the farmers of Alberta recognize the inadequacy of the existing credit system in meeting the present economic stringency. They believe that adequate distribution of credit is absolutely essential to the carrying on of the agricultural industry, and they recommend the complete nationalization of our credit system. They recommend further:

> That as an immediate measure the federal government take steps to organize a federal reserve bank of issue and discount which bank shall be entirely under government control and shall provide credit at a reasonable rate of interest for all necessary productive and commercial enterprises.
>
> We are convinced that the above proposal is imperative in order to get away from the present intolerable position in which the credit requirements of the public in general are sacrificed to the professed necessity of the charter banks to protect to the utmost their savings deposits.

This is a resolution which was passed at the farmers' convention in Calgary this January. Now, goods cannot be produced and distributed without the aid of credit; there is no doubt about that. If the banks of Canada, to which this very vital economic factor has been extended as a matter of privilege, refuse to continue giving credit they

will wake up some morning to find Canada destitute of goods and the people of Canada rising in their wrath and taking the matter out of their hands and placing it where it belongs, namely, in the hands of the nation, the people of Canada.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Hull) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I shall deliver my first speech in the house, in French. I first owe it to the riding that I represent and which is composed of a mixed population, the very large majority, of which, however, speak the French language. Moreover, I owe it to the province of Quebec, three-fourths of whose inhabitants are of French origin, and lastly I owe it to my country, one-third of whose people are of French descent. Furthermore, I am only following in the footsteps of my predecessors speaking the same tongue and belonging to the same race when I assert in this house the privileges and rights we possess. My aim is at the same time that the French language be better respected by our English-speaking fellow-citizens and to induce them to learn and speak French. For some time past the harmony which exists among the various races in our country has been debated as well as that existing between the various provinces, the Dominion and provincial governments. Hardly were the speeches of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), the member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) and the member for Dauphin (Mr. Bowman) delivered, than we read in the local papers that this harmony is not so general as it was contended in the house, and that even, certain of these gentlemen were responsible for the existence of dissensions among us. I took the trouble to cut out from the Ottawa newspapers clippings with reference to certain remarks made by some citizens who are not particularly fond of our language and race. In the Droit of March 18, 1931 we read under the heading:

The Orangemen of Ontario score French teaching in public schools.

At a meeting on Tuesday, the Grand Black Chapter of Ontario East, of the Royal Black Knights of Ireland, at to-day's session protested against the teaching of French in public schools in Russell county and northern Ontario, and decided to petition the Ontario government to have this discontinued.

The chapter also objected to any proposals for the establishment of Roman Catholic institutional schools for boys, the upkeep of which is to be a charge on the funds of the public for education.

This clipping is published in another newspaper The Evening Journal of the same date, March 18, 1931. A few days later, March 20, we again witness our good friends begin anew in North Bay: La Presse of March 20, publishes the following news: "The Orangemen demand the repeal of the separate school privileges."

North Bay, Ont., 20 (P.C.).—The delegates to the meeting of the Grand Lodge of western Ontario, Orangemen, adopted yesterday, at their closing session, a resolution requesting the repeal of all the amendments to the Separate School Act since 1863, which grant additional privileges to the separate schools of the province, and also requesting that all possible efforts be made to oppose other amendments having in view the granting of special privileges.

The French-Canadians, especially those in the district of Montreal, according to newspapers, thought fit to also protest against the action taken by the Prime Minister of Saskatchewan who had the crucifix or all religious emblems removed from the schools, and forbade priests and nuns teaching in the province, to wear their religious garb. The St. John the Baptist Society of Montreal adopted a resolution protesting against such action on the part of the Prime Minister of that province. I did not think it—it is true I lack experience—that hon. members of this house took part in such movements. I even was unaware that the member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull), during the elections of July, 1930, had also personally taken part in the struggle against the French language and the Quebec province. I was in error. In the Regina Star, of May 29 last, certain remarks of Mr. Turnbull were published, they were not very flattering for his colleagues of Quebec. May I quote the Droit of March 20, 1931. This newspaper publishes and comments on the following article taken from the Regina Star of March 29 last:

Mr. Turnbull stated that the French influence of Quebec was thrown in the scale against the Conservatives because of the measures taken by the provincial government to free the schools of influences which are inconsistent with the public school system, and in support of this proof, Mr. Turnbull in a dramatic flourish, waves above his head a copy of the Patriote de l'Ouest published in Prince Albert. This newspaper, he states, advertises that an examination in French will be held in the schools of all French-speaking districts of the province. Prizes will be offered for the best papers following the examination, with the idea of propagating our beautiful language.

This newspaper, he continues, publishes a list of donations of these prizes, and many of them are residents of the province of Quebec.

This list covers more than a column. These are the proofs. It is evident that the struggle to free Saskatchewan from the domination of Quebec has only started.

And this is the same gentleman who, here, in the house, stated that harmony seemed to reign and if prejudices had been roused, that was attributable to French-Canadians in Quebec. You are aware, as the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) stated that man does not live by bread only. May I be permitted to use a rather vulgar expression, the member for Regina is not content of living on bread, but he preys on the French and the Canadians. If by carrying on this fight against the use of the language of one-third of the people of Canada these gentlemen were increasing their influence in this country; if these tactics had a bearing on their business transactions or helped to develop their mind or intellect, I would understand their stand. To my mind they are absolutely losing their time. It has often been stated both in English and French, that the French-Canadians or the Canadians of French extraction were here to stay. As we must live together, why not live in peace. So far as I am concerned, I pledge myself not to rouse the prejudices against the English language or against those of my fellow citizens who have a different turn of mind, and, do not speak the same language. I further pledge myself that I shall do my utmost to always maintain the most friendly relations, so that we may cooperate together in the progress of our country.

Mr. Speaker, my predecessor, Dr. Fontaine, who died some time previous to the elections, and who sat in the house from 1917 to 1930, is deserving of a special mention in my first speech. When, for the first time I entered this chamber, I could not help thinking of our great historical names—Conservatives as well as Liberals—which have shone by their ability, eloquence and good will in this house. I also thought of those whose knowledge was not so extensive and whose attainments were less, but who gave proof of much good will and thereby contributed largely to make our country greater and more beautiful. I believe that my predecessor was one of these men. He had lived all his life in the midst of the working classes, he knew them well and was devoted to their interests. He was a medical man by profession. In our district he was designated as the doctor of the poor.

In 1922, when the Liberal party returned to power, there existed in this country an economic situation, in many respects, comparable to the one existing to-day. The government of that day had not, I think, an absolute majority, but it got down to work and carried on the affairs of Canada in keeping with the revenues or the taxes which the people were able to pay. Each year it accumulated surpluses and by degrees reduced the debt which was crushing our country. Those nine years of Liberal administration were without gainsay years of prosperity. I may be told that this did not entirely rest with the then government. There is probably some truth in this, the same as we cannot hold the governments entirely responsible for the depression which exists to-day. We saw, during those years, surpluses accumulate, the debt diminish, taxes decrease and the balance of trade favoured us. This favourable trade balance had increased during at least the last five or six years which preceded 1930. In 1930, owing to the crash on the exchange, the lack of a market for our wheat, over production, unreasonable expenditures and war debts, an economic and world-wide depression began to be felt. At the outset of 1930, the people began to be uneasy. It was necessary to find means to meet this crisis which was threatening. In 1930, after a short session, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) decided to appeal to the country. Up to then, everything seemed normal in Canada. The political campaign started. The Conservatives, during that campaign, instead of discussing the administration of the previous nine years, chose certain subjects with which they were perhaps more familiar or at least subjects they preferred discussing because they deemed them more likely to capture votes. They spoke particularly—especially in the last weeks—of unemployment, of the economic depression, and a little on the Imperial conference.

So intent were they on discussing unemployment that even those who had jobs felt somewhat uneasy. One must not lose sight that, even to-day, notwithstanding the large number of unemployed, there are still people who have work. At the time, I cut out of a magazine a caricature which oddly illustrates the effects of this campaign of hard times. Unemployment and despondency were the subjects of discussion, it was even said that the country was practically going into bankruptcy and that it would surely get there if the Liberal party were maintained in power. I cut out, as I said, a cartoon which aptly illustrates the effects of this campaign on the morale of our working classes. This caricature represents a worker appearing before the owner of an establishment to ask for leave of absence. The owner whose industry probably was doing well, inquired on what grounds he applied

for such leave; the worker answering: Yes, sir! I'd like to get off to attend an unemployment demonstration. This worker had a job, only he wished to get off so as to be posted on the meaning of unemployment about which there was so much talk.

Owing to this kind of campaign the Conservative party increased their political capital, but lowered the morale and energy of the people; they destroyed instead of rebuilding.

Since the advent to power of the Conservatives our French-Canadian ministers seldom have spoken in the house, yet they are heard every day at banquets. The aim of all their speeches is: to endeavour to raise the morale of the people, of those who are in need, the unemployed. They endeavour to soothe the ills which they themselves, in part, have created, previous to July 28, 1930. And they are anxious that we, on this side of the house, should help to carry out their work. We are ready to cooperate with those in power, however we shall not hide the truth when speaking in the house or in public:

There really exists unemployment—there is no denying it. I reside in an industrial town, and every day I notice that there is unemployment. The number of unemployed was even fixed at 1,500 in September, with a prospective increase to 2,500 by January. After January, the number was by all means to decrease owing to the $20,000,000 which had been voted. Lately, by curiosity, I inquired at the city hall and in other quarters, and I came to the conclusion that the number of unemployed had not decreased in our town, notwithstanding the money expended on public works.

No one opposed the vote of $20,000,000; however, we took exception when the Dominion government forced the province of Quebec to expend—without being consulted or having a word to say in the matter—an amount of over $4,000,000, and when the government forced the city of Hull, whose power of borrowing is exhausted, to spend an amount of nearly $250,000. There would have been no criticism had the work been undertaken at an early date, so as to give work to the unemployed in December and January, when the crisis was at its height! But no, this work was put off till these last weeks.

I am aware that the Dominion government put up an amount of $100,000 for the construction of a bridge between Hull and Point Gatineau. There was quite a controversy between the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson)—who has no seat in this chamber—and a number of gentlemen in my riding. A controversy not between the minister and the representative of the riding—personally, I have never heard about it—neither with those who held some authority, but with ordinary citizens. There was an attempt to blame the Quebec government for the delay in carrying out the work. I am sorry that I have not here the famous letter which the Minister of Labour wrote to a person in my riding, in which he says:

> I am not responsible if the work does not begin in November, we granted $10,000; it is the province of Quebec which is now at a standstill.

The construction of that bridge could not be carried out before the Minister of Public Works, at Ottawa, approved of the plans, and this was delayed for two months. The work only began a few weeks ago, after the plans were approved.

It is said that the unemployment situation has improved, thanks to the grant of $20,000,000. I think so. Everybody will admit that it helped. However, our Conservative friends, especially the Prime Minister, had promised us during the elections, that it would not be charity, but work which he meant to give to all who wanted to work. In my own town, there must have been $50,000 distributed to the poor in charity and public assistance. That was never heard of before. From this $20,000,000, probably there was direct assistance given out. The pledges given before the elections were certainly not fulfilled. In Hull, the number of those maintained through public charity more than doubled this year. When, in 1921 and 1922, there existed an economic crisis, we did not witness the army of unemployed who now wait each morning at the city hall, so as to obtain a few hours of work. And when they succeed in getting a job which lasts fifteen days or three weeks, out of six months, it is most they can expect from the municipal, provincial and Dominion grants. From the Labour Gazette of January we glean that work was supplied to 196,000 persons, but no mention is made that these 196,000 persons worked but 15 to 18 days, from September or October. Those who can subsist on the earnings of 18 days work in six months time cannot live very comfortably. When we are told that the $20.000,000 was a good cure, I must strongly protest. In my own riding it did not give the relief expected and necessary.

Mr. LAFLECHE (Translation): Mr. King stated that there did not exist any crisis previous to the election.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): The worst crisis was the one which brought about the return of the hon. member.

Mr. FOURNIER (Translation): I cannot recall having read that the leader of the Liberal party had contended that there was no crisis. We even contend that it was a world-wide crisis. Moreover, intelligent people know this to be a fact. One had but to inquire and read so as to verify that this crisis existed throughout the world, but was specially felt among the nations with a high tariff. It was in Australia, in the United States and Germany that the people suffered the most from the economic crisis and, to-day, it is still in Australia that the people suffer the most from the effects of the crisis. If we refer to the newspapers of these last days, we find that in January, in the United States, where high protection existed even before the Conservatives raised our tariff in September, there were six million unemployed. We never contended that there was no crisis, however, we maintained that the Canadian government was not to be held entirely responsible for that crisis. During his campaign, for a time at least, the present Prime Minister, contended that this crisis was caused by the Liberal administration; he even stated in one of his speeches:

> Nine years of wasted effort, before the great betrayal. Can you permit these men to govern you any longer? There should be no unemployment in Canada with a proper fiscal policy.

Some time later, after the election of July 28, it was necessary for the government to take steps to relieve unemployment. The Minister of Labour called a meeting of all the representatives of the various provinces so as to gather information on the unemployment situation in their respective provinces. In his speech at the opening of the conference, the minister rather changes his views and admits, the elections being over, that the unemployment situation was not due to the bad administration or fiscal policy of the Liberal government. The following is his statement:

> "I do not for a moment suggest that the present unemployment is due to any governmental activity or lack of governmental activity. Unemployment is not purely a Canadian problem. It is world-wide."

He therefore tells us after the elections, that it was a world-wide problem. They were in power, it behooved them to relieve unemployment. Did they do so? Not at all. They have but one remedy which they wish to apply in all circumstances. Did they apply it? Did they decrease unemployment? Did they fulfil their pledges? Any serious-minded man must ask himself whether those who were to perform miraculous cures succeeded, and whether their eight months of administration gave beneficial results to the people.

Did the raising of the tariff in September produce the results expected? I frankly admit that I mingle quite a little with the people. In my riding the working people outnumber the others; the professional class is limited; those in trade are not very numerous, because we deal largely with the capital; there are also manufacturers. Since the raising of the tariff in September I have heard but one manufacturer say that it had had good results. I highly respect Mr. Drury who is the president of the largest industrial company of my city. Some time ago Mr. Drury was present at a banquet of the chamber of commerce in Hull and I had the privilege and pleasure of being seated next to him. I was unaware that politics would be broached at that meeting. However, the last part of his speech was very touching. He also tried to raise the morale of the people of Hull. In closing his remarks he said: "We already feel the beneficial results of the raising of the tariff." The following day, quite upset, and to seek information, I consulted many of the unemployed of the city and not one had found work since the raising of the tariff; they were still among those who needed direct assistance. The upward revision of the tariff has been of benefit to Mr. Drury, I have no doubt. He is a financier, a business man, a manufacturer. I know that he profits by it and I am happy that some of our fellow citizens can reap some advantage from high duties; however, I think that the Conservative government, at the present moment, should also consider the citizens of cities who do not benefit or, if so, very little, from high tariff.

The government would be doing useful work by teaching the people how to make use of business-like methods in their affairs, just as the King government carried on during nine years, that is, spend less than its revenue and economize in order that, when Conservative governments turn up, there may be some savings to face poverty and unemployment which will always be present. Has high tariff increased business? I do not think so. It increases it in the case of some industries which profit by it, but it is not less true that other industries suffer by it. Of late the discount on imported cars was increased. That was to help our manufacturers. All American automobile companies were to establish themselves in Canada. None have come yet that I know. Some seem to forget, notwithstanding the protests of automobile importers, that this legislation or higher tariff is detrimental to a number of our people. Some seem to forget that the automobile importers had invested a capital of $30,000,000, that there were 10,000 employees in that industry and that by

increasing the tariff their sales would decrease. Many of these automobile importers will have to discontinue business and thereby increase the number of unemployed. We have all received the statement of the Canadian Automobile Importers Association, where much information can be found. The above figures are taken from that statement. In certain circles it was not thought that the automobile importers would have to discontinue their operations. They were in error. In the Droit of March 18, I note the following passage:

W. H. MacIntyre, general manager of the Ottawa Car Garage and the Ottawa Car Manufacturing, stated this morning to the Droit that his company would discontinue the sale of Marmon and Nash automobiles as well as the Federal trucks. He explained that the sales branch yields no profit owing to the recent tariff restrictions on automobiles of American make sold by the Ottawa Car Garage. Mr. MacIntyre did not wish to further specify.

The rumour spread that the large establishments of the Ottawa Car Garage and the Ottawa Car Manufacturing Company would soon close their doors. Mr. MacIntyre gave out that it was false and that only the Sales Branch of the Ottawa Car Garage, would be discontinued. The garage itself, and the automobile repair shops would carry on. About fifteen men are affected by this decision.

Should this business close, necessarily employees will be thrown out of work, and they will have to wait, in order to get a job, that the American companies establish factories in this country. They must suffer in the meantime. This proves that the tariff, while it helps on the one hand may be on the other detrimental.

I also found out that the mills of the Ste. Anne Paper Co., at Beaupré, will close their doors at the end of the month for an indefinite time. The superintendent of the mills says that this decision will result in increasing from 300 to 400 the number of unemployed. It is thought that these mills will remain closed for a year.

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): Is that the wish of the hon. member?

Mr. CASGRAIN (Translation): The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) stated during his election campaign that the workingmen would have work every day.

Mr. GOBEIL (Translation): It is the outcome of Taschereau's policy.

Mr. FOURNIER (Translation): I have but one suggestion to make before I close my remarks, and it is not a personal one. I came to the conclusion, after the election of July 28 last, that I had certain responsibilities to discharge which I had not previously to that date, and I have endeavoured in the meantime to obtain information. I am one of those new members who have much good will but little knowledge of politics, however, I hope to acquire some before my mandate ends, and I shall fulfil my duties to the best of my ability. I think that, during the period of prosperity that we have enjoyed of late, it would have been wise to teach economy to the people under the influence of manufacturers, industrial firms, speculators, advertisements, by campaigns known as "high pressure salesmanship" and by other means, conditions were so upset that the people, the workers who had plenty of work did not restrict themselves to their budget but spent extravagantly. I think it behooves men in public life to teach the people to develop in family life the spirit of thrift and to teach them to live according to their means. If family life is on a solid foundation in a country or city, you may rest assured that the city itself will have a wise and economic administration. And to carry this a step further the well administered city will help toward improving the administration of the province and so on until we reach the government of the country. However, I do not think that it behooves only men in public life and the government to carry on this education. It behooves the business man to do a little of this education among his employees. I am perhaps wrong, but by what I gather from the newspapers, heads of industries, manufacturers and business men seem to have one aim in view, that of producing and selling so as to draw dividends at the end of their financial year—and dividends as large as possible. They endeavour to increase their turn-over, forgetting the human element which enters in their various industries and especially having in mind—in a selfish manner, their capital, which is to bring them large returns.

I do not know whether Henry Ford is persona grata with the members of this house, however, he sometimes says things which are full of common sense. Some time ago, I cut out the following passage from one of his articles:

The foundation of prosperity is the family. Each family is, or should be, its own business manager. The material affairs of a family are as much a business as the affairs of an industrial corporation.

He added that many families understand this but that the number is not sufficiently large.

And, further on, another passage of this article strongly drew my attention:

The people can be no more extravagant than business reduces them to be; they can go no

farther into debt than business permits them to go; they can gamble only when business—or something that passes under that name—provides the opportunity.

That is to say that it places on business men the responsibility of not giving the people the necessary education in prevision of years of depression. I think that this situation will always exist in the world; periods of depression will follow periods of prosperity, and if the people are well prepared by educational campaigns, we shall have accomplished a great step towards the general welfare of our country.

I do not wish to further delay the house. I have a few words to add in support of the remarks of my colleague from Ottawa (Mr. Chevrier) with reference to the civil servants. During the Liberal government regime, all seemed quiet in this circle of society. The civil employees carried on, assured that their salaries would be paid, and that at the end of the year they would be given their statutory increase. They lived in peace of mind which, of late, seems to have been disturbed. The present government, I do not know whether it is in a spirit of economy or whether with a view of replacing the staffs of some departments—allow certain information to leak out to the effect that three hundred temporary employees in some departments only, will soon be thanked for their services. I do not know whether the government will do so. I openly state that this will in no way help in the good administration of the various departments and in no manner will it help to relieve unemployment existing in our district.

There is also talk of retiring those who have reached the age of 65. It is sometimes among these persons that the most efficient employees are to be found, owing to their long experience. I think that one should move slowly in this connection. I am told—I have no personal knowledge in this matter—that already a deputy minister who had reached the age of 65, has been retired, and, by the irony of fate, he was replaced, it seems, by a person who has reached 70 years. I question whether it is for the better administration of that department.

The suppression of the statutory increase for all those who receive more than $2,500, is talked about. I shall point out that the more the salary of an employee is high, the greater his obligations to society, both as regards to his family and himself. I do not think that the time is ripe to economise—in salary increases and especially to retire persons who can still render great services to the country owing to their knowledge and experience. As long as I have a seat in the house, I shall closely scrutinize whether the dismissals are really justified.

I might, moreover, discuss the threats of dismissals made to postmasters and some employees of my riding, but I think that later on I shall have the opportunity of debating these questions.

In closing my remarks—as my leader so soundly stated last week—I believe that in a government, there is not only the material side, the practical side of affairs to consider, but there is also the brains, the intelligence and things which pertain to the mind. Our aim is to have a country as great and beautiful as any country in the world, composed of two great races which will one day love one another if they learn the two official languages of the country, and all my efforts will be directed in that direction.

Mr. C. N. DORION (Quebec-Montmorency) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, it is the custom of parliament to congratulate His Honour, the Speaker of the House. I also wish to fufil this agreeable duty, and thank the house for having elected you. You have proved, in a most striking way, that you were endowed with the required qualities: intelligence, moderation and impartiality. However, what has struck me more, is your knowledge of the two official languages and the use you make of both in presiding over our debates. This feature reveals a breadth of view and a deep rooted sentiment of true Canadianism.

The hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), your deputy, knows too well the esteem in which I hold him, it is therefore unnecessary for me to remind him of it. For over fifteen years, in our district, we have fought the same battles, pursued the same ideal with the firm desire to shake off the yoke of prejudices and to restore in our midst the sound principles of order, progress and peace.

It is also a custom, sir, to thank the artisans of one's victory. I shall do it with so much the more pleasure and pride, knowing that I had the help, during the campaign, of very brilliant political leaders and such outstanding speakers as the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King).

I had to battle as you are aware, against Mr. Lavigueur, then and still mayor of the city of Quebec, moreover member for Quebec-Montmorency in the late parliament. This gentleman held therefore two mandates. That was a sufficient reason for the right hon.

leader of the opposition to denounce, here in Ottawa, one week before the vote, the double mandate, and appealed to the electorate of the capital of the Dominion to vote against Mayor Plant. Evidently the then Prime Minister, now the leader of the opposition, had before him the example of my predecessor, and he had derived from it precious lessons for his party. As close to 5,000 unemployed in the city of Quebec awaited the return of their mayor, my constituents deemed it their duty not to reelect him, complying, at the same time, with the wishes and the voice of the right hon. leader of the opposition. My sincerest thanks.

The hon. Prime Minister of Quebec contributed his share, not only by his speeches but also by the presence of his lean figure. Among the 25 parishes which are comprised in the Quebec-Montmorency riding, about 10 are included in Montmorency which is represented in the provincial legislature by Mr. Taschereau. It is especially there that he concentrated his energies, it is there that he constructed his legendary bridge which must some day link the northern coast of the river with the Isle of Orleans and over which project my predecessor was successful in building at least four elections.

Of course they were pledges, and nothing more. Nothing more was needed. The two parishes that this election bridge was to link gave me a very substantial majority.

It was also in that part of my riding that the Prime Minister of Quebec announced the Indian war, reorganized the riding, and denounced the present Prime Minister of Canada, as one of the fiercest opponents of our race, our language and traditions.

The following are a few examples of this eloquence profusely used by this politician who, in certain quarters, is looked upon as a great statesman. In the Soleil of Quebec, July 18, 1930, we read:

> On the 28 inst. the Liberal party will be in power and you would have, you from Quebec county, Mr. C. N. Dorion to represent you? No, think of our race. We have too many fine traditions, too many ideals to safeguard that we should place our trust in Mr. Bennett, the right hand of Mr. Anderson who abolished the crucifix in schools and told the good nuns: "You cannot teach in your religious garb."

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): It is a fact.

Mr. DORION (Translation): There is no truth in the statement as made by the Prime Minister of Quebec.

Mr. FERLAND (Translation): Does the hon. member approve or not of the acts of Anderson?

Mr. DORION (Translation): I shall say to the member for Joliette that he will have my answer in due time and place.

Here is what was said at Ste. Anne de Beaupré by Mr. Taschereau who, on this occasion, was accompanied by the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain), as published in the Gazette of Montreal, of July 21, 1930:

> "The first thing Mr. Anderson did was to attempt to take the crucifixes out of the French schools of that western province," said Mr. Taschereau. "When Mr. Bennett went to Saskatchewan, who stood by his side on the platform? It was the same Premier Anderson. Are we to place our French Canadian rights, our traditions and future welfare in such hands?
>
> "You French Canadians standing before me, you mothers and fathers, do you realize the responsibilities upon your shoulders? It rests with you how your children should be brought up. You are responsible for their education and spiritual welfare. You must see that they in turn become worthy members of our race. Think well before you decide which government you endorse."

This text needs no comment, for the greater shame of the one who uttered it.

The success which I obtained in that part of my riding is a worthy answer to this high-bidding for votes and these paltry appeals to prejudices, a method in honour in the Liberal party of the province of Quebec for the last thirty years and of which Mr. Taschereau was one of the first to start.

Mr. RINFRET (Translation): I do not wish to be discourteous towards the hon. member, however, may I be permitted to point out to him that if it be wrong to say these things, it is still worse to do them as it was done by Mr. Anderson from Saskatchewan.

Mr. DORION (Translation): What we find wrong, sir, is to ascribe to the right hon. Prime Minister of this country intentions attributable to another political man in Canada.

The hon. Senator Beland also paid us a gracious visit in the course of the campaign. It was at St-Gregoire de Montmorency, a village of 6,000 inhabitants grouped around a cotton mill. The hon. senator made a splendid speech and also spoke, like all the others, of war and conscription, lauded the benefits of the Dunning budget, without however mentioning the clauses referring to textiles. A few days later, a number of the people of this village learned that the brilliant speaker was in the county of Beauce and had declared himself against all customs duties on textile imports. Such skill could not pass unnoticed.

A splendid Conservative majority was gained in that Liberal fortress. I cannot but help thanking the hon. senator.

As to the Hon. Lucien Cannon, who also paid us a visit, I shall refer you, sir, to the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) who is better informed than anybody with reference to the precious help Mr. Cannon was to him and to all of us in the district of Quebec, by his charges and appeals to prejudices, conscription and war.

However, sir, the all important factor of our great victory in Quebec, was the strong personality of the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada. Through his truly Canadian political stand, his extensive knowledge, his economic science, the consistency of his statements both in the east and west, the Prime Minister won the hearts and esteem of my fellow-citizens. It will not be long before he wins their deep gratitude.

Still another factor of our victory was the entry, into the federal arena, of two men who had already played a considerable part in the provincial legislature: the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) and the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau.)

The first, the acknowledged and admired champion of the Conservative doctrines in our province, inspired confidence among a great number of our compatriots. His knowledge and the experience which he acquired in the course of his long political career, the friendship which he has always manifested towards the true champions of his party, the esteem which he has always enjoyed among his own people inspire us whith great confidence.

The wide legal experience of the hon. Minister of Marine, his memorable struggle in the provincial field, were also a precious encouragement for the exponents of the party. I may add, how pleased we were, we hailing from the district of Quebec, of the right hon. Prime Minister's choice in inviting one of our own people, whose ability is known to us, the hon. Solicitor General, to accompany him to the Imperial conference.

I hope, sir, to have the opportunity, in the course of future debates to explain the needs of my province, of my district and riding; but I wish to state now that my constituents, themselves, do not only live on bread. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) for whom I have a deep admiration, although I do not always share his views, knows this quite well, for he came one day, about 1908, in my riding during an election which still lingers in our memory.

[Mr. Dorion.]

My constituents have equally confided in me the mandate of expressing their views, sentiments and opinions on the various questions of a national and economic order which were raised in the course of the last election. These views, sentiments and opinions are also those of 23 other ridings in Quebec, uniting with the 112 ridings of the other provinces of confederation which brought to the leader of the Conservative party the support which he needed for the triumph of his economic and political doctrines. Without us, without the province of Quebec, the country, as in the last nine years, would have probably been at the mercy of a coalition government without guidance or fixed principles. Thanks to the stand of our province, thanks to the breaches made in the solid bloc, the government will not only reign but govern. More than ever are we in need of a government that is in a position to govern.

I do not intend, sir, to return to what has been said, in the house, with reference to the economic crisis. May I, however, be permitted to add a few comments of a universal, national and provincial aspect.

The first cause of this world-wide crisis is to be found in the overproduction of raw material and products of the soil. The financial crisis was an immediate sequel of this over-production. This financial crisis was intensified by the artificial maintenance of prices. It is to these two crises: the crisis of overproduction and that of finance, that we must attribute, to-day, this industrial and trade depression which is felt the world over.

I spoke, a few moments ago, of over-production. This is especially evident in food products, such as wheat, sugar, coffee, etc. The same phenomenon happened for certain raw materials used in basic industries: coal, cotton, wool, leather, etc. While production was increasing, as a natural sequel, according to economists, we had inadequate consumption. The Great war brought on an era of intense production in all branches. Part of mankind was unceasingly consuming while the other part was unceasingly producing. When peace was concluded, production continued to increase and certain consuming countries became producers. Conditions were completely upset in the world. A great wave of economic nationalism took place, each country endeavoured to develop its own industries in order to become self-sustaining. In certain parts of the world, to counteract this overproduction the policy of price pegging was inaugurated. It was an

artificial policy which could not succeed. And, by the way, sir, I congratulate the right hon. Prime Minister for not having accepted the idea of pegging the price of wheat in Canada. Not only this policy would have as a consequence greatly burdened the national budget, but it would have had the same result as the pegging of prices for coffee, sugar and rubber. For if this policy stimulated production during a certain period, it led to the decrease of consumption through the stagnation of capital and credit. Under-consumption is the sequel of overproduction. While the countries of Europe were carrying on war, the markets of the far east were closed to them, Japan organized its industries. If we add to this the unrest in India, the revolution in China and in many countries of Asia, the political disturbance in South America, it is so many markets closed to producing countries.

The destruction of factories in Belgium and northern France has put those countries under the necessity of rebuilding their entire equipment from top to bottom and according to the most up-to-date plans. This reorganization enabled them to compete successfully, on certain markets, with those countries when old-fashioned industrial methods were still in use. But what further entangled matters was the Russian upheaval and the well-known five-year plan.

While the people of Russia go barefoot, enormous quantities of footwear are being exported to England; while the Russian workers are rationed, shiploads of wheat sail from the Black sea bound for England and other countries where it is sold at prices so low that no capitalist nation can compete against them.

I do homage, Mr. Speaker, to the great Canadian statesman, the Prime Minister of our country, who was the first to teach to the world by his own example, that no Christian nation should have any business relations with countries where the people are veritable outcasts among the states, due to the misdeeds of their political leaders.

I repeat that the Russian unheaval, the civil strife in China, the Hindu boycott, the insurrection in Asia, the disturbance in Latin America, have put the world's trade in a very bad way.

This crisis was felt in our own country, but its effect was much more serious than necessary due to the blind policy followed for nine years by the Liberal administration. From 1921 to 1930 was a time of wilful blindness, of reckless optimism, of misunderstanding complete and absolute. Canada was thrown wide open to the products of all kinds of foreign countries: the balance of trade was always against us; we must remember these things also if we wish to grasp the reason for the economic crisis which is upon us.

Mr. Tardieu, former prime minister of the French Republic, had this to say of the world crisis:

> Although, quite evidently, we may not control the doings of outside markets we are most assuredly masters, and responsible masters, of what goes on in our own markets. That is our business; as President Roosevelt used to say, our game may be right, or it may be wrong; but there is no doubt of our right to play.

With the optimism which was their weakness, the Liberals did not ask themselves whether they played the game properly; they simply did not play at all.

We were no longer masters in our own house, our home markets did not belong to us. If we had remained under this anti-Canadian regime, if our people had not thrown off the yoke, where would we find ourselves to-day, with foreign competition growing stronger in every way, and with our own markets wiped out? It is strange, to say the least, that a young country like ours, which despite its share in the world war had suffered a great deal less than France, for instance, should have been so severely affected by the economic depression following the war. As the right hon. prime minister of Canada has pointed out, nothing shows more clearly the total lack of foresight on the part of our former government.

The Liberal government instead of anticipating the crisis, instead of adhering to a sound policy of protection for its own people, thought that Canada should become a dumping-ground for all the nations of Europe and should gladly admit thousands upon thousands of immigrants to her shores. From 1921 to 1926, we spent $13,000,000 for the purpose of settling strangers in our midst. During the same period thousands of Canadians were leaving home, migrating to more hospitable countries. Was this merely favoritism towards our transportation companies, or did our opponents imagine that a country can be built out of all sorts of materials, like a mosaic? With the importation of foreign products came the importation of foreign labour. And our Liberal friends expect us to cure in a short six months the evils resulting from nine years of misrule! I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, of congratulating the government on the vigour of its immigra-

tion policy; I beg them to believe that this gesture will be memorable in the annals of our country's growth.

During all this time, in the province of Quebec, our opponents, under the spell of the same radiant blindness, were selling our national resources to the foreigner, sacrificing agriculture to industry and business, legalizing the unlawful acquisition of vast stretches of land under cultivation, for the benefit of foreign capitalists; they encouraged the overproduction of paper, established town sites where agricultural centres were already in existence, drained our countryside of its workers who were shepherded into artificial towns which to-day are on the verge of bankruptcy. After ten years of such a policy, we realize to-day that their frog-town that Mr. Taschereau tried to swell beyond the ox's size, is blowing up, that the paper mills are closing down one after the other, thus throwing hundreds of workers on the streets.

Is it any wonder that thousands of unemployed are to-day walking the streets of our cities, with nothing to fall back upon, hopeless—farming folk of yesteryear, fascinated by these artificial cities?

It was in our province also, whose business policy was praised by the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Cardin) that the excessive intervention of the state in private undertakings hampered and even—in certain cases—prevented the necessary accumulation of private capital and its investment in private enterprise. We must make radical changes in our province if we wish to feel the beneficial effect of the economic recovery that the present government is bringing about through the wise and effective measures it has adopted since coming into power. Despite these obstacles of a local nature, which our friends of the opposition must answer for, I can say definitely that the efforts of our present government have already borne fruit; there is abroad to-day, amongst private individuals and in the business world, a finer spirit of generous confidence.

As I recalled a few moments ago, another act that brought joy to the hearts of our people, was the closing of our Canadian markets against all imports from Russia. Just when Ottawa was adopting an order in council to this effect the provincial government of Quebec was putting a similar measure through the legislature.

Why is it that our friends of the Liberal party did not give expression to any such desire when a Liberal government was in power at Ottawa? Did they take this way of showing their faith in the firmness, the disinterestedness of the right hon. Prime Minister of this country? Have they begun to realize that the country is far better off in the hands of men who can act freely, heedless of the narrowing exigencies of cliques, and beyond the need of continual bartering with radical elements? There you have a fine certificate of impotence addressed to the former government.

In acting thus, Mr. Speaker, the government of our country has given proof of all its affection, all its esteem, all its consideration for the workers of Canada. He has condemned the conscription of labour without remuneration, the brutalizing system enforced on the Russian proletariat, under guise of safeguarding their liberty. It is also an act of the highest social and moral importance, since it condemns anarchy and all forms of disorder, the overturning of values and of institutions.

The hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) and his colleagues of Quebec were worried, during the last campaign, at the thought that the present Prime Minister might go to represent Canada at the Imperial conference. The voters laughed at his misgivings; and the attitude taken by our Canadian delegation has thrown new lustre on our own dear country. Like Mackenzie Bowell in 1894, the Canadian Prime Minister asked for preferential reciprocity without striving to hide the fact that he was guided first and foremost by the interests of Canada. It is plain that the precedence claimed for the interests of his own country by the leader of each delegation does not exclude his devotion to those of the empire, but our Prime Miniser was applying in the sphere of economics the principle successfully upheld by Sir Robert Borden, thanks to which Canada was finally recognized at the League of Nations as an independent and self-governing member of the empire

This attitude was particularly pleasing to the province of Quebec. Tied to her soil with all the fibre of her soul, guardian of her language, her laws and her tradition, enamoured of her past filled with trials and moral conquests, she wishes her mother country to stand by itself and to include no other land than Canada: her duties, as her rights, cease at the border line of Canadian territory. There you have Quebec's idea of patriotism; that is our understanding of national sentiment. This Canadian sentiment must beware of two dangers, both from the outside: Americanism and colonialism. Americanism which signifies for us, on the one hand, a young people, weak, made up of two distinct races, each with its own temperament, its own ethnical character;

on the other, a giant people, rich, powerful, intoxicated with their own strength, their wealth, their power, and sending out beyond their own borders their ideas, their tastes and their morals. The process has been described as the moral, mental and economic annexation of the first by the second, of the weak by the strong: the wolf swallowing the lamb. We may dispense with a definition of colonialism. The right hon. leader of the opposition gave a good example of it in this house last May when he interrupted the present Prime Minister who was expounding his doctrine of Canada First, with the query: "But what about the British Empire?"

As to those obstacles of a purely Canadian character which are apt to irritate the national sentiment of my fellow French Canadians may I quote the following from an article written by the director of Le Devoir on August 27th, 1910:

> In other words the French Canadian will love and uphold the bond of Empire and British institutions as long as will be recognized their right to freely discuss all problems involving the national future of Canada; if they are not forced to assume, first the glory of Great Britain, burdens and responsibilities which the constitution and simple justice do not impose upon them; and especially if they find throughout the length and breadth of Canada a political and social system which allows of their cultural organization, permits them to foster their mother-tongue and to bring up their children in the love of their traditions both religious and national.

What we strive for is the preservation of the federative spirit and the mutual respect of the two great races who inhabit this country. An eminent citizen of France, Count Saint-Aulaire, once said:

> Speaking politically, if an admixture of British genius and French genius were possible, it would shield us from error; just as an alliance between the British fleet and the French army would save us from aggression.

We of the Conservative party, have already proven the possibility of this blending process; it was eminent statesmen imbued with these principles who, in Ontario, generously reorganized our compatriots' right to be educated and taught in the language and in the religion of their forefathers. I long for the dawn of the same intelligent spirit in Saskatchewan for the disapprovance of the mean and narrow-minded persecution of all we hold dear. At a time like the present when, more than ever, we should unite, should understand one another, why waste our energies in quarrelling among ourselves? That sort of thing is unknown in the experience of Quebec province, because that province has always respected in its entirety the agreement signed with the other provinces in 1867.

One of my remote ancestors, Antoine-Aimé Dorion, fought with all his might against the compact, before its adoption. He foresaw the struggles we have had to wage since 1867. He abided by the decision of the majority, however, willy-nilly, once it was reached; and even took his seat in this house. Several thought as he did in opposition to Sir Georges-Etienne Cartier; but once the covenant had been signed on behalf of the province that was the end of all dissension among us—there was no further distinction between victor and vanquished.

On behalf of my constituency, on behalf of my province, for the greater welfare of my country, I claim the same measure of justice for my compatriots throughout this continent. Under the intelligent and energetic leadership of the Prime Minister of this country I believe in the future, I trust that the day will come when Canada will know the full enjoyment of peace, harmony and progress at home; of moral, political and economic independence abroad, within the fold of the great British Empire. Let us have faith. Let us face the present with courage. Let us believe in the future. Let those of us who are of French descent, draw that courage from the history of those who, three hundred years ago, discovered this vast country and colonized it; and you, fellow-citizens of English origin, may find this courage in the patriotism of those royalists who suffered so deeply to remain loyal to their king. Let us unite; let us work together to build up a great country.

Mr. OSCAR L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, like the two hon. gentlemen who preceded me I shall speak in my mother tongue since this is the first time I have addressed the house this session. Naturally, French is much easier for me than English; but if my speech is not in English it is not through any reason of indolence, it is rather because I wish to affirm our right to express ourselves in our own language within the walls of the House of Commons of Canada. Moreover, Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that this right will always exist in our country no matter what Mr. Anderson of Saskatchewan, and the Regina Star, may say. I am convinced that the good common sense of the Canadian people will overcome these

appeals to fanaticism, these hollow, dishonest notions sown here and there throughout the country with the sole purpose of gaining power or, once successful, of keeping it.

My first thought, Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak in the house this year must be for the good people who do me the honour of electing me to represent them here. So I shall take advantage of this debate on the speech from the throne to place before the government the extremely critical and painful plight of the people in the northern part of my riding.

I am happy, Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. LaVergne), to see you present here to-night; I am glad to see my good friend from Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) here, too. I know that the same distressful situation exists in the northern part of your own counties. I ask my two excellent colleagues to help me make the government understand how real is the need of the inhabitants of our constituencies; but especially to help me in my efforts to have this situation remedied. My colleagues know it, if the government does not, there is real hardship in that part of the province of Quebec.

In the parish of St. Camille, for instance, which is the upper parish of the county of Bellechasse, and touches the Maine boundary, I could mention fifty cases of the blackest poverty, people who haven't enough to eat, who are in need of clothing and of all the necessaries of life. I feel sure things are not better in the two neighbouring counties.

Why? Because there is no work in the woods. The people of these parts derive their livelihood almost entirely from working in the woods; they are lumberjacks rather than farmers. Up to now farming has been a side-line with them. They were mainly employed in the woods and tended their farms only when they had nothing else to do.

This year the border is practically closed. The people I am speaking of cannot take jobs in the Maine woods like they used to do. In Quebec province itself lumbering operations have been very much curtailed and wages have been cut enormously. Those who succeed in getting work in the lumber-camps receive in the way of pay barely enough to live.

Only last Sunday I saw at least a hundred of these lumberjacks, easily recognizable by their peculiar manner of dress and their sun-tanned features, going in a body to the soup kitchen in St. Pie Street, Quebec, where the Salvation Army serves free meals. These poor men come back from the woods without a cent in their pockets and to be fed must appeal to public charity. They spend the day around the railway stations or walking the streets; they have just enough money to pay their fare back home. Such is the plight of the lumber workers in the part of the province of Quebec that I have the honour to represent with my two excellent neighbours.

As I said a moment ago, the inhabitants of these parts worked almost exclusively in the lumber camps. On their land they did only what work was absolutely necessary to obtain their letters-patent; once they had got them they seldom troubled to cultivate them further. These farms are not sufficiently developed to feed those who cultivate them; that is why these men had to find some additional means of earning a living. They had to get work in the woods. To employ a picturesque phrase I heard some time back, these folk, instead of getting a living out of their farms, are bound to feed the farmer. In the summer season they spend on their farms what money they have earned in the lumber camps during the winter.

How could we solve this problem? What remedy should we apply to the situation I have just described? I have no hesitation in indicating just what that remedy is. Besides, the idea is not mine. More than once it has been put forward by others and I have no scruples, as was the case with the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) when he was leading the opposition last year. On one occasion after he had been more than usually violent in his denunciation of the government's laws, he was asked: "If you were in our place what would you do?", and his answer was: "Wait until I am at the head of the government; I'll tell you then what I intend to do." His reply was somewhat on a par with that made a while ago by my hon. friend from Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion): "I'll answer when the proper time comes"; all of which is not very conducive to practical progress in the House of Commons. I have no hesitation in suggesting a remedy to this sorry state of affairs among the people of my riding. In my humble opinion these backwoodsmen or backwoods settlers should be given the means to clear their lands in such a way that the lands woud furnish a living to whoever worked them.

Some time ago I had the honour, in company with several local members, of going with His Lordship, Bishop Plante, before the Hon. Mr. Taschereau, premier of the province, to explain this situation to him and suggest that clearing bounties or ploughing bounties

be given to these settlers so as to permit of their getting a decent return from their agricultural labours. Unfortunately the prime minister of the province, like the prime minister here, also holds the portfolio of finance; and when we put forward the above suggestion we were answered not by the Prime Minister, but by the Minister of Finance, that the scheme would prove too costly. I have been shown estimates which indicate that such aid to the settlers would cost some three million dollars. Like the governments of all the other provinces, that of Quebec feels the shock of bad times, although Quebec can still show a surplus which is not true of our sister provinces. Hence my appeal to our federal authorities, which I hope my very good neighbours will support. I know they will not refuse my request. I ask the government of Canada to cooperate with the government of Quebec in granting clearing bounties or ploughing bounties to the settlers in the northern regions of these counties so they may be enabled to become real farmers and get their living from the land, and no longer find it necessary to work in the lumber camps during the winter.

I hope this plan will be put into operation along with several other plans made practical through the cooperation of the provincial governments. There is no more objection to these clearing or ploughing bounties than there was to old age pensions, unemployment relief, agricultural credits, technical education, roadway improvements, and the other numerous schemes brought to fruition through the cooperation of Ottawa and the provinces. During the recess, since last September, I discussed the matter with the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart). He was most courteous and tried to point out that the unemployment relief act did not allow of any portion of the $20,000,000 voted last September being spent for the furtherance of any such plan as I suggested. There was no need of telling me that because at the September session the government never gave a single thought to agriculture, not a thought. They were looking after the manufacturing classes. The farming community was entirely forgotten; that is why we must bring up the question of these terrible hardships to-day. Or rather they did think of agriculture, but in an indirect way. They saw to it that the farmer had to pay a higher price for every manufactured product he must buy. The cost of living was increased; but there was no increase in the price of what the farmer has to sell.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you will allow me to correct certain errors committed by my hon. friend from Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion). He spoke of appeals to prejudice and especially of the notorious issue of conscription which he accused the Liberals of bringing up in every election camaign. As ill luck would have it, our Conservative friends were the ones to bring up the question of conscription during the last campaign, in my riding at least. Their main argument was that the Liberal government had become conscriptionist when it admitted to its ranks the Hon. Mr. Crerar, a partisan of conscription and a member of the former Union government. We were also told about the Hon. Mr. Fielding who became Minister of Finance in the Liberal administration after 1921, and who, it seems, was also in favour of conscription. And the Liberal party was violently upbraided for having admitted to the cabinet conscriptionists like the Hon. Mr. Fielding and the Hon. Mr. Crerar.

The member for Quebec-Montmorency spoke on immigration. Our hon. friend is new to the house; knowing how well-disposed he is I feel sure that his mistake was purely involuntary, and that he will be pleased to have matters set right. We who have been in the house longer than he, know that what he claims to be the Conservative policy in matters of immigration is an entirely new departure for the Conservative party. We who have been here for some years remember that in this house the conservative party was always clamoring for more and more immigration; and that the chief fault found with the Liberal administration by the then leader of the opposition, Prime Minister to-day (Mr. Bennett), and those behind him, when they sat on this side of the chamber, Mr. Speaker, was that we were not bringing in enough immigrants, that our immigration policy was far in the rear of the aggressive Conservative program, when they were in power; that the Liberal government was not sufficiently active in settling the country and increasing the population of Canada.

I recall that when the right hon. Prime Minister was leader of the opposition he launched a particularly vicious attack against the Hon. Mr. Forke, Minister of Immigration. Why? Because the Hon. Mr. Forke, according to him, was remiss in his duty of bringing settlers into this country.

I intend to quote proof of what I say. Evidently I cannot quote all that our friends said on the subject of immigration, when they sat on the opposition benches. But I shall quote the Prime Minister, then leader of the opposition, as also his chief organizer, General McRae, to show that the Conserva-

tive party, the Conservative leader, the Conservative chief of organization, and our good friend, since gone to his reward, Dr. Edwards, former member for Frontenac-Addington, were endlessly blaming the Liberal government because its immigration policy was not sufficiently aggressive. And when the hon. gentleman from Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion) claims that this change in attitude was brought about by the Conservative party, once again he is beside the mark. As a matter of fact it was the Liberal party which first began to tell the house that we should begin to cut down on immigration. Without mentioning your humble servant, it was Liberal members, like the hon. gentleman from Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) and others who warned the government when unemployment began to threaten. It was Liberal members who advised the government to slow down and claimed that if they wished to settle the country they should use the surplus population of the older parts of Canada for the colonizing of the newer regions. If we were to help the settlers we should first take care of our own people before giving this help to foreigners.

Mr. DORION: Will my hon. friend from Bellechasse allow me a question?

Mr. BOULANGER: With pleasure.

Mr. DORION: Who passed the order in council putting a stop to immigration?

Mr. BOULANGER: We have here another one of those political mysteries so frequent in the Conservative party. It is like the mysterious policy of the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) who the other day had to admit that what the press has been saying about his policy was not founded on fact; but who could not state just what his policy was. Things were just the same as regards this order in council: nobody ever saw it. People heard of it; but nobody ever saw it, nothing concerning it was ever laid on the table of the house. If there has been a slowing up in the flow of immigrants I don't believe the government or the Conservative party should get the credit; to my mind it is rather a consequence of hard times.

Nevertheless, despite our present depression, in spite of our unemployment crisis and the rigours of the season, we have admitted a monthly average of 5,000 immigrants during the past five months. That means that in the last five months 25,000 immigrants came to Canada, in spite of hard times, unemployment and severe winter weather. Which proves that the famous order in council that my hon. friend speaks of has at least not put an immediate stop to immigration.

Coming back to the quotation I mentioned a moment ago, I shall give you first of all the immigration figures under a Conservative government and under the Liberal administion. I shall make use of the argument that our friends were forever mouthing when they were in opposition. Their hands full of blue books they would exclaim: "Here is the number of immigrants who came to Canada when we were in power. Compare these figures with the absurdly small number of immigrants admitted to the country since the Liberal government has been managing the affairs of the country."

Here are, first of all, the figures for the period between 1912 and 1921. The Conservative party came into power in September, 1911; they left office in December, 1921. In 1912, 254,237 immigrants entered Canada; in 1913, 402,432; in 1914, 384,878; in 1915, 144,789; in 1916—the war was on—48,537; in 1917, 75,374; in 1918, 79,074; in 1919, 57,702; in 1920, 117,336; in 1921—and I ask the house to notice that in 1920 and 1921, when our soldiers were being demobilized and we had to find employment for our returned men, the Conservative party admitted 117,336 immigrants in 1920, and 148,477 in 1921.

Now let us glance at the record of the Liberal government: 1922, 89,999; 1923, 72,887; 1924, 148,560; 1925, 113,362; 1926, 96,064; 1927, 143,991; 1928, 151,597; 1929, 167,722; 1930, 163,288. Those are the figures the then leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) was alluding to when he said: "What are you doing? Compare your results with the brilliant results we obtained when we were in power."

My first quotation is from a speech delivered by the leader of the opposition on April 12, 1927, which will be found in the debates of 1927, volume II, page 2326. On the motion that the house resolve itself into committee of supply, the member for Bow River (Mr. Garland) drew the attention of the government to the fact that there were 2,000 miners out of work at Drumheller. This is what Mr. Bennett had to say:

> I am not going to deal with the question of unemployment. I deprecate greatly the observations that were made in this house this morning by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), because if this country is ever going to make progress we have to get people into it, and the more people we get, the more work there is going to be. It is all nonsense to talk of a close preserve for occupations in this country, and everybody knows it; the idea is absurd. Instead of encouraging that sort of thing, we must frown it down. We are masters of our . . . .

That was in 1927.

In January, 1928, speaking in the debate on the speech from the throne the right hon. gentleman who at the time was leading the opposition and is to-day Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Bennett), used the following words in discussing immigration—page 21, vol. I, of the debates of 1928:

Now, sir, I pass rapidly to the next domestic matter that I think of great importance, and that is immigration. It is true that immigration is by all odds the most important question that can engage the attention of this house or of this parliament. I find that in every part of the Dominion there is a state of unrest in the public mind—suspicion with respect to the manner in which the department is being conducted, suspicion of its administrative power, belief that political considerations have influence in connection with getting permits for the admission of settlers. You will find these things in every newspaper you take up, in the dispatches from its correspondents and in the editorials, and they are discussed in synods and other church meetings. It is high time that something be done to put the power of parliament unitedly behind an effort to bring people over and settle them in this country. We cannot continue as we are and maintain our present position very long. It is essentially important that we should induce more settlers to come to this country. I have pointed out this before, and I . . . .

A little further on, page 22, after quoting the figures I mentioned a while back, he went on to say:

I have already read that part of the speech from the throne delivered in 1927 dealing with this question, and I gave the census figures for 1916 to 1921 and for 1921 to 1926; those figures have been placed on record, and they indicate that although we have sent a few settlers west, many of them have left the country; they entered at the front door and left by the back, and we have not even maintained our natural increase. Further than that, in no one year since 1921 have we brought into Canada half as many people as were brought here in 1913. Those are the facts and the figures.

The year 1913 was the banner year of the Conservative administration. In that year at least 400,000 immigrants entered Canada. The Conservatives never mentioned immigration without bringing in this record year of 1913, and holding it forth to us as a goal, as an accomplishment that we indolent Liberals should strive for.

Mr. DORION: Would the hon. member from Bellechasse, who seems to be well acquainted with statistics, be good enough to tell me how many immigrants came to our country from 1896 to 1911 when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was in power?

Mr. BOULANGER: I shall take some other opportunity of instructing my hon. friend whose thirst for knowledge I am glad to note.

Mr. DORION: There were two million.

Mr. BOULANGER: The right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) continued:

Now, Sir, this question transcends party; it is larger than the lives of parties because it strikes at the very life of this Dominion. We must have settlers. We have in Canada facilities to take care of an additional population of from 15,000,000 to 17,000,000 people; we have 10,000,000 acres of untouched land within 20 miles of the railways; we have the Peace River area and other portions of the country which are lying idle while the government is expressing pious hopes as to what will happen. I say the time has come when action must be taken.

During the same session the right hon. gentleman who was then leading the opposition and is to-day the Prime Minister of Canada, discussing the report of the committee on agriculture and colonization, which committee, hon. gentleman will recall had made a very lengthy and very exhaustive inquiry into the problem of immigration, the right hon. gentleman, I say, used the following language on June 7, 1928—page 3924 of Hansard:

I regret to have to differ with my hon. friend the Minister of Railways as to relying entirely upon unorganized and individual effort as we used to do twenty-five years ago.

My hon. friend from Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion) will please note: this is what was going on 25 years ago.

But conditions have profoundly changed in the meantime. They have so profoundly changed that, as mentioned this afternoon, there is a very great demand for settlers made upon Britain and upon various countries of northern Europe from which we draw population, with the result that we are not able to secure all we wish from those countries. Australia and New Zealand are in the same plight. But, on the other hand; we can get our fair share if we make conditions here such as are found in other communities, and therefore it is necessary to give that assistance to immigrants which otherwise we would not be compelled to give.

In the course of the same debate, the same day, on page 3925, the right hon. leader of the opposition made a very virulent attack against the then Minister of Immigration, Mr. Forke. He spoke in these words:

Now I regret to say this—you will say it is very unkind of me to say it. But the fact is that we have not at this time, in charge of this department, a gentleman who by natural aptitude or training is calculated to properly develop policies in connection with the Immigration department. I have as profound a respect as any man in this house for my hon. friend the member for Brandon (Mr. Forke). But in England they have long since, in their parliament, made it a rule under conditions such as these to fearlessly express their opinions with respect to ministers of the crown who direct policies. And in this instance I regret to say that it is so pain-

fully apparent to anyone, whoever he may be, whether Liberal or Conservative, whether he sits to the right or to the left of the Speaker, that the hon. gentleman, the member for Brandon, a man of integrity and character, is unfitted temperamentally or by training to discharge the varied and onerous duties of Minister of Immigration and Colonization in this country. That is one of the real difficulties. You could not have made the Canadian Pacific irrigation projects flourish unless you had had at the head of them a man such as the late Lord Shaughnessy or men of that type. And so, in relation to our immigration policy, you cannot have that policy succeed if you put in charge of it one who is disqualified—not qualified at least—either by training or by temperament, to discharge the very onerous duties that appertain to that position. So we say in this amendment that we should have a responsible minister in charge, although in Australia they did try a commission. And there are those in this country who believe that a commission responsible indirectly to the government might be able to succeed. In Canada there is less evidence of the likelihood of a commission succeeding. We say there should be a strong minister, a minister with the training, with the aptitude, with the temperament, with the desire and the determination and vigour to make such a department succeed—with these two great branches working side by side, the one, in cooperation with the provinces and other organizations, seeking new settlers, the other providing work for these settlers when they come here to keep them in this country. For I deny that this country is, by reason of its natural resources, unfitted for occupation, unfitted to give employment to men who come within its borders.

Now let us come to the organizer-in-chief of the Conservative party, General McRae, who also had in 1928 a splendid scheme for increasing the population of Canada, for bringing hundreds of thousands of immigrants within our borders at government expense. A few quotations from this plan will show whether the Conservative party was favourable or unfavourable to immigration. No later than two years ago, on March 9, 1928, page 1162 of the Debates, General McRae, member for North Vancouver, had this to say:

Mr. Speaker, I feel impelled to take up the time of the house this afternoon because so little of a constructive nature has been put forward by the hon. Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Forke) in the last year in respect to the serious question of population in this country that the country at large, and possibly a few members of this house, may reasonably conclude that there is no way of solving this great problem.

and on page 1163:

There is no big construction program in the country to-day. Something must be attempted if we are to take care of any considerable immigration. . . .

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I propose that the government inaugurate on a large scale a program which will bring about the settlement of our more or less scrub and lightly timbered land which we have in such abundance in our prairie provinces,—land with wonderful, almost inexhaustible soil, and easily reached by branch railways. In provinces like Manitoba, large areas which could be easily drained might also be included. A most conservative estimate of land of this character easily available in the provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and possibly a section of northern Alberta, would be ten million acres, capable of supporting sixty-five thousand families or, roughly, a quarter of a million farm population. This of course does not include the Peace River country. There, there is a minimum of at least thirty million acres available, even more fertile and more easily cleared, which when developed would be capable of supporting 175,000 families, or nearly three-quarters of a million farm population—more than the entire population of the province of Alberta at the present time.

And here is General McRae's summing up which will be found on pages 1163-4.

Summing up my proposal, Mr. Speaker, it will be seen that it contemplates the ultimate settlement of fifty million acres of land by some 250,000 to 300,000 farmers. These, with their families and the urban population which would be required, and the consequent developments which will follow, will add two million new people to the prairie provinces. I propose that we start out to double the present population of the west. Do this, and the rest of Canada will grow and prosper. . . .

. . . . As to the cost of clearing, I have made careful inquiries. It is no longer practical to clear land in the old-fashioned way. The grub hoe must give way to the heavy steam-breaking plough.

Mr. McRae did things in a big way. . .

—which walks through ordinary brush and scrub like so much stubble. The operation, while necessarily under government direction, would be more or less a cooperative clearing scheme. Using modern methods, confining the clearing to the easiest half of each homestead, avoiding any heavily timbered areas, and pro-rating the expense over the district, I estimate the cost on the whole would not exceed at most $12.50 an acre; that is, one thousand dollars must be expended for clearing on each homestead. In addition, the expenditure required for the modest farm buildings—probably a log house and barn—would approximate five hundred dollars, making the total of $1,500 per homestead.

Naturally it wasn't enough that we should get them to come here and pay their way over and that we should grant them free lands; we still had to build a house and barn for them at the expense of the State. A little further Mr. McRae goes on:

Well and energetically administered, it should be possible to complete the program I am suggesting in ten years. On this basis, I estimate that the government would be called upon to finance about $30,000,000 a year for ten years, or a total of $300,000,000. Not very much of this money would be repaid in the interval; nothing at all for the first five years.

I should say so!

The country could well afford to borrow for such a development, issuing special land bonds or debentures for such time as would make it possible for repayments from the settlers to take care of the same.

At page 1165:

Worked out on a unit basis, this plan can soon be built up to locate 25,000 or 35,000 families a year. It should be borne in mind, however, that once a good immigration movement gets under way it grows up like a snowball. People will come along on their own and make their own arrangements. In a big movement probably not over 50 per cent of the immigrants would have to be provided for under the project I am suggesting. The others, attracted by the development and consequent prosperity, would locate themselves throughout the Dominion. If we handle 200,000 people a year under this government colonization program a total immigration may be anticipated of easily twice that number, or equal to the maximum immigration the country has enjoyed.

I suggest to the government that in cooperation with the Imperial government and the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia the Peace River country should be developed as a great Imperial settlement. Alberta and British Columbia together could furnish 30,000,000 acres of land for homesteads; the Dominion government could finance the cost of clearing the land and erecting the necessary buildings on the basis I have already suggested, while as their part Great Britain could finance the temporary requirements of the settlers as they do now in part. It would also be a reasonable pro- . . . .

That would suffice, Mr. Speaker, to show what attitude the Conservative party adopted in immigration matters when they sat on the opposition benches. When election time came around our Conservative friends, never slow in appropriating other people's ideas, saw that this question of immigration could be used as a lure in the province of Quebec. Hence the Conservatice party, at least in Quebec province, took over this immigration policy as its own and used it throughout the campaign, though it was exactly opposite to the attitude followed by that party in the house right up to the time of the last election.

May I point out that, at our last session, when the Hon. Mr. Forke was appointed to the Senate, the Liberal party practically abolished the Department of Immigration—that is to say the government did not appoint a successor—and it was the Conservative administration, after the elections of July, 1930, that reestablished the Immigration Department by naming a minister to preside over it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if it is wrong to bring immigrants into our country at public expense, it is far worse to swell the numbers of civil servants who live at the expense of the taxpayers of this country. But when we came here at the opening of the session we were quite surprised to find that the House of Commons barber shop had been put in charge of a master-barber from England. We were equally surprised to find the House of Commons restaurant presided over by another gentleman from England; as is also the supposedly protective staff of the House of Commons, several of whose members were not born in this country. I also ask the House to note that during recess since last September the patrolling of the Parliament buildings, the conducting of visiting tourists, etc., were given over to seven or eight members of the House of Commons protective staff, and out of this number only two or three were Canadian born, all the others being of foreign extraction. While I am on this question of importing public employees, I wish to draw the attention of the House and of my good friend from Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion), to the fact that when his friends were in power in 1917, 1918, 1919 and 1920, they brought in auditors to organize the Income Tax Branch. I have not the figures for the present year; but last year there were seventeen non-Canadian auditors in the Income Tax Branch as against fifteen Canadians. Naturally the non-Canadians, who had been here first, had the choicest positions and were drawing the best salaries. The same thing took place when the radio branch and the aviation branch were organized. Apparently we had no Canadians sufficiently competent to take over these services of radio and aviation. Once more people were brought over from the other side and the directors, the high officials, the inspectors, in a word all those who are at the head of the radio service, were not born in Canada. At the head office in Ottawa there are eleven Canadians and eleven non-Canadians; and what is true of Ottawa is truer still of the branch offices in other Canadian cities.

Mr. B. M. STITT (Nelson): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. The hon. gentlemen made splendid speeches—speeches that are a credit to themselves and to the people who returned them to this house as their representatives.

I represent the constituency of Nelson, one of the largest in the Dominion. It is slightly over 600 miles long with an average width of 400 miles and contains an area of a little over 200,000 square miles. This constituency might well be termed a kingdom—but I am not its king; I am its representative. It is

divided into two parts. The southern portion is purely agricultural and is known as the Swan river valley. This district might very appropriately be termed the agricultural paradise of western Canada. Practically all the people there are engaged in mixed farming.

Already this session I have heard a good deal about the condition of agriculture in western Canada. I am not in a position to speak regarding the prairie provinces generally; I must confine myself to the Swan river valley. A good deal of what hon. members in the southeast corner have said in regard to the condition of the western farmers is true, although those in the Swan river valley are not feeling the depression to the same extent as those in the sections in southern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta known as the dry belt. The farmers in the Swan river valley are not short of food; their granaries are full of grain, their cellars are full of potatoes and other vegetables, and they have plenty of live stock. But they do complain that the prices they receive for their products are too low, while they have to pay relatively too high a price for the commodities which they buy. I quite agree that they have good reason to complain. For instance, farm machinery has not come down in proportion to the reduction in the prices obtained for farm products. As a matter of fact the price of farm machinery is about the same as it was ten years ago, although I might say there is a considerable reduction this year, in spite of the fact that hon. gentlemen have been telling us ever since the special session that the increased tariff would raise the price of everything the farmers of western Canada might buy.

That has not been the case. I have here the price lists of the Cockshutt Plow Company for 1930 and 1931, and they show several very substantial reductions in the prices of farm machinery this year. For the benefit particularly of hon. members opposite, and lest the people of the west forget, I repeat that during the period the Liberal government was in power, that is to say from 1922 to 1930, the prices of agricultural implements showed a steady increase. I have before me revised Hansard for May 14, 1930, and I am referring to the speech on the budget delivered by the hon. member for London (Mr. White). In that speech he went into detail with regard to the prices of farm machinery from 1922 to 1930, and although I have read this volume of Hansard through from cover to cover I have not discovered anything in the way of an attempt on the part of any member of the Liberal party to contradict the statements the hon. member for London made, so they must have been correct. The figures he gave were as follows:

	Price in 1922	Price in 1930	Increase
6-ft. binder	219 00	225 50	6 50
8-ft. binder with bundle carrier and T truck	251 00	263 50	12 50
6-ft. mower	95 50	96 50	1 00
Hay loader, with steel windrow and fore-carriage	112 00	122 00	10 00
Field cultivators, 7½-ft., three-horse	99 50	113 50	14 00
Single disc drills, eastern, 13-disc, 2-horse hitch	142 00	154 00	12 00
Single disc drills, western 20-marker combination, 4-pulley hitch	206 00	232 00	26 00
Disc harrows, in throw, 12-discs, 16-inch, 3-horse	45 50	48 50	3 00

That increase continues all down the line, in spite of what our Liberal friends said they were doing for the western farmer while they were in power. We all know that the greater part of the cost of production in agriculture is the cost of machinery, and this was what the Liberal party did. I might also remind the house that the Liberal government reduced the duty on these articles, but in spite of that there was a steady increase in the prices. I do not hear any shouting or handclapping across the way; what is the matter? I challenge contradiction of these figures.

Now I am going just a little further for the benefit of my hon. friends opposite. As I said before, I have here the price lists for 1930 and 1931 of the Cockshutt Plough Company. In spite of all that was said at the special session and all that has been said since this session opened it will be seen that very substantial reductions have been made this year. I am going to quote some figures which may interest my hon. friends:

	Reduction
No. 3 power lift gang plough, wood eveners	$25
Angle disc plough	25
All sizes No. 1 and 2 tractor ploughs	25
All sizes Nos. 2 and 3 furrow disc ploughs	30
4-5-6 furrow disc ploughs	35
No. 8-36 run drills	50
No. 6 disc harrows, 7-ft. and 8-ft	5
No. 8 disc harrows, 12-ft.	10
No. 8 disc harrows, 16-ft.	12
No. 8 disc harrows, 24 ft.	15

	Reduction
No. 9 disc harrows, 12-ft. and 18-ft..	8
No. 9 disc harrows, 16-ft..	10
No. 9 disc harrows, 24-ft..	15
125-bushel grain wagon tanks.. .. .	20

This is what is happening, instead of what was predicted by hon. gentlemen opposite, as a result of the increased tariff policy of this government. They said we were going to ruin the western farmer, but just what answer can they give to these figures?

I quite agree with some of the hon. members opposite that something must be done for agriculture in western Canada. At the moment I do not know what this government is prepared to do. I know the Prime Minister has made some promises; I know he is a man who always keeps his promises, and I am sure he will keep his promise in this case. I quite agree with some of the members sitting in the corner opposite that the banks are not playing fair with western farmers. Considering the amount of money the banks have made during the last ten or fifteen years of so-called prosperity I think they might be expected to cut their interest rates in the west, at least until such time as the situation clears up. We all know that some of the banks in Canada are paying a 12 per cent dividend; others are paying a 10 per cent dividend, while I know of no case where a bank is paying less than this amount. In addition they are all building skyscrapers in order to camouflage an amount of profits just about equal to their dividend, in order to prevent the public from knowing how much they are making.

I also agree that freight rates should be reduced. I do not know the intention of the government with regard to the recapitalization of the Canadian National Railways, but I sincerely hope that just as soon as the situation will permit that capitalization will be written down to where it belongs, because I am of opinion that just as long as the capitalization remains where it is, all the railways in Canada will have the benefit of high freight rates. If the capitalization of the Canadian National Railways were written down there would be such a vast improvement shown during the first year that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which boasts about how much it has done for Canada, would be shown up in such fashion that its rates would be reduced, and the western farmer would get the benefit.

As I said before, I do not know just what this government intends to do for the western farmer, but I do say that the farmer is entitled to some consideration and help, because his is the basis industry of western Canada. Agriculture is entitled to assistance just as much as the iron and steel industry is entitled to it, or any other industry in Canada which is being given support by way of increased tariffs. The western farmer has just as much right to expect the same treatment, and for this reason, that, as the hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) said, about 50 per cent of the people of Canada are engaged in agriculture. Without agriculture in western Canada the country would be nowhere; without agriculture in western Canada the eastern manufacturing industry would be nowhere. I think, Mr. Speaker, it may be necessary for this government to put through some legislation to aid the western farmer. It may require to go to extremes. It may be necessary for that legislation to be more or less revolutionary. It may be necessary to put through legislation that will be painful to this government. But I say it has got to be done if we are going to recover the position we have lost in the world of trade and commerce.

In regard to northern Manitoba, as I said, my constituency is divided into two parts. From the Pas north we have an area of approximately 178,000 square miles. As the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins) so aptly put it, this area might be classed as a "cowless, sowless, chickless, but by no means sockless north." And while I am on socks, for the benefit of the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) I might suggest that, in spite of the fact that in the north country we pay 5 to 15 per cent more for such articles than is paid in any other part of Canada, we are paying very much less for socks to-day than we did seven or eight months ago. And I do not confine my remarks to socks alone. For everything we eat and wear we are paying very much less than we did eight months ago. As a matter of fact, it is generally conceded that the cost of living is back to pre-war levels. I am sorry I cannot say that for Ottawa. I only wish that the farmers of the west were getting for their produce the prices that they are getting around Ottawa. As an illustration: The other day my wife purchased a chicken from a butcher shop down here for $2; I can buy that chicken in Swan River in my constituency for 75 cents. I say that to show that it is possible the farmers in eastern Canada do not realize how serious the situation is in the west, because they are getting twice as much for their goods.

We have in northern Manitoba industries which comprise, chiefly, mining, forestry, fishing and furs. We brought into production last November one of the largest mines in the Dominion known as the Flin Flon, owned by the Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Com-

pany. This mine, since going into operation in November, has shipped 247 cars of blistered copper and zinc. They are producing at the present time approximately $30,000 a day. They are putting through their smelters on an average of 3,000 tons of ore a day with an average of about $10. These are all new dollars being turned out in Manitoba. In addition to that we have the Sherritt-Gordon mine which came into production only the other day. That mine is producing an average of about 500 tons a day with an average value of about $14. We have many more mines, not as large as these, but of commercial size and having commercial ore, mines which would be operating to-day if conditions were what they were a few years ago. But as is well known, the price of these metals is down to zero and many of these smaller mines cannot operate. As soon as they get cheaper power I am satisfied that a great many of them will be opened up.

In addition to mining we have forestry. We have one of the largest saw mills in the west in the town of the Pas, producing in the neighbourhood of 3,000,000 feet per week. We have within ten miles on either side of the Hudson Bay railway, up to mile 300, some 7,000,000 cords of spruce pulpwood waiting for some industry to come and cut it down to be manufactured into paper. On Nelson and Churchill rivers we have more than 3,000,000 horse-power waiting for development. And in spite of all that has been said about that north country being a muskeg area, we have large belts of first class agricultural land. This has been proven, and I give my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) credit for having put in some small experimental stations along the line, from which wonderful results have come. As a matter of fact, I used to take Mr. Guild of the experimental farm from Brandon up to visit these plots in the fall, and he told me the results were so amaging that he was almost afraid to send them in to Ottawa for fear they would not believe the results shown.

That Hudson Bay railway, from the Pas to Fort Churchill, 500 miles long, is about completed and we expect it will be ready for operation in the fall. It has a maximum grade of less than 1 per cent. A large sized locomotive can easily haul 100 cars of wheat from the Pas to Churchill. There is very little intermediate traffic. Most of the traffic will be through traffic, which will be very cheap and will mean a lot to the western farmer. Might I in passing, for the benefit of some hon. members who may not be familiar with the situation, just give some comparative costs in the matter of freight to show what the Hudson Bay railway means to the farmers of western Canada. These rates are comparative as between Montreal and Churchill on grain and flour. Take Swan River and Yorkton as centres, Yorkton as the central point in Saskatchewan and Swan River in Manitoba:

Grain and Flour Rates to Churchill and Montreal

From	to Montreal	to Churchill	Savings in rates to tidewater
	(Rates in cents per 100 lbs.)		
Swan River	19 — 12 = 31 cents	19	12 cents
Yorkton	19 — 12 = 31 cents	19	12 cents
	or 7·2 cents per bushel of wheat.		

These rates are not theoretical; they are not imaginary. These rates are in effect on the Hudson Bay railway to-day.

In regard to live stock, the hon. member for Marquette, touching on this question, pointed out what he thought the Hudson Bay railway would do. Let me give some figures to show the saving on live stock:

Live Stock Rates to Churchill and Montreal

From	to Montreal	to Churchill	Savings in rates to tidewater
	(Rates per car of 20,000 lbs.)		
Winnipeg stock yards	$170	$116	$ 54 00
Swan River	202	94	108 00
Yorkton	202	96	106 00
Saskatoon	225	102	123 00
Moose Jaw	221	108	113 00
Edmonton	229	126	103 00
Calgary	229	132	97 00
			$704 00
	Average reduction per car		100 57
	or 50¼ cents. per 100 lbs.		

In addition to that, I would point out that the farmers of western Canada will receive a considerable benefit by way of a reduction in shrinkage. Cattle on long train hauls shrink as much as 10 and 15 per cent. They do not shrink after they get on the boat because they can be fed again, and they are not bumped around as much as they are on the train. I bring these matters to the attention of the house to illustrate what the Hudson Bay railway means to the farmers of western Canada.

Would it not be much better for the farmers of western Canada if that road were completed and in operation to-day? I lay at the door of the late Liberal administration the blame for its not being in operation. During the 1921 elections the Liberals were accusing the Conservative government of not having completed this railway and of having closed down the construction in 1918. That is quite true because in that year they needed money to conduct the great war, and in 1919 they needed money to bring the boys back home. That is why construction was closed down during those years. What happened? I intend to quote some figures which will be very illuminating. The Liberals agree that this road means a lot to the western farmer, but what did they do? They made a political football of the Hudson Bay railway for a period of five years after they came into power. The money expended upon that line was expended for maintenance only. I know this because I was chief forester of northern Manitoba and was travelling continuously up and down this railway by gas car. I knew just what was going on, but to illustrate further I will give some figures. In 1922-23 they expended $40,118, mostly for administration. That would hardly keep twenty sectionmen on the 332 miles of track which had been completed when the Liberal government took office. In 1923-24 they expended $322,279. During the next year they expended $294,158, and in the next year $173,334.

During the elections the Hon. Mr. Dunning, who took over the portfolio of Railways and Canals, pledged himself as well as his party to the completion of the Hudson Bay railway. As a Conservative, I am fair enough to say that Mr. Dunning deserves more credit for the completion of this railway than does any other man in the Dominion of Canada. The first year after the Hon. Mr. Dunning took office, $2,808,549 was expended; the next year, $2,674,224; the next year, $3,389,084; the next year, 1929-30, $5,357,692, and in 1930-31, $1,550,787. The road is completed with the exception of repairing a few low spots and heaves, which will occur in a country like this during the winter months. I repeat that the Liberal party made a political football of this road for five years in spite of the fact that they knew it meant a saving to the western farmer of some seven cents per bushel in the shipment of his wheat. If the farmer had those extra seven cents he would be much better off than he is to-day.

There is no question but that Fort Churchill is one of the finest ports in North America. It is a landlocked harbour, the entrance being through two high granite cliffs. The harbour consists of a basin about eight miles long and about two miles wide. Dredging operations have been carried on for the last two or three years and, in all fairness to the late government, I must state that the work carried on at Fort Churchill has been of the highest order. Competent engineers were in charge and no complaint can be made as to the quality of the work which has been done there. Last fall I had the pleasure of travelling to Fort Churchill in the company of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion). It was his first visit to that country, in which he spent two days. I do not know that I ever saw a man cover as much territory as he did within that time or ask as many questions. He came away very enthusiastic about all he saw and I am quite satisfied that Fort Churchill is in as good hands as it was when the Hon. Mr. Dunning had charge. I am satisfied that the hon. minister is going to see this thing through. In passing I might state that probably no other constituency in Canada will suffer as much through the completion of this port as will the constituency represented by the hon. minister; many cargoes of grain will be diverted from Port Arthur and Fort William.

There is no question about the feasibility of this route. I could talk for hours upon what has happened in the Hudson bay from the time of its discovery by Henry Hudson in 1611. Hundreds of craft of all description have been taken into the bay by the Hudson's Bay Company. Scores of craft have been taken in by the Department of Railways and Canals, some under their own steam and others by means of tow, with very few casualties. I have spoken to shipmasters who have told me that they would rather take a ship into Fort Churchill than into Montreal. That is what they think of the perils of navigating Hudson strait and Hudson bay. I have received opinions from about fifty sea captains and they agree that the average season of navigation will be from seventeen weeks to four and one-half months. If it is desired I could give their names and their experience in northern waters.

The Hudson Bay railway and the port of Fort Churchill should be completed and should be given a fair trial. That is all the people of western Canada are asking for. The Minister of Railways and Canals has stated on several occasions that trial shipments will be made from this port during the present year. About eight hundred feet of docks have been completed with a depth of 30 feet of water at low tide and the elevator will be completed about September. The hon. minister has convinced me and most of the people in western Canada that this port is going to be given a fair chance. We have received the benefit of the Crowsnest rate, for which credit must be given to the present Prime Minister. I do not mean to say that those rates would not have come into effect had the right hon. gentleman not been elected, but he has brought them into force, and he has announced that fact all over Canada. The people of western Canada are worrying over the possibility of the usefulness of this route being strangled by the imposition of excessive marine insurance rates. I am glad the hon. minister is in his seat tonight and I hope that if Lloyd's and the other insurance companies are not prepared to give the same rates as apply to Montreal, this government will be prepared to take care of the difference. That is the only way in which this route can be given a fair trial; it must not be strangled by excessive marine insurance rates.

I trust the hon. minister will see to it that the vessels used in these trial shipments are seaworthy. I sincerely hope that no old hulks, no old tramp steamers that are not fit to go to sea, are sent in there for the purpose of bringing discredit on the route. I know there are people equal to that, and who would do it if they were allowed; but I have every confidence in the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) and in the government doing their best to give the route a fair chance, and that is all that the people of western Canada are asking.

Before closing, may I make a few observations from the viewpoint of a new member sitting in this house, and especially this session? I think everybody in the house will agree that the situation in Canada to-day is serious. I believe that every member of the house has a very real interest in the welfare of this country. I believe that we are all sincerely willing to do all that we can to help meet the conditions that confront us, and if possible find remedies to cure the present situation and bring Canada back to where we believe it ought to be. May I with all respect suggest to hon. members on both sides of the house, because one side is as bad as the other, that for this session especially, when we are facing such a serious situation, we refrain as far as possible from sniping across the floor and from mud-slinging and obstructional methods; that as far as possible we get together and magnify the things on which we can agree and minimize the things on which we disagree; that we diagnose the case as a doctor would a patient's, suggest remedies, try to get the necessary legislation through this house, and then see to it that that legislation is applied for the benefit of Canada as a whole. I am making that plea as a new member. Some hon. gentlemen may think that I am giving them a curtain lecture. That is not my intention at all. I am simply giving the conclusions at which I have arrived after my observations during the short time I have been in the house. I believe that the electors expect us all to do everything that we can at this session of all sessions. I am also satisfied that the electors in my constituency, and in every other, will not measure a member's service in this house by the measure of obstruction that he is able to place in the way of this government putting its policies into effect, but rather will he be judged by the service he gives and the cooperation he extends to the government in bringing into effect policies which it sincerely believes will be for the betterment of the Dominion as a whole.

Mr. J. P. HOWDEN (St. Boniface): I trust that the hon. member for Nelson (Mr. Stitt) will pardon me if I do not follow him very closely, but candidly I did not catch his remarks very well over here as there was a good deal of whispering and murmuring going on. I would like to congratulate him upon having made a very excellent address. It was his first speech in this house. I managed to grasp over here one or two of the points he made, and I can assure him that any criticism I may make of his remarks will be offered in the kindliest spirit.

In opening his remarks the hon. member spoke of the cost of machinery, and as far as I could gather pointed out that the price of machinery had not risen. I do not live in the country and I have very little occasion, now at all events, to be brought in contact with the price of machinery, but I have heard that the price of repairs for machinery has advanced substantially since the new government came into office. I suggest to hon. members opposite and to the country at large not to be downhearted if the price of ma-

chinery has not yet risen, but rather to cheer up because after some time the price will almost certainly rise.

The hon. gentleman also asked what the Liberal party had done for the western farmer. There are not many people in Canada, Mr. Speaker, who do not know what the Liberal party has done for the western farmer. It has given him the Crowsnest rates, and fixed them permanently on the statute books of this country. It has built for him the Hudson Bay railway. It has lowered the tariff in several successive sessions. It has given the western farmer almost everything that he asked for in the new grain act. Finally, but most important, it furnished him with ample and remunerative markets, which, unfortunately, the western farmer has not got to-day. So I think that the former Liberal administration can speak very well for itself with regard to what it has done for the western farmer.

I also gathered from my hon. friend's remarks that he thought the Conservative party had about as much to do with the building of the Hudson Bay railway as the Liberal government. That is a story that we must not rehash to-night, because we all know all about it. We know that in the campaign of 1925 the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, who was then leading the Conservative party, said that not one five-cent piece would he spent on the road until the debts of Canada were paid. If nothing had been done towards building the railway until the debts of Canada had been paid, the road would not have been built for a very long time. I think also that the right hon. leader of the present government (Mr. Bennett) said in this house that he would not spend five cents on the Hudson Bay railway until the whole question had been thoroughly reviewed. That also would have taken a considerable amount of time. So I am bound to feel, Mr. Speaker, that to the Liberal party belongs the credit for the completion of the Hudson Bay railway. I shall not attempt to follow the hon. gentleman in his remarks any further.

There have been some very excellent speeches during this debate, beginning with those of the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address, whom I heartily congratulate upon the able manner in which they acquitted themselves in their difficult task; including also a long list of very able speeches, many of them by new members. As they have covered and recovered the ground thoroughly and, as an hon. member once said in this house, picked the bones pretty bare, I shall not attempt to go over much that has been discussed; but as we were elected to this house after, for the most part, a strenuous and heated campaign in which very often our energies were tried to the utmost; in appealing to the electors on advancing our beliefs and arguments, and obtaining from the majority an endorsation of our policies, I think it is incumbent upon us, and only reasonable that we should endeavour to present on the floor of this house their viewpoint and our own. I would like, therefore, to touch briefly on conditions as they were in Canada at the time of the last election and as they are in this country at the present time.

During the last election campaign one of the great issues was that of unemployment. Lesser issues there were, to be sure, but the storm centred about the subjects of unemployment and national depression. There are not many people in Canada who are not familiar with the causes of unemployment. We are told it is due to world-wide overproduction and under-consumption. I think we are all fairly well agreed that in Canada unemployment and national depression are due to the fact that we have lost our markets. Without markets we cannot sell, and if we do not sell we receive no returns. If we have no returns we have no funds, and without funds we cannot buy. Seven times the amount of grain needed in this country for the use of our people, vast quantities of pulp and paper and pulpwood, millions of feet of lumber, millions of pounds of fish, nickel, asbestos, beef, bacon, butter, cheese, all these national products, millions of dollars' worth of manufactured products, enough to supply the people of this country many times over, are produced in Canada every year. Yet the proceeds from the sale of this great bulk of products are required to keep the Canadian people from year to year and to fatten a few millionaires. Now we have lost our markets, we have no money, we have many unemployed, throughout the land there is no small measure of distress.

The last Liberal administration is blamed by hon. members opposite for this state of affairs. Well, we know all about that, Mr. Speaker. We know that the last Liberal government is not to blame for the present state of affairs in Canada. True they were responsible for the New Zealand treaty, but as a mater of actual fact the New Zealand treaty never did us any harm. From the time it was ratified and came into force the price of cream and butter fat increased from month to month and from year to year as

compared with previous years. Finally when we were shut out of the American markets, and when we lost our markets in the United States naturally we had a glut of these products in Canada. On the other hand our sales to these countries, which at the time the agreement first became effective amounted to a million or two million dollars, rapidly increased until just before the close of the Liberal administration they amounted to about $12,000,000 on the one hand and $19,000,000 on the other. That is a substantial return for Canadian trade, making abundant work for Canadian workmen.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal government has a record of accomplishment in this country which the present government might do well to emulate. During the time the late government was in power Canada emerged from a state of deepest depression and enjoyed a period of the greatest expansion and prosperity ever known in the history of this or any other country for the same period of time. In all such crises as the present, governments are held responsible. Whether a government is responsible or not it must if possible find a remedy. Obviously in this case the remedy is markets. Markets we need and markets we must have, and the only visible market on a large scale is in England. The last government endeavoured to recover the lost English market by offering British trade substantial advantages as set forth in the Dunning budget, and submitted those proposals to the country. On the advice of our friends opposite, however, the country would have none of that. It preferred the method that the then leader of the opposition offered, that of blasting a way into the British and other markets, and it gave hon. gentlemen opposite the mandate to blast. In turning down the Dunning budget, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian electors not only curtly snubbed the last government in a very unwarranted manner but slammed the door in the face of all friendly approach on the part of British trade and this action was made doubly offensive by the action of the present government in boosting the Canadian tariffs to a height of utter exclusion and then offering the British trade a scant three per cent on top of that in exchange for a preference on our wheat.

On August 7 the present government came into power. The electors were told that there would be an immediate improvement. One statement was made in Winnipeg to the effect that after three days there would be a change. So far as I have been able to learn, in my constituency up to the present there has been no improvement. In spite of the high tariff, stable commodities in my district are selling at a price which does not allow the producer any profit, and they are not worthy of production. Eggs which sold formerly in the Winnipeg market for from 50 cents to 75 cents a dozen, and in the winter sometimes as high as $1 per dozen, have been selling this winter at from 25 cents to 30 cents. First class dairy butter can be bought for 20 cents per pound. The unfortunate part of it, however, is that there are hundreds of people in Winnipeg to-day who cannot afford butter and a considerable number who have not a steady supply of bread. Potatoes can be bought on the Winnipeg market to-day for 15 cents a bushel, and sometimes as low as 10 cents a bushel. Many gardeners are offering to give them away. My hon. friends opposite have said that the low price of butter in Canada is due to the fact that we imported billions of pounds of Australian butter.

An hon. MEMBER: It is, too.

Mr. HOWDEN: Hon. members say that our cold storage plants were so full of New Zealand butter that we could not receive a reasonable price for our own commodity. However, we have not imported millions of bushels of Australian potatoes, yet our potatoes are going to waste and thousands of bushels will be thrown out. I refer to domestic potatoes grown in the province of Manitoba.

Mr. GOBEIL: We imported American potatoes last spring.

Mr. HOWDEN: We did not need to go to the United States for potatoes. My hon. friend could have secured all the potatoes he wished at Winnipeg.

Mr. GOBEIL: We all know that.

Mr. HOWDEN: At the special session last September the government passed its $20,000,000 relief bill to cure the evil of which I have just been speaking. In enacting this legislation they made it a condition that the cities and municipalities should contribute amounts equal to the grants from the fund. I believe that the major part of this vast sum has gone into the pockets of well-to-do contractors and their regularly paid staffs. Instead of the work in connection with the various undertakings being done by large numbers of men, machinery was utilized with only a few men in control. At the present time two bridges are being built in Winnipeg, to cost approximately $1,100,000. The new structures are being erected beside the old bridges. I have been crossing the old bridges all winter and I have noticed that not more than one hundred men have been steadily

employed. About a hundred men have been engaged in excavating, building forms and pouring cement, and not more than another fifty have been busy fabricating steel and driving teams and trucks. At a dollar an hour for a ten hour day—and certainly not half of those men will be getting anything like such a wage—at the end of five months, when the substructure will be up, these men will have received about $180,000; by the time the spans are laid the wages will amount to approximately $250,000. Remember, sir, these works were undertaken for the purpose of relieving unemployment, of putting bread into the mouths of hungry men and women. That is a comparatively small proportion —$250,000 out of $1,100,000—to go to the actual relief of unemployment.

Meanwhile the Prime Minister has spent several weeks at the Imperial conference endeavouring to blast a way into the British market. Unfortunately his dynamite must have been all wet, at all events the fuse misfired. But we must have export markets, and even then it will take a long time for us to catch up It may be said that Canada ought to be able to live from within her four walls, that every Canadian farmer ought to be able to find the necessities of life from his own farmstead. But Canada never has been able to live within her own four walls, and for many years our farmers have not been able to live off their land. Incidentally it would be a pretty dull life and void of most of the attractions and advantages of the city. But even at that it were better to live in the country than starve in the city—and there are a lot of people starving in the cities. Possibly in this way might be found some relief from the present state of affairs. Men have taken their living from the soil since the earliest times of which we have record. To-day mankind does precisely that same thing, but so varied and refined have become their tastes that it requires the products of many soils and a chain of manufacturing plants to satisfy their appetites. It will be a long time before any considerable number of Canadians will or can return to win a first-hand living from the soil. Meanwhile we must live; that is to say, we must have markets, and the only feasible way is to re-establish our foreign trade. This we can never do so long as we have a high tariff wall, and it seems to me it is up to the government to take down that wall.

Now, Mr. Speaker, like a good many members I was struck by the remarks of the hon. deputy speaker (Mr. LaVergne) a few days ago. I am bound to say that I felt he meant well; I appreciated the fine vein running through his speech, and I am sure he did not intend to give the offence which was so readily taken by hon. members on this side of the house; but I do feel that his references to the revered Sir Wilfrid Laurier were most unfortunate. That gallant, chivalrous French Canadian, that princely, magnanimous statesman, of whom the Canadian people have always been proud, of whom the Canadian people will always be proud, little deserved to be attacked in this house, and I cannot but deplore the words uttered by the hon. deputy speaker.

I will not dwell further on that part of his speech. I would deal for a moment with his references to the soviet republic. I am not so sure that Canada has done the wise thing in severing trade relations with the soviet republic. I am not a communist, but Russia to-day is functioning very well. Before very long that vast country will be independent of the world—independent in time of peace, independent in time of war. I have every reason to believe that before many decades pass, probably before many years, the nations of the world will be very ready to make friends with soviet Russia and enter into trade agreements with her. It is true that the downtrodden and untutored Russian people finally broke their bonds and entered on a rampage of pillage and murder; it is true that they repudiated their church and slew their ruler; but in all this they had precedents, and as a matter of fact it was not the first time such an event has been recorded in the history of the world. Imperial Caesar was slain by an assassin at the head of rebellious Rome, three times England rose in revolt—twice she forced her reigning monarch from the throne and once she beheaded him; at the time of the French revolution so fierce was the tempest of the people's anger that they not only guillotined their ruler, but every individual of aristocratic bearing or refinement was made the object of their enmity and the victim of their hate. So, sir, I say that the Russian soviet of to-day has not transgressed the laws of society any worse than the Romans, the English, and the French did in the past, and I believe the time will come when we shall be glad enough again to extend the hand of friendship to Soviet Russia and reestablish our trade connections with her.

In closing there is but a word I should like to say. Like the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) I also deplore the recourse which has been had by the press and by various individuals throughout this country to racial and creed prejudice. I think, sir, that if we could banish the trouble makers, the firebrands and the bigots, the Canadian people

would get along very well. If I am not mistaken, in the province of Quebec both races have been good friends for a long time; there have been no differences there. We have not fared so well in Manitoba; beginning with the first Riel rebellion we have had racial trouble.

Mr. SPENCE: Why bring that up?

Mr. HOWDEN: I am not going to hurt any feelings; I still have a few minutes to speak, if the hon. member will leave me alone. In 1885 trouble again broke out, and again in 1896 we had a showing of this prejudice, with the final display taking place in connection with the school legislation. To-day, however, we are good friends. I live in the French city of St. Boniface, and there is no ill feeling in that city or in the province of Manitoba as between the French and English elements. We are living together there in friendship and as brothers. We have our schools and they have their schools; we are satisfied and contented, and, as I said before, if we could just hang or drown the firebrands and trouble makers we would soon have in this country no racial prejudices or creed differences.

On motion of Mr. Ralston the debate was adjourned.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Wednesday, March 25, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

CIVIL SERVICE

RIGHTS OF EX-SERVICE MEN UNDER REGULATIONS TO BE OBSERVED

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question. The right hon. gentleman is aware that since the signing of the armistice all parties in parliament have granted ex-service men preference in civil service appointments. Will the same preference be extended in regard to the retention of positions as has been extended in regard to employment? I ask this question in contemplation of the rumoured dismissals from the civil service.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): So far as I am aware the rights of ex-service men as defined by the civil service regulations will be observed.

[Mr. Howden.]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ST. WALBURG-BONNYVILLE BRANCH LINE

Mr. A. U. G. BURY (East Edmonton): I would like to ask the hon. the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) whether he has anything further to communicate to the house in reference to the St. Walburg-Bonnyville branch of the Canadian National Railways. I understand the railway company is going to continue the building of the bridge. I wish to know whether there is any money for grading or work of that character.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): I have had a number of telegrams and inquiries about this question. I stated some days ago that the government was taking the matter up with the railway authorities to see if they could not continue the work in view of the reported distress in that district. I am glad to state that the railway company has with the consent of the government from a financial standpoint—because that is necessary—agreed to carry on sufficient work on the St. Walburg-Bonnyville line to avoid unnecessary distress. Work is being done which under different circumstances would not be done.

MAFEKING CUT OFF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): May I ask the Minister of Railways if anything is being done by the government or the railway board to implement the promises made by supporters of the present government concerning the construction of the Mafeking cut off.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): I think the hon. gentleman will have plenty of opportunities to discuss that point upon a later occasion. So far as I know this is not the place to bring up a question of that character.

RAILWAY STATION AT LIMOILOU, QUEBEC

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. G. POWER (Quebec South): In the absence of my colleague the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) I wish to read a resolution passed by the council of the city of Quebec and to ask a question based thereon of the Minister of Railways and Canals. The resolution reads as follows:

(Translation):

At a meeting of the city council, held on Friday, March 20, 1931, at the City Hall, it was resolved:

That this Council kindly request Sir Henry Thornton, President, and the members of the Board of Directors of the Canadian National

Railways of Canada, to consider the great importance there is of making provision, without delay, for the rebuilding of the shops of said railways, at Limoilou, which were destroyed by fire and which deprived a great number of workmen of Quebec of their livelihood, most of them being heads of families. The rebuilding of said shops will, in the present unemployment crisis, be of great assistance to these people who will largely benefit by this important industry and who have lost in this disaster a precious source of revenue.

I wish to ask the minister if steps have been taken to make representations to the Canadian National Railways so that the wishes expressed in this resolution of the city council of Quebec may be carried out without further delay?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, I answered a question somewhat similar to this a few days ago, and at that time I stated I would draw the attention of the Canadian National Railways to the matter. The building of the shops at Limoilou is in the hands of the management of the railway. Already I have drawn it to their attention and will again do so.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

On the orders of the day.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask my right hon. friend in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs whether there has been any correspondence between the government at Ottawa and the government at Washington respecting the St. Lawrence waterway since the last session of parliament, and if so whether that correspondence could be tabled before the Easter recess.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I think the last communication was laid on the table of the house during the short session of parliament. There has been no correspondence since.

ROYAL GRAIN COMMISSION

EXPECTED ARRIVAL IN CANADA OF SIR JOSIAH STAMP

On the orders of the day.

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): I understand that a cable advice was received in Ottawa to-day to the effect that Sir Josiah Stamp will sail next week from London and that upon arrival in Canada he will act as chairman of the Royal Grain Commission. Will the Prime Minister confirm this report and indicate to the house the scope of the proposed commission?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Sir Josiah Stamp will sail for Canada next week. I had intended to make a statement to the house at an early date, but I will do so before the house rises next Wednesday.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Is this part of the Canada first policy?

Mr. McINTOSH: It is going to be stamped all right.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORTED STATEMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL MCNAUGHTON, CHIEF OF STAFF

On the orders of the day.

Mr. ROSS W. GRAY (West Lambton): I wish to call the attention of the Minister of National Defence to an article which appears in this morning's Ottawa Citizen concerning a military banquet which was held last evening. Major General McNaughton, chief of staff, is reported to have stated that it is the intention of the government to make serious cuts in the militia system and that information respecting the matter is to be tabled in the house at an early date. I wish to ask the Minister of National Defence if that statement was authorized and if not whether this official will be reprimanded. If it was authorized may we take it that henceforth government policies will be announced at banquets of this nature rather than from the floor of the house?

Hon. D. M. SUTHERLAND (Minister of National Defence): I would ask the hon. member to give notice of his question.

Mr. GRAY: Do you take my question as notice, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER: The minister has asked that notice of the question be given and be put on the order paper.

WINNIPEG VETCRAFT SHOP

On the orders of the day.

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): I have received a letter from the province of Manitoba inquiring whether or not the vetcraft work shop which was destroyed in June, 1930, will be reconstructed. A question somewhat similar to this was asked yesterday, but I would like to know whether there is any further information in regard to the matter.

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): The question was answered yesterday.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The hon. minister has no further information?

Mr. MacLAREN: No, I answered the question yesterday.

DOMINION CENSUS

METHOD OF DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT AS ENUMERATORS

On the orders of the day.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (North Battleford): We are receiving daily numbers of requests from persons desirous of obtaining employment as census enumerators. May I ask the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) if it is the intention of the government to appoint census enumerators through the instrumentality of the Civil Service Commission or by the patronage committees of the various constituencies? May I inquire further if steps are being taken to preserve the preference in favour of returned soldiers as heretofore?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): That does not call for an answer.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, as acting Minister of Trade and Commerce may I say that so far as I understand the census commissioners are being appointed in exactly the same way they were appointed at the time the last census was taken.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): In view of the fact that no Minister of Labour is sitting in this house may I ask the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) when we may have a full, correct and exact report of the expenditure of the moneys voted in September under the Unemployment Relief Act and also concerning unemployment throughout Canada?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the report was laid on the table a few minutes ago.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, March 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): In view of the fact that my address begins near the time of the opening of the sitting I had hoped that the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), who has just left the chamber, would have seen fit to listen to at least a part of what I have to say. Hon. members who have addressed the house have not often been favoured during the past few days with the presence of the Prime Minister. We know that he is a very busy man and that great responsibilities rest upon his shoulders, but he must realize that this debate deals with the state of the nation. This is a debate in which the house may advise His Excellency the Administrator whether conditions throughout the country are as set out in the speech from the throne, and express itself in regard to the measures which his advisors propose to take in order to remedy those conditions. But it does seem to me that it is a matter of some importance—whether the members of the government think so or not—that they should hear members from all sides of the house—I am not speaking of this side alone—with regard to the situation in every part of the Dominion to-day. I say it, and advisedly, that I do not think that at any session of parliament I have had the honour to attend have there been better speeches from all sides of the house than in the course of this debate, and I feel strongly that these representations are well worthy the attention of the Prime Minister and his colleagues in person.

After a careful perusal of the speech from the throne, Mr. Speaker, I feel that His Excellency is none too well informed in regard to national conditions. There is a passing reference in the address to conditions in the west, and my friends from the prairie provinces are given an assurance that the orderly marketing of wheat has been arranged for. That does not mean a great deal; it may mean that those who have received advances on their wheat will not be pressed to repay those advances. It does not mean anything so far as the solving of the fundamental problem of selling our wheat crop is concerned. But my hon. friends from the west ought to feel lucky that there is even a reference to the west in the speech from the throne; there is no reference to the primary producers in the east, none whatever. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister was down in the maritimes last July, and on that occasion he took hold of the situation with his characteristic vigour and upon public platforms there he said what would be done to solve the situation as he saw it. The east is still waiting for the national fuel policy which was promised in July, 1930. Conditions in the mining districts this winter probably have been as bad as or worse than ever be-

fore, taking the reports sent out by the relief committee in Sydney. But not only has the promised national fuel policy not been put into effect; it is not even forecast in the speech from the throne.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The west is also waiting for that policy.

Mr. RALSTON: My friend from Bow River (Mr. Garland) says that the west is also very materially interested in the so-called national fuel policy which was supposed to be promulgated immediately after the general elections. Down in the mining districts of the east, particularly, the promise of "work, not doles," has not been fulfilled, and unemployment is not ended. The action promised at that time—and it is on record in Hansard—has not yet been taken, and, as I said, not a single reference is contained in the speech from the throne with regard to the primary producers down east. The fishermen of Nova Scotia and the maritimes generally find themselves in the same position. They have been working strenuously in order so to organize themselves as to be in a position to place the industry on a firm basis, an industry which means their livelihood and which is well worth cultivating in the Dominion. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister in his election speeches poured out his soul in sympathy with the fishermen and bemoaned the fact that the United States tariff made it so difficult for them to market their product in the United States. Notwithstanding that expression of sympathy the government about five or six weeks ago gave the fishermen of Nova Scotia a deliberate stab in the back by imposing a dumping duty of 5½ cents a pound on ten tons of rope which was being brought into Yarmouth. The first time the fishermen ever had the opportunity to buy the necessary implements of production in a cooperative way they found themselves throttled by this action of the government. Strenuous protests were made, two or three weeks were lost, and the time had almost come for the lobster fishermen to put out their traps before they were given any satisfaction, and even then there was apparently no direct response to their communications, but they learned from the local customs officer that the shipment would be released without the duty being paid. Evidently my friend the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) retreated from the position he took last September when he said he would see that the cost of the Canadian article was to govern the price of imported rope. I pointed out at the time, and I repeat now, that those men have to compete in the markets of the world in selling their fish, and therefore they are entitled to get their implements of production at the most favourable prices. That has been and will continue to be the policy of the Liberal party.

I do not propose to-day, and time does not permit me, to go into other matters to which I should like to refer with regard to conditions in the maritime provinces. Full opportunity will present itself later, and I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that we on this side of the house will deal with those questions when the time comes. For the remainder of my time, in view of the fact that it has been laid down by different gentlemen, and in particularly Mr. E. W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, that it is axiomatic that prosperity cannot come to Canada in any marked degree until the western wheat situation is solved, I propose to deal with the remarks which were made last week by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister about the Imperial conference to which he went for the purpose of selling Canada's wheat.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. RALSTON: Well, we always understood that he did. A gentleman by the name of Professor Swanson, who accompanied him, stated that the whole question of Canada's trade revolved around the marketing of the Dominion's wheat, and the best market we could get was to be found in the British isles. If my right hon. friend was over there—

Mr. MacDOUGALL: If my hon. friend will permit me?

Mr. RALSTON: I have only forty minutes.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: Was the Imperial conference called to deal with the question of marketing Canadian wheat?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. RALSTON: I did assume that when my right hon. friend and his colleagues went to the Imperial economic conference their primary object was to endeavour to make arrangements for the sale of Canada's wheat.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: That is not what you said.

Mr. RALSTON: I am assuming that to be true and I think people generally considered that to be the important part of his mission. Let us see what my right hon. friend did in that respect. What did he say in his speech to the house last week? I was amused, Mr. Speaker, as I think were other members, and

somewhat gratified by the fact that the right hon. gentleman attempted to justify his action at the Imperial economic conference last September by quoting as a precedent what Sir Wilfrid Laurier did at the conference of 1902. Let me assure my right hon. friend that if he always follows the policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier at Imperial conferences he will not go very far astray.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: If you followed it you would not go very far astray yourself.

Mr. RALSTON: If my hon. friend the would-be minister of fisheries will kindly permit me to continue. We have to bear in mind in connection with a statement of this kind the circumstances under which the conference met. My right hon. friend quoted from the proceedings of the 1902 conference. At that conference Sir Wilfrid Laurier proposed that Canadian agricultural products should be given preference in the British market. What was the situation at that time? Great Britain then had as a part of her general policy a duty on foodstuffs, and the proposal by Sir Wilfrid Laurier was that foodstuffs imported from Canada should be exempted from that duty. That was just exactly the opposite of the position in 1930, when my right hon. friend proposed Great Britain should change her whole fiscal system in order that it might be possible to give Canadian grain a preference in the British market. I say I do not think anything could illustrate that better than the statement made by Right Hon. W. S. Fielding in a speech made in this house after his return from the Imperial conference of 1902. He says:

> It was one thing to propose, as our opponents did in 1897, that the British government should tax the food of their people for our benefit, in order to grant an exemption on Canadian goods from taxation. It was too much to expect that the British taxpayer, in the then state of public opinion, would be willing to adopt the policy of preference. It was a very different thing, however, to propose to the British government not that they should tax the food of their people for the sake of the colonies, but that they should take off the taxation by granting a preference in favour of colonial products.

That illustrates much more succinctly than any words of mine the difference in the true situation, and it quite robs my friend of the opportunity of applauding the sentiments expressed by Mr. Richard Jebb who, he told us, stated that the offer of 1930 was exactly the same as the offer of 1902. I do not care whether my right hon. friend takes the statement of Mr. Jebb or the statements of hon. gentlemen on this side of the house; I leave the facts to the house. Mr. Jebb's statement is absolutely incorrect. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's proposal was entirely different from that made by my right hon. friend.

But what do we find Sir Wilfrid Laurier saying at a time when fiscal conditions in Great Britain were much the same as they were in 1930? See if my right hon. friend will follow him there. Here is the statement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1907, after the duty on foodstuffs had been taken off and the general policy in Great Britain had become free trade on foodstuffs. This is what he says—it sounds like Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I would refer my right hon. friend to this passage if he were here, but I hope he may read it as a passage perhaps expressing sentiments he might think it worth while emulating in connection with the Imperial conference:

> The matter of mutual preference is altogether in the hands of the British people and if they think on the whole their interests are better served by adhering to their present system, it is a matter for the British electorate. I think the best way of serving the whole is by allowing every part to serve and recognize its own immediate interest.

That is Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1907, to whom I refer my right hon. friend when he is looking for precedents in connection with imperial conferences. The truth is, Mr. Speaker, that you will search in vain the records of Imperial conferences from the very beginning to find any precedent for the action which the Prime Minister and his colleagues took at the last Imperial conference. What did they do?

Mr. MacDOUGALL: They acted as Canadians.

Mr. RALSTON: His one remedy, and the one remedy of my hon. friends on the other side is protection. High tariff is the one medicine which they keep in their medicine chest, and that is the remedy always prescribed in large doses by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister as a cure-all. The Prime Minister expressed himself in regard to this policy in this way, and I have no doubt these statements will be applauded by my hon. friend who has just said the Prime Minister and his colleagues acted as Canadians:

> If Mr. Mackenzie King thinks that on behalf of Canada I will not beg of any country to buy our goods; then he is right; for I will not. If he thinks I will not go, hat in hand, among the nations—so that I may not provoke them—and ask humbly if they will please exchange their goods for ours, then he is right; I will not. But if he thinks I will not so build up our agricultural and industrial life that its strength will drive our products into the competitive markets of the world, then he is wrong. For that I will do.
>
> If he thinks I will not establish new markets for these products, strive with all my heart to retain them, drive our produce with all my

power into new markets, into old markets, into reluctant markets, then he is wrong. For that I will do.

That is the mark of the pathfinder, to blaze the trail; through all barriers on the road to national development to blaze a way.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. RALSTON: I thought my hon. friends would cheer those statements. Now let us see how my right hon. friend goes about carrying out that policy in connection with this Imperial conference. He enunciates that as his policy, not to ask people to buy goods but to make them buy, to blaze a way over hill and dale, and to force Canadian goods into other markets. He is going to ask nobody to oblige him in any way whatever. He starts for the Imperial conference, to do business with a country which, in the fiscal year 1929, bought $290,000,000 worth of products from us, and from which we bought products to the value of $190,000,000.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: Under what government?

Mr. RALSTON: He goes to do business with a country which in the year ending September, 1930 had bought something like $94,000,000 worth of products from us more than we bought from them. He starts out with this policy, to drive products into their market—what is his method? He first puts up the tariff against Great Britain 25 per cent or 30 per cent, and then starts out with his axe, or stick of dynamite; if he is blasting he will take dynamite, and if he is blazing he will take the axe. He starts for Great Britain in order to inaugurate his policy, and his offer, shorn of any unnecessary verbiage, is that Great Britain should undertake to buy Canada's wheat, but that there should be no corresponding undertaking from Canada to buy British goods.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: Oh, yes.

Mr. RALSTON: I will deal with that in a moment, if my hon. friend will just permit me to continue. Then the right hon. Prime Minister quoted the attitude of the different dominions, and I understood him to say that the dominions were all behind him.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: Hear, hear.

Mr. RALSTON: Let us examine the facts and see if that is so. As I said a moment ago, during the year 1929 Canada had a favourable balance of trade with Great Britain amounting to practically $100,000,000. During the year ending September, 1930, the year ending just as my right hon. friend went over to Great Britain, Canada had had a favourable trade balance with Great Britain of $94,000,000. We sold to Great Britain goods to the value of $264,000,000 and bought goods to the value of $170,000,000. What was the situation in connection with Australia? Australia had an adverse balance; Australia had bought more goods from Great Britain than Great Britain had bought from her. South Africa had an adverse balance; South Africa had bought more goods from Great Britain than Great Britain had bought from her. The Irish Free State was in the same position and it would not have been unnatural perhaps if the prime ministers of these countries had been a bit insistent about their position in view of the fact that they were giving such a large proportion of their trade to Great Britain compared with what they were getting. But compare the attitude of my right hon. friend with the attitude of the gentlemen whom he says backed him up. His attitude was one of insistence; their attitude was one of conciliation. Here are some of the phrases which appear in my right hon. friend's presentation: "take without delay the steps necessary," "no room for compromise," "no possibility of avoiding the issue," "time for plain speaking," "the day is now at hand," "decide once and for all," "delay is hazardous," "the time for action has come," "other projects have been carefully canvassed and while we would avoid anything which might savour of premature condemnation we are constrained to state that none of them can be accepted by Canada as alternatives at all likely to achieve the purpose," "universal acceptance," "deliberations must be governed by the time factor," "if this change in our economic relationship is to be made it must be made without delay."

That is what my right hon. friend the Prime Minister said, and he came back to Canada and told us that the gentlemen representing New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and the Irish Free State backed him up. Just let us have a look at the position taken by Australia, for instance. In his address the other day my hon. friend quoted something from what the Prime Minister of Australia said. I refer to page 63 of Hansard, where my right hon. friend quoted Mr. Scullin as having said:

I have outlined in broad principle what Australia is prepared to do.

He did not quote to us however what Mr. Scullin had said Australia was prepared to do. Let us listen to it, and see if it sounds like the attitude taken by my right hon. friend when he was putting his proposition.

Here is what the Prime Minister of Australia was prepared to do, as appears on page 41 of the report of the conference:

I have spoken about the value of the Australian market and of the preferences we extend to British trade because the very fact that we already do so much makes it more difficult for Australia to find further methods of help compared with another country that had done less. Australia, is, however, willing as a part of a definite policy of Imperial economic cooperation, to examine every method of assistance. We will willingly consult with the representatives of your manufacturers to see if it is possible, without sacrificing any important Australian interests, to afford a greater degree of preference to certain goods and we will also sympathetically consider any representations which your manufacturers may desire to make in regard to the administration of our preferential system.

Compare that attitude with the attitude of my right hon. friend who puts the tariff wall up so high that British goods cannot get over it, and then wants to give a preference by adding another 10 per cent to that tariff against foreign goods. Mr. Scullin was ready to give a greater preference, and then he went on to say:

. . . .I must definitely declare that tariff preference is, in our opinion, much the most satisfactory form of help.

In making this statement, I must not be considered as attempting any form of dictation. It is for the government and parliament to decide what methods, if any, shall be adopted. We will cooperate in any practical plan which may be jointly approved. I should, however, be wanting in frankness if I did not make our position clear.

Does that sound like supporting the Prime Minister of Canada? Does that sound as if it were backing him up? Did our Prime Minister propose a greater preference? I say that the Prime Minister of Australia was here proposing directly the reverse of the proposition which the Prime Minister of Canada had made.

What about Mr. Forbes? My right hon. friend read an extract from his remarks, declaring that Mr. Forbes was behind him. Let us see to what extent Mr. Forbes supported my right hon. friend. In the extract which the right hon. gentleman read, and which appears at page 63 of Hansard, this is what Mr. Forbes said:

As a second step, I feel that a tariff preference in this country in favour of empire products (including foodstuffs), accompanied—

Note this.

—by increased preference in favour of British goods in the overseas empire—

And so forth. Does that sound like backing up the Prime Minister of Canada, who says in effect: "I will not permit any change in the policy I propose. We have examined all alternatives and this is the only one we can accept"? Mr. Forbes proposed a greater preference to British goods. The Prime Minister of Canada does intimate in one place that there may be a greater preference, but he proposes it by raising a higher wall against foreign goods and not by lowering the wall between Canada and British goods. He does it by putting up this mock preference a little higher.

My right hon. friend says, in his speech, "So you have New Zealand behind Canada." Well, these are two of the gentlemen who are said to have supported the Prime Minister of Canada in respect to that proposition. Let me read one extract more, which I regard as illuminating. It shows the position of the Prime Minister of New Zealand. I wish my right hon. friend the Prime Minister were here, so that I might ask him whether or not New Zealand was in the same position as these other countries in having an adverse balance of trade against her. I do not know, and I was not able to find out from a study of the Imperial conference report. But, as reported at page 229 of the report, these are the words with which Mr. Forbes left the conference:

We accept the position,—

That is, the position which Great Britain took, of not being able to put a duty on foodstuffs.

We accept the position, and we wish to make it clear that our regrets on this account will make no manner of difference in our attitude or in our policy towards this country. We shall return to New Zealand with the fullest determination to continue our system of preference to British goods, and to increase it where possible, and we shall leave no stone unturned to maintain and strengthen the already existing sentiment in favour of buying in the British market. On our part we leave it to the good will of the people of the United Kingdom to purchase our products wherever possible. We value that good-will very highly indeed—we reciprocate it most heartily—and we will continue to do what lies in our power to strengthen it.

With what statement did the Prime Minister of Canada leave Great Britain? This is what he said:

But if her proposal is to be thus contemptuously rejected Canadians can only accept the rejection and act accordingly by embracing other means at hand of further strengthening her economic position in the world.

I put these two statements side by side. The Prime Minister suggests that Mr. Forbes backed him up. That is the way he backed him up, and that is the attitude he took on that occasion.

Now for South Africa. They had an adverse balance of trade, and the representative of that dominion said that:

South Africa would welcome the extension of trade relations in the commonwealth by agreements providing for reciprocal tariff benefits, ... and we hope that it will be possible at this conference to devise means by which we shall be able to sell more of our produce to her—

That is, Great Britain.

—and also to be in a position to take more of her products.

That is the attitude of the Prime Minister of South Africa. Mr. McGilligan referred to the adverse balance against the Irish Free State and he expressed the hope that the exchange would rapidly extend in scope and value. Sir Richard Squires, the Prime Minister of Newfoundland, referred to the fact that his country was in a somewhat different position on account of her international trade, mentioning Greece and other countries.

My right hon. friend quotes these prime ministers as backing him up. Australia, South Africa and the Irish Free State all had adverse balances of trade against them whereas Canada had a favourable balance of trade. That is the first point to be noted. In the second place, Australia and New Zealand definitely suggested greater preferences, and South Africa suggested it in general terms. Not one of them approved of the Prime Minister's offer, with which I shall deal in a moment, and which is the really important thing, because it showed the practical application of his general suggestion. They spoke of reciprocal preferences, but not one agreed with the offer of the Prime Minister. Every one of them was flexible and accommodating, whereas my right hon. friend, on the other hand, was unbending and dogmatic. That was the difference in the presentation of their respective cases by the various prime ministers.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: You don't know what you are talking about.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. RALSTON: I am perfectly willing to be asked questions but I must object to such an interruption. I wish to point out more particularly that my right hon. friend, although he talked considerably about what was done at the Imperial conference, did not vouchsafe to the house the slightest explanation of the offer which he made and of the action which was going to exemplify how his general theory would be applied in practice. We must therefore take it that his offer was as has been frequently stated. This is the effect of it: Before leaving Canada he puts up the tariff against Great Britain, and then goes to Great Britain and says, "If you will put a duty on wheat against Russia, the Argentine and everywhere else except the Dominion, we will raise our general tariff by 10 per cent; but we will not put that 10 per cent on the portion of the wall between us and you, which is already so high as to be prohibitive and unscalable by you with your goods."

Mr. MacDOUGALL: May I ask my hon. friend—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: If my hon. friend—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: I want to say—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. MacDOUGALL: Why? Have I not the right—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) has indicated that he does not wish to pause in his speech to listen to questions. The hon. member will kindly allow him to continue.

Mr. RALSTON: I must slightly correct that statement, Mr. Speaker. I indicated that in view of the nature of the interruption I did not propose to take up time answering questions.

Now, that is the offer which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister made to Great Britain. I do not yet know, and I do not know whether this country knows, whether there was to be a 10 per cent duty imposed by Britain on wheat. He later explained his offer by saying that this 10 per cent was not 10 per cent on the value of the goods, not 10 per cent ad valorem, but was only a 10 per cent increase in the rate of duty. In other words, if the rate were 30 per cent it would not be increased to 40 per cent but to 33 per cent. How that would apply to Great Britain I do not know. Great Britain has no duty on wheat. Whether she would start with a duty of 10 per cent and add a tenth to that, or whether she would start with a duty of 3 per cent, I do not know. The Prime Minister has not told us, but it looks to me as if what my right hon. friend was asking from Great Britain might have been that she should impose a duty of 10 per cent on her foodstuffs in return for a preference of 3 per cent

given by us. My right hon. friend has not vouchsafed any explanation so that we do not know what his view is.

We have read this offer and we have wondered just who really was the author. Three ministers accompanied the Prime Minister to Great Britain. I know the judicial mind of the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and I know that he would be able to sift a proposition and decide whether or not it contained convincing argument and logic. In examining this offer I find it hard to bring myself to believe that the hon. Minister of Justice was consulted with regard to that particular offer. I know the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) but I do not believe that his commercial sense is such that he would consider an offer of this kind as being good business. I can hardly picture him sitting around the council board with the right hon. the Prime Minister, listening to the reading of this memorandum and giving it his approval as a proposal which would appeal to an already good customer. I know my hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupre), who seems to be the only member of the cabinet present at the conference who is in the house at this moment. I know his grace and affability and the inborn politeness of his race, and I can hardly conceive of his making any such blunt and dogmatic proposal as this one. As for the Prime Minister, he is an adornment to the profession of the advocate and he knows what presentation will carry his hearers with him, and I sometimes doubt whether even he was the author and initiator of this proposal. I wonder sometimes whether the gentleman who is now the minister designate to the United States may not have been trying out his hand on state documents and practising for the work of ministerial notes and ambassadorial messages. If this was the case, brilliant though he is said to be, one could wish he had experimented on something less important and not so fraught with serious consequences to Canada. In any case, the Premier salesman for Canada is the one who is responsible for this offer. We do not make a personal complaint against him, but we do complain that in his official capacity he has not observed what would appear to be the ordinary principles of salesmanship, that is, first, the creating of an atmosphere of good will and confidence, and secondly, having the other party feel that he is getting a square deal.

Judged by these standards the question is whether my hon. friend has been successful. What has he done? First, through his insistence, his dogmatism and his attitude of excluding any form of bargain but his own, he has created an atmosphere of irritation and annoyance. Secondly, he asked and almost demanded that Great Britain change completely her fiscal policy; that country was to make a complete right about face in the taxation of her food. Thirdly, he proposes to pay for this with what a great many people believe to be an absolutely worthless gesture. I do not think he can blame the people of Great Britain if they looked a little askance at the proposal which he made. However, he seemed to be annoyed with some of the gentlemen over there. The right hon. gentleman prides himself on using plain and blunt language, but when those gentlemen copied his mannerism he complained. I read a moment ago the rather curt rejoinder which he made, that Canada would make economic arrangements somewhere else if her offer was to be thus contemptuously rejected. I wonder where he and his government propose to make these other economic arrangements.

An hon. MEMBER: Washington.

Mr. RALSTON: No, not Washington. The right hon. Prime Minister stated the other evening that it was other intra-empire arrangements. I wonder how much wheat we will be able to sell to New Zealand or to Australia or South Africa. In 1929 we sold to the other dominions something like $54,000,000 worth of goods, while during the same period we sold to Great Britain $290,000,000 worth, and of this 54 millions only $15,000,000 represented agricultural products. How does my right hon. friend propose to carry out the threat which he made when he left Great Britain, about these other arrangements?

My right hon. friend also remarked that his attitude had been approved by all the newspapers in Great Britain with the exception of one. My time will not permit me to read the extracts which I have from different journals in Great Britain, but the following appeared in the New Statesman on November 1, 1930:

> Mr. Bennett may have hoped but can hardly have believed that we should fall for his preposterous offer.

That does not seem to approve very warmly the proposal made by my right hon. friend. On October 25, 1930, the same paper stated:

> The fact is that a Canada dominated by manufacturers who are determined to keep the home market to themselves cannot offer anything to British manufacturers which is comparable in importance to a protected position in the British market for Canada's wheat.

The Nation and Atheneum of October 18, 1930, contained an article strongly criticizing his offer, which my time will not permit me to read. The following is a paragraph from the Spectator of October 25, 1930:

> There is no doubt that protectionists are less in love with Mr. Bennett's proposal than they were at first sight. His first ambiguous language encouraged the belief that he was making a more generous offer than it now turns out to be. He was supposed to be offering a 10 per cent preference but it now turns out to be a three per cent preference.

The Round Table of December, 1930, contains the following:

> Two months previously he (Mr. Bennett) had sharply raised the tariff duties on Great Britain's chief lines of exports to Canada, notably on textiles and now he was demanding a wholesale change in the British fiscal system without making any suggestion of a compensating diminution of the British preferential rates in the Canadian tariff, the present higher level of which can scarcely fail to cause a curtailment of British exports to Canada.

I commend these extracts to the attention of the house in view of what my right hon. friend has said as to the attitude taken by the British journals. I might mention also the very critical attitude taken by the Manchester Guardian and by the Herald.

Mr. MANION: Has the hon. gentleman any extracts from daily papers other than the Manchester Guardian?

Mr. RALSTON: I have here only the extracts which I have quoted. I mentioned the Manchester Guardian and the Herald which both referred to the matter in a way which did not indicate a great deal of approval of the Prime Minister's proposal.

An hon. MEMBER: Why does not the hon. member quote the others?

Mr. RALSTON: That is the situation which exists in Great Britain. My right hon. friend seems to think that the atmosphere today is better than ever before. If it is better than before, and if relations are not strained, it is not because of but in spite of what has been done by this government and by my right hon. friend. It is because of the proverbial self-restraint of our friends overseas. They are the ones to whom credit should be given, and all the more when we remember not alone the attitude taken by my right hon. friend but also the attitude taken by the gentleman who has lately been appointed High Commissioner to Great Britain, who took upon himself to state what he proposes to do in Great Britain. I will quote very briefly from his remarks before leaving Canada, as follows:

> Now, I am not going over there to sell wheat. I am going to London with the hope that I may be able to do something to remould or revive the contemporary spirit of the British people. My observations over there are brief and perhaps unreliable. In the old country patriotic fervour, British persistence, British traditions, have to a large extent broken down.

He speaks of unemployment, and continues:

> I can assure you I never would have thought of leaving the happy hunting-grounds which I have enjoyed here for some time, if I did not think there was a real need for somebody to revive the old spirit of pride and self-respect for their country.

He then followed that up by a statement which appeared in the British newspapers to the effect that he deprecated very much the idea of the slogan, "Buy British goods made in England by British labour." Remember, Mr. Speaker, that this complaint is made by a gentleman appointed by a government which got into power on the slogan "Canda first", and the essence of whose policy is, they say, the welfare of the home producer. This is the audacious criticism made by our representative in the land of a customer who already buys nearly twice as much from us as we do from her, and this gentleman is appointed by a government whose Minister of Trade and Commerce has spent a good deal of time and considerable of the country's money in sending out letters and getting Canadian consumers to subscribe to an illuminated creed pledging themselves to buy Canadian made goods.

Mr. M. N. CAMPBELL (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I believe it will be readily admitted that the condition of agriculture in Canada is the most acute problem with which the house must grapple, and the success or failure of the government will be largely determined by their attitude towards this problem and the measure of success attending their efforts to solve it. Much gratuitous advice is being given to the western farmers, very largely by men who know least about the agricultural industry. The most common admonition in this regard is to get into mixed farming. With eggs selling on the prairies at ten cents a dozen in the middle of February, and at seven cents a dozen to-day, it is quite obvious that an increase in the production of mixed farm products will not help to solve our problem. In this connection it may be pointed out that the much calumniated western farmers, in addition to raising an enormous grain crop, produce more mixed farm products such as cattle, hogs, butter, eggs and dressed poultry per capita than do the farmers of eastern Canada.

I have in my possession some figures which have been handed to me by the Bureau of Statistics and which prove that statement. For purposes of comparison I have grouped Ontario, Quebec and the maritime provinces together as the eastern provinces, and Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta together as the western provinces. These figures show the average number or quantity on the farms of Canada in June, 1930, for cattle and hogs, and in 1929 for butter and eggs:

	Eastern farms Per farm June, 1930	Western farms Per farm June, 1930
Cattle.	10.65	13.62
Hogs.	4.44	5.85

The quantities of butter and eggs produced are for the year 1929, the last year for which figures are available. The table continues:

	1929	1929
Butter..	345 lbs.	355 lbs.

Eggs are shown by weight rather than by the dozen.

	1929	1929
Eggs..	291 lbs.	345 lbs.

Even these figures do not do justice to the prairie agriculturist, because there are in western Canada large areas that, owing to the shortage of water and other drawbacks that are not common in eastern Canada, are totally unsuited to mixed farming. Therefore, if we take those areas in western Canada where mixed farming is possible, the relative difference in the figures for production will be much greater than is indicated by the figures I have given. In this connection may I quote from a Regina paper of January 28 last. The article is headed:

> Professor Howes advises thought before rushing into mixed farming.
>
> Counselling farmers against stampeding into mixed farming on the broadcastings of advice from all parts of the country, Professor E. A. Howes, dean of the college of agriculture, Edmonton, Wednesday morning spoke to the delegates of the twenty-second annual convention of the Saskatchewan Dairy Association. The dean drew attention to sweeping arguments in favour of diversified farming which became prevalent with the drop in wheat. He recalled that the same shout had gone up in favour of grain, in other years. Stating that westerners had been guilty of illogical practices in the past, he said they should try to avoid making the same mistakes again.

I do not suggest that these difficulties are peculiar to Canada. We are facing a world problem and all that can be expected of Canada is that she shall take her share of responsibility and do her part in solving her share of the problem. I have under my hand nearly 100 resolutions of various kinds passed by farm bodies, boards of trade and various public bodies in the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, making recommendations to the government for the solution or the partial solution of the farm problem. Many of these advices are in direct conflict with others. Many I consider unsound and uneconomic, and if applied they would have disastrous results. Others again I consider practicable, but owing to the fact that public opinion is not ready for them I would not expect this government or any other government to apply them at the present time. Not only, however, do I consider others practicable, but I believe public opinion is ready for them and I propose to make to the government some concrete suggestions based on the latter class. These I will summarize under seven heads as follows:

1. Necessary adjustments in the monetary system to enable it better to serve the purpose for which it was created.

2. Elimination of (a) advertising, (b) salesmanship, and (c) collection costs in connection with the selling price of farm implements.

3. Reduction in domestic grain rates to the level of export freight rates.

4. Elimination of immigration activities on the part of our railway companies and the amount thus saved to be passed on to the farmers in reduced freight rates.

5. Enforcement of the 7 per cent clause in the Bank Act.

6. Governmental action towards amortization of existing farm mortgages in western Canada and reduction in interest rates.

7. That every possible effort be made to secure a preference for our wheat in the British market at the coming Imperial conference and that we offer in exchange a substantial reduction in the duty on British manufactured goods.

With respect to number one, the time allotted to me, namely forty minutes, will not suffice to give a full expression of my opinion with regard to the monetary system, and a brief reference will have to do. Mr. C. E. Neil, President of the Royal Bank of Canada, in an address delivered some time ago. to the shareholders of that bank, said that if the central banks of the outstanding countries of the world were to adopt a common policy, they could at will stabilize, raise or lower commodity prices. That is not a new doctrine. It has frequently been expounded from these benches; it has often been enunciated by professors of political economy, but seldom before has it been put forward by an

orthodox banker and a banker of the standing of Mr. C. E. Neil. This means in effect that the banks really have in the hollow of their hands the power to create conditions of prosperity or depression.

May I be permitted to quote another distinguished financier? This is an article in MacLean's magazine of January 15 last, by Mr. T. B. Macaulay, President of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada. Referring to the drop in the commodity price level, Mr. Macaulay says:

> It has been the chief cause of the severity of this depression.

Then he goes on to say:

> There is a fairly general agreement among economists that this drop in the average price of commodities has been caused by a lessening of the purchasing power of the dollar, which in turn depends on the amount of dollar currency and currency credits outstanding.

Then further on, he states:

> It is admitted that in the United States the purchasing power of the dollar depends entirely on the amount of currency and currency credits which the federal reserve authorities may permit to be outstanding.

No statement could be clearer than that last one. This statement comes not from a political economist, not from a member of the group to which I belong, but from an outstanding banker, one of the most outstanding in Canada. His opinion should be convincing proof of the contentions put forward from these benches many many times in the past. In the address to which I referred, Mr. Neil placed the responsibility for the present depression largely on the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States because that bank in the fall of 1929 drastically deflated and curtailed credits. I think therefore it will be admitted generally that the price of commodities is very largely determined by the amount of money in circulation. Generally speaking I believe the statement will hardly be challenged that if you double the amount of money in circulation the price of commodities will double. That is a general statement. If the amount of money in circulation is reduced by one-half the commodity prices will drop to one-half their former amount. It is patent then that any sudden contraction in currency or credit will have a disastrous effect on business. Agriculture always suffers more than any other industry because of its unorganized condition. During a period of depression manufacturers are able to reduce their output by laying off their employees and perhaps by getting together and stabilizing prices. Our farmers are in competition and therefore they are not able to do that. The extent to which the industry of agriculture suffers in comparison with the manufacturing industry is clearly set forth in a bulletin issued by the Bank of Nova Scotia for the month of March. On page 2 of this bulletin there is a very interesting chart with a line indicating the relative drop in the price of various commodities. Taking the figure 100 as a basis of high prices in September of 1929 the chart shows that manufactured goods have dropped to only 85 while farm products have dropped to 54. The comment is as follows:

> From September, 1929 to date the index of farm products has declined by 46 per cent, while that of manufactured goods is only 15 per cent lower.

Without at the moment considering any fundamental changes in the monetary system may I suggest that there should be one or more experts who would have power to supervise and in a measure control the whole banking system. These men should have the power to check any drastic action or anything in the way of inflation or deflation, except when those conditions exist only in very moderate degree. In this connection may I refer to a distinguished economist, Sir George Paish. In the spring of the year 1929 he predicted that we were facing the greatest financial crash in history. At that time his statement was not taken seriously by business men or economists and certainly not by the great majority of the financial class. The position of many of these financiers reminds me of a great many people who drive motor cars. We find thousands of men and women driving high powered motor cars who are quite capable drivers so long as nothing goes wrong with the motor. They are able to start and stop their machine, to apply the brakes properly and may be classed as reasonably good drivers. However they have no conception whatever of the mechanical operation of the cars under their control. They know nothing at all about the principle of internal combustion engines or how the power is applied from the motor to the car itself. When anything goes wrong they are absolutely helpless and must employ the services of a mechanic. It seems to me that a great many of our outstanding financiers are in the same position. As long as things run smoothly they can operate the machine very satisfactorily, and are able to make money by the operation. When something goes wrong, however, they do not know what is the trouble and it requires a man of the stamp of Sir George Paish to point it out. In all seriousness I would recommend to the gov-

ernment the employment of such a man to advise and assist us in dealing with existing conditions.

Very great hardships are imposed upon business people and farmers in periods of deflation by the change in the value of debts. Those who borrowed money in 1918, 1919 and 1920 actually secured a 50 cent dollar and were obliged to pay back in the deflation period following that at the rate of 100 cents on the dollar. Their debts were actually doubled. This applies to public as well as to private debts. As a matter of fact it is in these inflation periods that most of our borrowing is done because that is the only time money is plentiful, when banks are handing it out quite freely and mortgage and other financial institutions have an abundance of cash. Most of our debts, public and private, are created in those inflation periods, and it is because of that fact we are suffering at the present time.

Let me give the house a simple illustration of how, in my opinion, this system works. We will take the case of a baker whose responsibility it is to supply the community with bread. He bakes 1,000 loaves of bread daily, sufficient for the needs of the community. In order to secure financial support or something of that nature he makes an arrangement with a banking corporation and agrees to give the bank a monopoly of the issue of bread tickets and at the same time binds himself to sell the bread over the counter only in exchange for bread tickets. In the regular course of events 1,000 people present themselves at the bank and ask for 1,000 tickets. The tickets are purchased and those people are in a position to go to the bake shop and secure bread. As long as matters run smoothly the system works very well, and there is no disturbance whatever. One day, however, these 1,000 people present themselves at the bank; the banker shrugs his shoulders and states, "Why, bread tickets are scarce; I have instructions from head office to curtail their issue." The people in the community have the money in their pockets to buy 1,000 loaves of bread; the consuming capacity of the community equals the 1,000 loaves of bread. Yet that community must suffer privation because of what?—because of the scarcity of cardboard. That is about all it amounts to. I know I will be told that the analogy is not correct; I will be told the trouble to-day is that we have not sufficient money. I want to draw a distinction between real money and the circulating medium. In this case the cardboard is the circulating medium; the real money of the farmer is the wheat, cattle, hogs, butter and eggs which he produces. The real money of the workingman is the labour of his hands. The only function of a circulating medium is to provide means by which people can exchange their commodities for what they need. When the monetary system fails to do that I say it has failed—as ours has at the present time—in its primary function. May I quote from an article in MacLean's magazine of January 15 last from the pen of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens). This is a thoughtful diagnosis of the present situation and does credit to the minister who wrote it. In part it says:

> One is forced to admit that there is no overproduction, but on the other hand there is under-consumption and what is worse, maldistribution.

In summing up his argument in this regard the minister says:

> That, to my mind, is the chief problem calling for immediate consideration by all who would preserve our present-day civilization.

Those are strong words, and they must be taken seriously, particularly coming from a minister of the crown. I do not think they are a bit too strong. The minister says that we must solve this problem of mal-distribution if present-day civilization is to be preserved. In my opinion—and I think I can get a good deal of support for it—the faulty credit system is the biggest single factor in what the minister calls mal-distribution.

With regard to number two, Russia, our greatest competitor in the wheat market to-day, is purchasing her implements at cost, plus f.o.b. factory. There are no advertising costs, no collection costs, no salesmanship costs in connection with the price at which Russia is securing her farm implements. Those implements are going to Russian farms at prices far below those at which our farmers are able to secure them. I believe by the elimination of the factors mentioned these implements could be sold to our farmers at from 35 to 40 per cent less than the prices we have to pay for them to-day. I know those figures may seem extreme, it may be hard to credit them, but they are based on figures which have been quoted to me by responsible officials of at least two of our great agricultural implement manufacturers. The losses by bad debts, for instance, are immense, and under the accounting system of the companies those losses are charged up to collection costs. Of course, if we eliminated those factors it would mean that the farmer would have to pay cash for his implements. Well, he has

been buying too much on time in the past, and I believe if the price is reduced he will be able to pay cash. Under the new tariff policy inaugurated last September the government is undertaking, to some degree at least, to set prices, and in so far as they have succeeded in doing so—and I must confess I have not been able to prove any instances where they have not succeeded—it proves that governments can set prices. I would suggest to the government that they undertake an examination of this question and use the legislative club, if necessary, to bring about a reform in that regard. A few days ago the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Bowman) made what I considered a very valuable suggestion to the house. He said that the question of the price of farm implements should be referred to the committee on agriculture. I commend and support that suggestion, and would suggest also that this particular angle of the elimination of the factors I have mentioned be taken up by the committee and that it make definite recommendations thereon. If we are to be able to meet the competition of Russia in the great markets of the world we must remove every possible handicap from the grain-growing industry, and while this is only one of the handicaps, yet to my mind it is a very important one indeed.

With regard to number three, the difference between the export and domestic freight rates on grain, the farmers in British Columbia and in the eastern provinces are obliged to pay about double the export freight rates on our coarse grains, and this has been a big factor in eliminating almost the only market we have for those grains to-day. Instead of quoting my own figures, perhaps I could not do better than give the house a few extracts from an address delivered by Dean Shaw of the Saskatchewan college of agriculture. It was published in the Western Producer of January 22nd last. He said:

> Just how do these rates operate? For instance, a car of grain may be shipped from Saskatoon to Liverpool on a rate of 62 cents per cwt. or to Copenhagen for a few cents more.
>
> However, if a Canadian farmer living in the eastern townships of Quebec, say Sherbrooke, wants to secure a similar car of grain from Saskatoon he must pay 57½ cents per cwt. from Saskatoon to Montreal and 13 cents per cwt. from Montreal to Sherbrooke, or a total rate of 70½ cents per cwt.
>
> If he lives in Truro, Nova Scotia, it will cost him 74 cents per cwt. If he lives in central Ontario, say at Guelph, it will cost him a rate of 65½ cents per cwt. Now let us ship this car of grain westward, via Vancouver and the Panama canal, to Liverpool. To do this will cost about 57 cents per cwt. but if a farmer in British Columbia, located at Langley, some thirty miles or so from Vancouver, wants to purchase a similar car of grain and ship it from Saskatoon, it will cost him just 50½ cents per cwt. although the part of the export rate from Saskatoon to Vancouver is just 24 cents per cwt.
>
> Take another instance. If I wish to purchase a carload of grain at Melfort, Sask., and ship it to Assiniboia, Sask., a distance of about 300 miles, it will cost 24½ cents per cwt. The same car of grain could go to Fort William for 22 cents per cwt. from Melfort, or from Assiniboia to Fort William for 22 cents per cwt., although in either of the latter cases the distance is three times as far.

He goes on to say:

> A direct result is that eastern Canadian farmers are unable to use western Canadian grain. Instead, they use large quantities of corn imported from the United States and the Argentine. It is not used because it is better, but largely because it is cheaper.

Now, in regard to number four, figures quoted a few years ago before the special railway committee were to the effect that the Canadian National Railways were spending annually upwards of $800,000 a year on immigration. It is reasonable to suppose that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company would be spending a like amount. In my opinion the immigration activities of these two companies are not only unwarranted and unnecessary from a national standpoint, they are actually harmful to the agricultural industry, because by uneconomically putting more people on the land and increasing production they have lowered the standard of living of our farmers.

With regard to number five, bank interest, let me say that the farmers of the west are being charged from 9 to 10 per cent on past due bank loans. A 7 per cent maximum rate is provided by the Bank Act, but it is being evaded by technicalities. Governmental action in this regard is long overdue, and I appeal to the government to see to it that the original intention of parliament in this regard is carried out.

Now, with respect to number six, the question of farm mortgages. In my opinion the greatest single problem facing the farmers of western Canada to-day is the mortgage indebtedness against their lands. Undisputed possession of a piece of land is fundamental to everything else in the agricultural industry. Recently in the Saskatchewan legislature a figure of $215,000,000 was quoted as the value of the mortgages applying against Saskatchewan farms, and $32,000,000 as the Saskatchewan farmers' annual interest bill on all indebtedness—mortgages, bank loans, implement notes, and so on. The interest on farm mortgages is 8 per cent and in some

cases 9 per cent. Recently I read a statement by, I think, Sir John Aird in which he referred to interest on bank loans in the west as being at 7 per cent.

I understand that in some parts of the province of Manitoba money is being loaned to the farmers on mortgages at 7 per cent, but in twenty-five years of residence in the province of Saskatchewan I have never known of a single instance where a farmer secured money from a mortgage company at less than 8 per cent, and in some cases I might point out that they are paying 9 per cent. Bank interest, notwithstanding the Bank Act, is from 8 per cent to 10 per cent. Implement notes, for the most part, bear an interest rate of 9 per cent. No industry can stand a tax of this kind, and I would suggest legislative action to put a limit of 7 per cent on all interest indebtedness. I am not at all concerned with the fear sometimes expressed that the imposition of any restriction of that kind on the banks or mortgage companies will create hardship to the farmers by limiting the amount of money available. Let me say that if a farmer has to pay more than 7 per cent for money he is better off not to get the money at all. We have had too much false development in western Canada, too much money put out indiscriminately to develop the country which, instead of doing good, has worked a hardship on the community and has reacted unfavourably.

Mr. ARTHURS: Just for information would the hon. gentleman tell me approximately what he considers the amount of mortgages given for the purchase of land originally?

Mr. CAMPBELL: That would be very difficult to tell, because a great many of these mortgages never have been paid off. A man buys land under a sale agreement; later on when the amount owing is reduced, he will be asked to get a mortgage company to pay it off, so that question would be very difficult to answer.

I have many resolutions under my hand suggesting that the government take over the farm mortgages. That is one of the things for which I do not believe public opinion in Canada is prepared, so I do not expect the government to go into that business and take over all these mortgages. I know at the present time, in the present state of public opinion, it cannot be done, but I do believe there are middle courses which might be pursued. I would suggest to the government that they examine the French system. Some years ago the French government forced all the mortgage companies to amalgamate and they created one company that was given a monopoly of mortgage loans in France. I know we are all afraid of monopolies; I am just as much afraid of them as anybody, but if a monopoly can reduce costs and if those reduced costs are passed on to the common people, I say a monopoly of that kind is what we want, and I am not afraid of it. I suggest that if such a policy should be pursued, the practice followed in France should be adopted here and the interest rate set by the government. I understand that the French government, through some official body, controls this mortgage company very much in the same way our railway commission controls the operations of our railway companies. I do suggest to the government that something along this line be taken into consideration.

Mr. GEARY: Is any reason given by the banks for demanding such a high rate of interest?

Mr. CAMPBELL: I notice Sir John Aird, in his statement which appeared in the press a few days ago, gives as one reason for the high interest rates the enormous losses which the banks took in western Canada. My reply is that if they are using poor judgment in lending money to men on land that should not be lent, then they have no right to penalize the whole industry. Let them use better judgment and be more careful about the loans they make.

Mr. ARTHURS: The banks do not lend money on land.

Mr. CAMPBELL: As a matter of fact the banks have a great deal of money in land, it is loaned directly in the first place, and then it is secured by a mortgage later on. The banks are in the land game to-day almost as much as the mortgage companies are in it. The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) suggests that the excessive interest rates increase the risks, and that is quite true. It is my opinion that unless something is done farmers as a class will disappear in western Canada, and a landless tenantry will take the place of the sturdy, self-reliant yeoman farmers who have brought that country to its present state of development. This is too terrible to contemplate, and something should be done before it is too late.

With regard to my seventh point, recognizing the fact that Great Britain is almost the only market for our wheat, the future of the grain growing industry in Canada is depen-

dent upon our ability to make some arrangement with the mother country with regard to this commodity. I do not believe this can be brought about in any other way than by offering Great Britain substantial reductions in the duty on British manufactured goods entering this country, in exchange for a preference or something of that kind in the British market. If the government makes such an offer to Great Britain at the Imperial conference, and that offer is rejected, then no blame can be attached to the government. That, at least, is one way the government can square itself with public opinion, and I earnestly appeal to the government to make some such offer before it is too late.

Before I conclude I wish to extend my congratulations to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) for the moral courage he displayed in making a public criticism of the banks, while almost, as one of the newspapers expressed it, in the shadow of St. James street. In this connection I should like to quote part of an editorial which appeared in the Western Producer for February 26:

> Hon. Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, has been making Canadian history by openly, and right in Montreal, criticizing the Canadian banks. Criticizing the Canadian banks is not an outlawed sport, but the number of cabinet ministers who have been known to indulge in it could be counted on the fingers of one hand of an armless man.

I think that is quite correct and not an exaggeration. Certainly I do not recollect a single instance in recent political history of a federal minister of the crown coming out and making a public criticism of these sacrosanct institutions. When I first read that statement in the newspapers I thought the minister had been misquoted, and I looked for his denial. When that did not come I looked for his resignation from the cabinet, but when that did not come I concluded that a new era had dawned. I have been sitting in this house for ten sessions, and never before have I seen members on the government benches get up one after the other and openly criticize the banks. They are not doing it because they are any different from the men who sat on the government benches for the last nine years, but simply because the Minister of Agriculture broke the ice for them.

Apart altogether from the merits of the arguments brought forward by the minister; apart altogether from whether or not the points he brought up were correct, I say it is an unhealthy condition of affairs when public men, business men and farmers speak only with bated breath of these institutions. During the last year I have had many cases placed in my hands to be taken up with the debt adjustment bureau of the province of Saskatchewan, not only by farmers but by business men as well. I have found that these men had no compunction or hesitation in placing in my hands cases having to do with mortgage companies or with machine companies, but when it came to banks it was a different thing altogether. In scores of instances I have been given the facts in connection with cases where it seemed to me the rankest kind of injustice had been practised on these men by banks, but in only two or three instances would they permit me to take up the matter with the debt adjustment bureau. In the back of their minds they had the fear that to do so would mean that they would be black-balled in securing credit in the future. I say that is not a healthy condition. It applies to business men just as much as it does to farmers, but the banks are not private institutions. They are semi-public institutions; they secure valuable privileges from parliament, and I say it is not a healthy condition when farmers, business men and public men are afraid to criticize them. They should be subject to criticism just as much as our government, just as much as any other public body; and apart altogether from the question as to whether they are dealing fairly with the people or not, I say that there is a vital principle at stake. Therefore, I congratulate not only the Minister of Agriculture on his moral courage but the government on having in its ranks a minister who has the courage to take that stand.

Mr. J. C. MOORE (Chateauguay-Huntingdon): This house, Mr. Speaker, has always accorded courtesy and indulgence to new members when for the first time they venture to present their views on current public questions, and that indulgence I would ask for myself.

No one regrets the distress of the agriculturists of the western provinces more than I, representing as I do a farming community. When the price of wheat is low, so are prices of all cereals and of many other farm products. Farmers in eastern Canada are not immune from unfavourable conditions now unhappily prevalent in the west, and speaking for my constituents may I say that most desirous are we that a brighter day will soon dawn, that measures of remedy and relief will be found possible by legislation. I may add that to this end vituperation, wailing and threatening should give place to concrete practical suggestions for amelioration. To destroy eastern industries by the medium of a low tariff will not add one penny to the price of wheat; to bankrupt the railways of Canada by lowering rates below the cost of service would be to court disaster and destroy the

national credit. The one remaining bank having its head office and its operations exclusively in the west has been compelled to submit to absorption because credits extended could not be repaid by its customers.

Speaking of bank rates, I do not think it required the advice or the criticism of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to convince me that bank rates are too high for farmers—7, 8 or 9 per cent. I do not think any bank is justified in charging more than 6 per cent to any agriculturist. That, I believe, is the legal rate of interest in the province of Quebec. Money may be loaned without expectation of return. Such is not the business of banks. Financial relief may be extended by parliament through the agency of the government to tide over a period of distress, in conviction of recompense in the long run; to which means, it seems to me, hon. members from western provinces should address themselves.

History constantly repeats itself. Like all other parts of Canada, and as in all countries, the west has had bitter days before. It has had low prices for grain, poor crops and widespread penury. Out of these the west has emerged before, and out of these the west will emerge again. I would not say to a starving man, "Have patience; live horse, and you will get grass." That is not the way of this government. It manifests its sympathy by action. What can be done consistently with the general interest will, I am confident, be done; and in the doing, private enterprise, private means and private patriotism are already rendering aid.

I would point out to hon. members from the west that agriculture is an important industry in the central and maritime provinces. But while we export many farm and dairy products our best market is at our door. Probably not less than 80 to 85 per cent of the farm commodities produced between Fort William and Halifax are consumed within Canada. The farmers' home market is their best market, and whatever contributes to the enlargement of the home market contributes to the prosperity of the farmer.

While at home I consulted one farmer as to the price of milk on the Canadian border. He is an agriculturist who is sending his milk into New York state. We hear from hon. gentlemen opposite that protection does not get the agriculturist anywhere. As hon. members know, the United States is a highly protected country; it has always been from its infancy. There is no richer country in the world than the United States; there is no country in the world where all the people enjoy the luxuries they do in the United States. This man is still sending his milk there. He is paying 76 cents duty on his milk per hundred, and in the month of February was receiving $1.46½ clear, while the farmers who are keeping their milk at home and manufacturing it in the creameries are receiving $1 and less. Still hon. gentlemen opposite will tell us that protection does not get a country anywhere. For years along the border in the county of Chateauguay-Huntingdon they have been sending milk to the United States, and for the last ten or twelve years they have been getting very often from 75 cents to $1 more for their milk than they were getting in Canada. Why? Because they have a market and population. And can we have a population without industry? If we are ever to have a home market for our farmers we must have protection. If the tariff to-day were entirely swept away and free trade substituted, is there any hon. gentleman opposite who can truthfully say that he would find a market for our wheat? They know better. Still we hear from opposite benches a great deal about free trade and low tariff.

Industries are essential to the creation of a home market, and in the rural parts of Quebec and, I believe, of all eastern provinces, there are no more ardent supporters of a fiscal policy as a means of promoting industry than the agricultural classes. My colleague, the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel), in his admirable speech, dealt fully with the injuries suffered by the farmers under the policy of the late government, more particularly in respect to the gratuitous extension to New Zealand of the Australian treaty, with the result that butter was becoming a lost art in Canada. I will not allude further to this particular industry other than to say that as with butter so with every product of the farm. The agriculturists of the counties which I have the honour to represent demand a fiscal policy which will reserve to them their home markets, allowing domestic competition to ensure the regulation of prices.

The farmers of the west will in time to come possess a large home market created by the establishment of manufacturing industries in that portion of the country. The history of the United States shows a time when political power in that country was centered in the south; Virginia supplied her presidents. Then came a time when the eastern states, by reason of the increased population caused by the growth of industry, became most powerful. Then the great west was thrown

open, a large agricultural population sprang up, which, as is now the case in many parts of our own northwest, clamoured for a low tariff. However, with increasing population and improved transportation facilities there came about the establishment of factories and mills, until at the present day not only the centre of population but also the centre of industry has moved west in the United States, and in no part of that country is the policy of fiscal protection more strongly advocated. In our Canadian northwest there will be a repetition of the experience of the United States. Important manufacturing industries already have been established there; others will follow, and nothing is more certain than that the day will come when the home markets of the prairie farmers will provide a profitable outlet for the products of mixed farming.

During this debate as well as during the last elections we had from the mouth of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) a multitude of figures illustrative of the expansion of trade during his regime. He has attempted to show increases in bank deposits, in the circulation of currency, in railway traffic, and has given other instances of growing prosperity. I do not dispute these figures or facts, but it is pertinent to ask: Why did not the government of the right hon. gentleman continue this prosperity? What caused it to alter its course and suddenly turn a deaf ear and display a marble heart to the people of Canada? If his government made prosperity, why did it not continue that prosperity? That is a fair question. No government can attribute to itself credit for good times without incurring responsibility for bad times. That times were bad during the later months of the Liberal rule nobody can deny. A great deal has been said by hon. gentlemen opposite about times being bad since the Bennett government came into power, but not one is ready to admit —in playing politics you can hardly expect them to do so—that the bad times started long before the Mackenzie King administration went out of power.

A few figures will prove this statement. In the five months ended August 31, 1930, the Dominion revenue was $26,380,000 less than for the corresponding period in the preceding year, while expenditures were $7,519,000 greater. During that brief period practically all the large surplus of 1929-30 had disappeared and the public revenue rapidly was running into the deficit with which the present government is faced. Foreign commerce, upon which the right hon. leader of the opposition laid so much stress, during the five months ended August 31, 1930, amounted to $788,241,000, being $267,835,000 less than the same period in 1929, a decrease of 25 per cent. No one can contradict these easily remembered facts. Why did the Liberal government permit of a shrinkage amounting to one-quarter of Canada's foreign trade if, as it has so often boasted, it had the policy and the power to extend that commerce? The only answer is that the boastings of hon. gentlemen opposite are nothing but pure bunk.

I question no man's patriotism, but I am bound to say that the revelation of it made by some is peculiar. There are—

> Those steady patriots of the world alone,
> The friends of every country but their own.

World-wide patriotism in matters material may suit hon. gentlemen opposite but it does not appeal to me. I have been amazed to hear apologies made in this house for the Russian soviet and its ways, and have been astounded at the fact that for a few shekels men in this house and in this country are willing to place in the hands of the bolshevists weapons which may destroy the industrial life of Canada, disrupt our social system and degrade our standard of living. Give me instead men of whom it can be said:

> Such is the patriot's boast, where'er we roam,
> His first, best country ever is at home.

The proclaimed policy of the Conservative party is "Canada first." To the well-being, the happiness, the prosperity of Canadian people, our efforts are devoted and our measures directed. The pledges of the Prime Minister made during the last elections were accepted by the majority of the people and already they have been very largely fulfilled. They are to be further implemented during this present session and I have implicit confidence that ere long every one of them will be redeemed to the great gain and contentment of the people of Canada.

I was rather disappointed in the speech of the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston). I expected to hear a speech of much higher calibre, as he is one for whom I think the majority of hon. members have a good deal of admiration. He seemed to have deserted the high plane upon which he usually conducts his discussions of public matters and to have resorted to camouflage. It is not my purpose to discuss at any length the last Imperial conference, but the speech of the right hon. leader of the opposition upon this subject reminded me of an interesting and amusing book recently published, entitled "If It Had Happened Otherwise," being the speculations of a number of authors as to the consequences to mankind if cer-

tain titanic struggles had had a different termination. We all admit, I suppose, that if the conclusions of the Imperial conference had been otherwise, the consequences would have been different; but no one, I venture to say, will for a moment impute to Mr. Ramsay MacDonald or Mr. Philip Snowden partisan motives when they rejected the scheme of preferential tariffs, or assume that the views of those gentlemen were influenced by the fact that the Prime Minister and not the leader of the opposition represented Canada at the conference.

The reaction upon the minds of the people of Canada to the attitude of the Prime Minister at the conference was, as it could not well fail to be, most favourable. For what was the Prime Minister's proposal, in plain, understandable language? It was that the prime ministers of the British commonwealth of nations should sit down and earnestly endeavour to devise a means of promoting mutual trade to the advantage and strengthening of the British Empire. That proposal is to receive further consideration in this city at an early date. It has not been rejected; a decision upon it has merely been postponed. Whether a favourable conclusion will come out of the adjourned conference is in the lap of the gods, but of this I am certain, that the people of Canada desire a policy of preferential trade within the empire and applaud the clear, firm, understandable attitude taken by the Prime Minister in London. He at least spoke the voice of Canada, while beside him stood the representatives of every dominion within the empire, manifesting their support.

We have heard a great deal from hon. gentleman opposite who seek to make it a reproach against the Prime Minister that he holds two cabinet positions, even though this arrangement is only temporary. The present government has been repeatedly dubbed a "one man" government. I am sorry that those members to whom I should like to address this part of my speech are not in their places this afternoon. But I will say that people in glass houses should not throw stones. The members to whom I refer, who are not in their seats this afternoon, have repeatedly twitted the Prime Minister on this being a one-man government and on his holding several portfolios at the same time. What is the situation in Quebec, where the Hon. Mr. Taschereau runs the province? I come from that province and I happen to know something about it. The Hon. Mr. Taschereau is, as everybody knows premier, provincial treasurer and attorney general. If the Prime Minister of Canada is an autocrat —and my hon. friends have dubbed him that—what will they call the Hon. Mr. Taschereau? In comparison with the Hon. Mr. Taschereau, the Prime Minister of Canada is as mild and docile as Mary's little pet lamb.

Mr. ST-PERE: You refused to elect one of your own nationality in Quebec. That is why Mr. Taschereau had to take the position of treasurer.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): I see we have some of my hon. friends over there. I thought they were all moderates this afternoon. From what I notice to-day in an Ottawa paper in connection with election contestation proceedings in Sorel, one of the Liberal voters testified on oath that he had received $50 for his vote.

Mr. JACOBS: It was a Conservative who took the money. If he had been a Liberal he would not have taken it.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): Is that a joke? A Liberal would have taken it. This is perhaps a little out of the ordinary, but I should like to illustrate the matter.

Mr. ST-PERE: It is a poor illustration so far.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): It seems as though these hon. gentlemen are getting bitter. As an illustration, it will probably be recalled that last September we had a provincial election in Huntingdon county. There was some talk of a saw-off by the Liberal party. I think they had it arranged between Huntingdon and Two Mountains. Being the federal member, I had a good deal to do with this. This is usual in such a case as the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Cardin), who is sitting on the other side, knows.

Mr. CARDIN: I am not ashamed of my name.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): No one is ashamed of his name. During my election campaign my hon. friend came into my riding and spoke at Ste. Martine, where he spent a good part of the afternoon, and for the first time in the history of Ste. Martine we broke even.

Mr. CARDIN: The result might have been worse otherwise.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): I am sorry I have to say this now, because it is to other members not in the chamber to-day that I should have liked to say it. Mr. Taschereau chose a provincial treasurer for himself.

Mr. ST-PERE: A good Scotchman.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): Yes, a good fellow. I told him that on the platform. He was sent into the county of Huntingdon as a bribe to the electorate of that county, but fortunately in my constituency there are a number of people of ordinary intelligence and they did not consider taking the provincial treasurer without giving him a little opposition. I might also say that an acclamation was promised by Mr. Taschereau, otherwise I do not think Mr. Scott would have been interested.

Mr. BROWN: That would be the reason Mr. Taschereau is still provincial treasurer.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): One of the reasons, the same as might apply to our own minister. We had one of the hottest contests we ever had, and this little article which I saw in an Ottawa newspaper about a Liberal having received $50 for his vote and making an affidavit to that effect, is interesting to me because they were spending thousands of dollars in the constituency, and $50 was a very ordinary amount to be paid for a vote. A certain class in the country were left somewhat better off than they were before the election. I think they were getting wise; they accepted money and voted the way they felt. However, Mr. Fisher was elected and we won also the county of Two Mountains. I think therefore we were wise not to saw off. The constituency of Two Mountains was won by the son of our illustrious Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé). The young gentleman is twenty-two years of age and already has shown that the ability of the father has been transmitted to the son.

The hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) in his remarks ridiculed the tariff of the present government. I am amazed that some people do not like to hear the name of Sir Wilfrid Laurier mentioned. At one time I was one of his admirers and on two occasions voted for him.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

An hon. MEMBER: Before the hon. gentleman had his eyes opened.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): Yes, probably before I had my eyes opened. I voted once or twice for Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and I will tell you the reason I changed. The chief reason is that the Conservative party has always been consistent in its platform.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: And with its promises.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): The Liberal party had one platform when it was in opposition and another when it was in power.

Mr. ST-PERE: Why did the hon. gentleman vote for Sir Wilfrid Laurier?

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): I am not ashamed of my vote.

Mr. ST-PERE: We hope the hon. member will do it again. It would seem to be an instance of the conversion of a sinner.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): I had the pleasure of listening to Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1911 when he was speaking about the reciprocity pact, as he called it. I remember very clearly some of the remarks of the silver-tongued orator, on that occasion; I recall some of his statements particularly well because they were typical of the Liberal platform at that time. He said:

> These Conservatives are telling you that if this reciprocity pact, as they call it goes through, this country will be ruined. They told you when we were in opposition that if we got into power the country would be ruined. Has it been ruined since we came into power? The prosperity of the Dominion of Canada has never been so great since confederation as it has been since we assumed power.

True, they had had a prosperous period. Sir Wilfrid Laurier told, but half the truth, however; he omitted to state that the prosperity had developed through the national policy of Sir John A. Macdonald. He did not say that he had opposed that policy when in opposition. Some hon. members will no doubt recall that Mr. Fielding entered the Laurier cabinet as a free trader. Am I right?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): After touring the country and realizing the value of industries in this country Mr. Fielding brought down what was known as the Laurier-Fielding tariff, which in many respects was higher than any tariff proposed by the Conservative party.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): I am sorry some of my hon. friends on the other side have not remained in the chamber, because some of the things I am about to state will not reach the ears for which they were intended. However, may I say that we have listened to a tangled story of unrelated figures and theories—a hopeless picture has been painted. These theories revolve in circles and arrive nowhere. My hon. friends opposite

advise free imports to build up a strong national constitution. They forget that from her infancy the richest nation in the world has imposed the highest duties against imports. The lines of the present government, Mr. Speaker, have not fallen on pleasant places. It has inherited from its predecessor a legacy of extravagance, of indecision in matters of high importance, of a weak and vacillating fiscal policy, of a people begging bread, crying for employment, fed with platitudes and shadows from the tomb. It has come into office in a period of world-wide depression, of stagnant trade, of unprofitable commodity prices. Its task is difficult but its courage and capacity are great. By that capacity and courage, Canada, I am satisfied, will win through to a new era of progress, prosperity and contentment.

Mr. SAMUEL FACTOR (Toronto West Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the lone and sometimes lonely voice of Liberalism in this house from the great city of Toronto, may I at this time be permitted to participate in this interesting and very informative debate. At the outset however I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the high and honourable position you now occupy. I feel certain that I voice the sentiments of every hon. member of the house when I say that you have discharged and are discharging the duties and responsibilities of your office with diligence, dignity and distinction.

At this time may I also be privileged to extend my personal, sincere and hearty congratulations to my leader the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) upon the inspiring and masterly address he delivered at the beginning of this debate. I believe, I express the unanimous opinion of all those hon. members who surround and support him and also the opinions of a great many hon. members who sit opposite—although they would not admit it—when I say that the speech of my right hon. leader will go down in history as one of the finest and most powerful presentations of a current political situation ever made in this house. I am sure it will prove a source of information and inspiration to all of his followers in time to come.

Now, Mr. Speaker, may I also as a new member of this house and a young man express my amazement at and profound admiration for the capacity and energy of the right hon. gentleman who now leads the government. Who said this was a young man's age? The activity and capacity displayed by the right hon. gentleman clearly refutes that theory; or it may indicate that although not young in years he is still youthful in spirit. I believe it is the wish of every member of this house—certainly it is the wish of those of us on this side, although we do not entirely agree with the right hon. gentleman's policy nor with some of his activities—that he may long continue to enjoy good health and to possess as much vigour and vitality as he has already displayed in his conduct of public affairs.

But, Mr. Speaker, allow me with all respect to suggest to the right hon. gentleman that action without thought is useless; that political action without political thought is often very harmful. He and his colleagues seem to be imbued with the idea—seem to labour under the impression—that action is progress, and progress success, and in their eagerness to act they fail to pause and ponder the significance of their action and the effect of their legislation. A striking illustration of this has been furnished to us by the now famous fiasco of the duty on glass, or as one newspaper termed it, the "tragedy of effort." Another illustration has been furnished within the last two or three weeks. The government placed an embargo on furs from Russia, ostensibly to protect the Canadian fur industry. But lo and behold we find the same fur industry, every branch of it, sending a delegation to Ottawa to protest against the embargo. That is another example of political action without political thought.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I had intended to present to the house some choice morsels in the way of promises and pledges made by the right hon. gentleman who by virtue of those promises and because of those pledges now occupies the position of Prime Minister, but time will not permit me to go into details. May I summarize his pledges and promises by saying that the right hon. gentleman promised to end unemployment—to provide work for all those who want work—to build highways, waterways, railways, canals and bridges—to bring prosperity to this country as a whole, to enable Canadian workmen to keep themselves and their families in comfort. And these promises were to be carried into effect to the last syllable or the right hon. gentleman would perish in the attempt. Well, I do not think he himself or any of his followers will contend that he has ended unemployment or redeemed any of those promises even to the first syllable. But what does the right hon. gentleman claim that he

and his government have succeeded in accomplishing since assuming office? Their claims are contained in the remarks made by him on the 17th March, as reported in Hansard of that date at page 59. He said:

> Let me ask my right hon. friend and this house this question: Where would this country have been had it not been for the session last fall which gave employment to upwards of two hundred thousand people? Study if you will for a moment the figures of industry. In eight months new factories cannot be equipped and built, but they can be commenced, and the numbers that have been commenced in this country during those eight months are more than those during any other similar period in recent years. New factories? How many men in the counties represented by hon. gentlemen opposite are now finding full time employment against the short days and poor rations preceding the 28th of July? How many of them? What about cotton mills? What about woollen mills?

Later on I find these remarks:

> There had to be a session of parliament, as there was, and it gave employment to upwards of two hundred thousand people. So that, with the industrial life of this country stimulated, with improved conditions with respect to employment, with the added employment of hundreds of thousands in the way of unemployment relief, I say that conditions in Canada, bad as they are, are not comparable to what they would have been had we not taken the action that we did.

These are fine words and imposing figures, but may I be permitted for a moment to analyze the statement and scrutinize the figures. In the latest official information furnished the press on March 11 we find that 228,351 individuals have been given employment and 3,975,355 man-days have been afforded to them from the commencement of operations under the Unemployment Relief Act up to February 28, 1931. The figures for Quebec are incomplete. Even these figures appear imposing, but let me analyze them a little closer. I find the government has been in office over seven months, it is over six months since the special session, and I believe fully four months since the unemployment relief branch of the Department of Labour began to function. During that time about 230,000 individuals were given employment, according to the statistics I have quoted, 230,000 individuals obtained 4,000,000 man-days' work. I have added 25,000 man-days' work to complete figures from Quebec. In other words, each man during four months worked seventeen days or at the rate of four days work a month. Analyzing these figures in another way, I find that in the four months that the legislation has been in actual operation we had 100 working days, or 4,000,000 man-days' work. The result is that 40,000 men were given full time work during the four months. At what cost? I want to refer the house to the Senate debates of March 18. But before I quote from those debates may I say this, Mr. Speaker. The answer of the right hon. Prime Minister to a question put to him a few days ago by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) that as regards the appointment of a member of this house as Minister of Labour the intention of the government would be manifested by its action, I think may be regarded as a diplomatic answer or the answer of a statesman. I submit, however, that the country is entitled to have a Minister of Labour in this house. At a time when many of our problems are concerned with unemployment, and revolve around labour and industry, this house is entitled to receive information direct, instead of through an acting minister. For instance, the questions in regard to the garment workers' strike in Toronto were answered by the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon). The Minister of Labour said that $69,000,000 worth of employment opportunities had been placed within reach of the people of Canada, and that does not take into account the employment opportunities furnished by the two transportation systems, which bring this amount to about $80,000,000. To summarize the situation, sir, under the initiative of this government, with the aid that all the provincial and municipal governments had provided some $80,000,000, furnished about 40,000 men with four months' work, or 230,000 men with work at the rate of four days per month during that period. Surely the right hon. gentleman and his government will not claim that they have ended unemployment. They have not even reduced it. Unemployment is just as acute now as it ever has been, and in fact it is worse. In the city of Toronto two weeks ago last Sunday we had 5,500 men shovelling snow, and those men were obtained within an hour or two. This will show that the unemployment situation in Toronto has not been ended. Unemployment never will be cured until we properly diagnose some of our social and economic ills and apply proper remedies, even though the application of those remedies may require the readjustment of the relationship between capital and labour, between employer and employee and between the production and distribution of wealth.

Let us further examine the statements made by the right hon. Prime Minister. How many men in the counties represented by hon. gentlemen opposite are now finding full time employment as compared with short

time employment preceding July 28th? What about the cotton and woollen mills? I want to refer the house to an official document containing the facts and figures, and in answer to the hon. member who preceded me I might say that this is not a mass of unrelated figures and theories. This document contains actual figures which will be admitted by every hon. member of the house; it is published by the Department of Trade and Commerce, under the authority of Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce, and it has to do with the February employment situation.

I should like to refer the house to page 5 of this document, which contains a table showing the index numbers of employment by economic areas, the average being based on the calendar year 1926, as 100. We find that on August 1, 1930, the index number of employment throughout Canada was 118.8, while on February 1, 1931, it was 100.7, showing a decrease of 18.1. I should have informed the house that these figures are prepared from data and information secured by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 7,431 firms whose payrolls aggregate 904,315 persons, so if the index number for February 1, 1931, which was 100.7, represented a payroll of 904,315 persons it is a matter of mathematical calculation to ascertain that the index figure of 118.8 for August 1, 1930, represented a payroll of 999,570. According to those figures there were 95,255 less men employed in the various industries of Canada on February 1, 1931, than were employed on August 1, 1930.

Hon. members opposite may say that this represents the seasonal drop. I would refer them to the chart on page 1 of this document, which shows seasonal drops for a number of years. This proves conclusively that the seasonal drop for 1931 was the greatest and most pronounced since 1924. This table No. 1 gives the index number of employment so far as Ontario is concerned. We find the same situation in the province of Ontario if we examine it separately. On August 1, 1930, the index number of employment was 115.7, while on February 1, 1931, it was 101.7, showing a decrease of 14. On February 1, 1930, the index number of employment was 117.1, while on February 1, 1931, it was 101.7 showing a decrease of 15.4.

Now I should like to refer the house to another very interesting table contained on page 8 of this document, showing the index numbers of employment by industries, and I intend to refer particularly to two industries contained in that table, textile products and iron and steel industries. Before going into these figures I might make the general observation that hon. members opposite and their followers in their usual reckless manner, have blamed the Liberal administration and Liberal tariff policy for the ruin of the textile industries.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. FACTOR: I hear some hon. members saying, "Hear, hear." I do not know whether that exclamation applies to my remarks that their criticism is reckless in manner or whether they mean that the industry has been ruined. That statement is not correct, and in order to show the facts I intend to quote some figures from the report of the textile industry of Canada for 1928, which has been recently issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. We find that for 1928 Canada's production of textiles was valued at over $100,000,000 more than the production was valued at in 1922. This happened under Liberal administration and with Liberal tariffs.

Referring to the index number of employment by industries we find that in textile products the index number of employment for February 1, 1930, was 103.5, while the index number for February 1, 1931, was 99.7, showing a decrease of 3.8. Now I come to the iron and steel products, another of the industries which the right hon. Prime Minister fondles and protects. The index number of employment on February 1, 1930, was 115.5 and on February 1, 1931, it was 93, showing a decrease of 22.5. This table contains statistics concerning 63 industries, of which 56 show a decrease in employment on February 1, 1931, as compared with February 1, 1930. There are only seven industries which show increases and among them are such industries as construction, building of highways and so on, which received artificial stimulation.

Now I should like to refer hon. members to page 6 of this document, which gives us some information with regard to Toronto. I almost said Tory Toronto, but this designation does not apply now. We find that on August 1, 1930, the index number of employment was 115.4, while on February 1, 1931, it was 107.1, showing a decrease of 8.3 in Toronto. On the last page of this document we find the index numbers of employment by cities and principal industries, and in the case of Toronto in, say, the textile industry the index number on February 1, 1930, is given as 108.1 as compared with 97.5 on February 1, 1931. In iron and steel, February 1, 1930, the number is 110.3 as compared with 88.2 on February 1, 1931, a drop of 22.1; while in only one industry is a slight inerease shown from Toronto, namely, in the retail trade. This shows at

February 1, 1930, an index number of 122.3, and at February 1, 1931, an index number of 123.7.

I think that the statements of the right hon. Prime Minister as to industry being revived and stimulated are not correct. As a matter of fact industry has not revived under the policies inaugurated by the right hon. gentleman, and the revival of industry will never materialize if he maintains those policies, as I hope to show in a moment. What was the situation when the late administration went to the country? The world was in the midst of unprecedented, unparalleled economic depression; inflated stock markets crashed, the flood of unemployment was becoming more widespread; the world was almost distracted trying to meet its economic and social difficulties. That was the situation. It was a situation known to hon. members opposite; and whatever unemployment, whatever suffering existed in this country was due to world conditions and not to the policies of the former administration. Our hon. friends opposite and their followers played politics, a cheap brand of politics. They blamed the former administration for world conditions; they took advantage of a psychological situation; they took advantage of the suffering of the people and handed them a plethora of promises upon which they came into power. But apart altogether from these world conditions we in this country had a national problem of our own as a wheat-producing country, a problem exclusively our own, and that was the finding of profitable markets for our surplus wheat. I wish to refer for a moment to the report of the debates, revised edition of Hansard, of the last special session. Even the right hon. gentleman realized that situation. He knew what the problem was and knew the solution. As quoted at page 29 of revised Hansard we find that the Prime Minister had said:

> Recognizing that the marketing of our natural products is a foremost factor in our national welfare I pledge our organization and machinery, in cooperation with private and financial agencies, to permanently establish effective marketing organizations in the countries with which we trade. With these drastic adjustments and improvements to which you are entitled, and with the full employment of our great transportation system, you will have broader markets, and will have them for all time. You have known suffering and have been patient. Let us end it. Take heart.

Well, the people took heart and put the right hon. gentleman into power. And what do we find? I believe that apart altogether from world conditions this trouble of unsold surplus wheat for which we are unable to find a profitable market has been the source and chief cause of our economic depression, because it immediately effected a tremendous reduction in the purchasing power of the nation, with the inevitable consequences of distress, privation and unrest in the prairie provinces. But Ontario and the other provinces were bound to suffer almost equally, because we must remember that the western provinces consume annually about $200,000,000 worth of manufactured products, and with this purchasing power cut off, the manufacturers in Ontario and in the other provinces were bound to suffer, with the inevitable result of economic depression, accompanied by unemployment and suffering on the part of the people. That was the situation when the right hon. gentleman came into power. We on this side of the house, recognizing the seriousness of the situation, and being very anxious that he should go to the London conference in order to bring back some relief to rescue the farmers from their suffering, and industry from its depression, cooperated in every manner possible at the last special session. We allowed all the legislation to be passed without proper discussion; allowed an upward revision of the tariff to be enacted without proper analysis; even allowed the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) to become a law unto himself and without consulting parliament to effect changes in the tariff of the country by the subterfuge of the dumping duty. We allowed all this because we realized the seriousness of the situation and wished to cooperate with the government with a view of affording the country some relief. We were also hopeful that the right hon. gentleman would return from the London conference, bringing that relief to our suffering people.

Well, the economic conference took place, and the results are known to this country and to the world. I have not the time to read some of the comments on this conference but I do wish to say in all genuine sincerity that I have spoken with a great many Conservative friends in Toronto—and I have some Conservative friends in Toronto—as to the policies of the right hon. gentleman, and find that even his warmest supporter will not approve of his policies; because a Toronto Tory may be protectionist to the extent of protection against the republic to the south of us but he is not protectionist against the British Empire, against Great Britain. He will not approve of any barriers being set up against the motherland.

As a new member I listened with a good deal of attention to the explanation offered by the right hon. Prime Minister as to why he came back empty-handed from the London conference. I must admit I was astounded, being a new member, when he compared himself to Sir Wilfrid Laurier as to the conference of 1902. The former Minister of National Revenue gave a full explanation of the difference. But I went to my room and carefully read his speech, and I want to say that the very quotation cited by the right hon. gentleman disproved that claim and that contention. There is no similarity, there is no comparison between the methods of approach, nor is there any similarity or comparison so far as the proposals are concerned. The method of approach of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1902, as I read them, implied no demand, no threat. Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not attempt to tell the motherland how to run its business; he did not attempt to dictate the domestic fiscal policy of the mother land. I repeat, that there is no comparison, no similarity even in the proposals. What Sir Wilfrid Laurier said was, "If you remove the tax on Canadian foods we will increase the British preference." The right hon. gentleman decreased the British preference. He put up the barriers higher against Britain and then said, "You tax foreign foods and in return we shall offer"—what? Not easier access to our markets for British products but to make access to Canadian markets more difficult for other countries; that is what he does. Surely there is no comparison; and with all due deference and respect to the right hon. Prime Minister, I think it would have been a finer and more statesmanlike thing for him to have got up in the house and admitted that he was unsuccessful in the conference, instead of beclouding the issue by comparing himself to Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Although there may not be full agreement upon the part of all hon. members, I desire to offer a suggestion for the betterment of our national progress. Commercial, industrial and even agricultural progress is impossible with our present small population. Our national progress would be accelerated, our national problems largely solved and our future more reasonably assured if we had a larger population. I do not advocate an immigration policy under the present conditions of unemployment, but when we consider that we have nine million people spread over such a large area it does not require much consideration to come to the conclusion that this country can support more than that number of people and that it requires more than nine million people to support it. Now is the time for the hon. Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) in consultation with the heads of our two transportation systems, in consultation with the leaders of labour, finance, industry and commerce, to evolve some sane, sensible and orderly policy of immigration for the near future under which honest, healthy and hard-working people will be permited to come to this country and contribute to its national life and culture. I protest against these unreasonable and inhuman deportations and refusals to readmit people to this county. I attach no blame to the minister; on the contrary I think he and his officials are discharging their duties impartially, efficiently and as humanely as the laws of the land permit, but I do protest strongly against the silly and stupid laws governing immigration and deportation. The sooner these laws are removed from our statute books the better it will be for our national life and progress.

I appeal to hon. members on both sides of the house, irrespective of party and representing as they do all the people, to remove from our body politic that cancerous growth of religious bigotry and racial passion. We may differ in politics, we may differ in solving our economic and social problems, but we should stand united for the good of our country. English and French, Catholic and Protestant, Jew and gentile, rich and poor, labourer and capitalist, old citizen and new citizen, let us all stand united to make this Canada of ours a better and healthier place in which to live, so to build our civilization and our culture that we may be rightfully filled with pride. Let us get rid of this anti-foreign complex, this attitude and frame of mind which considers only the native-born as a good citizen and looks upon the new citizen as being a foreigner. Let us get rid of that provincialism which considers it Canadian to ostracize and despise the new citizen. If we do that, in spite of the trying times, in spite of the tremendous problems which we have to solve, in spite of the policies of the present government, I for one will have unflinching faith and implicit confidence in the future of this country because our people have that inexhaustible strength and vitality with which to solve our difficult problems.

On motion of Mr. Sauvé the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Rhodes the house adjourned at 5.50 p.m.

Thursday, March 26, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

EASTER ADJOURNMENT

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That when this house adjourns on Wednesday, the 1st of April, it stand adjourned until Monday, the 13th of April, 1931.

Perhaps before the motion is passed, Mr. Speaker, I might explain why the adjournment is for a longer period than we would wish. Our new Governor General sails to-morrow from Liverpool and is expected to land in Halifax a week from Saturday; it is essential that he should be met by the members of the administration when he lands; he is expected to arrive here on the succeeding Tuesday. Under those circumstances, if the house were to meet on Wednesday or Thursday, the attendance probably would be very limited, and therefore it is thought desirable that we should adjourn until the succeeding Monday. I make the motion having regard to all these factors. I state them to the house in order that hon. members may realize that we would willingly make the adjournment shorter if we could, but under the circumstances we see no way by which it can be done.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I rise not to oppose the motion of my right hon. friend, but because I think it is an opportune time to draw attention to the late date at which parliament was summoned for this session. As hon. members know it was well on into March—

Mr. BENNETT: March 12th.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, the 12th of March, and with the Easter vacation following so soon thereafter, it means that we will be well on into the year before we make much headway with the business of the session. Having regard to the fiscal year, I do not think parliament was ever before summoned so late. I remember that when the recent Liberal administration came into office in 1921, it was the month of March when parliament was called together, though not as late as the 12th of March. The government of that day, however, was formed at the end of December; the present government came into being in the early part of August. It should have been possible for the administration to have arranged for the meeting of parliament in the month of January, or at the latest in the month of February.

Speaking on this subject, I would suggest to whatever government may be in office at any time the wisdom of bringing members together in the month of January, and arranging in due course for an Easter recess of a reasonable length. There is much to be said for an Easter recess of at least ten days or a fortnight, especially where parliament has been sitting for two or three months prior to that time; the ministry needs an opportunity of the kind in order to keep abreast of departmental and sessional duties, and to hon. members as well a short interval in which to give quiet thought to matters under discussion is all to the good. Excepting as to the lateness of the summoning of parliament, I have not any criticism to offer with respect to the adjournment now suggested in view more particularly of the circumstances which the Prime Minister has mentioned.

Might I say to my right hon. friend, however, that he will probably be asking for interim supply before the adjournment. We shall endeavour to accommodate him, but I hope he will also at the same time accommodate the house to some extent. There are on the order paper, many notices for the production of papers. I would ask that when the rules are being suspended to permit of interim supply being passed, the government also ask for suspension to permit of these motions being passed upon by the house, in order that the papers may, if possible, be brought down before the Easter adjournment. It would be of assistance to us to have the material called for in the notices of motion to look over during the recess.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, I am sure we on this side of the house are deeply appreciative of the spirit in which the right hon. gentleman has indicated his intention with respect to this motion. I desire only to point out that when the Liberal administration was formed after the general election in 1896 a short session was held, supply was voted, a few statutes were passed, and the house did not meet until the 25th of March, 1897, and although a new tariff measure and a substantial body of legislation were enacted parliament as a matter of fact was prorogued on the 29th of June. That was the first real session of the administration of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. So far as this government is concerned, I can only point out that I have been in Canada really about four months since the government came into being, those being the

months of January, February and March, and the month between the forming of the administration and my departure for the Imperial conference. We have endeavoured so far as it was possible to expedite public business, and I think that my right hon. friend will agree that that is so.

So far as parliament meeting on the 12th of March is concerned, the unexpected appointment of Lord Willingdon as Viceroy of India, complicated the situation. We were hopeful that his successor might arrive before parliament met, but when it became apparent that he could not sail until March 27 we called parliament for the earliest possible date. I think the house should know that I took steps to ascertain the probable intention of the British administration in connection with Lord Willingdon proceeding to India, and had the unexpected not happened action would have been taken to prevent the difficulties which have since arisen causing delay in the calling of parliament.

I am conscious of the fairness of the request of the right hon. gentleman with respect to the passing of motions for the production of papers, but I can advise him in advance that we are working at those papers now as though the resolutions had in fact been passed, and it was hoped that during the recess as many of them as possible would be completed so that they could be laid upon the table immediately the house resumed its sittings. Unless it becomes absolutely essential—and I think if the house meets on the 13th or 14th of April it will not be—interim supply will not be required before we adjourn on Wednesday next; but it will be necessary to pass supplementary estimates for the year ending the 31st of March, 1931, many of them, I think, being matters over which we have no control, some of them being matters raised in the Auditor General's report, and others being matters connected with the railways. It was my purpose on the morrow to discuss with my right hon. friend opposite the most convenient time for us to submit those estimates for the consideration of the house. They arise in almost all the departments—small balances in connection with over-expenditure and governor generals' warrants in connection with the care of disabled soldiers during the winter. That question I would propose to submit to him to-morrow when the last detail has been furnished. As I say, I think we can avoid interim supply until such time as the house reassembles.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It might be well if my right hon. friend were to table the supplementary estimates to-morrow. After seeing the estimates we could then discuss the question as to the appropriate time and the length of time necessary for their consideration.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what I was hoping to do.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Minister of Finance) moved:

That this house will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee to consider of a supply to be granted to His Majesty.

He said: I make this motion in order to enable the supplementary estimates to be laid upon the table of the house to-morrow.

Motion agreed to.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. SAMUEL GOBEIL (Compton) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 16 to amend the Dairy Industry Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. GOBEIL (Translation): Mr. Speaker, the purport of this bill is to increase the fine exacted against those who adulterate dairy products.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

FEDERAL GRANTS TO BE CONDITIONAL UPON PREVAILING OR REASONABLE WAGES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): In view of the fact that the grants made to the provinces and municipalities with respect to the relief of unemployment were conditional on payment of the prevailing rate of wages, or a fair and reasonable rate of wages, I should like to ask the government whether they will give me the assurance that if cases are brought to their attention in which the prevailing rate of wages has not been paid, they will take steps to remedy the matter.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Whenever a complaint is received from a dependable source that the prevailing rate of wages is not being paid, the federal grant will be withheld until inquiry is made, and if it is found that a fair wage is not being paid, the grant will be withheld until that is done.

ICE IN NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. C. S. McLURE (Queens): I should like to direct the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) to the ice conditions now prevailing in Northumberland strait, which have caused serious trouble with reference to shipments of freight to and from Prince Edward Island. At the present time over 1,100 cars of freight are held up because of these ice conditions. I should like to know what action the Department of Railways has taken to relieve this condition.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The hon. member who has just spoken, and other hon. members from Prince Edward Island, have brought this matter to my attention for the past two or three days, and I have been taking it up with the officials of the Canadian National Railways, who handle the ferry business between the island and the mainland. Up to this morning it was the opinion of those whose views were authoritative in regard to the matter that nothing could be done. It was considered a question of the elements, and it was thought that only a favourable wind could sweep the ice out. This morning, however, the hon. member who has just spoken showed me a telegram from some organization, I believe it was the Potato Dealer's Association of Prince Edward Island, asking the Department of Marine to supply an icebreaker on the condition that the association would provide a steamer to handle the potatoes. We have taken up this matter with the Department of Marine, and the minister has agreed to have the icebreaker which is now in Nova Scotia, sent to Prince Edward Island at the beginning of the week, as was requested in the telegram. We will be only too glad to do anything possible in this and every other way to relieve such conditions.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND REMEDIES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. I. A. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I understand a conference is to be held during the recess between representatives of the federal and provincial governments. Will this conference be restricted to the discussion of constitutional questions arising from the recent Imperial conference or will there be opportunity to discuss present economic conditions throughout Canada, and further remedies for unemployment?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The conference is called for the purpose of considering constitutional matters which arose out of the Imperial conference. Doubtless representations of various kinds will be made by the premiers of the provinces, but no matter other than the one mentioned will be officially considered.

REFERENCE TO CONFERENCE OF QUESTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): I would like to point out to my right hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) that at the last regular session of this house a resolution was adopted asking the government to refer to the next Dominion-interprovincial conference the question of unemployment insurance.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I may add that this is not a Dominion-interprovincial conference in the ordinary sense of the word; it is a special conference called to consider a single subject, and only that subject will be considered.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. M. F. HEPBURN (West Elgin): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) arising out of a speech delivered in the Ontario legislature a few days ago by Mr. Challies, Conservative member for Dundas. He made a very important pronouncement with regard to the St. Lawrence deep waterways scheme, which reads in part as follows:

> "Upon such a scheme I understand the government of this province is willing to cooperate enthusiastically with the federal government in furthering the deep waterway project," he stated. "The consummation of the scheme at the earliest possible date is the unanimous desire of this assembly."

Bearing in mind that one of the promises made by the Prime Minister during the campaign was that he would take up this matter—

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this sort of thing must stop.

Mr. HEPBURN: The right hon. gentleman promised to take up the question of the St. Lawrence deep waterways—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEPBURN: You can howl all afternoon if you wish; I intend to ask this question. The Prime Minister promised to take

up the question of the St. Lawrence waterways and he said the scheme would be completed without delay.

Mr. BENNETT: I am compelled to raise a point of order, Mr. Speaker. This house must not fall into the practice of having speeches made on the asking of questions. That has been made perfectly clear in the past, and I now ask for a ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Hepburn) seems to be extending his question a little beyond the usual limits. I would ask him to come to the point and put his question.

Mr. HEPBURN: Having regard to the statement, we promised to take up the St. Lawrence waterways question—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEPBURN: The question is this—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. member is prepared to ask his question—

Mr. HEPBURN: The question—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. member is prepared to ask his question forthwith I shall have to ask him to put it on the order paper.

Mr. HEPBURN: I ask the indulgence of the house to complete the question. I shall be brief. Is this promise more humbug—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. HEPBURN: I wish to put another question. This is a question which is quite in order. In the Mail and Empire the other day—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. member to abide by the rules of the house.

Mr. HEPBURN: Mr. C. O. Smith, Canadian representative—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEPBURN: —special representative of the Southam papers in the United States, wrote an article which has a direct bearing upon this house.

[Mr. Hepburn.]

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEPBURN: Here is the article—

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member—

Mr. HEPBURN: Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member might sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has not yet addressed the house in the present debate, and the proper means of putting before the house what he now wishes to say will be afforded him when he then speaks. The hon. member is not asking a question. He is perfectly aware that ministers do by courtesy answer questions at this time, but the house is not in a mood to listen to a long dissertation or speech, and it is against the rules to make one. The hon. member in his present very responsible position should understand that.

Mr. HEPBURN: On a point of order. Those of us on this side of the house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEPBURN: Those of us on this side of the house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEPBURN: The Prime Minister is never in the house—

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. member to comply with the rules of the house; otherwise I shall be obliged to take other measures. I deprecate the noise which is being made. I have given my ruling and I think the hon. member for West Elgin (Mr. Hepburn) will comply with it.

Mr. HEPBURN: I rise to a point of order. Those of us on this side contributing to the debate would like to have the Prime Minister in his seat, but he is never here. How can we ask questions?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. COTNAM: When did you get here? You came only yesterday.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Wednesday, March 25, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Hon. ARTHUR SAUVE (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, every Canadian who knows well the history of his country, who is attached to its traditions and its institutions, who has a comprehensive knowledge of the problems resulting from its vast territory, the abundance and variety of its resources, hardly developed, with a small population disseminated in groups at wide intervals from one ocean to the other, composed of many elements so different in race, education, sentiments, interests and aspirations; a true Canadian, I say, who pauses to consider the responsibility of this parliament, in view of the objective of confederation, what the union of our provinces represents now and what it may be to-morrow on account of the eventualities which will expand more and more in its midst by the influence of evolutions which happen in every part of the empire and even in the whole world; a good Canadian, I realize it, must feel an inexpressible emotion when, for the first time, he addresses this house.

That is why you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, in conveying to you my sincere congratulations upon the distinction and justice which characterize you in the fulfilment of your high functions of first commoner, to solicit the indulgence and attention which I surely need on account of the emotion that takes hold of me when I think that after having sat for twenty years in the legislative assembly of the old and cherished French province of my country, I have now to speak in this house composed of the most authorized representatives of all the provinces of Canada who, for the most part, like their predecessors at your right, as at your left, Mr. Speaker, command attention by reason of their ability, knowledge, eloquence and courtesy.

The presence in this house of the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail), the distinction of her demeanor and the attention I have given in the past to her speeches in which the art of saying things and the subtility of the argument mingle so well together, are not to embolden me but, on the other hand, would induce me to excuse her for what she said recently on the opposition of my native province to women's franchise, and to accept this new right all the more, if I had completely succeeded in changing my idea of the christian family and of the essential importance of the educational part played by the wife and the mother in the Canadian home, in order to safeguard us from the dangers of a foreign immigration of ideas and individuals, enemy of our most sacred institutions and of our young generations.

Accustomed to speak in one of our official languages, I will ask you, Mr. Speaker, to excuse the imperfection of my pronunciation and to excuse me also for speaking English somewhat in French.

In accepting the mandate which was urgently offered me by the great majority of the constituency which I am proud to represent here, I have desired and I am determined to give, with my entire loyalty, a sincere contribution to the work that the legislators have to do specially in this alarming crisis the causes of which are many. I have never been, and I am not of those who are trying to make believe that all the misfortunes of the country must be attributed to the political adversary. I hate narrow-mindedness and fanaticism of all sorts. I am rather of those who are glad to see in every party composing this house, men disposed to face our national problems with broad-mindedness, and who, in the effort to solve them, are able to discuss questions with a view to the benefit of the country, rather than the advantage of any political party.

Indeed, I have sat too long in the opposition of His Majesty to ignore the importance of its role, and the respect it commands. I have too often in the name of my party, claimed government power not to endeavour to be worthy of it even in times of heavy responsibilities and, like my esteemed colleagues, not to give the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) who honoured me with his confidence, all my loyalty and modest cooperation in the task he has assumed with such energy and in the work which he places at the service of his country, to which he contributes the strength of his character, the extraordinary power of his talents and the time which many others would prefer to spend in sunny places of rest.

In the extraordinary efforts undertaken by the right hon. leader of the new government to solve our national problems, efforts which amaze by the fact that they surpass the ordinary limits of human possibility, there is something more notable than physical endurance, far superior to character and temperament, greater than talent, finer than tenacity to the work; it is patriotism.

We know to what the public man is exposed who devotes himself entirely to the service of his country. The effects of the stress of public life are illustrated by the recent illness of my hon. friend, the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), whose recovery has brought joy to his fellow-citizens.

The fact that a good Acadian my hon. friend from Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) so eloquently proposed the address, that the hon. Senator Bourque was the seconder of the address in the Senate, that a French-Canadian from the west seconded the address last session and that my hon. friend from Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon) proposed it in this house should make my compatriots think—they who had been taught that the Conservative party by its reason of being, could be nothing else but the hated enemy of the French-speaking Canadians.

The statement, made recently by the new Conservative Prime Minister of Ontario recognized the fact that the province of Quebec reacted and will always react more strongly than the other provinces against the political and social penetration of Americanism, and he could have added with the Chief Justice of Ontario, Sir William Mulock, against the penetration of revolutionary ideas of Communist agents, induces us to consider as unfortunate exceptions those who still want to look upon the French Canadians as strangers in the country founded and opened by them to civilization. I sincerely thank the Prime Minister of Ontario and Sir William Mulock and others for their words of justice and bonne entente.

Another pleasing fact to note. May I be allowed to express the special delight that my compatriots have in sharing with their English-speaking fellow-citizens, the honour and the joy afforded them by His Majesty the King in appointing such a worthy representative of his crown in the person of the Earl of Bessborough, whose worthy companion will represent here a successful conquest for Great Britain and the benefits that bind the French Canadians to the British crown.

It is said that when the chain of hills that crosses the west of England approaches the sea, it presents a wonderful sight, resembling the cliffs of Normandy and the shores of Brittany, recalling that the descendants of Great Britain and of France were formerly united by the same blood and that they are physically divided only by a shallow sheet of water.

Will not the presence of the Earl and Countess of Bessborough on Canadian soil, under the most brilliant rays of our Canadian sun, give us a vision, an inspiration that will stimulate patriotic fervour and promote kindly feelings one for another.

Now Mr. Speaker, will you allow me with the consent of the house, to conclude my remarks in my mother tongue.

[Mr. Sauvé.]

(Translation): May I be allowed after the effort that I have just made, to express myself in my maternal tongue. I do not wish to be any more disagreeable to this house, and especially to my opponents, than I have been in the other language. However, they will probably permit me to emphasize my remarks by pointing out to the house some of the arguments which have been expounded by those on your left, sir, and although accustomed to opponents of the same stamp, I was not the less astonished at the views expressed.

Mr. DUPRE (Translation): Hear, hear.

Mr. SAUVE (Translation): Our hon friends —that has often been stated in this country —are fated to be an opposition party. The Liberals, it is said, are at their best when in opposition.

Mr. FAFARD (Translation): You did your share in Quebec.

Mr. SAUVE (Translation): That is why you consent to do yours in the opposition. The country will decide, I hope, that my hon. friend has not weighty arguments enough to say that it is him who will decide of the fate of Canada's future.

Mr. FAFARD (Translation): You will not even be saved (sauvé).

Mr. SAUVE (Translation): Puns are cheap substitutes for arguments, and I admit my hon. friend's superiority on this score. Our friends on the left, sir, rebuke the government for not having brought down, since its recent advent to power, all the measures which could relieve the crisis that they themselves denied a few months ago. I do them no wrong in saying—

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): Oh, no! We never denied it.

Mr. SAUVE (Translation): Hon. gentlemen seemingly look upon me as if I were born yesterday, if I had never read the newspapers, or listened to the speeches of my hon. friends on the other side. In fact, what have we heard from our opponents' side? A kind of debate on the budget which seemed to have been prepared to fan certain prejudices instead of offering useful suggestions, timely recommendations and expressing in conjunction with the address, the guiding principles which should guide the parties in a session where national problems are set up and must be discussed in a special manner, and in the best of spirit. They have prepared speeches on the budget

—this does not happen in our Quebec legislature—before even hearing the budget speech by the Minister of Finance, and knowing the whole fiscal policy that the government intends to introduce for the welfare of the country. They have impeached in every way, all possible tone and with the oddest manner, this government already mischievous though still in its infancy and which, nevertheless, the very day following its advent, called an emergency session to relieve those who were suffering, to alleviate as much as possible under the circumstances, unemployment and the sufferings of the people, to protect the Canadian farmer against dumping which was ruining him; to negotiate treaties with a view of better protecting farm products, the Canadian producer on the whole, and to safeguard also our manufacturers by stopping a disastrous competition or by prohibting certain ruinous imports which were favoured by the Dunning tariff.

Some hon. MEMBERS (Translation): Oh, oh.

Mr. SAUVE (Translation): I do not mind such protests coming from the other side of the house. Immediately following the emergency session, the leader of the government crossed over to England and France with the idea of finding some relief for the western farmer and negotiate exchanges in order to secure a market more advantageous for his wheat. Since then he has afforded protection both to the east and west of Canada by favouring the national industries, especially those of coal and pulp against the dangerous competition of Russia. This is, sir, what the government has done within the last few months. I ask why should the hon. members on your left, sir, be so harsh towards this government and demand from them results only to be expected from an administration long in power.

At the Imperial conference, the Prime Minister made a proposal which was of interest to the empire, although he considered Canada's interests first—that is probably what offended our opponents—a proposal which was supported, strange to say, by all the representatives of the dominions. To hear the opposition, one would think that the Prime Minister sold his country and proved a traitor in making such a proposal. Evidently this proposal could not immediately be accepted by the British government, especially by that of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. It needed to be deeply studied. And there lies the reason for calling another conference this year. It is our hope, and we must all hope that the delegates of the Imperial government will represent at this conference the wish and interests of the people of England. Why, in the course of this session, should the parties not seek to come to an understanding in order to protect Canada and prepare the country to reap the greatest benefit possible from this conference? Should not the country's interests, especially in these days of depression, pass before party interests? Each party would have to its credit the proposals which it would have had adopted by the house for the welfare of Canada.

Our opponents go so far as to criticize the government's policy with reference to Russia, and the right hon. leader of the opposition will allow me to express, with all due respect, the astonishment I felt, when, the other day, I saw him give vent to his feelings and allow his friends to do so, with reference to the decision taken by the Prime Minister and the government in connection with Russia. The government does not intend to deprive Canada of markets necessary for the sale of her products. If we want to utilize the resources of the country, we must—and we have often stated it—we must have markets abroad. One must be blind not to see that the world no longer turns towards militarism for purposes of conquest, but is intent on increasing production and economic expansion. With the mass producing machinery that science furnishes the world, each country endeavours to secure the world's markets, but first to protect its own. One must not lose sight that we are going through an era of reconstruction and that the government's policy must help in bringing about the equilibrium needed after the great war which upset the world. At the same time this country adopted a high standard of living based on scientific principles, and rendered more exacting by the example of our wealthy neighbours. Thus it was that, while economic conditions were becoming harder, our producers had to put up with the competition on the home markets, of countries having hundreds of millions of men, of simple habits, and able owing to favourable climatic conditions, of producing on terms which defied all competition on our part. One must bear in mind, sir, that our local truck farming industry has been disorganized through the extension of motor car transportation.

As to Russia, hon. members of both sides of the house know that it is passing through a revolution, and it is carrying on in our country a dangerous propaganda, we were so warned by the most respected authorities in this country, not only as regards the economic viewpoint but especially the false theories

which it seeks to spread among the humble workers and the younger generation. That is an important point to consider when we discuss the new policy of the government with reference to Russia.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Mr. Speaker, may I first congratulate my hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauve) on his membership in the House of Commons of Canada and on his speech this afternoon. I thank him most sincerely for his kind references to myself, and I can assure him that so far as personal considerations are concerned I reciprocate his sentiments to the fullest extent.

As to the remarks which my hon. friend has made in the English language, I am bound to say that I think I would agree with practically everything he said, with the possible exception of his reference to the question of woman sufferage in my province. Unlike him, I am in favour of the women having the full right to vote. As to his remarks in the other official language in this country, my answer will come in the course of my own address.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, that I have not been able to attend all the sittings of the house since the opening of the session, but I assure you, sir, that I have read very carefully the debates which have taken place. I was somewhat surprised to find in the speech of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) that he spoke again of the conditions throughout the country being due to the stagnation in industry which took place during the Liberal administration. This sounds pretty much like the pre-election speeches of my right hon. friend. I have noticed that since the election last July, hon. gentlemen opposite have been rather eager to invoke the world-wide depression as a most welcome alibi; and I could fill the pages of Hansard with quotations in support of that statement. But to-day, in the heat of debate, the Prime Minister comes back to the stagnation of industry during the Liberal administration. I must say that my good friend the Postmaster General, who has been very mild this afternoon, has also referred to that famous stagnation in speeches at political dinners. To the government speaking in the heat of debates I will oppose the government speaking in its sober mood through the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens). I will oppose to Philip drunk Philip sober—of course speaking in a strictly figurative sense. In a book which has just been published by the Department of Trade and Commerce under the title of Canada 1931, bearing the imprimatur of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, there is a foreword signed by him and then I find the following; I do not want to waste my time in quotations, and therefore I shall read only one sentence:

The volume of production at the peak of prosperity, reached in the early part of 1929, was greater in most lines than in any similar period in the history of the Dominion. From the low levels reached during the post-war deflation culminating in 1921, productive enterprise steadily acquired momentum, the impressive results effected during the nine-year period being especially evident in the first six months of 1929.

On the next page is the following:

The rapid, long-term growth of the last decade is more significant than the current reversal, generally regarded as of a temporary nature.

Later the causes of the world-wide financial depression are given. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the policies of the King government are not mentioned. But of course, this is far different from what we heard during the election campaign. Then my hon. friends opposite were busy turning a national misfortune into a sideshow of enraged partisans.

An hon. MEMBER: War with India.

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend may keep his peace. I did not refer to any war with India; I am warring with him just now. All the difficulties mentioned in the official publication that I have just quoted were capitalized to secure votes for my hon. friends opposite. The Tory flag was carried through all the country and hoisted to catch every passing breeze. The government is the by-product of financial depression. My hon. friends opposite are its offspring. Of course, they all made pledges; they were all going to end unemployment or perish in the attempt. They all prophesied that prosperity would come back. There they are, a row of phophets—indeed rows of prophets, major and minor. To-day they are only too anxious to forget all about it; instead of perishing in the attempt, they are asking for an extension of their promissory notes to the electors. Over in England a young aristocrat lost in the labour ranks, Sir Oswald Mosley, has become impatient with conditions there, and he is attempting to form a new party. He has issued a manifesto to the people in which he proposes the creation of an emergency cabinet of not more than five members, invested with plenary power to carry through any emergency measure. Let me say to our cousins on the other side of the ocean that here in Canada we have done far better than what Sir Oswald Mosley proposes; we have virtually what is a one-man super-

cabinet vested with all the power that a docile majority can give him. But this super-cabinet has not been able to solve our problems; instead those problems have been intensified. The only remedy which the specialist has applied to the body politic is a dose of high protection, and the remedy has had the effect of spreading the disease. Now we are threatened with an additional dose of that medicine. The apostles of high protection are availing themselves of their opportunity. Those additional fetters on trade would not have a ghost of a chance were it not for the argument that high protection will give to the working classes more work and increased wages. Patriotism and charity have been made the excuse for ficsal loot. The assertion that the cost of living would not be increased as the result of additional tariff duties is, to use a word dear to my right hon. friend, a deception. The people are not such fools as to believe that the cost of living will not be affected adversely by taxes on their trade. A British statesman who was an advocate of protection, but an honest advocate, the late Lord Balfour, once said that protection would not mean anything if it did not increase prices; and the late Lord Melchett, a high priest of protection, said it would be of no use if it did not have that effect.

As examples of what we may expect from high protection let me mention two countries with which Canadians are familiar, the United States and Australia. The tariff duties in those two countries have been raised so high that even this government would hesitate to go to such an extreme, and unemployment is rampant in each, even more so than it is in Canada. Some time ago the governing body of the international labour office appointed experts to study the question of unemployment. In the monthly summary of the League of Nations Journal for January I read that one of the causes given by those experts is this:

> (g) The disturbances in international commerce caused not only by the development of new industrial areas but also by artificial barriers put in the way of international trade and by the difficulties said to be associated with the problem of political debts.

The leading economists of the world share the same view, but our school of protectionists, our crusaders or musketeers, are scoffing at these principles of economic law. Our new diplomat, Mr. Ferguson, said in one of his numerous lectures to the British public that these are shibboleths and old theories, as if economic laws could be subject to a sort of old age limit. How can a policy of blind and selfish economic isolation be beneficial to a country like Canada? We have a territory as large as Europe, or larger, with a small population of 10,000,000 people. We have unlimited resources and opportunities; our people are ambitious to succeed. They are believers in the gospel of work, and are filled with courage, initiative and enterprise. How can a country like this enrich itself by erecting a wall around itself and refusing to trade with the rest of the world? The best way for Canada to end unemployment, and I think in this even my hon. friends opposite will agree, is to sell its surplus, and surely this cannot be done by a policy of economic isolation. One of the members of the government the other day took credit to the government because our imports from some other countries have been reduced, but he did not speak about the reduction of our exports. If to reduce imports we also reduce exports we are not increasing employment; we are decreasing it. The only possible result, occasionally, may be to transfer capital from one industry, which makes a commercial profit, to another industry where the profit comes from the taxpayer. The unemployment index of the government is the best evidence of the error of my right hon. friend's policy.

Many of those who believed in the changes effected at the short session of parliament are now doubtful and suspicious about the results. I hold in my hand the Financial Times, which is the mouthpiece of the high financial interests of Montreal, for Friday, November 14. I do not want to read it, because I have no time for that, but it states that the policy of the government has brought about a great deal of suspicion and doubt in the business interests of Canada, especially in regard to the stability of tariff which is threatened by the arbitrary powers which the government have taken upon themselves to change the tariff at will. All this is perfectly true, and those who were applauding in September last will be among those who will come and ask for the repeal of that arbitrary legislation. So far as we are concerned on this side of the house, we will do anything to get the power of taxation restored to parliament, where it should be.

Now I want to come to the subject which is really my reason for having addressed the house this afternoon. I refer to the Imperial economic conference.

Mr. HANSON: That seems to be a sore spot.

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend thought it was, and he is not altogether wrong all the

time. Before speaking on the economic conference, however, I should like to say a word with regard to the Imperial conference proper, though of course I will reserve most of my comments for another occasion, when the report is submitted to the house for discussion. I have a word for my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, whose absence I regret this afternoon. I came here with the intention of talking to him, and I am sorry he is not in his seat. May I say to my right hon. friend, who I hope at least will pay me the compliment of reading my remarks in Hansard, that I am pleased at his conversion. During the election campaign my good friend the Postmaster General—and this may surprise hon. members—was rather a supporter of mine on this question of the Imperial conference. At every meeting he said that as far as constitutional issues were concerned, and as far as the work of the Imperial conference was concerned, he was in agreement with Mr. Lapointe, and I am proud of his support. Apparently, however, our ranks are getting larger, because even the right hon. gentleman now is approving of the report on dominion legislation which was the work of the conference at which I had the honour of representing Canada. Last year my right hon. friend was rather of a different opinion, but apparently he does not think any longer that those departures will lead to the cutting of the painter, the letting go of the mooring and the drifting away from the little islands of the North sea, as he said so eloquently last year. My right hon. friend has realized that the best way of maintaining the association of the British nations is for every nation to be free, to be autonomous, and equal in status.

What about the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan), whose vacant seat I am also looking at now? Last year my hon. friend, speaking on the changes which were recommended with regard to the Shipping Act and maritime laws, said with that moderation which he sometimes uses when qualifying the views of those who do not agree with him, that they were puerile, childish and infantile. Yet this report has been approved by the conference and by the government. Has the Secretary of State changed; have his views become childish, puerile and infantile?

Then there is my hon. friend the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) for whom I also have a word. I am sorry he is also absent. I read in the report of the conference everywhere the words "British Commonwealth of Nations" as the apellation of our association. My hon. friend has subscribed to that, yet at the annual dinner of the Canadian Bar Association last fall he went out of his way to protest against this name of the British Commonwealth of Nations. He said the old name of the British Empire was good enough for him. That view of the Minister of Justice was also expressed the other day in London by our diplomat, Mr. Ferguson, who always has been a colonial of the inferiority complex school, but I sincerely hope that over there he also will see the error of his ways and will see the light as the Minister of Justice has seen it.

As to the Imperial economic conference, I wish to associate myself with everything that has been said by my right hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King). Indeed, I am going further than he went; I sincerely believe and am convinced that the proposals of the Prime Minister and the manner in which he submitted them have created a situation which is fraught with serious dangers. The British commonwealth of nations is an association of nations freely united under the crown. The empire is maintained because it is united and is based on allowing the freest and fullest opportunity of self-development to every part in the best way suited to its needs. Liberty in unity is the principle which has been received. Liberty in the fullest sense is the guarantee of unity, liberty for each dominion, for each part to shape its fiscal, military, defensive, economic or any other policy according to its ideas and its needs, and according to its wishes.

The British commonwealth is an idea; it is a soul. To base it on a mercenary foundation is to court disaster. The tie of sentiment is thin but it is strong. It may seem weak, it may be invisible to those who cannot see anything outside a ledger. But this tie has proved equal to the test to which it has always been put in periods of trouble and difficulty. I would not have it replaced by peddling agreements in which the interests of one dominion or another of the British Empire might be sacrificed for the purpose of making profits for other sections of the commonwealth. To force protection upon Britain, as the Prime Minister of Canada tried to do, was not only basing the empire on an economic fallacy, but it was interfering in the most direct way with the domestic policy of the United Kingdom.

None of the British nations has the right to instruct another on the policies which it should adopt or follow. This is a rule which no other Canadian statesman has ever broken. Well we all know that for the last twenty-five years some people in the old country have been trying to prevail on the repre-

sentatives of the dominions to interfere in order to have a certain trade policy endorsed by the people of England. But up to now there have been Dominion representatives who have refused to play that part. For the first time, owing to the conduct of the Prime Minister of Canada, the dominions have become pawns in the political game of the old country. And speaking in this Canadian parliament as a Canadian public man I say that Canadian liberalism and, I believe, the sentiment of the majority of the people of Canada are opposed to the policy which has been suggested by the Prime Minister of this country. I will say further to the public men of Britain, and more particularly to those whom it has been my privilege to meet on different occasions, that if they come to Canada, whether at the coming conference or otherwise, and try to interfere and to dictate to this country some policy which has been a bone of contention, a point at issue between political parties in Canada, as the Prime Minister has done in England, not only shall we resent it, but their very interference will be the best means of defeating the purpose which they have in view.

If the present fiscal system of England is the one best calculated to make her greater, to make her prosperous, to make her a leader in world trade, it is in the interests of all other parts of the empire that that system should be kept and maintained; and with all due deference to my right hon. friend, I say that the people of Britain, the public men of Britain, are the best judges of that. They are, I should think, better judges on that point than my right hon. friend.

To make the dominions suffer disadvantages for the sake of Britain, or to make Britain suffer disadvantages for the sake of the dominions, is not the way to cement the empire. The introduction of that spirit would be certainly destructive of the ties which bind us. I have here the words of Mr. Asquith uttered in the British parliament on a policy similar to this:

> To my mind, it is impossible to imagine a proposal seriously meant which would more certainly tend to engender friction, to foment quarrel, and in the long run to kindle disloyalty.

And he added:

> It is introducing, as between the component members of this great partnership, the British Empire, a new and perpetual source of heartburning, rivalry, jealousy and discord.

Was not Mr. Asquith right? Can the empire be built on dollars and cents? Mr. Speaker, dollars and cents very frequently are the cause of family quarrels; brothers divide among themselves on questions of dollars and cents. Is it desirable that this should be the tie that binds us? In an imperial economic group, as suggested by the Prime Minister, momentous problems would arise. If food is taxed in Britain, as requested by our Canadian representative, is there not a danger that in times of depression and crisis the labouring classes would, with Mr. Lloyd George, think that their first duty was to get the protectionist mice away from the bread of the people? What would result? I know the Prime Minister is sincere. But I am telling him in all sincerity, as my firm conviction, that had anyone wished to introduce an element of discord and friction no better method could be devised than an imperial customs tariff. Indeed, bad temper has already been exhibited; heated words have been exchanged. And my right hon. friend has almost raised a diplomatic incident on the use of an adjective by a good common sense minister over there, Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Speaker, there is danger ahead, and I think my right hon. friend will see it. We have granted a preference here in Canada. I am afraid I shall not be able to dwell upon it because the time at my disposal will not permit it. But may I say that conditions are altogether different. To grant a preference we did not make any change in the tariff structure of Canada; while what my right hon. friend is asking England to do is to abandon one principle and substitute another for it.

England is trading with the world. She has to buy from her customers. International trade is her life blood. Why, at this very moment eminent figures are touring South America for the purpose of developing trade relations with countries which in the natural order of things are competitors of Canada. And can we complain? When the figures are compared it will be seen that England is buying from us considerably more than she is selling to us.

I am opposed to this policy because I do not believe in economic imperialism any more than I believe in any other kind of imperialism. I am opposed to an imperial economic unit as I am opposed to an imperial diplomatic unit, naval unit, or military unit as is the dream of so many imperialists and which I believe would be the natural consequence of an economic unit. If our trade is an imperial trade its protection on the high seas will be the concern of every nation of the empire, as well as of the mother country. If the people of England are taxed on their food because the wheat from other countries is excluded from the British market; if they

have to rely only on Canada and Australia for their food supply, they will have the right to ask us to protect that trade on the high seas. I believe in freedom, I believe in economy; let our associations be absolutely free in trade matters as well as in other matters and not such a compact as suggested by my right hon. friend. In speaking at the dinner of the Empire Parliamentary Association the Prime Minister borrowed a phrase from the Three Musketeers. He suggested that there should be adopted by the empire the motto: All for one and one for all. How can he reconcile that with his pretended policy of: Canada first? As a very shrewd Englishman replied at that dinner, each for all and all for each is very fine as an imperial device, but how can the Prime Minister of Canada reconcile it with the phrase: Ourselves first and the others afterwards? Free will and cooperation is the only way to keep the empire together; coercion will not do it.

My right hon. friend has endeavoured to shield himself behind the noble figure of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The memorandum by Canadian ministers, presented at the Colonial conference of 1902, and which appears on page 37 of the proceedings, in part reads as follows:

> From the beginning of the proceedings the Canadian ministers have claimed that in consideration of the substantial preference given by Canada for some years to the products of the mother country, Canadian food products should be exempted in the United Kingdom from the duties recently imposed.

At the conference of 1907, after a new government in Great Britain had repealed those duties, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that it was for England to decide as to that policy, he had no suggestions to make. I am sorry I have not the time in which to read full extracts from his speech, but I would refer hon. members to page 441 of the proceedings of the conference held in 1907 and they will see that the stand taken by Sir Wilfrid Laurier was the very reverse of that of my right hon. friend.

An hon. MEMBER: Time.

Mr. LAPOINTE: My hon. friend is ahead of his time.

Why should my hon. friends endeavour to bring Sir Wilfrid Laurier to their defence? It is not the first time that they have tried to cast upon the shoulders of Sir Wilfrid Laurier the burden of their protectionist policy.

I came to this house in 1904, twenty-seven years ago, as a young man with all the enthusiasm of my age. I was then a Liberal as I am to-day; I could not be anything else by temperament, by aptitude or by conviction. My greatest incentive was an unbounded admiration for that illustrious leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I followed him to the last hours of his life and his memory is still the light which guides me in the solution of the difficult problems with which I have to deal.

An hon. MEMBER: Time.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I will finish that speech somewhere, some time.

Miss AGNES MACPHAIL (Southeast Grey): Mr. Speaker, I think you will appreciate the difficulty faced by one so inexperienced in speaking in having to follow an oration such as that to which we have just listened. It happens that the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) is one of the hon. members in this house who has almost always held my admiration. I wish he were always the splendid liberal he is to-day.

An hon. MEMBER: What about yourself?

Miss MACPHAIL: I am not speaking as a member of the Liberal party but as a liberal in the broad meaning of the word. Constitutionally the ex-Minister of Justice has always been a liberal; economically, not always. In opposition he is always a liberal and it is refreshing to hear the liberal speeches made in opposition. Good speeches are always welcome in this house; they are so rare.

In order to avoid having to repeat it, I say now: Between the parties in government there is no vital difference, but between the party in power at the moment and the party in opposition there is a great difference. That difference will disappear when at some future time they change places. However, in justice to both parties, I must say that there is a great difference in manner. I trust that the present government is not a fair sample of Conservatives in power. It has been very amusing to me to note the added touch of arrogance of practically every member of the government and particularly of the leader, (Mr. Bennett). They can go too far and they should remember that governments come and governments go but always the people and the people's representatives in the house remain. Courtesy and decent treatment should at all times be accorded. The reply of the Prime Minister the other day to the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) was certainly not worthy of the genial and kindly nature of the Prime Minister in opposition.

The ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) has himself pointed out the danger—and there is a real one—of making speeches while in opposition, which may later condemn one. As has been so well demonstrated by his quotations from the speeches of the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan), the ex-Minister of Justive, when again he sits on the government benches, needs to remember the speech that he so eloquently made to-day.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I can prophesy I shall.

Mr. MANION: He will need to have a long memory.

Miss MACPHAIL: I am not so sure of that. I want to express to the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) my appreciation of his courageous attempt to speak in the English language. In a few years he will be making in English speeches of such eloquence and beauty that he will put to shame those of us to whom English is the native language. I am always moved to admiration by the skill and rapidity with which French-speaking members who, when they first enter the house, speak almost no English, learn to express themselves fully in that language. What the Postmaster General was saying, I am afraid I do not quite know. Apparently his remarks had some reference to me. I am sorry that I did not please him, as apparently I did not, but in what particular I am not clear.

Forty minutes soon pass and I must proceed with what few remarks I wish to make. We are living in a day of high pressure salesmanship, of which we saw a very fine sample last summer when the Conservative party was out to sell to the farmer of Canada a gold brick, the gold brick of protection for agriculture, and the sale was made. The farmer bit. The farmer in Canada, like ourselves in the House of Commons, had heard the Conservative party during the depression of 1920 to 1924 tell again and again and again, eloquently and well, how they could cure the depression if they were only in power. They had the remedy; they knew how to cure the disease. So the farmer, feeling that another depression was upon him thought: Well, these fellows say they know how to cure it; let us see if they will. So he bought the gold brick of protection for agriculture and since then he has been wondering why, just as many another one has wondered when the well-dressed salesman left. The remedy proposed is such a simple one; it was and is: Keep out all goods that might enter our country to come into competition with our goods, but sell our surplus goods upon the world's markets. It is an exceedingly simple remedy: Refuse to buy, but sell.

I suppose many hon. members read the Canadian Forum. I am sorry that recently the editor Richard de Brisay died. His was one of the clear voices for sanity in Canada and in losing him Canada suffered a great loss. I could have given many another quotation from also Canadian publications. I am quoting the policy of the government that was to save us, according to the words of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Shortly after the election he raised the buying of Canadian goods by Canadians to the plane of patriotism, and almost every newspaper or magazine in Canada carried advertisements, because advertisements they were, something like this:

> Every time we buy an imported article—
>
> Says the Minister of Trade and Commerce.
>
> —when we might just as easily have found a Canadian article to serve our purpose equally well, we are helping to do some fellow-Canadian out of a job, and making the job of some foreign workman just that much more secure. Conversely, every time we purposely give the preference to a Canadian article, we are helping to create employment for Canadian workers, and doing our bit towards making Canada as a whole more prosperous.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Miss MACPHAIL: The applause is not as loud as it once was. Even our women's institutes and other organizations of all sorts were urged by at least the provincial government of Ontario to stage a campaign: Buy Canadian-made goods. De Brisay in commenting on this said that the minister might have finished the quotation I have just given by saying:

> Conversely, every time we give the preference to a Canadian article we are helping to do some foreign fellow out of a job. But it is these foreigners who buy our surplus commodities to the tune of $1,300,000,000 a year. If we do not buy their goods they will not or cannot buy ours, so that on the Bennett-Stevens plan we shall find in the long run we are doing one Canadian out of a job every time we make one for another.

As a matter of fact, the thing is so obviously fallacious that it passes my understanding that men of culture, education and brains should really believe it. At one time I thought those who led in advocating this policy did not believe it. Now I am convinced they do. I am not really sure whether this is a compliment or not. But at least the Prime Minister is obviously sincere. Immediately after the election we had a short session which was supposed to create employment or to relieve unemployment. But while it did that to a certain extent, that is, while people who

had to get something to eat, were fed, it was a session devoted almost wholly to the raising of the tariff. Therefore, as regards the first part of the doctrine, the shutting out of goods so that they would not come into competition with our goods, the government moved into action rapidly, and because I want to be fair, although sometimes on this subject it is hard for me to be, I must admit the government has moved into action rapidly. The point that is most pleasing about the government is that they do act. We may not agree with the action, but at least there is action and to me that is a relief. So we started in the short session to shut out goods. During the campaign we had gone quite a long way towards offending Australia and New Zealand, or if we did not offend them, it is because they are certainly not supersensitive. Then during the short session we had a protectionist policy carried still further whereby we shut out to a greater extent than before the goods of the United States and Great Britain. Following that has come the Imperial conference which has not added to the good-will in Great Britain towards Canada. We are now shutting out Danish bacon, due supposedly to some foot-and-mouth disease, but really so that it will not come into competition with Canadian bacon. We also have an embargo on certain Russian exports so that along the line of stopping goods from entering Canada the government, from its point of view, has done very well. But when the question is one of finding markets in which to sell our surplus goods, the progress has not been so great.

An hon. MEMBER: There has been none.

Miss MACPHAIL: There has been a lot less than none. All of us get this little bulletin from the Department of National Revenue. By it we see that the total trade of Canada in the first eleven months of the fiscal year 1931 fell over 26 per cent as compared with the total trade of this country for the previous year.

We have not found markets for Canadian products. When the Prime Minister went to the Imperial conference, if one is to believe press reports, which one of course does not always need to do, he went among other things to secure a market for Canadian wheat. I rather think he did go with that in mind since he took with him many experts on wheat marketing. He came back, all of us must admit, with regret and reluctance, without having obtained his objective. What the Manchester Guardian has to say with relation to the Prime Minister's action at the Imperial conference expresses so well what I had in mind that I am going to quote it. The Manchester Guardian—I am quoting from a reprint in the Farmers Sun of January 15, 1931—says:

There was no basis for any gain in Mr. Bennett's famous offer at the Imperial conference, and to have treated it as such might have done more harm to good-will within the empire than any brusque remarks by Mr. Snowden or Mr. Thomas could ever do.

It goes on to say:

When Mr. Bennett complains of the treatment his offer received at the hands of the government, and when Lord Hailsham attempts, as he did in the House of Lords, to make party capital out of Mr. Bennett's grievance, they seem to forget that Canada offered Great Britain nothing worth five minutes' consideration, and asked in return that England should reverse her whole fiscal system, increase the price of her food, and damage her foreign trade.

The article goes on to say some claimed that if Great Britain had followed the negotiations further, something really would have developed. To quote again:

But Mr. Bennett began the negotiations by declaring that he would not consider any proposal to lower Canadian tariffs on manufactured articles for the benefit of British industry. That being the one way in which Canada could have offered some substantial return for the tax he desired Great Britain to impose on herself, what but failure and irritation could have come from any pretence on the part of the British government to accept Mr. Bennett's proposals as a basis for negotiation?

I think that every thinking person in Canada, regardless of politics, feels that in interfering or seeming to interfere with the fiscal policy of Great Britain, much as I believe in the autonomy of the dominions, the Prime Minister went too far. We all know how deeply we would resent any interference on the part of Great Britain with our fiscal policy, if she should tell us what it should or should not be. I believe that in this rapidly shrinking world nothing short of international economic cooperation is of any real use. It may be that while this epidemic of economic nationalism is sweeping the world there might be a short period in which some sort of agreement could be worked out among the component parts of the British commonwealth; but if that is to be, it must be done by a large tolerance, by a real determination to sacrifice immediate gain to attain the larger end in view. It cannot be done by dictating what Great Britain is to do.

May I pause here to thank from the bottom of my heart the Prime Minister for appointing the Hon. Howard Ferguson as minister plenipotentiary to the court of St.

James. It is rather hard on the court of St. James, but it is a great relief to the province of Ontario. When I read in the papers day after day Mr. Ferguson's speeches and saw his pictures and accounts of his career, and how proud that Canada should be that he had gone to London, and so on, and so on, I said to myself: Has sincerity and honesty wholly departed from our province? I at least am thankful that he has gone, but I am sorry to see that a man of his particular political type—not stripe—should be appointed minister plenipotentiary representing Canada in Great Britain.

Though I believe I said something about this in my speech last year on the budget, I feel that for my own sake I must say it again. We in Canada and the people of the world generally are rapidly bringing about an economic chaos that is going to land us in disaster. We have had experts set to work to see what could be done. I need not go into all the details. You all know that the World Economic conference was held in 1927. The findings of that conference can be summarized by saying that tariffs had already gone too high and a move must be made in the opposite direction if we were to save ourselves from difficulty. We know that Great Britain moved at the tenth assembly of the league to have a tariff truce, and that following upon her action some few countries, eighteen in all, I think, met in conference about a year ago and did agree to call a tariff truce for one year. We know that a thousand experts told Mr. Hoover in no uncertain terms, previous to his signing the Hawley-Smoot tariff, what they believed its results would be. Noted economists everywhere have pointed out the same thing. May I quote Gilbert Murray, from the Contemporary Review, speaking on protection:

> Protection not only diminishes trade when we all want trade increased. It makes the fatal error of transforming the competition between economic groups into a strife between nations.

He goes on:

> In pure politics the nations have given up their absolute sovereignty and independence. We have agreed not to go to war; not to act as judges in our own cause; to bring our disputes before some mediatory or arbitral body. But in economics we are still in the state of international anarchy which led to the great war. Any nation has the unchallenged right to do injury to a neighbour's trade. It may prohibit, it may refuse necessary exports, it may play tricks with its commercial treaties so as to kill this trade and help that. It is all a "matter of domestic jurisdiction." The foreigner has no right to protest.

He adds:

> As I look toward the future of our civilization I see ahead only two causes that may bring it finally to ruin; one is another European war between great powers; the other is a general resort to protection. And in essence these are not two causes, but one.

Yet we go on in this mad race, tobogganing towards the day of disaster. I do not know whether hon. gentlemen think that. I cannot think that the government believes it, because I think that the government is composed of as sincere-minded Canadian citizens as those who sit on this side of the house, and if they really thought that, I believe they would stop following the policy into which they have launched, and which evidently they intend to carry on. There is just this to be said about their policy. Since we are in a very severe depression and have in power now the party that knew how to cure it, it is to be hoped that they do carry their remedy as far as they may, just in order that we may all see that it is not the right one. I am hopeful that that will be done because we have always heard what good results protection will have. I must confess after listening to the present Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion), that rapid-fire orator, I sometimes wondered, was he right? Now we shall see. It seems to me, however, that we are facing absolutely new conditions, and that the depressions which are becoming more numerous and more prolonged are not caused by one party or the other; the causes lie very much deeper. I think all of us will admit that we are in a new industrial age. We have had almost a complete mechanization of industry; machinery has ceased to be labour-saving and has become labour-displacing. We have not any social control over the mechanism, and so capital goes on earning for itself larger profits, more people are forced out on the streets, and so on. I have not time to develop the evils resulting from the private control of public credit. We have insufficient currency to meet our new conditions. I think everybody knows that, and we might just as well admit it. May I quote DeBrisay again:

> For the new industrial revolution has brought us to the point where there is no longer enough money and credit in the world to enable us to consume the products of our machine-equipped labour.

The other day the hon. member for South Vancouver (Mr. MacInnis) described the condition so well, that while I cannot quote him I want to refer to his remarks. In effect he said that the workers in industry because of

unemployment and insufficient wages have not enough money to consume the goods they want to consume, and the capitalists have not the capacity to consume the goods which they have the money to buy. Because of lack of money to buy on the one hand and lack of capacity to consume on the other a surplus of goods piles up until the manufacturer can no longer find a market for his output and closes his doors, and this means more and more unemployment.

It seems quite evident that new methods will have to be found, for the old methods are no longer any good. One whom, I suppose, we would call a Conservative, the Right Hon. Winston Spencer Churchill, said that quite clearly in one of his Oxford lectures. I am quoting now from Toronto Saturday Night of January 31, 1931. He said:

> The root problem of modern world economics is the strange disparity between the consuming and producing power. Have all our triumphs of research and organization bequeathed us only a new punishment,—the curse of plenty?

I think the "curse of plenty" is a particularly fine phrase. Churchill suggested that Britishers should create what he would call a "sub-parliament," or at least a committee of experts who should investigate all ways—even radical ways—of solving the problem; they should deal with the problem scientifically, not thinking "did we believe this in the past, or did we not," but in a non-partisan way looking for remedies for the present situation. It seems to me that is a suggestion which this government might very well consider.

Now, in the little time I have left I want to devote myself fully to agricultural conditions. Agriculture in Canada is in a bad way; there is no doubt about that. Not only does the farmer get little for what he sells, and pay a great deal more for what he buys, but this year, 1931, he has no surplus accumulated to carry him through the depression as he did when the depression of 1920-24 struck him, because that one followed the period of high prices after the war. The farmers then had a very substantial surplus, which, it is true, they had to use in the four years of the depression, but they had it at their command; this year they have not any surplus, as every member of this house knows. In my constituency during the last nine or ten months I have been asked for more loans—I am sorry I did not have the money to advance—than in all the other years that I have sat in this house. People are hunting for money everywhere because they have no surplus at all.

[Miss Macphail.]

Some people say the way to better conditions is to bring the prices of the commodities the farmer has to buy down to the price level of the product of his toil. Well, that would be something, and I should be most happy to see it done. But with a government in power that has pegged the prices of the things that the farmer has to buy at the high level, it is unlikely. The government prides itself on not having raised prices—good heavens! did they expect to this year?—but having kept prices where they were they thereby increased the profits of the manufacturer. But even if prices did fall, the debts the farmer has contracted, his taxation, all his overhead, were contracted at the higher price level, and so he simply has not the money to meet his obligations. I think the government might very well take into serious consideration the suggestion made by the member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) to bring about the immediate depreciation of the Canadian dollar. Unless that is done there is no chance in the world of agriculture being able to meet its obligations.

Now, we were to have agriculture protected, but out of the mouths of experts it can be shown that agriculture to-day is on a world-price basis, so how can it be protected? It cannot be, though 100 per cent protection were put on by this government. Let me quote from an article by Mr. J. H. Grisdale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, in the Economic Annalist for February, 1931, entitled Farming as a Business Requires Economic Analysis. He says:

> World competition is what we have to meet to-day and the class rather than the individual is the important factor to consider.

Mr. McOuat, general agricultural agent of the eastern lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway, says pretty much the same in other words. Let me quote him:

> It is not what hogs or cattle are worth in Toronto, or wheat in Winnepeg, but, rather what bacon is worth in London or wheat in Liverpool that counts.

When the hogs, cattle and poultry on the prairies that are now being fed with cheap grain come down on the eastern markets of Ontario the farmer here will find his products hit the worst prices he has seen in many years. Bad as is the condition now, it is nothing to what it is going to be. The whole market in the east will be demoralized when the western farmers, through necessity or the coaxing of the government, goes in for mixed farming. Before the government too widely advocates mixed farming for the west, let me say that when mixed farming is started in the

west in those sections where it can be carried on it will ruin the mixed farmer in the east. The same thing will happen to Ontario and Quebec in regard to mixed farming as happened in regard to wheat when the west became the wheat producers and the east ceased to be.

I read with a great deal of interest and some sadness Canada's new agricultural policy as set forth in MacLean's magazine of March 15th. The article is centred by a very speaking likeness of the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir). May I say that it shows the intelligence and good sense of the hon. gentleman that he looks exceedingly sad. So would I if that was the agricultural policy I was putting forward for the solution of the problems of the industry. I would have all hon. members read the article. Don't eat your dinner until you get a copy of MacLean's magazine for March 15th. All but one point in the new policy advocates more production; produce more efficiently. Of course, I agree it is best to produce efficiently. But more production? If one increases one's efficiency to the point where there is increased production, in all probability under present conditions the result will be lower prices. However, the one new feature is a national marketing board which may mean something or nothing.

There is one other thing which I am very glad is being considered by the government. It has been summarized by the writer, Mr. Richard Churchill, in the words, "an increased effort to eliminate parasites." If that means the cut-throat as well as the cut-worm, it is all right; if it means they will take off the backs of the farmers the bloated, protected manufacturing industry, the greedy banks, the railways with their high rates of interest, the taxation weight, and so on; if those are the parasites, then I quite agree. On the other hand, if it simply means there will be fewer bugs, it might be as well to let the bugs have the wheat as not to be able to do anything with it.

I will not have time to develop, but I should like to outline, an agricultural policy which I respectfully submit to the Minister of Agriculture. All farm or agricultural colleges and experimental farms should to-day teach cooperative marketing of farm products as aggressively as in the past they taught, and are still teaching, greater production. As the central idea of their programs they should have cooperative marketing of farm products, and the government should lend its full moral support to any efforts made along the lines of cooperation. Those of us who are working in cooperative endeavour for farmers know that when we seek a manager for a cooperative enterprise we cannot get a trained man. There is not a government from the Atlantic to the Pacific that has a school where people can be trained in the management of cooperative enterprises or in cooperative accounting, yet governments are looking for something to do. Do that. That is something which will mean more than growing two blades of grass where one grew before, when you can sell neither.

Then let the government start experimenting in processing farm products, in order to bring the cost of processing down to something like a reasonable figure so that when we come to put our processed agricultural products on the markets of the world we shall be able to meet the competition of other countries. I believe the present Minister of Agriculture does want to help agriculture, but his task in this government is difficult, and I think he knows it. And next thing the farmers of Canada will process their own products, and the sooner the better. The government should give them full moral support, and should lend them the sums of money required on long term loans at low rates of interest. Unless we do these things how are we going to compete with Denmark, where farmers process their own products cooperatively, or with Russia, where it is done by the state? We hear a lot about Russia. If the government of our country had the same initiative and enterprise in putting our products in the markets of the world that Russia is showing at the moment, it might not be a bad thing. It is cut-throat competition, of course, when Russia does it but not when our manufacturers do it. They have been doing it for quite some time, selling farm implements more cheaply in other countries than they are sold at home.

In addition, farmers should begin at once to buy their supplies through their own locally controlled cooperative units. These should have one central buying agency, and whatever help and support the government can give should be given. We know the farmers of Denmark and Holland buy their fertilizer more cheaply than any other farmers in the world, because they buy it cooperatively. The same thing can be done in Canada, in relation to everything the farmer buys.

I also believe in lower costs of production, and I would get those lower costs not only by greater efficiency in production but by very considerably lowering tariffs as well. In addition, I think an agricultural program which does not make mention of the modernizing of our financial system is not all it might be. I think there should be special

recognition of the requirements of agriculture. Mr. Beatty evolved a scheme whereby he would have $5,000,000 available for western Canada. That is like making a five cent payment on a hundred acre farm. What about the money the banks have spent on head offices during the last twelve months—financial cathedrals which are manuments to greed? If they had put that money in circulation for the benefit of agriculture in Canada they would be doing much better work for Canada.

Then again, if we are going to have an agricultural policy worthy of the name we must have a strong farm group of free men and women in the House of Commons who can speak, work and vote for the interest of agriculture. I also think we should immediately forsake the gold basis and should secure markets, both the home markets and the foreign markets which will take some of our surplus if we in return take some of theirs.

One thing we very greatly need in Canada is a vital rural educational system, education that is alive and in close relationship with the lives of people. I notice that under the agricultural policy of this government experimental farms are to be used as educational centres. I hope it may be that sort of education which will stimulate courageous thought, and not just that education which moulds the minds of the people into the old channels. I do feel that this is the very time for a forward push along the lines of cooperation and mutual endeavour; when conditions are very bad is the time to move forward. It was when the national life of Denmark was at its very lowest that the great Grundtwig came forward with his new philosophy and educational ideas, and from then on the farmers of Denmark made themselves what they are to-day, the wonder of the world, controlling their own products until they reach the markets of the world. We can do the same.

Mr. THOMAS HAY (Springfield): Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few remarks on the address in reply to the speech from the throne let me, like preceding speakers, first of all congratulate the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous). The speech from the throne was delivered under unusual circumstances, at a time when this country and the world generally is passing through a period of depression. We on this side of the house believe the government have policies which, if put into effect, will bring about prosperity in this country. Hon. members opposite grumble and complain, and say the government of the day is responsible for the condition in which Canada now finds itself. Though we have been in office only for the short period of something like eight months, still the members of the opposition seem to feel that we are responsible for the conditions which prevail in Canada at the present time.

I should like to read from the amendment proposed by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, in which he says that—

> —His Majesty's government have not only failed to afford a remedy for employment and agricultural distress, as pledged by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, but have served further to prejudice the deplorable position of the agricultural interests, thereby causing additional unemployment and substantially reducing the national revenue.

That is the charge made by the leader of the opposition. Taking all things into consideration, I do not think he is justified in moving an amendment of this kind, because I am satisfied, as I believe he himself must know, that the present government cannot be held responsible for the conditions now prevailing in Canada. On the contrary, I feel that the government that went out of office on July 28 last had more to do with the depression than the present government, and during the course of my remarks I will try to prove that assertion.

Some hon. gentlemen on the opposite side have referred to the declining wheat prices, and there again they have endeavoured to blame this government. If those hon. gentlemen had given a few minutes' consideration to the subject and had looked up the facts they would not have made a wholly baseless assertion of that kind. I wish to direct the attention of the house, of the country and of hon. members opposite to this fact: The price of wheat quoted by the Winnipeg papers on July 28 last, that is, the cash price, was $1.78 a bushel. That was on the 28th of July. On the 1st of August last, or about the time the late government went out of office, cash wheat was quoted by the Winnipeg papers at 90 cents a bushel, or a drop in prices during the last year the late government was in power of 88 cents a bushel. In view of this fact it is unfair for the opposition to seek to create the impression throughout the country that this government is responsible for the decline in wheat prices.

I wish to be fair, and therefore I say that I do not believe the government that went out of office in July last was responsible for the drop in wheat prices. I do not think they

did anything to bring about that drop. Nor do I believe that the government now in power is responsible for it. So far as I can see, neither government has done anything that would bring about this fall in the price of wheat. We must be fair in discussion.

With respect to wheat prices, some people blame the western wheat pools for the decline that has taken place during the last year or so. I am of the opinion that the wheat pools had something to do with the drop in prices. I am satisfied that the policies they have been following have been instrumental in bringing about a drop in wheat prices in Canada, and I am not alone in this opinion. Let me refer to an article which appeared in Toronto Saturday Night of February 28. This article was written by the Hon. Frank Oliver, a gentleman who at one time was Minister of the Interior under the Laurier administration, a gentleman who has given considerable thought to conditions in this country, and whose opinion, it seems to me, must have some weight with the people of this country. The article to which I am referring reads:

> The pool was in full operation in the marketing of crop from 1924 to 1930. Its advent had introduced a new principle into the marketing of Canadian wheat. Instead of a sales policy that followed the fluctuations of the market, with the object of clearing the crop of one year into consumption before the succeeding crop came on the market, the pool's avowed policy was to maintain or stabilize or increase prices by withholding supply. As it was the largest handling organization in the world, others followed its example.

Further on we read:

> A declared policy of withholding Canadian wheat during the shortage of 1929 alarmed the consuming countries and turned their attention to other sources.

The article concludes:

> Canada's most distressing problem is that of selling her surplus of this crop year, together with her accumulations of the two previous years. Had she sold, as she could have done in July, 1929, and the following month, the crop of 1929 and 1930, at a handsome profit, the problem of to-day would not exist.

That is the opinion of the Hon. Frank Oliver. He says that the pool is entirely responsible, so far as Canada is concerned, for the present depression through which we are passing. He is of the opinion that had the pools sold at the right time Canada would not have the present problem on her hands.

During the last session of parliament certain changes were made in the tariff. The manufacturing industries of the country have been given an increase in tariff protection. The Prime Minister and the government had at the time promises from the different manufacturing industries to the effect that they would not take advantage of the increase in tariffs to increase their prices to the consumer. Now that was all very well so far as it went. But let me say, Mr. Speaker, that if I understand the mentality of the farmers of western Canada correctly they will not be satisfied with a promise that the prices of machinery will not be increased. I am satisfied that the farmers of the west are looking for a large reduction in the prices of farm machinery, and I am also satisfied that unless they receive this reduction the manufacturing interests of Canada will not long retain the protection which has been accorded them. I am sure, however, that the policy of the government will have a good effect in lowering the prices of farm machinery to the farmers of Canada.

I wish to refer for a few moments to the tariff. The last two speakers devoted considerable time to a discussion of the tariff, and I do not think it would be out of place for me to spend a few minutes considering the subject. When it came to making changes in the tariff, the Liberal party has always failed to make such changes as would meet the needs of the times. That has been the history of the Liberal party since its inception; all through the years it has failed to make such changes in the tariff as would be of benefit to the people of Canada. A tariff policy is nothing new to this country; it is the same old policy under which Canada has lived and thrived ever since its infancy.

The tariff policy of this government is to give a measure of protection to the manufacturing industries of the country in order that they may to a large extent retain possession of their home markets. Some people feel that the policy of protection is on trial at the present time and that within two or three years there will be settled once and for all the age old dispute between the disciples of high and low tariff. In making changes in the tariff the Liberal government has always failed to meet the needs of the times, and on occasions disaster has occurred because of their refusal to make a change. I would like to give one or two instances which illustrate this theory. In 1873, when the Liberal government came into power, conditions prevailed in Canada similar to those prevailing at the present time. The manufacturing industries were languishing, people were out of employment, farmers were unable to sell the products of their farms, and the country was passing through a period of depression perhaps worse than that existing to-day. The manufacturers appealed to the government and asked for an increase in the tariff which would safeguard the young and

growing industries. The government steadfastly refused to take action, and the condition of the country was very serious. I would like to read an extract from The Story of Canada, by Hopkins, which shows what occurred during that period, how it occurred, and why it occurred. This deals with the period when the Liberal party was in office and when a low tariff, such as some of our Liberal friends advocate, was in operation. It reads:

Between 1873 and 1878 their goods poured over the frontier and beat down prices below what the small Canadian firms, with their limited production and market and capital, could hope to touch. Then, after the local industry had collapsed, prices were again raised and the American firm held its captured market in apparently secure shape. All over the country this was happening and even the farmer began to suffer from the inrush of American wheat and other foodstuffs. From every side came demands for a change of policy, but Mr. Mackenzie and Sir Richard Cartwright, his Finance minister, were firm in their view that while a tariff might, and must in this case, be imposed for revenue and at uniform rates . . . .

Let me quote another paragraph from the same history:

Meanwhile, matters went from bad to worse in a commercial and financial sense. Whatever the value of the American market it was absolutely closed to Canadian productions in most of the important lines while American manufacturers and producers had a full sweep of the Dominion. American wheat, rye, barley, Indian corn, wheat-flour, oatmeal, coal salt, wool, pig-iron, iron and steel rails, bricks and flax had free entry into Canada, while similar Canadian products entering the United States were charged high duties.

That is what occurred between the years 1873 and 1878 under a low tariff policy.

The trend of the times is towards protection; France, Italy, Germany, the United States and our own country are moving in that direction. In Great Britain, the home of free trade, the sentiment is changing, as it is in other countries. If we are to exist economically as a nation under present day conditions it is necessary to have a tariff which will protect our industries. Other nations are putting up tariffs to protect their own home industries. The ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) seem to feel that no good can result from a tariff, but I would like to direct their attention to an article which appeared in the Winnipeg Tribune, being an extract from the London Daily Times, as follows:

British Tariff Policy Gains Much Support
London Times Says Opinion Grows Steadily in Favour of System

London, March 17—Though the Labour press, doubtless with Premier MacDonald's authority,

denies the possibility that a revenue tariff of ten per cent will be the feature of the forthcoming budget, The Times to-day says that the number of influential converts to this policy is steadily growing in Britain.

It cites particularly Sir Josiah Stamp, economist and industrialist of world reputation, and Mr. J. M. Keynes, both of whom hitherto have opposed any general tariff system, but who now suggest that there should be two kinds of duties—one on goods generally, and one, much lower, on foodstuffs.

The article continues:

There is scarcely any feature in our financial, industrial and commercial situation that does not clamour for a policy of tariffs to raise revenue and restore confidence.

This article would seem to show that the sentiment of the peoples of the world is changing to a more favourable view of a system of tariffs. I cannot understand the mentality of some people who say that it would be wise to reduce our tariffs. They must know that if that were done we would have a similar condition to that existing in 1878, and Canada would become the dumping ground of the world.

I said before that the Liberal government when making changes in the tariff had always failed to meet the needs of the times. Let me refer to another change in the tariff made by a Liberal government. Many years ago I well remember hearing Sir Wilfrid Laurier speak in the town of Selkirk on the question of protection and free trade. I can recall his exact words; I remember his saying that the policy of the Conservative party was creating sugar kings and cotton lords in this country. Well, the change in tariff policy to which I now refer was made after Sir Wilfrid Laurier came into power in 1896. I am sorry the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) is not in his seat, because I should like to have called his attention to the statement I am about to make. After he came into power Sir Wilfrid Laurier placed on the free list several articles, amongst which were coal oil, binder twine and barbed wire. The other day the hon. member for Lisgar was grumbling because an additional tariff had been placed on barbed wire coming from other countries to compete with barbed wire made in Canada. Ever since these articles were placed on the free list by Sir Wilfrid Laurier we have not been able to buy them as cheaply as we had done before. So again I say that when the Liberals attempted to make changes, the results brought about were not in the public interest.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. HAY: When the house rose at six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, I was showing that whenever the Liberal party had made changes in the tariff policy of the country, disastrous results had followed. I had given one or two examples to show that depression had always followed changes in the tariff policy by the Liberals. I cannot quite understand the mentality of the Liberal party. They do not seem to be able to get it into their heads that it is possible for a high tariff to mean lower prices to the consumer. Hon. gentlemen opposite smile at that, but those of us who have lived in this country quite a number of years know that when we had a protective tariff on agricultural machinery amounting to about 33 per cent, we were buying our machinery for just about half the present prices. Of course, there are none so blind as those who will not see.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that good results are already in evidence following the tariff increase last September. Only the other evening an hon. member on this side of the house mentioned that a mill which had been lying idle for something like six years was now operating at full capacity and employing some two hundred men as a direct result of the tariff increase which was made last September.

I would like to give another instance of disastrous consequences when the Liberal party made a change in the tariff policy. I refer to the trade agreement made between Australia and Canada in 1926. You will remember, sir, that the Conservative party of that day opposed the agreement, pointing out to the then Liberal government how injuriously it would affect the dairying industry of Canada. But our representations, of course, went unheeded, and the Liberal government put through that agreement. Subsequently its provisions were extended to New Zealand. Speaking on the agreement, the then Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell), as will be seen at page 860 of Hansard of 1926, characterized the speeches of the Conservative members against the trade agreement as mere propaganda. He said that they were trying to make the people believe that if the treaty passed, an avalanche of butter would descend on Canada. Well, Mr. Speaker, that avalanche of butter did descend on the Canadian people, and it put a good many of our farmers practically out of business. Not only that, but the avalanche of butter which descended upon us almost put the late Minister of Agriculture out of business politically, and certainly it smothered a number of hon. members who supported the treaty in 1926.

In opening my remarks I said that the speech from the throne this year was read under rather unusual conditions, read at a time when depression existed not only in Canada but throughout the world. The duty of governments of the day, not only in Canada but all over the world, is to find solutions for the problems which are facing the world generally. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, the depression was created by over-production in all lines of commodities. It was impossible to sell our commodities in the markets of the world, consequently the depression through which we are now passing followed. It is the duty of government, I say, to find a cure for the prevailing world-wide depression. We know the cause; what is the cure? Doctors of economy are prescribing various remedies for the cure of our present ills. Some tell us that the acreage that is being sown to grain of different kinds in this country must be reduced. Others tell us that we must decrease the cost of production, and still others that we must go into diversified farming. All this advice is very good in itself, but whether it will bring about the results hoped for, we cannot say.

With respect to reducing the acreage, I myself cannot understand how that can be done to any great extent by the farmers of Canada. In former years, when they were farming only from two to three hundred acres, they were able merely to make a living at the good prices that prevailed. How, then, would it be possible for them to make a living at present prices if they reduced their acreage? I say that that would be a dangerous experiment; and I do not think it would be wise to go to extremes in attempting to carry it out.

I am a firm believer in diversified farming. I believe that diversified farming has been the salvation of the province of Manitoba, where it is very largely engaged in, with the result, I believe, that conditions are better in that province to-day than in any of the other western provinces.

With respect to lowering the cost of production, it is to a certain extent beyond the power of the individual farmer to accept and act on that advice. The only chance we have of cutting down the cost of production—I am satisfied that we shall be able to do it through the policies of the present government—is by getting cheaper machinery, lower freight rates, and cheaper money—although I am not a very great believer in the latter, but it might

help to some extent. These, Mr. Speaker, are some of the remedies prescribed by doctors of economy in this country. Whether they will effect the cure that is predicted of them, we cannot say. I do, however, wish to reaffirm my belief in the protective policy of this government, because I believe that it will bring about prosperity.

Now, what is needed at the present time is a cure for our economic ills. Of course, no one can be expected to formulate a cure offhand. I believe that a considerable measure of relief would be afforded by the formation of a world credit association whose function it would be to arrange credits for the nations needing them.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that in Manitoba generally, and particularly in the constituency which I have the honour to represent, our people of various nationalities are working together in harmony in an endeavour to bring about a prosperous and united country, and I firmly believe that only in this way can we hope to see Canada fulfil her glorious destiny.

Mr. J. L. ILSLEY (Hants-Kings): When, Mr. Speaker, about a week ago I decided to participate in this debate I hoped that I might be able to contribute some original thoughts, but so many very excellent speeches have been made in the interval that I am afraid my hopes are not destined to be realized.

I wish to congratulate the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address on the very creditable manner in which they acquitted themselves. I agree with the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) that it is a very trying ordeal for a young member to address the house for the first time, and I am very much pleased indeed that my fellow member from the maritime provinces, the hon. gentleman from Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) and the hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Porteous) were so successful in their maiden efforts.

This afternon we listened to a very remarkable speech by the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). The hon. gentleman's speeches are always worth listening to, but it did seem to me that to-day he spoke with a fire and an intense earnestness more marked than usual, and I am confident that his words carried conviction to every member present. I desire also to congratulate the lady member of the house (Miss Macphail) upon her very excellent speech. She stated that the former hon. Minister of Justice is a better Liberal in opposition than in power, but my recollection of his speeches in this house during the last few years does not bear out her statement.

His speech this afternoon, was, I think, along the same lines that he always followed when on the government benches.

I shall confine my remarks to a few sentences in the speech from the throne. It is there stated:

> Although in the interval world conditions have changed but little for the better, this tariff legislation—

That is the tariff legislation passed in the special session.

> —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 articles which I have read in the press led me to believe that there had been considerable stimulation of industry as a result of the tariff legislation last September. It would be strange if that were not the case. The very object and purpose of protective tariffs is to stimulate certain industries. But I was surprised to hear from some of the hon. gentlemen who have spoken in this debate that employment even in the highly protected industries is not as general as it was before the additional protection was given. And certainly if the effect on those specially favoured industries has not been beneficial, it can be definitely and positively said that the effect upon the other industries which are paying for the stimulation of the highly protected industries has been distinctly prejudicial. It is too soon to say from actual experience whether the tariff increases of September last as to be a success or not in any part of Canada. It must be remembered that after the tariff increases of 1879 there was a condition of considerable industrial activity for a few years, but it was succeeded by a reaction, so much so that in the early nineties a wing of the Conservative party advocated "lopping off the mouldering branches of protection." We may find this to be the case also with regard to the tariff legislation of last September.

Speaking as a member from the maritime provinces, I say unequivocally that I am opposed to those tariff increases. I contend that they constitute an aggravation of the condition brought about in the maritime provinces by the policy of protection, a policy which has resulted in their gradual impoverishment. I believe that if it is persisted in our future down there is dark indeed. The farmers and fruit-growers—of whom there are thousands in my constituency—are complaining bitterly about the result of the tariff legis-

lation enacted during the special session. Before I left for Ottawa an importer of spraying machinery was obliged on one shipment to pay about $2,000 additional in duties. Importers of apple-graders and fertilizers also have been obliged to pay greatly increased duties. We must never forget that if we are building up one industry by tariff increases, we are doing so only at the expense of the rest of the country. This is being done, just as surely, though not as visibly or equitably, as if the favoured industries were being bonused out of the treasury. It may be that the increased tariff will benefit one section of the Dominion, what we are accustomed to speak of as the central or industrial section. This may be, but if this is a "central-Canada first" policy it certainly is not a "Canada first" policy. The effect of this policy is disruptive and disintegrating rather than national or unifying.

The next reference in the speech from the throne is to the operation of the Unemployment Relief Act, 1930, which is said to have proved equally beneficial. We on this side of the house at the special session did not disapprove of the principle of that measure, nor do we disapprove of it now. I want to point out, however, that certain definite pledges were given, which are embodied in the act and in the regulations, to the effect that the expenditure of this money was not to be on a political patronage basis. Speaking as a member from the maritime provinces I can definitely and positively say that in the part of Nova Scotia with which I am familiar the expenditure of these moneys has been on a political patronage basis. I may add that I made it my business to inquire into the expenditure of this money in my constituency, and I found that at all times from 75 per cent to 95 per cent of the men employed upon the works were members of the Conservative party, or those whom the foreman hoped to make members of the Conservative party by the distribution of these unemployment relief moneys. That is true in the maritime provinces, at least in the province of Nova Scotia. That was not only a breach, but an open and flagrant breach of the pledges made in September.

I wish to pass on hurriedly to the next reference in the speech from the throne, which is to the Imperial conference which was held in London last fall. The speech says that several constitutional questions arising out of the resolutions of the Imperial conference of 1926 were fully discussed and in principle approved. That matter was dealt with by the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) very ably this afternoon, but let me say that to those of us who during the last four years have always contended that the constitutional principles laid down at the Imperial conference of 1926 and carried out by the recommendations of the subconference of 1929 were right; to those of us who contended that these were the correct principles, that statement in the speech from the throne comes as a source of gratification, and affords us very much satisfaction. I remember, Mr. Speaker, the speeches that were made only last spring, particularly by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan). The present Prime Minister indulged in a lot of loose talk about cutting the painter, about casting adrift from the motherland. Certainly I never would have supported that formula of 1926 if I had thought it was designed to disrupt the empire. It was because I believed—and I think we all believed—that that was the only basis upon which the British Empire could be kept together, a basis of the fullest possible autonomy to the constituent parts, that I supported it. Now the hon. gentlemen who ridiculed and opposed that position have come to our way of thinking.

I remember what the Secretary of State said about the merchant shipping legislation. The proposal with regard to merchant shipping is that hereafter each of the dominions is to have full power to make its own laws in respect to its own shipping, instead of shipping being governed, as at present, by one act passed by the Imperial parliament. We said that uniformity could be attained just the same; we said there could be agreements between the different dominions and there could be concurrent legislation, and let me say that the principles laid down in respect of merchant shipping, the recommendations of the subconference on merchant shipping of 1929, have been approved in toto by the conference of 1930. In fact, a long draft agreement between the various dominions and the mother country is to be found in the report of the Imperial conference. The front benchers of the Conservative party have swallowed themselves completely on this constitutional matter, and let me say I believe it is the best thing they have done since they took office.

There is another side to the Imperial conference, and that is the economic side. The speech of the former Prime Minister, the present leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), was very comprehensive. It covered this matter of the Imperial economic conference in all its phases and probably anything I could say would not add very much to the matter. One thing I do wish to say,

however, is that this matter of obtaining favourable treatment in the British market, whether it be by a tariff preference or by some other sort of preference, is not a matter of interest only to the wheat growers of Canada, as some speakers seem to assume. It is a matter of interest to the whole of Canada. There has not been a more live issue in my own constituency during the last ten years than the matter of a preference in the British market. I have gone through two elections in which a great deal was said about a preference in that market for our particular product, apples, and let me say that the people of my constituency watched anxiously day by day to see how the Prime Minister conducted himself. They watched to see how he made out as a bargainer—because I am not one of those who have any objection to bargaining. I do not like bungling bargaining, unsuccessful bargaining or short-sighted bargaining, but the people in my constituency watched to see what the Prime Minister of Canada would accomplish at that Imperial conference. As we all know, he accomplished nothing; in fact he accomplished less than nothing.

The other day it was very interesting to hear the present Prime Minister seek to compare his conduct and his proposals with those of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1902. As has been shown here by other speakers during this debate, there is no comparison between the two at all. In the first place, Sir Wilfrid Laurier lowered the Canadian duties, by the Imperial preference of 1897, before he treated with the British government, whereas this Prime Minister raised the Canadian duties. In the second place Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked only for the remission, as against Canada, of existing duties or duties which, at the will of the British government, might be thereafter imposed. This Prime Minister asked for, and in fact demanded, the imposition of new duties. In the third place Sir Wilfrid Laurier indicated very clearly that he was prepared to make further concessions in the way of lowering Canadian duties as against Great Britain, while this Prime Minister made it very clear that he would not lower the duties; indeed that he would keep up the prohibitive duties and, if they failed to be prohibitive, he would make them so as against Great Britain. So there is no comparison between the proposals of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1902 and those of the present Prime Minister in 1930. It would be a wonderful thing for the present Prime Minister if he could avail himself of the great prestige of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but there is no parallel between the two proposals.

[Mr. Ilsley.]

To speak very briefly, my people have four objections to the manner in which that Imperial conference was handled by the Prime Minister of Canada. The first is that he raised the Canadian tariff to a prohibitive level before sailing for Great Britain. One of the duties works out to about 96 per cent. Mr. Snowden, in the British House of Commons, pointed out that his constituency, which is a woollen milling constituency, was particularly affected. He said that the duties as against 30-ounce woollen cloth had been raised from 7½ pence to over 2 shillings. Then he said, "How can Mr. Bennett ask for any concessions after he has prepared the way for the Imperial conference by raising duties to these prohibitive levels?"

The second objection my people have to the conduct of Mr. Bennett is that he made proposals to the British government which no British government could accept. The third objection is that he put those proposals in an offensive form; that is, in the form of an ultimatum. The fourth objection is that he closed his stay in England with what was really a wrangle with Mr. Thomas, Secretary of State for the Dominions, and with the British government itself. I do not think I need add anything further to show how badly the matter of the Imperial conference was handled by the Prime Minister.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are a few other references in the speech from the throne that are of interest to the people of the maritime provinces—and certain omissions. One very notable omission from the speech from the throne is the absence of any reference to a national fuel policy. In the maritime provinces, and particularly in the province of Nova Scotia, during the election no cries were louder than those for a national fuel policy. In the coal mining constituencies—and several of the counties are coal mining counties—the Prime Minister and his speakers promised the people that if they were returned to power they would put into effect what they called a national fuel policy. That national fuel policy was never clearly defined; I do not think it was ever defined at all. But the people of the coal mining constituencies accepted it at its face value and they believed that if the Conservative party were returned to power they would do something to secure the Canadian market for Canadian coal producers. But the government, from the time they came into power until the present moment, have been running away from that promise they made. This is not overstating the case in any way. We take

up the speech from the throne, which the people of Nova Scotia expect to contain some reference to a national fuel policy, and we find not a word, not a syllable, not a hint that the Prime Minister or his government knew that there was such a thing expected by the coal producing section of Canada. I do not know what the present Prime Minister meant when he promised a national fuel policy, but I do know this, that he meant something that would be brought about by political action. He meant something which a government or a parliament could do. Yet, when representatives from the chamber of commerce came here a few weeks ago inquiring of him what was going to be done in reference to a national fuel policy, we find him thus reported:

> Working out of a national fuel policy was an easier matter on paper than in actual practice, said the Prime Minister. His own view was the fuel problem would probably be solved by chemists and scientists.

Has it come to that? Is that the outcome of this proposed policy upon which seats were won by the Conservative party in the province of Nova Scotia? Has it come to this, that this national fuel policy is now to be evolved by chemists and scientists? The coal producers of Nova Scotia see these high duties being imposed on manufactured goods, duties ranging from 50 to 100 per cent, shutting out importations of goods from the United States and Great Britain; and they are told that the ground upon which these duties are imposed is that no jobs should go to workmen abroad if they can possibly go to Canadian workmen. That is to say, if by the imposition of a duty men can be given work in this country, which work would otherwise go to labourers abroad, then such duty shall be imposed. That is the ground upon which these duties are being imposed by this government on manuafctured goods—prohibitive duties, tremendously high duties. The people see these duties going into effect, and at the same time they see these highly protected factories, which are great coal users, buying from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five million dollars' worth of coal annually from the United States. This coal is coming in at a very low rate of duty, and the people naturally say to themselves, "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. Why make fish of one and flesh of another? Why should the national policy stop at Montreal? Why should it not extend easterly to Sydney"? That is the way the coal miners of Nova Scotia look at the question, and it is hard to blame them for seeing it in that light. To date, however, the government have no proposals except that the problem will be solved by chemists and scientists.

Of course, it may be said that the embargo against Russian coal is something. But surely no hon. member of this house thinks that it really amounts to anything. It shuts out 300,000 tons of Russian coal annually, while 18,000,000 tons a year of American coal are coming in. It shuts out two or three million dollars' worth of coal from Russia while admitting something like one hundred million dollars' worth from another source. And as a matter of fact the Prime Minister does not intend the Russian embargo as any solution or even the beginning of a solution of the national fuel policy, because he states exultantly that 1,000,000 tons of anthracite is coming in from Wales, indicating that this is part of his imperial trade policy. This embargo against Russia, it appears was designed to encourage the importation of Welsh anthracite. He has apparently forgotten the 13,000 miners of Nova Scotia who are still waiting for him to say something about the national fuel policy.

Mr. ERNST: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. ILSLEY: I know what the hon. gentleman is going to ask.

Mr. ERNST: Would the hon. member expect any prospective increase in the tariff to be announced publicly in the speech from the throne, or would he expect it when the budget is brought down?

Mr. ILSLEY: The question of a national fuel policy was not put forward primarily as a fiscal measure at all. It certainly should be foreshadowed in the speech from the throne; that is exactly the place wherein the people of Nova Scotia expect to find it mentioned. This is not a minor matter in the province of Nova Scotia or in Alberta. Recently the legislature of Nova Scotia passed a very sweeping resolution asking the government what its proposals were in reference to a national fuel policy.

Mr. VENIOT: So did the legislature of New Brunswick.

Mr. ILSLEY: The legislature of New Brunswick as well, the hon. member says. And delegations have come to Ottawa with reference to the subject. If, therefore, the matter had not been entirely absent from the Prime Minister's mind, it would have found a

place in the speech from the throne. I should like to know where the members from the coal mining constituencies have been. Ever since I have been in the house the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Smith) has advocated a prohibitive duty on foreign coal; the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Cantley) has advocated a duty of $1.50; and the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacDonald) has advocated as high a duty as practicable, although he did not think a very high duty practicable. Where have these hon. members been to have allowed this omission? And where is the minister from Nova Scotia? What was he doing when the speech from the throne was prepared, leaving out any reference to a national fuel policy?

Mr. ERNST: Does the hon. member expect the tariff to be mentioned in the speech from the throne?

Mr. ILSLEY: I have already answered that question. Now there is another matter I wish to discuss. I refer to old age pensions. If the cry of a national fuel policy was the loudest in the province of Nova Scotia in the recent election, the promise of old age pensions was, I should say, the most effective. I know that lists were made of all the old people who would be eligible for pensions. These people were canvassed by Conservative campaigners and were promised that very shortly after there was a change of government, if change of government there should be, old age pensions would be paid to them by the Dominion government in full. I have here what the Prime Minister said in Nova Scotia in July last:

> I say to you, if the Conservative party is returned to power we will provide for the payment of old age pensions from the federal exchequer, so that the provinces will not be called upon to contribute a cent, and so that the provinces who now find the burden too great will be able to benefit with all the provinces of the Dominon. The constitutional point has been raised by the Premier. If it is constitutional to pay 50 per cent, would it not be constitutional to pay 100 per cent? We will pass a law to pay 100 per cent and it will be legal.

And the present Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) stated that if this were not done at the first regular session of parliament he would go out of public life forever. He is credited with having gone further—perhaps he will contradict me if I am wrong. I know that he said what I have just repeated, but in regard to what I am going to cite I am not sure. However, he is credited with having said that if it were not done within three months after a change of government he would go out of public life.

Mr. RHODES: My hon. friend knows it is not competent for me to interrupt him in the course of his speech. I did not hear the first portion of his remarks with respect to myself, but I shall consult Hansard tomorrow to see what he has said. I certainly said nothing about three months. I cannot say anything as to the first part of my hon. friend's remarks.

An hon. MEMBER: You were a little more careful than some of the others.

Mr. ILSLEY: It is quite all right if the hon. minister says he did not say that. I am very careful about the statements I make. He did make the first statement in my own town of Kentville.

It is intimated in the speech from the throne that legislation in connection with old age pensions is to come by progressive stages and as the state of the treasury will permit. Lately the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson), who is not in this house, has been making speeches and sending telegrams intimating that old age pensions will not be paid in full by the Dominion government, and that the Dominion government will not take over during the present year the administration of the act, but that there is nothing to prevent them from paying a larger proportion than is paid at the present time. This is different from the promises made during the campaign. These pensions are a very important matter to the people of the maritime provinces. If because of the state of the national exchequer or for any other reason this government fails to put into effect in toto its promises to pay in full old age pensions to the people of the maritime provinces, it will be considered as a rascally piece of business. It may be that they do intend to carry out their promises, but there are some very disquieting signs and rumours in that connection. I desire to bring this matter as forcibly as I can to the attention of the house and the government, because it was on the basis of these promises that they were enabled to win during the recent elections certain constituencies in the maritime provinces.

Apparently my own views as to the recent embargo placed against trade with Russia are not those of many on this side of the house. They may not be the views of my constituents but I think, in justice to myself, that I

should express them. It seems to me that this government has acted too hastily in its method of dealing with Russia. There is a very good prospect of the five-year plan succeeding in Russia. If the wheat industry of this country is to have a guaranteed future there should be a conference between the wheat-producers of the world with the idea of placing the wheat production upon the markets of the world in a rational, orderly and if possible non-competing manner, and it seems to me that the action taken by this government will not conduce to that end. I read in the press, I think to-day, that Mr. Ferguson, representative of Canada in Great Britain, is attending the International Institute of Agriculture, which begins its sittings at Rome to-day. I understand that representatives of the soviet government will attend these meetings and that Canada is to adopt a policy of "watchful waiting." In all probability at some time in the future we shall have to confer with the representatives of Russia and it would appear that this order in council, very offensive in its terms and laying down the principle that we shall not trade with a country whose economic system or social conventions are disapproved of, was a hasty and ill-advised step on the part of this government. It was of no consequence at all as a protective measure for our coal industry because, as I said before, why shut out 300,000 tons to let in 18,000,000 tons? There may be some reasons for the passing of this order in council, but I think they should be made public. I know that many people disagree with its provisions and I think it is the duty of this government to give an explanation to the country before parliament prorogues.

I would like to comment briefly upon the general economic situation. During the closing months of the year 1930 many prominent men of the world gave their opinions as to the causes of the present depression. Mussolini made speeches in which he blamed to a considerable degree the policies of the United States. Mr. Hoover made an Armistice day speech in which he attempted to diagnose carefully the causes of depression. Mr. Thomas W. Lamont made a speech before an association of economists in which he stated that the causes of depression were excessive production as compared to consumption of many commodities, the attempt in certain parts of the world to hold up prices artificially, the fall in the price of silver, the maldistribution of gold, political unrest in certain countries, and the spirit of rampant speculation which has been so evident in recent years, particularly in North America. In a speech which he made at Calgary, the Prime Minister of Canada blamed the economic depression upon his political opponents, and so fas as I can learn he is the only prominent statesman in the world, the only statesman in the world—

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

An hon. MEMBER: Amended.

Mr. ILSLEY: —who did that. The people of Canada will not take seriously this attempt of the right hon. gentleman to fasten the causes of this depression upon his political opponents. Indeed, the government itself by its spokesmen is now attempting to attach the blame to world conditions. The people are not taking seriously attempts to play politics with the business depression, and that, sir, is one of the brightest signs appearing upon the political horizon.

Mr. J. H. MYERS (Queens): Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few remarks on the address in reply to the speech from the throne I feel it my duty and I take great pleasure in following the time-honoured custom of congratulating the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address. I can more readily congratulate the mover, or perhaps I may be permitted to say that I can more readily sympathize with him, by reason of the fact that at one time in my own career I found myself in a similar position.

It was very pleasant indeed to listen to the mingling of the French and English tongues and to see the honours being divided between the two great nationalities. It gives me much pleasure to see the fine contingent which we have on this side of the house from the old, historic province of Quebec. It also gives me a great deal of pleasure, and I am sure it must afford the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) much satisfaction, to know that he draws his supporters from every province of the Dominion. That is as it should be. We want no division between races and no division from the standpoint of religion.

That is all I had intended to say in this regard had it not been for the fact that in perusing Hansard the other day I came across some remarks that fell from the lips of the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot), and to those remarks I feel it my bounden duty to take exception. I find on page 132 of Hansard he is reported as saying that during the last campaign a circular of some kind, seeking to discredit the Liberal party in the eyes of a certain religious sect in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, and to divide the people from the standpoint

of religion, was distributed throughout those two provinces. There is not another man in Prince Edward Island from one end of it to the other who knows that province and the people of that province better than I do, and I deny emphatically that such a circular as that was distributed during the last campaign throughout the province of Prince Edward Island, by either the Liberal or the Conservative party. We do not want such a circular as that distributed throughout Prince Edward Island, nor will we tolerate for one moment the mean, low spirit that would lie behind such an action.

During the course of this debate a great deal has been said with reference to the period of depression through which Canada is passing at the present time. In that regard we may say that misery likes company, and there is a certain consolation in the fact that we are not the only country that is experiencing depression at this time. Every other country in the world is passing through the same trying experience as we are in the Dominion of Canada. If we had in Canada at the present time an unusual period of depression and the whole world outside were prosperous, I would say that the fault lay with Canada; that there was something wrong with the government of Canada, something wrong with the people of Canada or with the country itself. But such is not the case. We are no worse off in Canada than the people in any other section of the world; in fact, I think we are not so badly off; and I have sufficient faith in the future of this Dominion with our vast natural resources, our great transportation systems and our mighty water-powers to turn the wheels of industry, to believe that Canada will be one of the first countries to recover and that she will recover very quickly from the present period of depression.

So far no one has been able to tell us exactly the cause of this period of depression, and I do not suppose an untrained farmer like myself would be expected to come to Ottawa and be able to explain what appears to be such a great mystery to others. I am, however, bold enough to venture the assertion that two things have contributed to the great period of depression through which we are now passing. Everybody knows that prior to about a year ago the whole world had gone stock crazy. Everybody who had ten cents in his pocket was buying stocks. It did not matter whether he was a millionaire or a boot-black, he was buying stocks. Hon. members all know what happened, the crash that came in that regard and how the purchasing power

of the people was wiped out in a few hours. Another factor—and it is something very few people care to talk about; they all like to slip around it—is the fact that we are living at a pretty fast pace. The automobile, the radio and the picture show all take their toll and somebody must pay the piper. If the depression through which we are now passing does nothing other than to teach us a lesson in good, sound, sensible economy, we shall not have passed through this period in vain.

During the course of the debate a great deal has been said with reference to agriculture. That is as it should be. Agriculture needs to have something said about it. It is the biggest and the best industry that we have in Canada to-day, and I believe it will always remain so. Three or four weeks ago I picked up one of our Canadian magazines, and in turning it over I noticed an article headed "What is wrong with farming?" I read the whole article through very carefully. Various reasons were ascribed, and various remedies suggested. After going carefully through the whole of that article I came back to the headline "What is wrong with farming?" and right then and there I made up my mind there was not a single thing wrong with farming. Farming is just as good to-day as ever it was, and the farm is just the same as ever it was. The same rain falls on it and the same sun shines on it. With the aid of the modern machinery that we have and with all the knowledge we have gained in recent years, from our agricultural colleges and experimental farms, we are better able than ever we were before to select, grade and treat the seed that is put into the soil in the spring of the year. With the machinery that we have at our command and the knowledge we have of plant diseases, we are better able to look after our crop during the growing season. The same thing applies in the autumn; we are in a better position than ever we were before from the standpoint of machinery and equipment to harvest our crop expeditiously and safely. That is all we ever did; that is all we ever expected. But when we begin to put our crop on the market, when we attempt to turn the result of our season's labour into cash—there's the rub. But that is not the fault of farming. Nothing is wrong with farming itself, but something is wrong with business. The purchasing power of the public seems for some reason to be diminished. I am not able to prescribe a remedy for all these things, but surely there must be a remedy somewhere.

A great deal has been said about farming in western Canada. As I listen to the members of this house it would seem to me that

farming in Canada can be divided into two parts, east and west. I always had an idea in the back of my head that the people of Canada themselves can be divided into just two classes. Some think that there are lots more—English, Irish, Scotch, French and so on. But when the whole thing is summed up, there are only two classes of people in Canada to-day—those who will work, and those who won't.

I have never been in western Canada, I am sorry to say. I have been in the western United States, but I have never seen our own great Canadian west, though if my pass holds out long enough I am going to see it some day. I have, however, read a great deal about the magnificient wheat fields of western Canada. I suppose that in the last twenty-five years billions and billions of dollars must have gone into western Canada in payment for the wheat that came out, and the western representatives here will pardon me if I say that I think some of that money should have stuck. The hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan) said the other day that a great deal of it had stuck, that western Canada to-day is well equipped, with magnificent farms, fine homes, and a good stock of machinery. That goes to show that they have not spent all their money, that some of it has gone into property. Perhaps in western Canada the farmers have been doing what we have been doing in eastern Canada, going at a bit too fast a pace.

So far as wheat farming in western Canada is concerned, it is not so very different from potato-growing in Prince Edward Island. Any man, no matter who or where he is, who is engaged in what I term single-line agriculture, will always have his years of depression; he will have his good years and his off years. We notice that in Prince Edward Island. Until a few years ago in Prince Edward Island we were entirely a community of mixed farmers, but four or five years ago the potato craze hit our country. It is a wonderful business when properly handled, but when that craze hit the province a few of our farmers, foolishly, I think, abandoned mixed farming, disposed of their live stock, and went into potato growing exclusively. The same thing happens to them as occasionnally happens to the western wheat farmers. They have their off years, and, strange to say, some of them have their off year when the rest of us are doing all right. In the season of 1928, which was about the meanest potato year I ever saw in my life, with potatoes selling as low as 12 cents a bushel, while the potato grower did badly, the rest of us were getting along very nicely indeed. Hogs, cattle, poultry, hay, grain and everything else that we handled that year brought good prices. We were all right, but the specialist who was engaged in potato growing surely met his Waterloo that year. In Prince Edward Island there is no excuse for a man going into potato growing exclusively, because it is a wonderful country for mixed agriculture. There is, I take it, however, an excuse for the western farmer engaging in the growing of wheat exclusively. I have talked with many of the western farmers during my stay in this house, and they tell me that out in the west there are large sections that are admirably adapted to wheat farming but are not so admirably adapted to mixed farming or live stock raising. That is their own problem; I am not here to offer any advice to them in that regard.

The hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) this afternoon made one remark in which I heartily concur, namely that mixed farming will not be a cure-all for present conditions in western Canada. I quite agree. She also spoke of cooperative societies and cooperative marketing, and I believe that even the wheat pool came in for criticism as well as praise. We have all these cooperative organizations in their perfection in eastern Canada. We sell our eggs, our hogs and our cattle through shipping associations. We have in Prince Edward Island also the potato growers association, one of the finest marketing organizations in the whole Dominion of Canada. In a year when potatoes bring a good price the association is praised by all, but when potatoes are down to 12 cents a bushel—well, it is about the damnedest thing on earth. All these organizations are good and useful in their place if they are properly handled, but you can make all the rules and regulations you like; governments, provincial and federal, can pass all the enabling legislation they like, to help them, and still the fact remains that no parliament on earth ever yet was able to repeal or annul the age-old law of supply and demand. That law has reigned supreme all down through the ages, and it always will.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I may be pardoned if I say a word about potatoes, for wheat has been discussed by nearly every hon. gentleman who has preceded me. I regard the United States tariff against Canadian potatoes as very, very high indeed; 75 cents per hundredweight seems to me to be an unreasonable tariff. Our government has seen fit, and rightly so—both parties are as one in this because the Dunning budget provided for the same thing—to impose a similar tariff

against United States potatoes. But I think I can speak for the potato growers of Prince Edward Island and eastern Canada in saying that whenever the United States see fit to lower their tariff we shall be quite willing to meet them with a corresponding reduction in ours.

There is, however, one feature with respect to potatoes which I do not regard as quite fair. In Prince Edward Island and in eastern Canada we have what is known as compulsory grading of potatoes. The main grades of table stock are Canada No. 1 and Canada fancy. Every single potato in the bag must be perfect; if a potato is bruised, cut, scratched, or has any other blemish it must be taken out or the inspector will not pass the bag; every carload of potatoes shipped from Prince Edward Island must carry a certificate signed by a government inspector. We have imposed that regulation on ourselves in order to raise the standard of our product on the markets of the world. We are happy under these conditions and we live up to the letter of the law. If anybody finds that we do not, all he need do is complain about it; our numbers are on the cars, and the complaint comes right back to the individual farmer. I have been informed when the early shipping season begins our competitors across the line are allowed to ship their potatoes into this country without following the strict grading regulations that we have imposed upon ourselves. We do not wish to shut out their potatoes, but we contend that when potatoes cross the line from the United States into Canada they should be subject to the same grading regulations as our own potatoes.

A great deal has been said about the price of farm machinery. In my opinion the price is entirely too high, and undoubtedly something must be done. I was pleased the other night when the hon. gentleman whose constituency embraces all that part and parcel of land lying southwest of the north pole told us that the price of farm machinery and ploughs had been reduced in his riding. That was a very encouraging piece of news, and I only hope it was land ploughs and not snow ploughs that the hon. gentleman had in mind. I am sorry to say that as yet we have noticed very little, if any, reduction in the price of farm machinery in eastern Canada. I have no hesitation in saying that my advice to the farmer is to buy just as little farm machinery as he can get by with. Some hon. gentlemen may say that that is bad for business. I know it is; no one knows it better than myself, because when we cease to buy, implement dealers cease to sell, and when they cease to sell that is reflected back through the manufacturer to those who work in the factories. But, Mr. Speaker, I assert that self-preservation is still the first law of nature, and the farmer who allows himself to be over-burdened with debt, whether through the purchase of farm machinery, automobiles or anything else, is neither any good to himself nor to the community in which he lives.

As I have said, something must be done about the price of farm machinery. But do not misunderstand me. I have no quarrel with the manufacturer. He is doing the best he knows how, perhaps he is worrying over the situation just as much as we are. But I do say there is too wide a spread between the price of the commodities of the farm that we have to sell and the price of the machinery that we have to buy. Prosperity will not return to Canada until it first returns to those who are engaged in Canada's greatest industry. I am not here to offer the manufacturer any advice. I am not a manufacturer, nor am I a business man; I am a plain, ordinary farmer. Yet at times I think my own thoughts, and it often occurs to me that after all the trouble does not arise in the factory. I wonder how far I would be from the truth if I were to make this statement—that the sale and distribution of farm machinery, and for that matter a great many other commodities, costs more than the manufacturing. Step into any railway train you like, or into any hotel, and what do you see? You are tripping over commercial travellers and machine agents; they are chasing one another up and down the line, they are worrying the life out of the storekeepers for orders, and they are living at the best hotels. Who pays the piper? In my estimation it is the man who buys the goods. The hon. member for Southeast Grey said she believed in cooperative marketing. I will go a little further; I would apply the cooperative system to the manufacturers themselves. Surely they will have to find out some cheaper way to get the products of their factories into the hands of those who need them.

I think that is about all I can say, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the economic condition of Canada, but there is something else I should like to speak about.

An hon. MEMBER: Hurry up.

Mr. MYERS: Yes, I am sorry to note the time has gone by so rapidly. During this debate we have heard a lot about promises. The right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) spoke for four and a half

hours—a long time for a man to speak—and I believe he devoted fully half of his time to the subject of promises—the promises that the right hon. Prime Minister had made to the people of Canada during the last campaign. The leader of the opposition seemed to be worried about it, but I cannot yet make out what was worrying him, whether he was worrying that the Prime Minister would not fulfil those promises, or whether he was worrying for fear he would fulfil them, or whether he was worrying because the right hon. gentleman had made them at all. He went so far as to say that the Prime Minister had not even lived up to the promise of perishing. Well, I can tell the right hon. leader of the opposition that there is this difference between him and the Prime Minister, that if the Prime Minister perish at all—which God forbid—he will perish in an honest manly effort to do something for the Canadian people; while the leader of the opposition on the other hand has already perished, politically at least, in attempting to persuade the Canadian people that there was nothing to be done.

I have only a few moments more at my disposal, Mr. Speaker; I wish I had half an hour. This is not the first time the Tories have made promises; the present Prime Minister is not the first Tory who has made promises. Ever since the days of confederation; ever since we entered the union in 1873, we had been promised continuous communication with the mainland. Various attempts were made by all governments to carry out these promises, but so far as the trade and commerce of Prince Edward Island was concerned they all ended in failure. They tried icebreakers to ply between our island and the mainland for years, but you can easily see what a little bit of a steamer that was stuck in the ice for a month at a time could do in the way of keeping transportation open. Then in 1911 a Tory by the name of Robert Borden came down to Prince Edward Island. He spoke in the market hall in Charlottetown and made a walloping big promise. He said, "If you make me Prime Minister of Canada I will link up your railroad on Prince Edward Island with the railways throughout Canada." That sounded big, but what happened? He did not fulfil that promise in three months; he did not fulfil it in eight months or in a year, but when three years had rolled away that promise was implemented one hundred per cent.

There are other things in Prince Edward Island of which we are in need. Some sections of our province are still a long way from the railroad. We have in Rustico a village inhabited by sturdy Acadian people. It is one of the finest fishing centres on the Atlantic coast, but they are ten miles from a railroad. They catch cod, mackerel and lobsters as fine as you will get anywhere, and if they were in a position to place these products of their toil in refrigerator cars immediately on coming to shore so they could be shipped to the cities of central Canada, it would be a great thing not only for central Canada but for the people of our province as well. Likewise, on the south side of the island, the settlement from which I come is eighteen miles from a railroad. That does not sound very far to those of you who come from western Canada, but I can assure you that in the handling of such a heavy commodity as potatoes it is a terrible handicap indeed. Again, we are suffering for want of better roads. The Prime Minister came down there before the last election and made us the promise that if he were returned to power he would help us improve our highways, and we are depending upon him to implement that promise.

There is just one other thing about which I wish to speak, and I am glad the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) is in his seat. The gateway to Prince Edward Island is Tormentine, New Brunswick, and next summer we are putting on a new ferry which will be very different from the old one. At the present time when automobiles are brought across they must be loaded on flat cars and taken abroad the ferry in that way. The new ferry has an automobile deck; the piers have been widened, and next summer you will be able to drive in your automobiles right aboard the boat, and forty minutes later you will be on Prince Edward Island. However, in getting there you have to cross a number of railway tracks in Tormentine, with all the switching back and forth which is going on there all the time. My colleague and I have a resolution on our desks from the board of trade of Charlottetown asking for a subway so that this level crossing may be eliminated. I took up the matter with the Minister of Railways, who said he had not enough money at the present time to carry on this work. I very much commend the economy that is being practised by the government; it is the only thing to do at the present time, and it is very wise. I support the Minister of Railways in that, but I want to tell him that when finances get better, as they are bound to do, and when conditions are improved, we who represent Prince Ed-

ward Island will camp on his doorstep until we get that subway.

I believe my time is almost up, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion just let me say that I have faith in the present Prime Minister and those who are associated with him; I believe that if they are given time they will implement every one of the promises they have made to the Canadian electors, and they will not perish in the attempt but will win the undying gratitude and admiration of the Canadian people.

Mr. WILFRID GIROUARD (Drummond-Arthabaska) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, there was, the day following the elections, great rejoicing among those who had given their support to the Tory party. Did not the pleasant prospects hinted at, and which were to become alluring realities with the advent of a new government, justify in some respect these manifestations of joy! Indeed, were not all these unemployed to find within three days a permanent job? The workman was to be remunerated, thanks to tariff concessions granted to high financial circles and that active and devoted agency of the Tory party, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association; the farm products were to be considerably increased in value, the sale of wheat was a foregone conclusion. In brief, when all the nations of the world had to face an economic crisis which deeply affected them, when everywhere in other countries depression and discontent were rampant, add to this, in many countries, revolutions and civil wars, the Conservative party gave their pledge, as soon as elected, to make of Canada the only country in the world where prosperity would reign and where contentment and satisfaction would link themselves to an everlasting and permanent felicity. There was reason to rejoice, and I thought myself, that the speech from the throne, represented a program so alluring that it would be in some way a hymn of joy.

I feel quite certain that every member in the house has read Chanteclerc, by Rosland: Chanteclerc was that rooster which was master in his own poultry-yard, he suffered, however, from a delusion; he believed that it was through his crowing that the sun rose and spread its light over the world. One morning, the sun rose without his intervention and we know how great was his grief and sorrow. The right hon. Prime Minister suffers from the same delusion. He believed —or tried to make believe—that by raising his voice the sun would rise over our country, that it would suffice for him to make pledges for them to become immediately realities, that he had but to speak and that, like the shadows of night disperse with the first rays of the sun, so the crises would give way to days of prosperity. Those who rejoice have witnessed the deception and the speech from the throne instead of being a hymn of joy, is a sad acknowledgment of incompetence.

Those who drafted the speech, accomplished a toilsome and hard task; their efforts were spread over a period of many days; by making a complete recapitulation of their election pledges, they discovered that there was one which they forgot to mention to the electorate, they hastened to remedy this sin of omission; and this is why, at the very outset of the speech, they find nothing better to offer to the people than patience and fortitude. Indeed, the opening sentences of the speech from the throne is as follows:

> I welcome you to your duties at a time when the nations of the world are passing through a period of great economic depression. Canada has not escaped it. But the Canadian people have met the trials of the moment with patience and fortitude, and are facing the future with the courage and faith which must triumph over every difficulty.

This patience and fortitude to face the future, where will the Canadian people find it? Does it behoove the government to speak of patience and fortitude, they who during the election period, and since, did all in their power to lower one and destroy the other. All admit, to-day, that the Tories' campaign, on the one hand, aimed at exaggerating the depression, alarming the people and creating a state of general pessimism, while, on the other, by pledges of immediately reestablishing business and bringing back normal conditions, they sought to create the impression that salvation rested with the advent to power of the Tory government. They succeeded, not in capturing the confidence of the people, but of surprising their good faith, and I am sure I am using a very mild expression when stating that the present government was elected under false colours. Moreover, they begin to perceive the danger of their tactics and to realize that the exaggerated pessimism which they spread, served but to paralyse business more and intensify the havoc of depression. They realized that since assuming power our commerce has dwindled in a most alarming way, that the country's debt has increased, that the value of farm products has further decreased, that the discontent of a deceived people has brought on a strong reaction against their policy.

That is why they now endeavour to steer public opinion in another direction. After having tried to throw the responsibility for the depression on the King government, the present administration wish to create the impression that the country is really passing through a crisis, but that it is less felt than among the other nations, and that our country, being young and sturdy, will easily overcome this drawback. They would have shown more frankness had they made these statements previous to the elections, since the economic conditions in Canada are actually worse than they were then. Were we to believe the Prime Minister, it would appear that he went to the root of the evil, to the cause of this depression, and he alone could remove them; therefore, if instead of improving the economic situation is the same or worse, it follows that the government, either have not performed their duty or must admit their incompetence. In both cases, the people will benefit little. I was speaking, a moment ago, of the change of opinion which took place as regards the government, immediately after they assumed power. The country certainly witnessed one of the most rapid feats of wheeling which can be performed by persons who wish to be considered as efficiency experts. First, it is the Minister of Labour who states, a few days after the elections that our situation was not the work of any government but the result of a world-wide crisis. The government's mouthpiece in the province of Quebec, the Gazette of Montreal, in its edition of September 10, stated:

Canada has passed ten or twelve months of commercial readjustment comparable to that which took place in the early post-war periods but not upon as broad a scale. The situation would not have been nearly as bad except for the non-movement of the grain harvested last year. When the grain is not sold for export, the country temporarily at least, must get along as best it can without this new wealth, and at the time of general depression both domestic and foreign, the deprivation is a very serious one. September, "say the Gazette," has shown improvement in the general situation of the country.

The right hon. Prime Minister, on his return from England, speaking to the newspaper reporters, at St. John, made the following statement:

I am delighted to find myself again here. This has always been my feeling on each return from my trips abroad. We are all back, and are very grateful for the warm welcome, unceasing kindness and hospitality of the English people. Canadians have no need to leave their country to recognize this fact, however it inspires you to find the proof everywhere that your brothers of overseas see with open admiration the triumphant progress of Canada. They already grant her the place which it is destined to occupy in the Empire and the world.

I wish to specially draw your attention to the words "triumphant progress of Canada." The Prime Minister adds:

Our difficulties are less, for they are those which a young country is up against. In a sense they can be looked upon as an incident in the work of her development.

What he pictured before the electorate, as utter misery and commercial and agricultural ruin has become a mere incident. An incident, the difficult period which we find intensified by the failures which have attended the carrying out of his policy! An incident, the continuous drop, and, the more surprising at this period of the year, in the prices of farm products! I think it would not be wise for him to hold this language before the farmers of the riding I represent.

Mr. Beatty, also expressed his views on the same subject to meet those held at present by his friend, the Prime Minister. The loquacity of the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway is extraordinary since the last general election.

On march 3 last, speaking in Toronto, the newspapers report the following:

According to Mr. Beatty, the west understands that the crisis is not the result of the market conditions of one country alone, and that it will not be solved by the measures, notwithstanding that they are judicious and timely, of one government alone. People over there are well aware that this crisis is the result of numerous causes which extend to all markets of the world.

Mr. Beatty would have been the object of more sympathy and shown certainly a greater spirit of independence had he delivered this speech previous to the elections. All these opinions show up well the government's confusion, its powerlessness to remedy immediately the situation, a very humiliating acknowledgment of the failure of its pledges and a feverish search of evasion and means to explain the poor success of the policy which it put forth and which resulted only in intensifying the economic crisis, and especially that of agriculture.

Further on, in the speech from the throne, we find:

It will be your privilege to consider certain measures designed by my ministers to ameliorate existing conditions.

And still a little further...

The problems which stand between us and ultimate prosperity are manifold and great. To be effectually met, they must first be understood.

The operation of the unemployment Relief Act 1930 has proved equally beneficial.

Then he adds that the measures taken cannot stem immediately unemployment. What an admission of powerlessness, and what must it have cost the government to confess that they were seeking a remedy. Still, I remember certain speeches where Canada was compared to a patient that alone the Tories could,—not merely help,—but cure in twenty-four hours; they boasted of having in their possession the needed remedy; and yet, after eight months in power, the speech from the throne informs us that they are still searching. If they had the remedy, they did not apply it, since the patient is worse, and, therefore, they may be taxed with criminal negligence. If they had not, they deceived the electorate. I leave to the hon. members on the right the choice between the one and the other alternative.

May I be permitted, sir, on the question of unemployment, to recall one of the sentences which the right hon. Prime Minister delighted in uttering to his audiences:

Some one must be held responsible for the unemployment, and this does not rest on individuals but on the Government. There should not be unemployment in a country like ours, and there would be none if the Government did their duty.

Those words, to-day, are his own condemnation. If the King government did not do their duty toward the unemployed, what must we think of a government under which unemployment is more acute? I prefer a government whose opponents charge unjustly of not fulfilling its duty and under which there is a limited number of unemployed than a government which boasts of carrying out its duty and under which, however, business is threatened, agriculture is suffering and the number of unemployed is continuously increasing.

The speech from the throne mentions the appointment of a tariff board. You do not ignore, sir, that the King government had for the last five years, established such a board which had proved its usefulness; however, one of the first acts of the Prime Minister was to have an order in council passed abolishing this commission. The era of government by orders in council was beginning. The board appointed five years ago had been created by an act of parliament and I have strong doubts whether a simple order in council can thus cancel an act passed by this parliament. In any case, it would have been more in agreement with our constitution and parliamentary usages to introduce a bill to that effect in the house, however, the government lacked the necessary courage. They would have had to answer embarrassing questions and admit that their only excuse for taking such a step was that the officials of the existing board, composed of men who had become experts in tariff matters, would be more qualified to protect the true interests of consumers, and put a stop to the extravagant requests of those who held large interests, those officials composed of his own appointees. Are you aware, sir, what certain newspapers stated when the order in council abolishing the board was passed. The following is from Le Forum of Sherbrooke:

One of the first official acts of the Bennett administration was to abolish the Tariff Commission. This action has saved the country $200,000 per year.

The announcement of this measure of economy has been on the whole applauded.

Now that the Prime Minister has decided to appoint another board, I am rather anxious to know what will be the comments of Le Forum. I feel sure that there will be none, it is a foregone conclusion with this newspaper being so blind that it is ready to worship to-day what it burned yesterday.

At the September session, the government increased the tariff and they intend to carry out other tariff changes. It is unfortunate that their intimacy with high financial circles prevent them from realizing the dangers of a policy which can only lead to isolate our country from the other trading nations of the world.

The tariff wall with which the government would like to surround Canada, is in the nature of economic nonsence. Can one truly imagine that other nations will purchase our products if we prevent them from selling on our markets? Has it ever occurred to the government, that other nations, in retaliation, may adopt Canada's insane policy, and prevent, by a high tariff, the imports of our products on their markets?

It is unfortunate that the government cannot understand that the farming class, especially, needs openings for the sale of its products. As a result of the tariff regulations enacted by this government against the other nations, the export of our products will be curtailed, curtailment has already begun.

China has amended its tariff, the Panama Republic, Argentine and Egypt have increased the duties levied on a number of products which we sell to them. Belgium has warned us which should suffice. And the warning is of such importance that I deem it my duty to read an extract of it to the house. L'Echo de la Bourse de Bruxelles, of January 10,

1931, expressed itself as follows on the right hon. Prime Minister's policy:

Just previous to his departure for the Imperial Conference in London, Mr. Bennett brought down in the Canadian House a bill dealing with the tariff. The tariff changes which were immediately put into force, were adopted by the Canadian Parliament.

It is of some interest to Belgium whose exchanges with Canada have favourably developed in the course of these last years, to examine the situation and to bring out somewhat the point.

The first truth which appears in consulting statistics with reference to commerce, is that the balance of trade is greatly in favour of Canada.

We learn, moreover, that Belgium is, with the exception of Great Britain, its best European customer in the purchasing of wheat, oats and barley, and ranks second or third of all Canada's clients in the purchasing of these products; that it absorbs almost the total Canadian output of zinc ore and the greater portion of that of asbestos.

The balance of trade between the two countries, already greatly against Belgium, will certainly again be accentuated by this last measure.

Belgium can therefore not remain indifferent to Mr. Bennett's projected legislation of a distinctly protective character, and making for a complete revision of the Canadian customs tariff. It surely would be hardly conceivable, that she should continue to be one of the best customers of a country which deliberately closes its doors to her products.

To counteract the Russian dumping, the Government took the necessary protective measures which the situation demanded. Without there being any need of having recourse to such methods in the case of Canada, Belgium could very well abstain, in the future from making her purchases in that country. Canada is not the only country which produces wheat, oats, barley, asbestos and zinc ore. There is no reason why Belgium should not supply herself with these articles on markets which are more friendly to her productions,

I sincerely trust, sir, that the government will take note of these warnings which are the outcome of her policy in commercial countries. We have no need of going overseas to find out the result of a high tariff on the export trade of a country; we have but to examine what takes place in the U.S. What has been, in the United States, the results of a high tariff on their export trade. There were, in the course of last year, conferences where experts of all nations met so as to study this point. A report was tabled in the Chamber of Deputies, at Paris; it reads as follows:

The tariff program of the United States had the effect of reducing their exports by 25 per cent owing to the measures of retaliation adopted by other countries, states one report in the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs, presented to the "Chambre des députés," this day.

Even here, in Canada, since the last tariff changes, the decrease in our trade figures out in hundreds of millions of dollars. Instead of catering to a small group whose selfish views will always prevent them from finding the tariff sufficiently high, the government should busy itself somewhat in promoting the interest of the farming class.

Immediately after the September session, the Prime Minister hurried over to London, where he represented our country. This House remembers his threats? The session had to prorogue at the time indicated by himself, otherwise he would not attend the Imperial Conference.

All his speeches were crammed with the marvels he would accomplish. He would find in England a market for the sale of our wheat and would settle once for all, and to Canada's profit, the question of our trade exchanges within the empire. A campaign started in the press requesting the Liberals to allow the Prime Minister to leave.

The Gazette, of Montreal, in its edition of Sept. 11, 1930, urged the Opposition to allow the Prime Minister to leave in time for the London Conference.

Mr. DORION (Translation): Thanks for your leave.

Mr. GIROUARD (Translation): I am pleased to see that the hon. member is closely following my remarks. He certainly will appreciate the extract which I shall read from the Gazette, a newspaper which he must evidently read every day.

I beg of my hon. friend for Quebec-Montmorency to listen. This is what the Gazette stated:

Upon the progress made with the work of the special session of parliament depends the fate of the Imperial conference, since it is obvious that if Canada cannot be represented by its Prime Minister the results of the conference must be partial and inconclusive.

If the Prime Minister had not left, we would still hear cries of indignation and malediction hurled at the Liberals. Imagine, Canada would have lost, through our fault, the sole opportunity of relieving the economic crisis!

What statements would not the Prime Minister have made on deeds that he would have been able to accomplish, on the advantage that he would have obtained and on the benefits of all kinds that he would have bestowed on the Canadian people. That opportunity was not given to him, and the Prime Minister went to London. He was to blast open the English market. After he had delivered his speech in which he wanted to force the British government to tax food to the detriment of her citizens, there was, in-

deed, a blast, but it gave us no markets. It simply had as a result to lower Canada's prestige. Her representative never recovered from the inevitable fall which his proposals had lead him into. Canadians who could have reasonably expected results more satisfactory, owing to the hopes which the Prime Minister himself had inspired, were the more so disappointed.

As early as November 12, 1930, the Gazette speaking of the Imperial conference stated:

> The Imperial conference is concluding its deliberations. Its members have succeeded in doing nothing in particular and doing it well. . . . . Out of all the fine phrases that had been used at the conference, phareses expressive of the most exalted sentiments, there have come very few practical results. But the interest of Canadian people centres in the questions of empire trade development, no progress seems to have been made.

On the other hand, La Patrie of Montreal, of November 14, 1930, speaking of this conference, made the following statement:

> The Imperial conference, to-day, will end its deliberations, without having realized the hopes which it had given birth to.
>
> At present England and the Dominions have to solve a problem so urgent that they have set aside all the others. It is an economic problem, and they have in no way profited by the work of the conference.
>
> And, for our country especially the result of the conference is extremely disappointing. It was given out that this question would be taken up again in six months time, but the question is of such importance that it cannot be put off.

The Devoir of October 16, tells us of an incident in connection with the Imperial Conference which might be looked upon as amusing were it not for the disastrous consequences to our country.

Speaking of the Prime Minister of Canada and his quarrels with Mr. Thomas, it says:

> Over there as here, Mr. Bennett is abrupt, authoritative and assertive. He puts conditions, wants everything to more as rapidly as he wishes, hastens solutions, and urges answers. Given the opportunity, he does not hesitate to lecture Great Britain's ministers. It is the London correspondent of the Citizen, of Ottawa, who cables to his newspaper, that on the event of a banquet given to the delegates by the Empire Marketing Board, last week—a banquet when the menu contained only products of the various parts of the Empire—Mr. Bennett rose and addressing himself to Mr. Thomas, chairman of the meeting, said: What good is all this publicity, all this advertisement, if you allow the foreigner to invade your market? To emphasize his point, Mr. Bennett pointed out that Russian wheat, because it sold dirt cheap, displaced Canadian wheat on the British market. Mr. Thomas accepted the uncalled for remark without flinching. He might very well have reminded Mr. Bennett, that this Russian wheat, is sown and reaped by farm implements made in Canada, and that Mr Bennett should not mention the fact, since Canada also profits by trading with Russia. Must it be said that, what is good for Canada, is bad for London? Mr. Thomas was welcoming Mr. Bennett, and the host could not possibly be rude to his guest even if the latter's manners were at fault. Mr. Thomas kept to strict etiquette.
>
> A few hours ago, Mr. Thomas made his reply, answering Mr. Bennett in a round about way. It was on Tuesday evening, in London, at another banquet. where the delegates met important business men of the United Kingdom. Mr. Thomas was present in his capacity of Secretary of State for the colonies. There were speeches—eleven all told—and in the course of these speeches Mr. Thomas, incidentally made the remark: "if the Imperial Conference is to be a success, it will not be simply by passing resolutions, not even by listening to the eleven speeches which unfortunately they must be burdened with this evening." Mr. Thomas even went further. "There is nothing so dangerous, in times of depression, than to make use of drugs which have the flavour of charlatanism . . . And measures dictated by panic will not help us."

The Prime Minister has returned from London, and if he wishes to be sincere, he will admit with everybody, that he is responsible for the failure of the conference.

May I, sir, draw your attention to a point which must have astonished you. The sale of western wheat is certainly one of the most important problems to solve, yet, is the Prime Minister aware, and are those who accompanied him overseas aware, that there are in Ontario and Quebec a number of counties where cheese is made on a large scale? They know that the British market is practically the only opening where our farmers can export their cheese; how is it that the Canadian representatives failed to fulfil their duties and pledges towards the farming classes by not seeking to assure themselves of the British market, and not saying a word on what could be done to maintain this market for Canadian cheese.

Mr. LAVERGNE (Translation): The English people do not want to tax food stuff, when—

Mr. DORION (Translation): They can accept our cheese as in the past.

Mr. GIROUARD (Translation): For the last ten years, England has been our best customer as regards to our cheese exports. Each year Quebec exported for thousands and thousands of dollars of this produce. This year the Prime Minister crossed over to England. By his attitude, he made a fiasco of the Imperial conference, and within the last year, the last six months and especially the last three months, our Canadian cheese exports to London have dwindled considerably. In my riding, our opponents gave their pledge to the

farmers that should Mr. Bennett be elected, immediately the price of cheese would increase greatly. The cry was: "Put the Conservatives in power. You will see that Mr. Bennett will travel to London, and once there, he will find purchasers to activate your sales." What has taken place, sir, proves but too well that the pledges given to the farmers of my riding will have the same fate as those given to Canadians in general.

The government tell us that the Imperial conference of London will meet again, this year, in Ottawa. I believe I represent the views of my constituents in telling the Prime Minister that he holds to a policy which has already been found inacceptable; he will again receive a humiliating rebuff for himself and the country.

The Prime Minister's visit to England has already borne its fruits, but to the detriment of Canada. The leader of the Liberal party stated last week that his government had succeeded in lifting the embargo on Canadian cattle which had been put by the British government and that the farming class had considerably profited by it. The present Prime Minister returned from England and the only result of the conference was the enacting, by the British government, of new regulations which will be very detrimental to Canadian trade. The Gazette of Montreal of March 4, 1931, gives us the following information:

> Exporters of cattle have to face a problem: the new British regulations are of a nature to hurt our trade. The establishing, by the British Department of Agriculture, of new regulations in connection with the shipments of Canadian cattle to England has created a problem for the Canadian exporters. The effect will be of raising the transport rates and completely wiping out the small margin of actual profit.

I wonder what will the Minister of Agriculture do in the face of these new regulations. I have but one word to add: I wish to draw the attention of the house to the last part of the speech from the throne. The government know so well that they cannot find grace with the Canadian people, that they end that speech by an invocation to Providence. They greatly need to implore Divine mercy. I sincerely trust that they will obtain it, however, I am convinced that they will not escape the increasing indignation of the ratepayers of this country.

Mr. GEORGE P. LAURIN (Jacques-Cartier) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I feel deeply moved in rising in the House for the first time, as member for the riding of Jacques-Cartier. I also take this opportunity to express again my sincerest gratitude to my kind constituents.

In the past, we had the privilege of being represented, at Ottawa, by truly worthy public men, whose speeches and acts have been reechoed in the annals of this country. Distinguished men like Messrs Girouard, Monk and Décary, advocated in our riding the traditional policy of Cartier and MacDonald, the policy of common sense, fair play, toleration and mutual respect of the two great races which, on the soil of America, received as a mission the safeguarding of our rights and liberties.

Still a young man, therefore better fitted to learn by obeying in order to later lead, than to lead now, I shall make it a duty to try as much as possible to follow, at least at a distance, in their glorious footsteps, and to accomplish this, my only wish, at present, is to continue to be fair towards all those I come in contact with, moderate in my appreciations, loyal in my allegiance and especially to never lose heart. Before throwing oneself into the struggle, it behooves one to foresee and be cautious, but once in it, there remains but to show a courage that grows apace with difficulties until victory is attained.

It is, in my humble opinion, a discretion more estimable than all prosperities. Moreover, when one has the advantage of serving under a leader, whose authority is a pass-word, whose energy is unsurpassable and whose heart is open to all as the Right Hon. Richard B. Bennett is; when one has the great privilege of being favoured by ministers of the crown, senators for whom, each day, we feel a more ardent admiration, it is evident that one would be very wrong not to cradle the sweet illusion that one will unavoidably be useful to his fellow-citizens and foster the greatness of the common fatherland.

The province of Quebec is essentially conservative in character; the last Dominion election resulted in reviving this glorious tradition, and the future will show that the majority of the counties of Quebec will return to the Conservative fold as of old. The Conservative standard will long wave over the Dominion parliament and over the provincial legislatures at present Conservative; it is not too early to forecast that the same standard will soon wave over the legislature of Quebec.

As a member, I shall always bear in mind that I mingled with the common people, and witnessed their joys and sufferings; I shall not cease to love them sincerely, taking a real pleasure in helping and protecting them, while not forgetting above all that worth is acquired by self-denial and fulfilling one's duty.

The time of election pledges is passed. We must keep our word and act. Our leader has fulfilled up to date almost all his pledges: emergency session for the unemployed, partial tariff revision, an essentially Canadian policy, "Canada First." He brought back joy in the farmer's home as well as that of the workman; his economic and national policy, the aim of our long cherished hopes, at last triumphs to the benefit of all Canadians.

The special session resulted in relieving the crisis of unemployment in my riding of Jacques-Cartier. Let it suffice to say that from the $20,000,000 voted at the special session, it was possible to carry out work in the city of Verdun for an amount of $166,000; in the city of Lachine for $75,000; in the city of St. Laurent of $18,000, in St. Anne de Bellevue, for $4,000 and finally in Dorval $2,000.

I had given a pledge, Sir, at the last election to do my utmost, if I were elected member for Jacques-Cartier and if the Conservative party came to power, to induce the government to contribute one-third of the cost of two tunnels under the Lachine canal at Montreal. I listened with interest to the speech of the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret) who contended that the Liberal government had for ever so long pledged themselves to contribute to the constructions of these tunnels. Indeed, sir, the Liberal government had been making this promise since 1921, on the eve of each general election, and never had they fulfilled their pledge.

I am pleased to say that the construction of these tunnels will begin under the Conservative regime, and I wish to publicly thank, in the house, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and the members of his cabinet, for having acceded to my request as well as to that of my distinguished colleague the hon. member for St. Ann (Mr. Sullivan) who co-operated with me in trying to convince our people that we were sincere.

I shall go further, the hon. member for St. James stated that the subsidies for the work which is at present being carried out through the agency of the Canadian National Railway, was voted by the Liberal government. I agree with the statement of the hon. member for St. James, he will, however, allow me to add that, since the Liberal government had the subsidies voted for this work, the people of Montreal had not profited by them under the Liberal regime. The expropriations of buildings only were carried out, but the work itself which interested the workmen of Montreal have begun only since the Conservatives are in power.

[Mr. Laurin.]

In the course of the last general elections, I came openly out as a protectionist. on many occasions, as I had always done previous to being chosen as Conservative candidate. At the last session, I gave my support to the partial tariff revision, and I hope that I shall have the opportunity of contributing by my vote in giving the necessary protection to our industries, our manufactures, our working and farming classes.

Without enlarging on the subject, I shall state that there was a noticeable improvement in my riding. The Dominion Textile Company which had almost closed its doors, previous to the general elections, now employ a considerable number of people of both sexes. The Dominion Bridge, whose shops I lately visted, is satisfied with the last tariff revision and, like elsewhere, a large number of people are employed.

I shall take the opportunity, sir, to thank the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) for the assistance he extended to the workers of the Canada Car & Foundry Company by suggesting to Sir Henry Thornton that he should help as much as possible that foundry. Thanks to the assistance given, the Canada Car & Foundry Company opened its doors again and more than 800 men are employed there at present.

I also, sir, stated that I was in favour of old age pensions. In the course of numerous meetings which I held in my riding, before considerable crowds, I spoke again and again on this very interesting subject. I cannot state that my victory is due exclusively to my stand on that question because the problems which were submitted to the people were numerous and important; however, I feel certain that it brought in a large number of the votes which I received. The people gave me their support, their encouragement and help to carry on the campaign which I was waging in that sense. That is why it is difficult for me not to revert to this subject and to tell the house with all sincerity what are my views in this respect.

Most of the members of the house know the outlines and general principles of the measure enacted in 1927. A committee had closely studied it during a few weeks. It had called in witnesses, heard their evidence and elaborated a very extensive and pertinent report.

It was after this study that the bill took the definite form as we have it to-day. The general tenor is known: it provides for the payment of a sum of $240 per year to people over 70 years old. This pension is payable by quarterly instalments to British subjects

who have been residents in this country for 20 years and whose income does not exceed $365 per year.

Of this amount, the Dominion government, who was in no way obliged to do so, pay, at present, half. The province where the pensioner resides must pay the other half. It is left to the province or rather provinces, to decide finally if this system of pensions to old people will apply within their borders. They must, indeed, adopt a measure similar to the Dominion one, agree to pay half the pensions, defray the costs of administration, submit for consideration and approval to the Dominion government the legislation that they have passed. Should they not care to take any action, nothing further will be forthcoming.

Two governments must, in a word, meet half way. The Dominion government has gone half way; it is up to the provinces to do the other half.

1. The Finance Minister holds in his hands, ready to pass it over, half of the pension;

2. The provincial treasuries have had to supply the other half and the amount of the pension is complete.

Since four years that the Dominion act has been inscribed in the statutes, five provinces, on different dates and for various motives, decided to take advantage of it. They passed concurrent legislation, created a special organization, consented to pay half of the pension, and to-day, their old people receive quarterly, a cheque for $60.

I must here point out, sir, that the Dominion government had no obligation in the matter. The British North America Act gave exclusively to the provinces jurisdiction in this matter. This comes under the heading of provincial rights. An interpretation of our great constitutional charter given in the course of the debates, in 1927, by the law clerks of the Justice department seems to me to establish this point. These legal advisers even stated that the Dominion act would be void if it included the payment of the whole pension and was exclusively federal.

Notwithstanding this difficulty, the Dominion wished to go ahead, do its share and show proof of its generosity.

While the bill was under consideration, very interesting points were raised. Certain members stated that the province whence they come, could not take advantage of the act and would never benefit by it, and this for a very simple reason, because it required from these provinces the expenditure of too large an amount. Their financial resources, they stated, were too limited to burden themselves with such a load. Among these provinces, we noted the three maritime provinces, whose yearly financial statements often show deficits and whose budgets are not very large, in a word whose revenues are limited.

This objection was certainly a serious one, since after four years, we still find four provinces that have not thought fit to take advantage of the act.

This objection brought on another which is not less important. The taxes paid by provinces not subject to this act, would serve to the payment of pensions to old age in other provinces. So that taxes paid in Quebec and the three maritime provinces are used, to an extent, to pay old age pensions in the other provinces, they help the old people in other provinces.

Might I point out, sir, that this situation is radically wrong, that the objection was well taken. Some day, we must certainly pass remedial legislation; because in equity, it seems to me, I am on solid ground.

I shall not strongly dwell on this difficult point. The party to which I have the privilege of belonging is closely studying this question and it will have, I think, in the very near future, the honour of remedying this injustice and establishing a more equitable regime, by having the Dominion government assume a larger and more important share of the pensions. This will be on its part a most generous act as we must admit, but which will come in due time.

It is expedient to help the old people who worked through life for the welfare of the country.

The riding I represent in this parliament, is both urban and rural. One meets in cities, numerous heads of families who have devoted the whole of their life to obscure tasks, nevertheless indispensable and necessary to the economic organism of this country. Often, they have had numerous offsprings to rear; often they have spent the whole of their wages on clothes, food, and lodging for those children and given them the necessary education. Sometimes they earned low wages and they were absolutely unable, notwithstanding all possible thrift, to set aside savings. Sometimes also, they had succeeded in depositing small amounts in the bank, but lean years came, they were out of work and had to withdraw these savings.

I shall not enumerate all the chances there are of being destitute at 70 years old, because one would have to mention sickness, infirmities, accidents and all kinds of unfortunate events which happen in families and of which men's lives are ever strewn. Let it suffice to

state, and everybody will agree, that in most, in the majority of cases, the workers showed good will, ambition was not lacking nor energy, but hazard and luck were against them.

However, during that time, they toiled for the general welfare of society, they were useful to the country.

I pointed out just now the fact that cities perhaps have more of such cases than the rural districts. The Canadian farmers have mostly all good farms or "un beau bien" as they call it. When old and useless, when they can no more carry on the work on the farm, they continue to live with their children, are cared for and peacefully end their life in humble comfort. Old people in cities are less fortunate. With old age indigence is also felt, often absolute poverty. Temporary jobs, too many hardships, shortage of bread in the home, unfortunately this is what too often takes place.

It is on behalf of these cast-aways that I wished to raise my voice, to-day and draw the attention of the house. I know that my constituents approve heartily of all I have said. My sympathy towards the poor old people is the same as their's, it took root in the midst of scenes of misery and sufferings.

I am not, however, the only one, in the house, to share these sentiments. Many of my colleagues have the same feelings. And I trust that by pulling all together, we shall be able to prepare for all old people in Canada a better and more peaceful future.

Almost the entire press of Canada, Sir, the morning following the great victory of the Conservative party, praised the achievements and long career of the statesman that the country had placed at the helm of her affairs. The conservative newspapers expressed their deep gratitude to the great leader whose program "Canada First" had opened up to our party in the old Quebec province an outlet to our national aspirations and given to our cause new life: they praised the benefactor and victor of this marvellous opening which he made throughout the country.

I state, in concluding my remarks, that I see in our party a greater assurance of a national, individual and collective life.

The weakness of governments, swayed by the fear of being considered unprogressive or that rousing the clamours of an adverse press, which, however, does not fear to frighten our wives and daughters by threats of war, existing but in their fertile imaginations, the fear of public opinion still holds, within bounds those whose ideas are the most opposed to our regime, but who, however, have felt the wrath of a nation which they deceived so often.

It is a consolation to think and observe that our honest electorate know how to choose those who truly serve them, which they treat with contempt and reject with horror those who servilely flatter to better enslave them.

The struggle to please a responsible majority, capable of carrying on the work of the Canadian parliament, ended in an imposing manner on July, 28 last.

In a period of great economic crises, and of dangerous political insecurity, the liberal party proved powlerless. Unable to act itself, depending on occasional friendship shirking its responsibilities, it was swept away at the last elections.

Since the voting took place, the Conservative party raised to power, endeavoured to present all financial crises or at least to circubscribe it, and thereby avoid the danger which threatened those who suffered from the economic crises and unemployment. It submitted, at an emergency session, practical measures to meet first a considerable financial depression and to serve in raising the morale of our industrial and farming classes.

Its word of command "Canada First" has always had as necessary complement—not to put off till to-morrow, act—what the King government could not accomplish, the Bennett government took up on its own hook determined to bring it to a successful issue.

The people of our cities and country side will give credit to the party which, in a difficult period did its duty and did not shirk its responsibilities.

The Canadian people in all situations, showed that they can have willpower and the determination to impose a Canadian party capable of being equal to the task and to better serve their interests. They wish to live in peace and security, they want order, they are intent on reconstruction.

Mr. Speaker, this will end my first speech in the house, the first of my political career. However, I trust that I shall continue here, as I always have done in public, to support the Conservative party in all the just proposals which it will put forth, in all the measures which are of interest to my fellow-citizens and compatriots.

When in years to come, conscious of having fulfilled my duty as a straight Conservative, and as a citizen as well, my children will be studying the astonishing phase of our political history which we are to-day, going through, they will tell their comtemporaries: "Our fathers were there." This is the only reward I expect from this amending and reconstructing of our national policy.

Mr. F. W. GERSHAW (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, in conformity with custom and also in sincerity I wish to congratulate the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) upon their eloquence.

In the few minutes at my disposal before eleven o'clock, I should like to tell the house something of conditions in western Canada and to make some observations thereon. In that great country those engaged in the farming industry are rapidly returning to primitive living conditions, travelling for miles to grist mills to have their own wheat ground into flour, mending their old clothing, repairing their own machinery, and in many cases burning their field crops because they are of no value in the market. How can a western farmer pay with 400 bushels of wheat a debt which when contracted represented about 100 bushels? The purchasing power of the people has gone because the prices of the things they require has not come down in proportion to the fall in the prices of their products. Statistics show that while manufactured goods have fallen 9 per cent in value, the price of farm products has fallen 50 to 60 per cent. Many farmers of the west are facing utter ruin unless they revert to serfdom or standards of life which we dread to contemplate. I believe members coming from the west have a mission to perform. They must convince the government and the house of the justice of their claim for more assistance for the producers.

These are some of the present inconsistencies. The textile manufacturer receives on clothing coming from Great Britain a protection of 35 per cent, plus a special protection of twenty-five cents per pound. Clothing from foreign countries must on entering Canada pay a tax of 40 per cent, plus a special duty of thirty-five cents per pound. On the other hand, the man who raises the sheep, who spends long days out on the lonely hills herding his flocks, receives little or no assistance, and I hope the plight of the sheep men will engage the attention of the government. In the iron and steel industry subsidies and bonuses have been given at various times. At the special session, for instance, the duty on many agricultural implements was raised from 7 per cent to 25 per cent. On the other hand, the man on the farm who uses those implements must take his chance on the markets of the world to sell his products. Under the provisions of the Bank Act the banks are given privileges that assure them a profitable return upon their money as far as government assistance can assure such profit. We have the railway commission, which acts as a judicial body in respect to questions arising between the railway companies and individuals. The commission does not expect the railways to do business at less than cost, and at different times many millions of dollars have been advanced to save the railway companies from bankruptcy.

Secondary industries generally are receiving more and more shelter from outside competition, which gives them an opportunity to do business at a profit. In fact, the farmer is about the only one who has to take his chance on the markets of the world, and to-day he is selling his products at less than half the cost of production.

Early in the season the western premiers came to Ottawa and requested that the federal government fix a price of 70 cents per bushel for No. 1 northern, Fort William basis. This unfortunately was not granted. If it could have been granted it would have done much to mitigate the sufferings and hardships caused by the acute and uneven fall in prices, and would have brought hope and comfort to many of those who are now in despair. The transportation companies would have benefited; the manufacturer, the wholesaler, and the country merchant would have participated in the improvement. I would like just here to make mention of the unfortunate plight in which the country merchant finds himself to-day. Out of the goodness of his heart he has granted credit, and now, unable to collect his accounts, he is being hard pressed by his wholesalers for payment. While in Canada many other industries have received assistance, we find that outside of Canada not only have industries been helped, but particularly has the primary producer received assistance. Australia protects her butter makers and her wheat producers. France has an import duty of 86 cents a bushel against Canadian wheat, Italy a duty of 90 cents, Germany $1.62. Many other countries of Europe have, by milling quotas and by import duties, assisted their agriculturists to a great extent.

I have here a pamphlet issued by the Co-operative Wheat Producers of Saskatchewan. It points out that Italy, Germany, France, Bulgaria, Spain, Greece, Switzerland, Norway, Poland, Finland, Belgium and a great many other countries of Europe have made arrangements whereby the producers of wheat are given a price very much higher than on the world market. I do not say that this is sound business. Perhaps we will agree that in the case of Canada it would not be; but why should one industry fail to receive any assistance from the government while other in-

dustries get much? I agree that unwarranted cartels, unreasonably high tariffs, unwise artificial barriers, props and stays are damming the legitimate and normal flow of international trade and commerce, and consequently hampering sound progress and delaying our return to prosperous times.

I have one suggestion to make and one matter to bring to the attention of this government which I hope will be of a constructive nature. In the constituency which I have the honour to represent there are many thousands of acres of irrigated land. Discouraged by the prospect of low prices of ordinary farm products, these men are greatly interested in the production of sugar beets. With a little assistance, this industry could be established as a permanent agricultural structure. Canada has always imported more than 90 per cent of its sugar requirements at a cost of from $40,000,000 to $50,000,000 annually. Canada consumes nine hundred million pounds of sugar annually, and only seventy-five million pounds has ever been produced from raw material grown in Canada. There is one plant at Raymond, representing a cost of $1,000,000, and there is room for two more plants, one at Brooks, and one near the Vauxhall irrigation district. These plants would be built and operated if assistance could be given. They would support thousands of people. They would make work for the miners of coal and limestone. They would provide traffic for the railway companies and work for the railway employees. Man power would be required in the field and in the factories. The by-products would help to feed the dairy herds, and the secondary industries would be encouraged. British and Canadian capitalists have spent over $50,000,000 on irrigation schemes in Canada. Under present conditions, with prices of farm produce as they are, these projects must fail. The Alberta government is interested to a great extent in at least one of these projects. If the sugar beet industry could be encouraged, it would save the situation.

There is another particular reason why this is urgent at the present time, and that is because the price has fallen from $7 to $5.50 per ton, placing the growers in an unfortunate position. I believe that the present Prime Minister is interested in this industry, because at page 453 of Hansard of the session of last September he said that he had met the beet sugar growers, who had asked for a slight upward grading of the tariff to ensure stability of their enterprise. He said:

> If I had had time, I have no hesitation in saying to this committee that I should have endeavoured to meet that wish. But time did not permit dealing with that very complex schedule.

The southern Alberta beet industry is just in its initial stage, and deserves consideration in view of its potential greatness. In view of the over-production of wheat and the pending over-production of other products, I believe that joy would come to many homes in the west if this assistance could be granted.

I have a resolution here from the Scandia local of the United Farmers of Alberta, which reads:

> Resolved that in the interest of the sugar beet industry, this local goes on record as in favour of protection in the form of a subsidy for the benefit of the farmers and everybody concerned.
>
> S. J. Bengtson.

This government has operated demonstration farms in different parts of Canada, and has shown that sugar beets can be grown successfully in this country and that the beets are high in sugar content. Here is a resolution passed by a large meeting attended by several hundreds of farmers in the irrigated district of Brooks, Alberta:

> Whereas the Dominion government has successfully demonstrated through their stations located at Brooks the growing of sugar beets, we hereby request that the federal government take immediate action to relieve the greatly depressed condition of the producers on irrigated land in southern Alberta caused by the general economic situation at present, and aid the said producers by doing everything possible to further the sugar beet industry in Alberta, by either subvention or tariff, and further, the said industry would help to solve the unemployment by creating labour for about ten thousand people for each such factory as at present operating in Alberta.

I have also a resolution passed by the .egislature of Alberta, where the government is neither Liberal nor Conservative. This resolution was passed by a majority of 41 to 6:

> That pending a general substantial revision downward of all tariffs this assembly recommends to the Dominion government that the agricultural industry of western Canada be placed on a parity with other industries of Canada either by stabilization of prices or by careful examination of the incidence of the tariff schedule in order to assure that the economic interest of the farmers be adequately and justly safeguarded.

There are those who are now urging less government aid to business, but corporations in Canada have obtained franchises, charters, tariff concessions, and special privileges. The time to stop this practice, to execute a right about face of policy, is not at the moment when those engaged in the great basic industry of the country are pressing their claim for similar support.

Canada is passing through a period of economic gloom, dark clouds hover on the horizon, but we still have the products of our great natural resources to supply our own market and the markets of the world. Our people have not lost their initiative, and we are not bankrupt in salesmanship. Canadians will carry on with courage and fortitude, striving to realize their highest ideals, striving to make Canada a better place in which to live, and to maintain peace, unity and harmony. With the poet we may say for Canada:

When from the winter of thy dark night
Thine angels of sunlight call,
Oh! waken me to my highest, my best,
Or waken me not at all.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie (Vancouver) the debate was adjourned.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Friday, March 27, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1930-31

A message from the Deputy of the Administrator, transmitting supplementary estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1931, was presented by Right Hon. R. B. Bennett (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the house and referred to the committee of supply.

A message from the Deputy of the Administrator, transmitting further supplementary estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1931, was presented by Right Hon. R. B. Bennett (Minister of Finance) and read by Mr. Speaker to the house.

Mr. BENNETT moved that the estimates be referred to the committee of supply.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): On the motion of my right hon. friend (Mr. Bennett), I believe it has been customary in the past to have estimates which relate to the Canadian National Railways referred to a special committee of the house which deals with the national railway estimates. Has my hon. friend considered that point?

Mr. BENNETT: It has not been the practice in the past to refer all supplementary estimates in that way. This is an estimate to take care of situations which have arisen during the past year and with respect to which the provision made by parliament was not found ample. The railway company asked that this provision be supplemented by the sums mentioned, as will be observed in the estimates themselves. I did not look it up myself, but my information is that with respect to the supplementary estimates it has not been customary to refer them to the select committee, because frequently the committee has not been set up by the time the estimate is required to be passed in order to make it available during the current year. Perhaps my right hon. friend will observe that there is a provision making this estimate available until the end of May, although practically all sums have been expended already or the liabilities have been incurred for which the money is required. Particularly is that so with regard to the largest item, which arises from the shortage of traffic as compared with last year, and the resulting increase in the deficit.

Mr. DUFF: These items can be discussed when the committee meets.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (West Edmonton): But surely my hon. friend is not asking for supply by way of supplementary estimates to go beyond March 31.

Mr. BENNETT: No, only with respect to the railways. My hon. friend will observe these words in the estimates:

Further amount required, in addition to the sum of $51,600,000 already appropriated, due to increase in the amount of deficit arising from operations in the year 1930, $11,410,400.85.

There are these further words also:

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, this appropriation shall not lapse before May 31, 1931.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): But that is not a supplementary.

Mr. BENNETT: That has been done before, and the reason is that the obligations have been created. The bills are not all in and will not be in by Tuesday next, and therefore it is desired to have until May 31 to audit the accounts and make the payments. When the bill comes before the house, if the house thinks such a provision—which is purely a matter of bookkeeping to facilitate the operations of the company—should not be there, it can be dealt with later. The estimate does not bind the house.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Will these estimates be distributed?

Mr. BENNETT: They are in the distribution office now.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I point out to my right hon. friend that the estimates now being presented always will be taken as relating to the fiscal year ending March 31. For that reason it is desirable in every way that if moneys are to apply to the next fiscal year or to another year they should be voted from estimates presented to the house as relating to that fiscal year. I hope my right hon. friend will consider that point between now and Monday next.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not desire to trespass upon the time of the house but I think perhaps my right hon. friend did not follow what I was saying a moment ago. The amounts covered by these estimates have been spent, or the deficits have arisen, but all the bills have not come in as yet. The accounts must be audited before payment is made, and unless some provisions of this sort were made, after Tuesday next they would have accounts which they could not pay but which had been incurred during the year that is past. I assure my right hon. friend that the matter will be discussed again in the select committee as usual, and my information from the railway company is very explicit that this does not cover a single dollar chargeable to any year except 1930. I think I might add that the year of the railway is the calendar year, and not our fiscal year.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I just want to remark that this is unusual, owing to the fact that the railway accounting, while not presented with the general accounting of the government, carried the same restriction, if my memory serves me right. You are asking for thirty days longer for the railway than is allowed in the government.

Motion agreed to.

WAYS AND MEANS

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Minister of Finance) moved:

That this house will at the next sitting resolve itself into a committee to consider the ways and means for raising the supply to be granted to His Majesty.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Bennett.]

WORLD WHEAT CONFERENCE

PREFERENTIAL TARIFF AGREEMENT AMONG EUROPEAN NATIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): I wish to direct to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) a question predicated upon a telegram received from Rome this morning, as follows:

European delegates outlined plans for boycott of overseas wheat as means of protecting their own agricultural industries. Despatch continues: "Overseas delegates from Canada, etc., listened grimly to the exposition of the plan." Preferential wheat tariff agreement among European nations discussed to shut out importations and provide for consumption of European crop at home.

Has the Prime Minister received any message along these lines, and if so will the government take proper action as soon as possible?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): No intimation of any such action has been received by the government, but those of us who have followed the discussions that were antecedent to the congress at Rome of the European wheat-growing countries are familiar with just what the telegram indicates, and the fact that they have re-asserted the position at Rome does not in any sense indicate that it is acceptable to others than themselves any more than to us when it was originally put forward.

INTERNATIONAL BANK

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT TO FINANCE TRADE WITH NEW MARKETS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): A despatch from London this morning states:

Montagu Norman, governor of the Bank of England, who is now on his way to the United States, is going to New York in connection with a proposal for establishment of an international bank to finance trade with new markets, primarily with Soviet Russia.

I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether Canada has been requested to participate in this arrangement.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The answer is in the negative.

MERGER OF PAPER COMPANIES

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): I wish to direct the attention of the government to what I consider a great

national question. In the Globe of yesterday it is reported that a merger of plants is contemplated by the paper companies of Canada involving $690,000,000. The article goes on to give the names of the companies, with their assets. What I am most concerned about is this sentence:

> It was considered probable that many operating economies would result from a fusion, principally by closing high cost mills and concentrating operations at the low cost plants.

I would point out to the government that many towns have been established and many families throughout Canada are living at high cost plants, and I am wondering whether the government would undertake, through the Combines Investigation Act or some other machinery, to see that the public is protected.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The question of the construction of paper mills has been a provincial matter, except with respect to mills in the province of Manitoba. The hon. gentleman knows that it was under his regime that the situation to which reference is made came about, and I know of no power at the moment that lodges in the federal authority which would prevent a mill being shut down. This is a matter over which apparently the provincial governments would have control, being a question of civil rights. The government have no knowledge beyond what appears in the press, and have no reason to know whether it may or may not be an accurate statement of the situation. The Combines Investigation Act clearly would have no application to it.

CATTLE BREEDING CENTRES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. F. DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir). I understand that the federal government is willing to pay freight on approved breeding cattle between the ages of eight months and five years from eastern provinces to the west. These cattle are to be inspected, tested and certified. Does this apply also to the stock within western provinces, or inter-provincially in the west, and if not, why not?

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): It applies to stock to be used for the establishment of breeding centres and is applicable not only from the east to the west but inter-provincially in the prairie provinces, and also from British Columbia to the prairie provinces.

Mr. DONNELLY: The minister says the rate applies inter-provincially. Does it apply within the provinces as well?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Yes, within the prairie provinces.

Mr. DONNELLY: Within each province?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): Each province.

WINNIPEG VETCRAFT SHOP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): Yesterday I asked the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) a question, and I find no record of the matter in Hansard. The question was: Is it the intention of the government to reconstruct the vetcraft workshop burned in Winnipeg last June? The minister's answer was, no. I would ask to have that record made in Hansard.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall see that the omission is repaired. My recollection of the minister's answer was, that he had answered the question day before yesterday.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

CONSIDERATION ON MONDAY OF SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): So that we may know the order of business for Monday—I may not have an opportunity of asking my right hon. friend at the close of the day—is it the desire of the government to proceed with a consideration of the supplementary estimates as the first order on Monday, or will they come on later in the day?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I thank the right hon. gentleman for bringing up the question. I was going to confer with him this afternoon and ask which would be more acceptable.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If they were taken up at eight o'clock that would be the more acceptable time.

Mr. BENNETT: I am entirely in the right hon. gentleman's hands. I thought that if the Senate sat we would consider the estimates in the afternoon and have them disposed of. If it would not be trespassing too far on the right hon. gentleman's indulgence we could take up the estimates first and that would

enable us, possibly, to have the Senate dispose of them that afternoon, providing we got through with them.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have not had an opportunity of looking over the estimates carefully. I imagine they are not controversial to any extent, but we might desire to get information on some of the items before agreeing to their being passed. With this understanding it would be acceptable that they should be the first order of business.

Mr. BENNETT: If it is acceptable to the right hon. gentleman and his friends and to my hon. friend from Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), we will proceed with the supplementary estimates immediately on the orders of the day being called. But if that inconveniences my hon. friends we will go on in the evening, because it is a matter of consent and we are in their hands.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The estimates are being distributed now. This is Friday and a number of hon. members may not have an opportunity of seeing them until Monday. We might have it understood that we shall proceed with the estimates the first thing on Monday afternoon. So long as it is known that the desired information will be forthcoming, and hon. members are able to obtain the estimates at once, that will be satisfactory.

Mr. BENNETT: I thank my right hon. friend. His cooperation is very much appreciated, because we shall be able to get the matter disposed of promptly.

PRIVILEGE—Mr. DORION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. N. DORION (Quebec-Montmorency) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. "Le Soleil" of Quebec, in its issue of Wednesday, March 25, in its account of the debates of this house, ascribes to me statements which are absolutely false. In its headlines of the debates account, we find the following words:

> The member for Quebec county, Mr. Dorion will not tell the house whether he approves or not of Anderson, the Conservative leader of Saskatchewan, in his attack against the French Canadians.

I state, sir, that this is false, like other statements which this newspaper is in the habit of publishing. The hon. member for Joliette asked me the following question:

> Does the hon. member approve or not of the acts of Anderson?

[Mr. Bennett.]

I answered:

> I shall say to the hon. member for Joliette that he will have my answer in due time and place.

At page 301 of Hansard will be found what I said in this respect; it was in answer to the hon. member for Joliette.

> I long for the dawn of the same intelligent spirit in Saskatchewan, for the disapproval of the mean and narrow-minded persecution of all we hold dear.

I again say that the statement of this newspaper is absolutely false, it is moreover a habit of the Soleil and its reporter.

Mr. BOUCHARD (Kamouraska) (Translation): What are the things which are dear to you?

Mr. DORION (Translation): I think it is unnecessary to give further explanations to the hon. member for Kamouraska. He is sufficiently intelligent to understand the sense of my words.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Thursday, March 26, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Mr. Speaker, in making a humble contribution to the debate on the address in reply, I re-echo the sentiments of those who have spoken before me and extend my personal congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply. May I also re-echo the sentiments expressed yesterday by the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) in regard to the wonderful fluency and felicity of diction demonstrated by those who are privileged to use both the official languages of this house. In taking part for the first time in a major debate in this august assembly, may I crave the indulgence of this house in that I am not permitted to address it in my own native tongue.

Your Honour has received already congratulations from some of the hon. members representing the eastern portions of Canada; may I be permitted to speak for those of us who come from British Columbia, and in a very special and personal way extend to Your Honour our most sincere congratulations and our high appreciation of the distinction you have carried to the honourable office you now occupy.

If the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) had been present in the house—I regret very much to observe his absence—I would have identified myself with the hon. member for South Huron (Mr. McMillan) in extending the congratulations of those of us on this side upon his elevation to membership in the Imperial Privy Council, this being, in my opinion, the highest honour which can be shown to any British subject. I think the hope can be expressed, even from the opposition benches, that this is only the precursor of further honours which will be extended to the right hon. gentleman from the highest source in the British Empire.

I think I may be permitted to speak for every hon. member in this house in regretting that the former Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) and the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) are both absent from this house through illness. One of these hon. gentlemen is a valued personal friend of mine while the other is a much respected political foe. I think it is the unanimous wish of this assembly that both these hon. gentlemen may be restored to the full vigour of perfect health and that they may be able to resume their duties for Canada with the same industry, activity and energy which have always characterized their activities in the service of the nation.

Before dealing with the national issues, which are involved in the consideration of the address in reply, perhaps this house will pardon me if I voice very briefly the sentiments of British Columbia in regard to two or three questions which are possibly more provincial than national. I invite the generous and sympathetic consideration of this house to a transportation question which vitally affects greater Vancouver. A bill will be presented to this house later on in the session, the passage of which will affect 300,000 people. On September 19, 1930, the Second Narrows bridge was destroyed by a ship in tow. This bridge involves an investment of $2,000,000 made by the municipalities surrounding greater Vancouver. This transportation facility is vital and essential to our community and to our municipal and corporate life. At this time I invite the generous and sympathetic consideration of the house to this measure when it is presented.

In discussing the matter of the fisheries of British Columbia, perhaps I may have the attention of the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes). I take this opportunity of congratulating the hon. minister upon the wonderful impression he made during his visit to my province. He was neither too big nor too distant to refuse to meet any delegation, and I trust that he will carry out his promise that after this present session of parliament he will make a somewhat prolonged stay in our province and thus become familiar with one of the most important natural resources there is on the Pacific coast. I would sound one note of warning to the hon. minister; we believe in the conservation of our fisheries, but we believe also with equal sincerity in the preservation of the white fishing population, amounting to 20,000. I protest against the introduction of any processes of super-mechanization into our fishing industry which would imperil the existence and livelihood of some of the finest men we have in the country, men who contribute to the life of the province and to the life and food supply of this Dominion of Canada.

I desire to say a word to the hon. Minister of Mines (Mr. Gordon) in regard to a suggestion which I believe has come already to his attention; I refer to the opinion held by economists in regard to the world's gold supply. I have been led to believe—the hon. minister will correct me if I am wrong—that at the present time Canada is second in gold production. South Africa, which is first in this production, faces a gradual exhaustion of her supply, and in this connection I would like to quote the words of the president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who recently said:

> Within the next decade the gold production of Canada might reach $100,000,000, so greater research work should be carried on and every support given prospecting for minerals in new fields.

Mr. S. H. Logan, in speaking in the capital on a recent occasion is reported as saying:

> "A possible shortage of gold might be averted by international action in subsidizing prospectors. Such action" he declared "would be of great benefit to Canada where gold mining was developing into one of the country's leading industries."

I would make a suggestion to the hon. minister, one with which I believe Your Honour is already acquainted, that during this coming session this administration assists in the transporting of let us say, fifty prospectors into that district in the northeastern portion of British Columbia and the southeastern portion of the Yukon. This territory, with which Your Honour is acquainted, is 100 miles wide by 250 miles long and most glowing reports have been received in regard to the possibilities of gold discovery and production. An investment by this government of the small sum of $35,000 would finance a monthly service of two aeroplanes, with a base at White Horse in Your Honour's constituency. This would permit of fifty or sixty prospectors

entering the territory immediately, whereas ordinarily it would take them from four to six weeks. It would assist unemployment in that district and might lead to the discovery of further gold producing areas which would be a great asset for the Dominion.

My fourth point is not only of interest to the province of British Columbia but is in every way a national question. I refer to the completion of an outlet from the Peace River district to the Pacific coast. In this connection I desire to repeat a pledge given by the right hon. the Prime Minister, speaking in the name of the Conservative party, in his famous Winnipeg speech. I refer to pledge No. 5, which is as follows:

> We pledge ourselves to the improvement of the whole scheme of Canadian transportation, northward by the completion of the Hudson Bay route, and the construction of such branches as may be necessary to render it readily available to any part of Canada.

The following are the words I am going to emphasize this afternoon:

> . . . . to the Pacific slope by a Peace River outlet and east and west by the development of the St. Lawrence waterways and we pledge ourselves to aid existing traffic channels and to increase port facilities on the great lakes, Hudson bay and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and to the establishment of a national highway system.

Subsequently to that pledge written by the Prime Minister in his own hand on that occasion, he said, speaking at Renfrew on the 16th day of July, 1930:

> These pledges I have made and by these I stand or fall.

Speaking in the house on September 9, 1930, at the special session, he said:

> It must be remembered that promises with respect to policies are matters of profound importance to the Canadian people and the policies we promised to put into effect we propose to put into effect immediately.

I commend to the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) that word "immediately." It sounds to me somewhat different from the easy, amiable and progressive steps mentioned in the speech from the throne. Again, as reported on page 39 of Hansard of the special session, the Prime Minister said:

> I shall content myself with saying to the right hon. leader of the opposition that we will keep the promises we made.

Again as reported on page 40, he said:

> They were the proposals which were before the people, about which the people had information and which, with the return of this party to power, they expect us to consider. We will endeavour to carry out the proposals submitted to the electors.

[Mr. I. A. Mackenzie.]

Again in regard to the most vital point of all, the Peace River outlet, the Prime Minister, speaking at North Vancouver on June 18, 1930, said:

> After I am Prime Minister on July 28 I will see that my promises are carried out or the government will go out of power trying to do so.

Speaking on behalf of the far western province of British Columbia—and I am not speaking in a partisan spirit—I say we deeply and emphatically regret the absence from the speech from the throne of any reference to the contemplated policy of the administration in regard to this outlet. I should like to advise the administration that the construction of this outlet is of tremendous and vital importance, not only to British Columbia, but to the whole of the Dominion of Canada. By embarking upon such a scheme they would be doing something towards solving the great problem of unemployment we have at the present time in British Columbia, and at the same time they would be building up a veritable and valuable empire in that wonderful Peace River country.

I pass on to the national questions that are involved in the speech from the throne. First of all I come to the question of unemployment. We have been debating the issue in the house for the last three weeks and so far no mention has been made by the administration of what their policies are to be for the current year in regard to meeting national necessities in connection with unemployment. I do not think the house should permit this debate to be concluded until the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) explains his policy in regard to remedying agricultural conditions throughout Canada and until the Acting Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) explains the intentions of the administration in regard to meeting a worse situation than confronted us last September at the special session. I wish to register an emphatic protest against the continued absence from the house of the Prime Minister. I well recall during last September, when we were discussing the urgency of the Prime Minister proceeding to the Imperial conference, the right hon. gentleman arose in his place and told the house that he considered his duty to Canada was to remain inside the House of Commons rather than go to the Imperial conference in England.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): Not those words.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The statement will be found in Hansard of the special session. I submit to the Minister of

Railways and Canals that the unemployment situation is much worse in Canada than it was last September. I can quote him figures to prove that such is the case in my own province and other provinces, and if it were necessary for the Prime Minister to be in the house during the special session of parliament, surely it is necessary for him to be here at the present time, because members of all parties are endeavouring to do the best they can to remedy the tremendous national economic condition now confronting us.

An hon. MEMBER: He is better employed.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That is an insult to parliament. No member can be better employed than in occupying the seat with which the people who have sent him here have honoured him. It is useful now to recall the pledges that were made. I am sorry the Prime Minister is not present, but I suppose the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie), the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) and the Minister of Railways and Canals will assume responsibility for every word uttered by the Prime Minister during the campaign. They must do that or deny his leadership. What were those pledges? Speaking in his own city of Calgary on the 12th June, the Prime Minister said:

> This is a new country and there is no excuse for unemployment in Canada if a government does its duty.

These words are either true or they are untrue. If they were untrue then, the Prime Minister was guilty of what he accused me of the other day when, on this resolution, he used the word "deception" in regard to myself. If they were true then, they are true now, and I wish to repeat them for the benefit of the judicial mind of the Minister of Justice:

> This is a new country and there is no excuse for unemployment in Canada if a government does its duty.

Speaking again in Edmonton on the 13th day of June, the Prime Minister said:

> I say again that I will call parliament together at the earliest possible moment to provide at once the remedy—employment for all who can and will work.

Employment for all who can and will work! What is the condition of Canada to-day? I shall come to that in a moment or two. Then he went back to my beautiful province of British Columbia, and speaking in Victoria on June 17, he said:

> Is there any excuse for Canada to have hard times—if the government is discharging its duty as it should?

An hon. MEMBER: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Then the hon. member is going back on his own leader. The statement I have quoted was true or it was untrue. This is a declaration made by the leader of the Conservative party, the Prime Minister of Canada. If it were true in June, 1930, it is equally true in March, 1931. Again, in Vancouver, the Prime Minister speaking on the 18th June, 1930, is reported in the Vancouver Sun as follows:

> He would undertake for instance completion of a highway across Canada from Cape Breton to Vancouver.

Where, oh where, is the Canadian national highway of which we have heard so much?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I trust, Mr. Speaker, you will not put against my valuable time these valueless interruptions.

The Prime Minister said at Moncton, New Brunswick, as reported in the Canadian Press of July 10, 1930:

> The Conservative party is going to find work for all who are willing to work.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I wish hon. members would go to their own constituencies and applaud that sentiment to-day. I wish they would greet it with applause in the presence of the thousands of starving people in the city of Vancouver, for instance. They dare not do it. The Prime Minister continued:

> Mr. King promises to give consideration to the problem of unemployment. I promise to end unemployment.

I ask the Minister of Railways and Canals, (Mr. Manion) one of the most brilliant debaters on the other side of the house, does he subscribe to that sentiment of his leader? What did his leader mean by saying that he was going to end unemployment?

An hon. MEMBER: When?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Immediately. At page 63 of Hansard of the special session last September the right hon. the Prime Minister said:

> I find that at present in the province of Alberta there are 5,155 unemployed; during the winter it is contemplated that that number will reach 6,650.

I would ask my hon. friends from Alberta if there are not more than six thousand unemployed in that province to-day. I know there are.

An hon. MEMBER: How do you know?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Because I have seen the official figures. The Prime Minister went on:

> In British Columbia at the present time the unemployed number 7,692, and it is expected that during the winter that number will increase to 14,700.

At the present time, Mr. Speaker, according to a recent statement made by the Minister of Labour of the province of British Columbia, there are over twenty thousand unemployed in my province. That shows the success of the policies of the right hon. gentleman. The Prime Minister then goes on to give the total figures:

> It will be observed that the present number is something over 117,000, and it is believed that that number will approximate 177,000 during the winter. If the measures which we submit to this house are productive of the good which we anticipate, we hope that that number will steadily decrease, rather than increase, and that the maximum anticipated number of 177,000 will not be reached. . . . The figure of 200,000 would seem to me to be almost incredible in this country at this time.

But, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that if you make a careful examination of the unemployment situation throughout Canada to-day, you will find that there are over 300,000 unemployed throughout the Dominion. So I am forced to this conclusion, that the government has failed absolutely and completely not only to end unemployment, but even to remedy it, as promised by the Prime Minister during the election campaign; and secondly, that the policies which the government adopted in the special session for that purpose have been proven a gigantic and grotesque failure.

I wish now to approach a phase of the situation which possibly may not disturb so seriously the tender susceptibilities of hon. gentlemen opposite. I wish to review the present situation in the light of world conditions, because despite the accusations unfairly and unwarrantably made against the late administration by the right hon. the Prime Minister and his colleagues, blaming the late government for the conditions of depression which we have had during the last twelve months, I for one believe that the present situation has been mainly, if not practically entirely, caused by world-wide conditions. But, sir, the situation in the Dominion of Canada has been intensified and accentuated by the hopeless tariff policies initiated by this government last September, which have put ramparts of ruin around the Dominion and exhausted the consuming and purchasing power of the ordinary Canadian worker. I desire now to place upon Hansard, without comment, the causes of the world-wide depression, as I have culled them from some of the leading economists of the world:

1. Stock gambling and deflation of unwarranted stock values, and withdrawal of credit improperly extended;
2. Shortage of purchasing power due to defective distribution of credit;
3. Under consumption due to lack of confidence or loss of purchasing power;
4. Overproduction in natural resources products, manufactured commodities, buildings and industrial equipment;
5. Tariff walls prohibitory to trade;
6. Modern efficiency in business and industry increasing production and distribution per man;
7. Failure of the established foundation of credit, due to
   (a) Return to the gold standard
   (b) Shortage of gold
   (c) Mal-distribution of gold
   (d) Failure to accept silver as a support for gold in foundationing credit and currency.
8. National debts;
9. Inevitable decline of confidence as a reaction from the previous undue optimism;
10. Rise and aggressiveness of Russia.

I should like to summarize those ten causes under three heads. The real cause of the depression to-day—this is not my own opinion, but one I have gathered from the various authorities which I have consulted—has been, first, the appalling national obligations now extant; secondly, the impossibility of distributing the limited supply of gold to meet the credit demands that the liquidation period has developed; and thirdly, the rise of Russia as a force and power in international affairs and world trade.

An hon. MEMBER: What about the change of government?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): World conditions will operate whether you have a Liberal or Conservative government in power, but I say that the policies of the present government have accentuated the conditions of depression throughout the Dominion.

I desire to commend a quotation that was given in this debate by the hon member for Macleod (Mr. Coote). He quoted the following from Viscount D'Abernon's Economic Crisis, Its Causes and its Cure:

> If you desire a return to good market conditions in cotton or wheat or any other commodity—higher freights and more trade activity, you will achieve this with greater certainty and greater speed by dealing with the gold and currency problem than by any other means. A fearless scientific diagnosis is the first step.

I want to suggest to the house a very important consideration at the present time. We are aware that the gold delegation of the financial committee of the League of Nations has presented an authoritative report dealing with world gold stocks. The Bank of International Settlements has already been established in a very limited way, but it is hoped that it will develop into a real international bank through which, by international cooperation, world credit and world currency may find a real international foundation. Hon. gentlemen may be aware that the international chambers of commerce of the world are meeting in Washington on the 6th day of May next to consider the question of the international monetary system. I think that some time during the present session this parliament might very well be advised to make representations perhaps to the imperial parliament with a view to calling a conference of the parliaments of the empire or a world conference to discuss the international monetary system.

That brings me back, Mr. Speaker, from the world situation to the Domiinon of Canada. Many concrete suggestions have been made during the course of this debate. Some hon. gentlemen have suggested that we change the gold standard. Others have urged a remonetization of silver, and others that we should depreciate our currency. Some hon. members have made attacks upon our Canadian banks in the course of this debate. I am not concerned with the equity or inequity of these attacks, but I do believe that our Canadian banking system is tremendously involved in the present causes of depression in the Domiinon of Canada. I am going to make a suggestion to this house at this time. I am not going so far as to advocate the depreciation of our currency, the abandonment of the gold standard, or the re-monetization of silver at the present time, but I do say that when we complain about our banks in Canada it should be remembered that during the present crisis, whereas in the great republic to the south of us some $900,000,000 of depositors money has been jeopardized, in Canada not a single bank has endangered a single cent of its depositors' money; so I think we have reason to be proud of our banking system. But let us remember this, that the depositor of to-day may be the borrower of to-morrow. I believe that the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of Finance, should immediately confer with financial authorities throughout Canada and with the Canadian banks, because it is absolutely unfair and unjust if through the action of Canadian banks men in all the industries of Canada are to be squeezed out of existence during the next twelve or eighteen months. I therefore suggest to the government—I am not advocating it in any dogmatic way—the advisability of contemplating the practicability of a qualified moratorium on capital accounts for a limited period. That, of course, would have nothing to do with interest, and there would have to be safeguards established with regard to depositors' investments; new loans must not be endangered; and the moratorium would not apply to enterprises where there was not a reasonable prospect of recovering the security. I should like to suggest that in a most friendly spirit to the hon. the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) who is at the present time acting leader of the government. Now, sir, I suggest, instead of the spurious protection afforded by the policy of tariff tinkering to specialized and favorite industries that this would be a real policy of protection to legitimate industries throughout the Dominion of Canada. We heard the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) say that conditions were not so bad in the province of Saskatchewan. I have before me, Mr. Speaker, the votes and proceedings of the legislature of Saskatchewan dated March 2, 1931. This document contains an amendment moved by a member of the Saskatchewan administration, which reads as follows:

That in the opinion of this assembly—

And I would ask hon. members to remember that this resolution is moved in the face of the wonderful prosperity of the province of Saskatchewan at the present time brought about through the efforts of a Tory government.

That in the opinion of this assembly the government should call a further creditor and debtor conference with the object of evolving some practical scheme for the rearrangement or readjustment of indebtedness and that the government of Saskatchewan request the government of Canada to establish without delay a commission (similar to the Duncan commission in the Maritime provinces) such commission, when established, to investigate as speedily as possible economic conditions in western Canada with particular reference to:

(a) Cost of production of western farm products.

(b) Cost to western consumers of goods purchased by them.

(c) Freight rates in western Canada both incoming and outgoing and generally within the western provinces.

(d) Interest rates.

(e) Debt adjustment and amortization of debts and readjustment and amortization of loans on farm lands.

(f) Home and export marketing of western products.

(g) Relation of the tariff to the economic welfare of the west.

(h) All other matters having to do with the welfare of the primary products or affecting western economic conditions.

(i) In the event of the government of Canada failing to implement this resolution the government of the province of Saskatchewan be instructed to approach the governments of British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba, with a view to the appointment of such commission by the western provinces.

So, Mr. Speaker, seven months after this marvellous increase in the tariff made last September by hon. gentlemen opposite and the wonderful panacea for our troubles advocated principally by my hon. friend from Regina (Mr. Turnbull) we have the Tory government of Saskatchewan, with his own political bedmate as premier of the province, asking this administration for a royal commission to investigate what, if you please?—an adjustment of the tariff to suit the economic welfare of the west.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): During the debate I heard the voice of the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Shaver) who tried to tell this house that if the one and a half million dozen eggs which were imported this year in excess of last year were allowed still to enter Canada that tremendously high price of eight or nine cents per dozen the farmers are to-day receiving for eggs in Canada would have been cut in two. I wonder if the hon. gentleman knows the extent of egg production in Canada per annum? I wonder if he knows that the egg production and consumption in Canada are practically equivalent, about three hundred million dozen per year. So hon. members will see that the one and one-half million dozen eggs to which my hon. friend referred so eloquently and affectionately mean one and one-half day's consumption by the people of Canada. I leave it to members of this house to contemplate the absurdity of my hon. friend's suggestion.

I wish to say a word or two in regard to the Russian situation which has been mentioned so frequently during the debate. Frankly I may say to the administration that possibly I appreciate very fully the motives which underly the adoption of this policy. On the other hand, sir, in view of statements we have heard during the debate I think it is the most fatuous policy ever adopted by a supposedly sane and sensible administration. Now, Mr. Speaker, what do we find to-day in the United States? I have before me a very recent report in regard to Russia and the United States. I read as follows:

For the next twenty-five years Russia will be a great competitor . . . .

And the house probably knows that the plan in Russia is not necessarily a five year plan but a twenty-five year plan. The present five year plan is only one unit of the whole scheme. To return to the quotation:

For the next twenty-five years Russia will be a great competitor, there is no doubt about that. But can we afford in times of such appalling unemployment and depression to forego during the next twenty-five years this tremendous trade opportunity? Sir Henry Deterding said one of the great causes of the depression was the fact that we had removed from the markets of the world 150,000,000 customers.

Remember that last year the United States did a business with Russia totalling over $145,000,000; that United States exports to Russia were over 6½ times her imports from the United States; that there were over forty-four of the largest American companies doing business with Russia on a long-term credit plan; that Russians now owe their forty-four large concerns over $170,000,000; that the United States government does not recognize Russia but her business men are investing their capital and doing business there—that Colonel Cooper who is helping to build the largest hydro-electric plant in the world on the Dnieper river, said at the Senate commission the other day that in five years Russia will buy from the United States a billion dollars worth of goods annually.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest to hon. members opposite that despite the possibly commendable motives which have influenced the action of the government, this policy is going to be detrimental to the interests of Canada because we will be forced to face more ruthless competition in the markets of the world for our surplus products. Now, Mr. Speaker before I conclude—

Mr. ROBINSON: What does Mr. Taschereau think about it?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I am glad to hear that the administration is prepared to take a lesson or two from the Prime Minister of Quebec. We had during this debate a most marvellous spectacle. First there was the contribution made by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne); then we had the contribution made by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull). In my mind's eye I could see a new form of unity springing up in the Dominion of Canada. Here we have in the centre that great stalwart, the right hon. the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Bennett). On his right is his political henchman Premier Anderson of Saskatchewan. On his left sits his own appointee to the deputy Speakership of this house, the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne). "Unity in diversity" as Lord Milner said many years

ago! I can imagine the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) introducing this trio to the Dominion of Canada, and the song they sing would be:

> Behold how good a thing it is
> And how becoming well
> Together such as brethren are
> In unity to dwell.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): And to make the picture complete, for the sake of unity in Canada, we would have the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan) taking up the collection.

My time is about gone, Mr. Speaker. Hon. members from Quebec have already deprecated the attacks on the memory of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but perhaps I, coming from the far west, may add a meed of praise to that great memory. Surely we have sufficient contention amongst the living here to keep us from stirring up the ashes of our great dead throughout the Dominion of Canada. Laurier to-day is of the immortals, and his example and inspiration will always be something to guide us as a beacon light throughout future years, under the splendid leadership of my right hon. leader the hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Mackenzie King).

I wish to conclude my contribution to this debate with a statement of that great Englishman, Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin:

> Canadians, the future is with you. Do not be in too much of a hurry. Your country is for the virile men. Let it be filled with the best. What does one hundred or two hundred years matter before your country is full? Keep the stock that you have and the men and women you have, and see that your future generations are in no way inferior to them. Time is on your side. Maintain your values and your standards, and may your prayers be that of the Greek sailor which has been preserved by Seneca:
>
> 'Oh God, you may save me if you will, you may sink me if you will, but whatever happens I will always keep my rudder true.'

Mr. W. T. LUCAS (Camrose): Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) on the very excellent effort he has just made in delivering his maiden speech in a major debate in this house.

Parliament meets this year, Mr. Speaker, under circumstances differing perhaps from those under which the representatives of the Canadian people have ever met before. It is true that we have had depressions in the past from which we have temporarily emerged, but it is doubtful if we have ever been involved in such world wide depression with so much unemployment in the midst of so much plenty in every industrial country in the world, and in which our whole social and capitalistic system has been challenged so strongly. Every thoughtful person admits the gravity of the situation and yet, Mr. Speaker, it is most discouraging to find, that while we meet here to grapple with and if possible solve the problems which confront us and give a lead to the people who are worrying and struggling to carry on, so much of our time is wasted in political, party warfare, wrangling over tariff issues and trying to decide how the last election was won, instead of endeavoring to make a proper diagnosis of our real problems and then dealing with them in a scentific and business like manner. I do not believe the people of Canada are at all interested in holding post-mortems over the results of the last election but they are interested in getting relief measures dealt with at this session of Parliament.

We have been attaching too much importance to the question of tariffs. These periodical depressions have taken place at times when tariffs were not such an important factor as they are to-day. It is my opinion that a proper diagnosis will show that our major problems arise from sources other than the tariff. The same unemployment conditions exist in free trade England as exist in protected countries. Different countries have different fiscal policies, but they are all suffering in the same way. Most countries have the same monetary and financial system, based on the gold standard, so it would seem to me that a greater study of this question by this house would bring about more useful results than spending so much time in connection with tariffs, especially when we consider the time that has been spent on this question in this house and throughout the country for the last fifty years, and the meagre results that have been obtained. Lord D'Abernon, a well known English financier and diplomat gives two causes for the present world depression. The first cause he gives is a crisis in currency, and the second is a crisis in indebtedness. He attributes our currency trouble to the gold standard, and when we find two countries in the world to-day controlling approximately 60 per cent of the gold, one is inclined to believe there is a great deal in his contention.

With the consent of the house I wish to read a short extract from an address delivered by Lord D'Abernon before the Liverpool chamber of commerce. He had this to say, in part:

> We are in the midst of a severe crisis which affects industry, commerce and finance. It can-

not be said that this crisis is more severe than others which have been experienced before and surmounted, but it is differentiated from them by certain marked features. It affects practically the whole industrial world, unemployment in the United States of America and Germany being, so far as we can ascertain, equal in amount to this country, if not greater.

Another peculiarity of the crisis is that, so far from being produced by scarcity or bad harvest or political disturbances, it occurs during a period of full production, both agricultural and industrial; it does not proceed from any dearth or insufficiency, nor has it been caused by political disturbance or labour unrest. On the one side we have a plentiful harvest; on the other, a development of industry producing goods in larger volume than ever before. So much is this the case that the superficial complaint is of over-production.

Now, I am inclined to be skeptical about over-production when applied to staple trades and the larger requirements of mankind. The more plenteous the bounty of Providence, the more effective the ability to produce, the better for mankind if mankind is intelligent enough to deal with the situation, and to handle the goods efficiently. That appears self-evident. When on the one side you have a vast volume of production, and on the other side you have millions of men insufficiently supplied with the requirements of life, such as food and clothing, the obvious conclusion is that failure proceeds from inadequate facilities of circulation and exchange rather than from excessive ability to produce.

Another peculiarity of the crisis is the complete failure of politicians in this or any other country to suggest an adequate remedy. What is the reason for this strange failure? In my judgment, false diagnosis of the real causes of the present distress. It has been treated solely as a trade crisis, when it should be considered rather as a crisis of currency in the first place, and a crisis of indebtedness in the second, the one complicating the other; both aggravated by defective lubrication through the money factor and through impediments to trade.

He gives as the second cause of the present depression the indebtedness of the world, and he has this to say in that connection:

I turn now to the subject of indebtedness, which is another of the causes of the present crisis. Everyone recognizes that the world is heavily in debt—individual to individual, country to country. What they do not recognize is that a fall in the price of commodities, or, in other terms, a rise in the price of gold, unduly increases the burden of debtors.

I think this is quite true. We are living to-day under a debt-increasing system, a system which is gradually becoming so top-heavy that in time it will break down of its own weight. It is true also, as Lord D'Abernon says, that a fall in the price of commodities or in other words a rise in the price of gold unduly increases the burden of indebtedness. One of the chief problems with which our farmers are confronted is this very problem of the fluctuating value of the dollar. Debts are contracted largely during periods of inflation, and indeed I might say that is the only time credit is plentiful and easily obtained. Take as an illustration a farmer who contracts a loan in good faith when wheat is at $1.25 a bushel and then attempts to repay that loan with wheat at 35 cents. His debt has been increased over threefold and he simply cannot pay. This policy of the banks I have never been quite able to understand, unless it is done deliberately to embarrass the farmer; and frankly I do not want to believe that such is the case. I believe I am stating the fact when I say that during periods of inflation, when only limited credit should be given, credit is almost forced upon us, while in periods of deflation, when the element of risk is at the minimum, credit cannot be obtained. We find that situation in Canada at the present time. Certainly every farm commodity is deflated to the limit and there should be no risk in loaning money on present values; yet farmers to-day are unable to obtain any credit.

I think I am safe in saying that there is a general feeling that Great Britain will never be able to liquidate her huge war debt, which was contracted when all commodity prices were at the peak; and I am equally confident that the farmers of the west, under the present system, will never be able to liquidate their indebtedness contracted when wheat was at $1 and $2. Unless there is a definite understanding of this question, and a solution found, there can be no real prosperity. France has endeavoured to grapple with this question by inflating her currency and depreciating the franc to one-fifth of its original value, and France has not been considered an outcast nation for so doing.

There has never been a time in our history when industry and science have made such rapid strides as they are doing to-day. But there is a growing feeling that our credit and monetary systems are lagging behind. In support of that statement I wish to read an extract from Business Week of New York.

Business in general has given a good account of itself since the war. It has been remarkably successful in establishing a high standard of living in this country by energetic effort in making and distributing things cheaply and widely; and it has done the best it could through private initiative to soften the shock of depression for labour and the investor.

In the course of time we shall understand that this depression had its origin and will have its end in other, more fundamental factors than the management of individual industrial and commercial enterprises.

And here are the important words:

Of these, our monetary and credit system and our governmental machinery are the most

important. Both are a century or more behind business in their development. Management can do only so much and no more to offset their deficiencies, and the stable progress of business is limited by them.

In my opinion there is nothing that will require so much boldness and courage to tackle as this huge question, and I believe there is no man in Canada who has such a wide grasp and thorough understanding and knowledge of the financial question as the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). I believe he is also endowed with the courage and boldness to tackle it if he can only see his way clear to do so. I remember he gave a very excellent address in this house—I think it was in the session of 1927—dealing with the financial question, and no one following his speech at that time could help admitting that he had a thorough grasp of the subject. At that time, I believe, he recommended that a 4 per cent security should be developed and our banks and insurance companies be compelled to subscribe thereto. By so doing Canada would save over $15,000,000 a year in her finances. I might point out in that respect that if our financing were done internally in that manner it might cause our dollar to take a different course and not be supported by making foreign loans as at the present time.

I am inclined to agree with the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote), who spoke a few days ago, recommending the deflation of the dollar. I believe our dollar should follow the course of our trade. If our exports are not sufficient to balance imports, then our dollar should fluctuate with it. This would be the greatest means of bringing trade back to balance, because after all when the dollar is depreciated it becomes a source of protection, and it will eventually right itself.

In regard to the Russian situation, which has been under consideration in the house to some extent, I am not sure that the government acted wisely in stopping all trade with that country, unless they have some intimation or understanding that other countries are going to follow suit. Why should Canada sit back in a holier than thou attitude and refuse to trade with Russia when all other countries in the world appear to be vying with one another to get that trade? As reported in the press this morning, it would appear that even the bankers of Great Britain are now endeavouring to arrange financial credit with that great country. It is true that Great Britain so far has not refused to take Russian wheat. Whether the Russian experiment will succeed or not, no one can tell. It is true that we have been pooh poohing her efforts for the past ten years, but in spite of everything Russia has succeeded to such an extent that the capitalist world is worried to-day more than they care to admit. It may be that some threat of this kind is needed to arouse our leaders to action, for when we find approximately fifteen million people unemployed in the world to-day, facing starvation or living on charity, men denied the right to work, surrounded with the greatest wealth the world has ever known, one pauses to question whether our system cannot be improved. Surrounded by plenty as we are, while in the midst of such poverty, we are like a man in a rowboat adrift on the ocean, with water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink. Why should we be afraid of this Russian experiment? If our own system is meting out justice to the people to-day then we should have nothing to worry about.

Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee in the United States, speaking on the question of recognizing Russia, has this to say:

> Are we afraid that the capitalistic system will break down if it comes in contact with communism? In such a struggle we have the experience of 3,000 years on our side, plus the most dominant desire of the human heart, the will to possess property.
>
> Have we lost faith and confidence in our institutions? Is our religion so feeble that it dare not come in contact with men who say in their hearts, "There is no God?"
>
> I have no fear. During the French revolution, religion was disowned and property was confiscated, but the French people came back The Russian people likewise will come back. . .
>
> The Russian people realize that the present rulers have done more for them in ten years than the old regime did in 200. But I do not think of Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin. I think of the 150,000,000 people who, in their own way and under adverse circumstances, are working out their own salvation.
>
> The leaders are here only for to-day; the people are here for all time. The people will determine the destiny of Russia.
>
> Our difficulties do not spring from these communistic teachings. Our difficulties arise from the unsolved problems of capitalism. The modernization of industries has left millions of men and women where they must adjust their lives to new conditions, to start life over. They are asking capitalism how to do it. Capitalism has not answered.

Mr. Speaker, I endorse the statements made in this house in regard to economic conditions faced by the western farmer. The sooner we frankly face these facts, the sooner we will be in a position to find a solution for them. According to Mr. Legge, the ex-chairman of the farm stabilization board in the United States, wheat prices last fall were the lowest in 337 years. It is a well-known fact that the drop

in the price of all farm products has been out of all proportion to that of other commodities.

The people of western Canada are a hopeful people; they are generally over-optimistic and that optimism has carried them through many of their difficulties in the past. The men and women who have pioneered those western plains, who have withstood the difficulties of frost, hail and drought, who by their tenacity and courage have made civilization possible in western Canada, are not people to be easily discouraged, but I have never seen the morale of those people so low as it is at the present time. With grain prices so far below the cost of production, with such a disparity between the price of everything the farmer has to buy and what he has to sell, with no hope in sight for improved prices, with debts contracted at higher levels, with high interest rates of from eight to ten per cent and the banks refusing to loan money, men after years of toil see their life work slipping from them. The west has always been a great "next year's" country; it has always been optimistic but to-day the farmer is facing the coming season in a state of mind which is more or less bewildered. Everyone is telling the farmer that he should go into mixed farming, but to-day he is the most badly mixed man in the world. His experience in mixed farming has not always been a happy one.

I well remember the season 1919-20 when, because of deflation, a serious slump in the price of wheat occurred. The same advice was given and people pointed to the live stock grower as the man who was making money. In the fall of that year, owing to drought conditions, a serious shortage of feed occurred. The prices of cattle were high, in fact they were inflated, but the banks came forward and voluntarily advised the farmer to hold his live stock and they would be quite willing to advance money with which to purchase feed in order to carry that stock through the winter. Everyone is familiar with what happened. The following spring prices dropped and the farmer was unable to realize an amount for his stock equal to the sum paid for feed alone. This is another example of the policies adopted by the banks, to which I referred a few moments ago. The farmers of western Canada have not forgotten that experience because the ones that did not go broke because of the slump in wheat prices, certainly were broke when the slump occurred in the price of cattle. I think it will be found that many debts were contracted during that period which still remain unpaid.

In spite of past experiences I for one believe that the western farmer will have to develop a more balanced production. There is no reason why all branches of agriculture should not be fully developed in Canada, but there will have to be some encouragement given in the way of better credits and lower interest rates. The farmer cannot continue to pay eight and ten per cent interest and hope to succeed. The proposition advocated by Mr. Beatty, the president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, sounds fine but not being familiar with its details I am not prepared to-day to criticize or commend it. I hope it will prove to be a success for anything which will assist agriculture will receive my support. Where we have a banking system with branches in every little hamlet and the different managers understanding local conditions and knowing every farmer in their district, where we have a farm loan board and provincial credit organizations, it does seem strange to me that we should have to duplicate all this by setting up another financial organization to supply credit.

Mr. Beatty could help the farmers of western Canada in other ways. There is the matter of a reduction in freight rates, and I refer especially to the domestic rates. This matter has been referred to by other speakers, but I would point out the difference between the domestic and export rates. Take two carloads of grain en route from Calgary to Vancouver, both in the same train and drawn by the same engine. Because one is billed for export it has to pay only 20 cents per 100 pounds, while the other, being billed for domestic use, is forced to pay a rate of 41½ cents. This is not a new question because it has been before this house for the last eight or nine years, but as yet no satisfactory answer has been obtained. I think this matter should be dealt with immediately. The other day we heard a very excellent speech by the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis), in which he referred to a possible market for barley. British Columbia is a great dairying and poultry raising country and we in western Canada have considerable feed which would be suitable for both purposes. That feed has to travel to British Columbia under the domestic rate, which makes it impossible for us to do business with the British Columbia farmer.

There is another question to which Mr. Beatty might give his attention, that of a revaluation of company land. A very bitter feeling has developed in certain sections of the west where what are known as C.P.R. settlements are located. Certain settlers, having become in arrears, have been dispossessed

of their property. The company will then revalue that land and offer it to a new settler at a very much reduced rate rather than give the man who has spent years on the land developing it and helping to develop the country, a chance to make good at the lower price. Very often the new settler is a man who has come from Europe without any experience in this country and yet he is given the advantage of this reduced price of the land instead of the man who is here, acclimatized and with experience on his side, being given a chance to make a fresh start.

I am going to offer a few suggestions which I think are reasonable and will help to improve the agricultural situation. I know some of these suggestions have already been made, but it will do no harm to repeat them.

1. That the government establish an experimental processing plant to determine the spread between the live hog and the finished article.

There is no question in my mind that, as I have stated before, we have to adopt a more balanced production, and one of the greatest developments we could make in Canada would be that of our bacon industry. Yet we find that the spread is such in Canada as compared with what it is in Denmark, our chief competitor, that the farmer feels the dice are loaded against him, and there is very little use of his making any effort along this line. In regard to the government establishing this experimental processing plant, we have a precedent in the fact that a federal government some years ago established an experimental dairy plant at Finch, Ontario. Anyone who is familiar with that knows that plant did excellent work for the dairy industry. I understand that the plant carried itself and eventually was sold at a profit. The government could do no more popular thing to-day than establish an experimental processing plant to determine the spread between the live hog and the finished article in order to encourage the farmers to go into the production of bacon.

2. That a conference of the packers and representative producers be called to see if a steady supply of bacon cannot be sent to the British market.

The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman), in the very able speech he made the other day, went fully into this question, and as my time is limited, I shall not dilate on it. There is something radically wrong in Canada, which is first of all an agricultural country, when we consider the fact that last year we had to import agricultural products as follows:

Commodity	Quantity
Pork	22,000,000 lbs.
Beef	5,241,937 lbs.
Mutton and lamb	4,979,227 lbs.
Canned meats, poultry and game	7,029,956 lbs.
Butter	42,000,000 lbs.
Eggs	2,853,277 doz.

Now we find Denmark, which has to import a great deal of her feed, is paying freight on that feed, feeding the hogs and shipping the bacon to Canada, selling it in some cases as far west as the prairies.

3. Lowering of freight rates, especially domestic.

4. A system of intermediate credits for live stock with lower interest rates.

5. Lowering of all interest rates by putting a penalty clause in the Bank Act to enforce the present legal rate of 7 per cent.

6. Encouragement of cooperative agencies.

In the present age the whole tendency is for the development of tremendous mergers and combines. Seldom does a week go by that one does not read of some gigantic merger or combine. We know the chain store is displacing the individual, and the large combine is displacing the small company in order to meet the keen competition with which we are faced in the world to-day. The only way the farmer can meet that competition is by organizing in a cooperative way, because he cannot combine in the ordinary way that industrial concerns do. I believe it should be the duty of the government to bend every effort to assist the development of our cooperative organizations.

7. The establishment of a federal bank of rediscount and issue.

I believe this would be a step that would go a long way towards helping to improve our present banking system.

Conditions are such to-day with agriculture that it is going to require the wholehearted cooperation of every interest in Canada to reestablish it on a solid foundation. I offer these suggestions for the betterment of agricultural conditions in Canada, in the hope that, as the government has done its best to help industry by increasing the tariff, by voting $20,000,000 to assist the unemployed, surely in view of the promises of the Prime Minister to aid agriculture, these not unreasonable requests may be granted. It is recognized that conditions are serious, especially in view of our wheat situation.

It is true that there has been talk of secession in western Canada, but that movement has not received any widespread support. As one man put the matter to me when it was under discussion—and I think this expressed the view of a great many people—we do not want to see secession, but there is a feeling in western Canada that the people of the east do not recognize the serious condition with which the west is confronted. He said: "I do not want to see secession, but I feel that unless we do something to attract the attention of the people of the east, we will get no relief."

The people of western Canada are just as loyal, just as patriotic, and love Canada just as much as anyone in the east. The men and women of the west are playing their part and playing it nobly in helping to develop this vast country. They are not asking for any special favours; all they ask is a fair chance, an equal opportunity to make good. Speaking for the province from which I come, I know of no other people in Canada who are giving so much earnest thought and study to the vital problems that confront them, and who are endeavouring to such an extent to develop an intelligent citizenship for the purpose of making Canada a better place in which to live.

Nature has left a physical barrier between east and west, but broadminded people realize that this vast country with its unlimited resources cannot be developed in any lopsided manner, and that agriculture and industry must march together hand in hand; and personally, I deprecate in the house any speeches that tend to create class, racial or religious prejudice, or divisions between east and west. I think these beautiful lines written by Wilson MacDonald express the view of every true Canadian:

The East hath her genius and culture; the West hath her vigour and brawn;

And one hath the splendour of noonday, and one hath the glory of dawn.

So, God give Thy smile to the Westland, wherever a true heart abides;

And God give Thy smile to the Eastland, and blot out the line that divides.

Mr. W. A. BEYNON (Moose Jaw): In rising to make my first contribution to the debates of this house, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that it affords me a great deal of pleasure to join with the speakers who have preceded me in extending to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address my most hearty congratulations. This might seem to be more or less of a form, but I want to assure these hon. gentlemen that it is much more than that; for I really feel that they are entitled to the very heartiest congratulations on the able manner in which they discharged their duties on that occasion.

Many other speakers have contributed to this debate to whom I should like to extend my congratulations, but so numerous are the addresses worthy of mention that I feel I would be taking up too much of the time of the house were I to mention each one. I would like, however, to join with my friend and colleague the member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) in extending my congratulations to the member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) on his elevation to the very important position of the presidency of the farmers' party of Alberta. I wish him every success in that position, and perhaps the best I can wish him is that he may fill it with the same devotion to principle and the same farsightedness that characterized his illustrious predecessor.

I desire also to make special reference to two addresses made from the other side of the house, one by the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman), and the other by the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Campbell). Of those two addresses I would say that one was most eloquent and the other a masterpiece of debate. To a new member they were not only very impressive but also very inspiring, setting an example that all of us as new members might well strive to follow.

Coming to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, there are some phases of the proceedings of this house which are more or less puzzling, if not bewildering, to the new member; and if they so impress the new member I think it is not unfair to say that perhaps they have the same effect upon the man in the street. I had occasion early this week to visit the home of a friend in this city, a resident of Ottawa. He told me that he had read all the speeches that had been delivered in the house this session, and added, "I am very glad indeed to see someone from the west, for I would like to know what the real condition in the west is." After all the speeches that have been delivered in the house this session with respect to conditions in western Canada, it may seem a reflection on them that a citizen of Ottawa who had read them should have to ask someone from the west what the actual conditions in western Canada really were. But I think, Mr. Speaker, that it is not quite so bad as it seems on the face of it. It might appear from this gentleman's remarks that hon. members who spoke on that subject either did not tell the true story or else did not

know what the facts were. However, I think the discrepancies are more fancied than real. My impression is that there is a tendency in this house, perhaps due entirely to our peculiar form of government, to accentuate rather than to minimize differences. The diversity of the opinions expressed with regard to western Canada is due, I believe, to two causes. In the first place, western Canada comprises a very large area; conditions in one district may not be nearly as bad as they are in others, and naturally one is inclined to gain his impression of conditions generally by looking at conditions in his own particular district.

There is another factor bearing on this apparent diversity, and that is that different people have entirely different ways of expressing the same thoughts and emotions; they use different terms. For instance, the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) who spoke a little while ago, being of the Scotch race, if he were asked to describe a certain condition, might say: It was not so good. Perhaps some of the Irish members on this side of the house, speaking of the same condition, would say: It was very bad. O they might say: It was horrible. They are all describing the same condition, and they all mean the same thing, but they use very different language in giving expression to their thoughts. I think in the final analysis there is really not as much difference as there appears to be between the opinion of the hon. member for Regina and that of the hon. member for Red Deer as to actual conditions in western Canada, although the opinions they expressed in the debate seemed to differ very decidedly. It is well, I think, in estimating the conditions in western Canada to remember this.

A good deal has been said about conditions in western Canada that I think did not need to be said. We are all prepared, however, to admit this, that the condition in that part of the country is critical. I think we are prepared to go even a little further and say it is urgent, that it has ceased to be merely a condition and has become a problem, a national problem so urgent that it behooves this government to bring to its immediate solution the best thought and the best means at its command. Having admitted that much, why do we need to debate at great length the shades of differences of opinion as to the actual condition in western Canada? Having gone that far, that is all that the government needs to know, and upon that knowledge it can take the action that is necessary with respect to western Canada.

There are some other things in the proceedings of this house which to a new member appear rather bewildering. On occasions it appears to new members that the older members are inconsistent in the statements they make in the house. I say, "it appears" advisedly, because I do not wish to do injustice to any hon. member. In this connection I wish to refer to certain statements that were made by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in his masterly speech on the address a few days ago. He criticized the Prime Minister very severely for his action in calling a special session of parliament. He contended that it was not necessary to call that session, that the money required for unemployment relief could have and should have been obtained by means of a governor general's warrant. At page 28 of Hansard of this session the right hon. leader of the opposition, speaking of the right hon. the Prime Minister said:

> Having the opportunity and the power he started at once to use that method in the special session. As all know, the special session of parliament was called for the purpose, nominally, of relieving unemployment. We were no sooner assembled than we discovered that the relief of the unemployed was a mere subterfuge, that the session in reality was to revise tariff schedules upward and to amend the Customs Tariff Act so as to give powers to the governor in council to do what council pleased with respect to many matters affecting the tariff.

Then in addition to that we read the following:

> Throughout the campaign it was never thought that at the special session there would be changes of any extent in the tariff.

Those are the reasons, according to the leader of the opposition, why the Prime Minister was wrong in calling the special session. Turning to page 24 of Hansard of the special session, I find the following:

> Speaking at Regina on June 10, the present Prime Minister said, as reported in the Regina Leader-Post, June 11, 1930:
>
> If the party I belong to on the 28th day of July is given authority to conduct the affairs of this country, at the first session of our parliament, the government of which I am the head will pass laws that will give Canadians an equal opportunity with their competitors outside of Canada, or we go out of power.

Then again on page 25, I find the following:

> At the first session of parliament the Conservative chieftain stated he would see to it that Canadians would be afforded fair competition, or perish in the attempt. Canadians must have their home markets first and afte markets abroad.

Then continuing on the same page I find the following:

I propose, if elected to power, to call a session of parliament immediately after July 28 to deal with the unemployment problem, to authorize national undertakings which will give work to our workmen.

Then, listen to this:

Side by side, I propose to have enacted such measures as will give Canadians fair competition and equal opportunity with the nations of the world.

In view of the very definite statements made by the present Prime Minister during the election campaign as to what he would do if elected to power, it strikes me as peculiar indeed that the present leader of the opposition should have said that throughout the campaign it was not thought that there would be changes of any extent in the tariff. I believe the leader of the opposition was sincere when he made that statement. The undertakings made by the present Prime Minister before the electorate were read into Hansard by the leader of the opposition during the special session. Judging from the record of the Liberal party it is not difficult to understand the point of view that may have been taken by some that the election promises of the great Conservative party would not be implemented were they returned to office, because the failure of the Liberal party to carry out its election promises would lead the people to believe that the same thing would happen with respect to the promises made by the leader of the Conservative party.

The leader of the opposition said we would be perfectly justified in taking this money by issue of a governor general's warrant. If we refer again to page 142 of Hansard of the last session we find the leader of the opposition taking the most serious objection to the actions of the Prime Minister in this respect. He said:

The one exception that I have to take, and it relates to the bill in the form in which it appears, is as to the manner in which the government is asking this house to vote the moneys necessary for the purposes described. Why should there be at a special session any change in the procedure which is adopted at ordinary sessions of parliament in voting supplies that are necessary to carry out the various undertakings and obligations of the government? As hon. members well know, the usual practice, whereby parliament secures its control over expenditures, is for the house to be moved into committee of supply, for the Minister of Finance to bring down his desired appropriations in the form of estimates, for estimates to be fully discussed in committee of supply, and for appropriations to be made in that way for specific purposes as set forth in the supply bill.

[Mr. Beynon.]

The objection is that the Prime Minister did not proceed according to the views of the right hon. leader of the opposition. Yet at the special session the leader of the opposition stated that if the Prime Minister had merely obtained a governor general's warrant, and given no information to parliament the procedure would have been quite all right. At page 151 the leader of the opposition is reported as follows:

In all deference, Mr. Chairman, if we are to be asked to vote $20,000,000, surely we are entitled to ask any question whatever that relates to how that $20,000,000 is to be spent. It is impossible for the house to be asked to vote a vast sum of money of that amount and to be restricted in its discussion of how the money is to be spent.

In view of those statements by the leader of the opposition surely the Prime Minister would have been unwise to proceed by governor general's warrant and to have relied on the opposition giving that unquestionable support which at this late date they say they would have given. I believe the leader of the opposition was honest in his statement to this house that he did not expect any amendments to the tariff at the short session of parliament. And there were other members of the house who did not think the Prime Minister intended to carry out the promises he made during the election campaign. The speech from the throne delivered at the opening of the short session forecast certain amendments to the customs tariff. During the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne a number of speeches were made by members to the left of the official opposition and also by members of the official opposition. In a great many of those speeches I remember the phrase, "You cannot expect to improve the conditions very much by tinkering with the tariff." That phrase "tinkering with the tariff" was used in practically all the addresses up until the time the legislation was introduced. However when the legislation was brought down the phrase was conspicuous by its absence. The fact was brought home with staggering suddenness to the members of the house that at last we had a leader of government in Canada who meant "protection" when he said "protection", a leader who when he stated he would place on the statute books of this country certain legislation, had the courage to do so, a leader who believed his actions were in the best interest of Canada and, was prepared to stake his political fortune on carrying out the promises he had made to the people. When the legislation was brought down the official opposition gasped

for breath. After they had recovered sufficiently they raised a hue and cry against the Prime Minister. This man who but a few hours before had been characterized as a mere tinkerer, as one who was not prepared to carry out the promises he had made to the people, became all of a sudden a brutal, driving, slashing, cutting, blazing, blasting, arrogant autocrat. That all happened over night, as it were.

The opposition have characterized the present administration as a one man government. They have stated that the leader of this government is an autocrat. In connection with that all I have to say is that the Prime Minister must be big enough and strong enough to gather round his council table the very best brains in Canada. He must sit in council with these men and yet be their unquestioned leader. Any man with less force of character or less power is not the proper man to be Prime Minister of this country.

I wish also to refer to the fact that during the last campaign this country was flooded from one end to the other with cartoons depicting the present leader of the government as in bathing and the then Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) stealing his clothes. I thought the inference was very clear, but the Liberal party seemed to have some fear that the public might be mistaken in the inference to be drawn. Chuckling with glee they told all and sundry that the Minister of Finance had stolen the Conservative policy of protection, and that is the policy which hon. gentlemen opposite now denounce so roundly. They vie with each other in the extravagance of their denunciation of it, and urge that it has accentuated the unemployment situation, has been the means of rendering ineffective the Imperial conference, has threatened our relations with the mother country, has threatened to disrupt the empire, and is bringing Canada to blue ruin and destruction. Yet the official opposition was prepared to commit larceny in order to obtain that policy. Another charge made against the Prime Minister was that, thus bereft of his raiment through the theft committed by the Liberal party, he shamelessly stole the slogan of that party, "Canada first." We are told that the Conservative party had no right to that slogan, that it never belonged to them. It would have been a pity if such a good slogan had been left unused; the Liberal party could not use it, because it did not fit their policy.

These, Mr. Speaker, are things of the past. For a great many years there has been much speculation throughout Canada as to the effect of protection upon Canadian trade and the prosperity of the country. That question has been argued pro and con for some generations. At last it has been placed beyond the realm of speculation; to-day, for the first time in history, it is an accomplished fact. We have now a prime minister and a cabinet who are going to give this policy a trial. It is not now a question of arguing, speculating and prophesying what this policy will do; they are going to see what it will do. By its fruits ye shall know it. We have in power now a party which is prepared to stand or fall on the results of that policy.

I do want to point out, however, that the advocates of protection are subjected to a much more severe test than are the advocates of low tariff. You will remember that during the regime of the Liberal party, whenever they lowered the tariff and the price went up all they had to say was, "Well, we have done all we could; we wash our hands of the matter. If the price went up we cannot help it; we put down the tariff." If they put up the tariff on some commodity which we import and the price of that commodity went up they said, "We must have revenue. This is a tariff for revenue only. Pay up and do not split the low tariff vote." On the other hand, when the advocates of protection put up the tariff and internal competition forces the price down, then we are told, as we were told yesterday, that we have pegged the price at a high level, and if it did come down it did not come down as far as it would have come if the tariff had not been there. By that reasoning they can always produce an argument that no one can answer, because no one knows where the price would have gone if the tariff had not been there. That is the burden which is placed upon the advocates of a protective tariff.

The hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) painted a very gloomy picture, not only of the present but of the future as well. He told us that there was not a vestige of hope, that this country has heading for blue ruin as long as the present administration continued to support its present policies. I am inclined to think that perhaps the hon. member does not intend to stand for reelection at the end of this parliament. However, he has a colleague who I believe does intend to stand for reelection. I refer to the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret), who did not want to agree to the propositions suggested by the hon. member for West Edmonton. He did not want to go on record as having said that the country would be ruined unless the policy of this government was changed, so we find that he is willing to take in advance from this government an-

credit which might come to it, no matter what the cost. At page 107 of Hansard he said:

> I suppose after two or three years have passed, in the ordinary trend of events and the normal evolution of business conditions throughout the world this country, notwithstanding the fact that my hon. friends are in power, will again reach the point it had attained two or three years ago, and then my hon. friends will say: We have done it; give us credit for it; we have cured the evil, not at once, but it cured itself without our aid. Give us credit for it. We have at last redeemed our election promises.

So you see that already the hon. gentleman realizes that the policies which have been inaugurated by this government will bring Canada within two or three years back to what they themselves claim was a condition of prosperity. But when that happens, they are going to attempt to deprive this government of any credit for what it may have done.

In the very able speech delivered yesterday by the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), he criticized the attitude of the Prime Minister while at the Imperial conference, and enlarged upon the statement that the empire is held together by sentiment rather than by dollars and cents. The hon. member stated that our trade with the empire is governed by sentiment, but I wonder if it ever occurred to him to consider whether, when the people from the mother country went to the Argentine, they did so because they had a greater sentiment for the people of that country than they had for Canada, or whether they did so because of dollars and cents. When the late administration gave away the dairy market of this country to Australia and New Zealand was it done as a matter of sentiment, or did the people of Australia ship their goods here for dollars and cents while we were selling our manufactured products to them for the same consideration? After all, you cannot make an English miller weep very much by telling him sentimental tales, but if you go over there and talk dollars and cents probably you will be able to make a bargain with him.

We were also told that the statement made by the Prime Minister at the Regina meeting was the most unwelcome statement that had ever been presented to the western people. We were told that the stage had been all set for a great ado and that the thing fell very flat. I will admit that the stage was set, but it was not set by the government or the supporters of the government. The stage was set by the Liberal press of Saskatchewan in an attempt to develop an expectation that no one but a wand-waver could satisfy. For days and weeks the people of Saskatchewan and western Canada were worked up to a pitch of high expectation, but what happened when the Prime Minister did come? I hold in my hand an article dealing with that meeting, appearing in a paper which I do not think can be said to be a supporter of the Prime Minister. The newspaper is the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, which is on very friendly terms with the Regina Leader. The writer sets out the various propositions brought forward by the Prime Minister at that meeting, and this is the comment which is made:

> This is an impressive array of proposals in which few citizens of the west will wish to pick holes. This paper finds itself in substantial agreement with the program as stated and is ready to give credit to Mr. Bennett for having faced the emergency boldly, sifted the numerous proposals put before him and stated his conclusions without hedging. Much will depend on the manner in which his policy is translated into action but, as it stands on paper, the policy is sound and calculated to give the farmers at least temporary relief.

Not a bad recommendation from a paper so bitterly opposed to the present administration.

I referred a little while ago to the addresses given by the hon. member for Red Deer and the hon. member for Mackenzie. We expected—at least I expected when I came into the house—to hear constructive criticism from that corner and from the sources whence those speeches came. I was not disappointed. These men came forward temperately, mildly, constructively, kindly, with suggestions to the government at to what might be done for the relief of conditions in Canada. I think perhaps the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) is sufficiently human not to be averse to being the one who should lead the country out of the difficulty in which it now is. But I will give him credit for this: I cannot refer to his love of party, because he has none; but I think his love of country is much stronger than his aversion to political parties, and I believe he is prepared, though not one of the government, in a position to lead the country out of its difficulties, to give all the assistance he can to the administration in finding a solution for the problems of the country. I believe that also characterises his followers in the main, and I was very much impressed with the addresses they gave.

The hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer) was, I think, perhaps carried away by the sound of a certain phrase he used. I fancy it was sound rather than sense that appealed to him when he said that the reference to agriculture in the speech from the throne was nothing more than a hollow mockery. I do not believe he really thought

that. The hon. member for Red Deer was much more cautious and, in my opinion, much better advised when he said that the speech from the throne might mean everything or might mean nothing so far as agriculture was concerned. That, I believe, is true of any speech from the throne; for after all, all that it is expected to do is to foreshadow the legislation, and the government may carry out seriously and earnestly the things that are foreshadowed or it may try to evade them altogether. In that sense any speech from the throne might mean everything or nothing.

I was quite interested in what the hon. member for Red Deer said about the attitude towards the farmer group in this house some years ago. He attributed the changed attitude largely, I think, to the change in the attitude towards agriculture. A good deal of it is due to that; a good deal is due to the fact that people are realizing, at other times than during elections, that agriculture is the basic industry of this country. I know that for as long as I can remember it was considered the basic industry of this country at least once in four years, while for the rest of the time it was not. Perhaps the hon. member for Red Deer is correct when he says that people have begun to realize between elections that agriculture is in fact the basic industry of the country. I have made on other occasions a statement which I am prepared to repeat here, namely, that the people who carry on the basic industry of this country should have a standard of living at least as high as that of any other class in Canada. It is a very nice thing to go around to the farmer once in four years and tell him he is the salt of the earth, that he is the horny-handed son of toil, and is carrying on the basic industry of the country. But if that means anything it means that he has the right to have a standard of living which will serve as the basis for the rest of the community.

I believe, however, the changed attitude towards hon. gentlemen who sit to the left of the official opposition is due to another factor, and I know my hon. friends will take this kindly. I think their own attitude to government, that is, the functions of government, and the difficulties of government as well as its possibilities, has changed considerably in the last ten years. I think they will admit this. A good many of the ideals they hold have changed—perhaps not the ideals, but the hope of the attainment of those ideals. They know the limitations that are placed upon governments and how far we are apt to fall below our ideals, let us strive how we may. That, perhaps, has partly to do with the changed attitude towards hon. members in that corner. But I believe there is something else. No one could listen to those two addresses to which I have referred without being convinced that these hon. gentlemen had developed in that ten years into parliamentarians of such ability that any parliament, I care not whether in Canada or in the old land, must pay attention to their representations.

There are a good many other things I had thought of dealing with. The hon. member for Red Deer remarked that sometimes it roused his ire when people spoke about the kicking farmer. I was raised on a farm in western Canada myself. The hon. member spoke of having gone there forty years ago. I did so before that. I know what pioneering in western Canada is and I know the character of the men who conquered the prairies. I do not find fault with what the hon. member says because I have the same feeling when I hear people, who know nothing about the hardships that must be endured, and the courage and fortitude necessary to accomplish what has been done in the west, saying to-day that these farmers are always kicking. If you analyze conditions you will find after all that when there is inflation of prices the product of the farmer is the last to go up—nobody's fault, it is true—whereas when prices come down the farmer's prices are the first to fall. When kicking starts naturally the farmers are the first to start kicking, because they are the first ones to be hit. That is all the difference.

I cannot add in this debate anything to what hon. members have said about the question of interest and so forth. I think it was the hon. member for Battle River who spoke about certain practices of the past. The banks would tell a man that if he would come and pay his account, later on, after the first of the year, they would extend him credit; and that was a very trying and unfair attitude to the farmer. I am sorry to say I believe the hon. member is correct in that. Too many cases of that kind have come under my notice for it to be a mere matter of accident or mistake on the hon. member's part. I do think, however, that the head offices of the banks are unaware of that practice; I do not believe they are parties to it. But there is a responsibility upon them. If they say to their local managers, "You must get in the money that is outstanding," and then fail to enquire into the methods by which they get

it in, they must be charged with that responsibility. I hope, therefore, that they will take notice of the fact that this matter is receiving public attention, and I trust the local managers of the banks will be instructed to deal fairly, honestly and uprightly with the farmers, because that is not fair dealing.

Mr. F. G. SANDERSON (South Perth): Mr. Speaker, I should like to join the speakers who have preceded me in paying a sincere compliment to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It is a privilege enjoyed by young members coming into this house for the first time to move and second the address, and I think the house will agree with me that both hon. members performed their duty with credit to themselves as well as to their constituents. However, they were placed in a very embarrassing position because they were put up to defend the record of this government from the time it took office last summer until the present day. They must have known down in the bottom of their hearts, as do other hon. gentlemen opposite that no defence could be made of the record of this government.

They were put up also to defend, if I may use that word, the speech from the throne which was placed by the government in the mouth of His Excellency the Administrator. It was a difficult task for anyone to stretch his imagination sufficiently to defend the speech from the throne. I was rather surprised that the hon. member for North Grey was chosen to second the address, not because of any lack of ability, but because he demonstrated the fact that being a farmer he was put up as a smoke-screen. An effort was made to show the farmers of this country that at least one farmer from the province of Ontario was ready to defend the government in regard to its attitude toward a great basic industry. If the hon. member for North Grey, as a farmer representing a farming constituency in the province of Ontario, can find any grain of comfort in the record of the government up to date as it pertains to the farming industry, or if he can find any grain of comfort in the speech from the throne, then he stands in a class of his own. I doubt very much whether the farmers in his constituency will endorse the defence he attempted to make of the record of the government and the speech from the throne.

I have the honour to represent what is largely a rural riding in the province of Ontario, and in passing I might say that South Perth is a farming constituency which stands second to none in the Dominion. It has a record extending over many years, not only for the fertility of its soil but for the aggressiveness of its farmers. They have stood at the head of the list, not only in mixed farming but in the hog, dairying and cattle industries. All during my business life I have been in close touch with the farmers in my constituency, not only my Liberal friends but my Conservative and Progressive friends as well, and I have never found so much criticism of any government, so much discontent, so much downright bitterness at the result, as are to-day manifested by the farmers of South Perth irrespective of politics. I think the same would apply to every rural riding in the province of Ontario.

The reasons for this are plain; in order to discover them we do not need to go further back than the elections of last summer. The then leader of the opposition, now the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) started out by making promises. He taught a lesson to those who were canvassing with him, and they started to make promises backed up by their chief. They said: This man, the Hon. R. B. Bennett, is a miracle man, he can turn day into night or night into day. He was portrayed as possessing the best business mind in the Dominion of Canada, a man who had accumulated a very vast fortune, and who deemed it to be his duty, if his party were returned and he became Prime Minister, to right immediately all the evils and all the wrongs suffered by the Canadian people. The farmers of Ontario, some in my riding and some in adjoining ridings, took these promises in good faith, but they have now awakened to the fact, as stated by the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) in her admirable speech, that these promises were gold bricks. They were promises which no human being or party could keep. Our hon. friends would not listen to any talk of a world-wide depression; they went so far as to say that there was no world-wide depression but that the present economic conditions in Canada were due to the administration of the government which had held power from 1921 to 1930. The farmers listened, unfortunately for themselves, to these promises.

I should like to give the house an illustration of what took place during the elections in my riding, and I feel quite sure that the same procedure was followed in other ridings. A canvasser would come along with a Conservative candidate and say to the man who owned a farm: You have a nice farm there; don't sell it until after the elections in Sep-

tember, because if the Conservative party is put into power the value of your farm will go up fifty per cent. Not only that, but they were told that if Mr. Bennett, the wizard, the superman, got into power, they would be able to sell their wheat at $1.25 per bushel. They were told that the price of hogs would go up to war-time levels and that although they were getting only 32 cents per pound for their butter, when Mr. Bennett got into power the price would be 60 cents per pound.

Mr. DUFF: They were told in Nova Scotia it would go to 70 cents.

Mr. SANDERSON: So far, the record of this government is a record of broken promises. They kept only one, that they would call an emergency session to relieve unemployment. Nothing was said in the rural parts of Ontario as to the possibility of their increasing the tariff at the special session. They kept that quiet, but the farmers have awakened to the fact that the increase in the tariff has not been for their benefit. It will not do them any good at all, and had the majority of the farmers of Ontario known that at the emergency session, in addition to the relief that was attempted for unemployment, there would be increases in the tariff on about 150 or 200 items, running all the way from 30 per cent to 150, 200 and even 300 per cent, I doubt if they would have voted for a Conservative candidate. So I say that the record of the government to date is one of broken promises. As usual—and this has been mentioned by several speakers on this side of the house, but I think it will bear repetition—they have trotted out their old panacea of tariff. That is the only medicine they can prescribe when there is a depression or when business is bad. It is the old, old story. It puts me in mind of the old days when the medicine fakir used to sell his medicine on the public market. He had a "cure-all" for everything from chilblains to tuberculosis. It was all in the one bottle, which he sold for a dollar, and around the bottle he wrapped a printed guarantee. He said: "We will guarantee this to cure all ills; it is a medicine that will cure everything." Finally, when he had got the dollar from the customer, he would say: "If it does not cure you, you can keep the guarantee." That is about the situation the country is in as regards the present government's high tariff policy as a cure-all for the problems that at present confront us.

Let me repeat that the tariff changes in September were not for the benefit of the farmer, the labouring man, the mechanic or the ordinary wage earner. The only people who have benefited are the manufacturers, behind whom the government is prepared to stand at all times to the detriment of the masses of the people. It is true that at the special session of parliament $20,000,000 was voted for the relief of unemployment, but our Conservative friends said during the campaign that they were going to cure unemployment, to end unemployment. In fact some of the speakers said that in three days after the Conservatives came into power they would end unemployment. I know they say they were misquoted, but hundreds of people who perhaps did not read that in the newspaper, but heard it over the radio are prepared to assert that the statement was made that in three days after the Conservatives came into power they would end unemployment. What do we find? They have not ended unemployment. I want to be fair to the government; they may have relieved to a certain extent, temporarily at least, unemployment in some parts of the country. But as members in opposition pointed out in September, the government were putting into the hands of provincial governments a political weapon; they were practically giving the provincial government a blank cheque, and during the campaign the question of relief was made primarily a federal matter. Promises were made by Conservative speakers, led by the present Prime Minister, that the federal parliament would deal with the relief of unemployment. I am not going into the question whether the relief of unemployment should be a federal or a provincial matter, but I say that in the campaign they made it a federal issue. We on this side of the house pointed out during the special session that there was no check, no audit on the $20,000,000 appropriated for unemployment relief; that the federal share was checked out of the public treasury, a like amount from the provincial treasury, and a similar amount from the municipalities; that the federal authority had no control over the money after it left the federal treasury. That has been proven. As I said a moment ago, they placed in the hands of the provincial governments something in the way of a political weapon that could be and was in fact used. So far as the people of Ontario are concerned, during the eight or nine provincial by-elections that have been held since last September, the fact that the provincial government controlled that money was used, if not directly, then indirectly, to buy votes. If time permitted I could quote chapter and verse for my statement, and it may be that before the close of the session I shall have an opportunity of doing so. But, as I have said, the record of the government is one of

broken promises, promises that could not be kept, promises that will never be kept. The only promise they did keep was that a special session of parliament would be summoned.

As regards the question of the Imperial conference, if the Prime Miinster and the government did not want the Imperial conference to succeed as far as the Dominion of Canada was concerned, certainly when they increased the tariff on British importations they did the one thing that made success impossible. They were defeated in their cause before they ever went to London. I could never understand, and I doubt if the majority of the Canadian people understand, the attitude of the present government in increasing the tariff against the mother country. A few years ago the members of the Conservative party used to wrap the union jack around themselves and parade their loyalty on all occasions. They used to insinuate from time to time that they were really the loyal political party in this country. But in September last they adopted an attitude that, to my mind, is the worst thing they could have done in regard to preserving friendly relations between Canada and the mother country. The Prime Minister, some of his ministers and a large delegation went over to London, but nothing was achieved. There is no use in the Prime Minister or any of his ministers or supporters saying that the right hon. gentleman's visit to London was a success. It was an absolute failure and the majority of the Canadian people know it was a failure and lay the blame directly on the heads of the Prime Minister and his government.

Several speakers have spoken of the manner of approach of the Prime Minister at the conference. In his speech in this house the other day the Prime Minister rather took pride in the fact that he had spoken for only seventeen minutes at the conference. I will quote his own words, at page 65 of Hansard of this session:

> I can only say that the presentation of the case from the Canadian standpoint before the second plenary conference took exactly seventeen minutes by the clock, and there was at least one Canadian there who, although not a member of the delegation, listened and thought it was as clear and as concise a presentation as it was possible to make.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Canada will be glad to know that there was at least one Canadian who endorsed the Prime Minister's statement on that occasion. I would point out to the Prime Minister, however, that a gentleman with his vocabulary and with his temperamental nature can sometimes do more harm in a seventeen minutes' speech than it will take seventeen years to repair; and I imagine the people of Canada, when they read that the Prime Minister presented his case in seventeen minutes, will say: Thank God he did not speak an hour.

The method of approach of the Prime Minister at the conference was one that could not possibly succeed. It is impossible to sit down at a business conference, and that was a business conference, one of the most important meetings which the Imperial conference has ever held, and work a bluff. You may attempt it, but usually your bluff is called. The Prime Minister's bluff was called, to the detriment of this country. The Prime Minister played politics when he was at the conference in England; at least, his actions had all the earmarks of playing politics. By gestures and by speeches he endeavoured to convey to the people of England that if they would only change their government and put in a Conservative administration, it might be better for themselves and for the Dominion of Canada. I say, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister had no mandate from the people of this country to talk politics in England at all, and by playing politics, instead of helping his cause, he injured it. So on the whole, Mr. Speaker, the conference was a failure.

I should like to quote to the house what the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) gave as his opinion of the conference when he landed in Canada. He was interviewed by a reporter for the Toronto Daily Star on board ship before he landed. The interview is dated November 21, 1930, and is headed, Conference a Flop. It reads:

> The Imperial conference was a "flop" to the extent that the economic branch which he characterized as "perhaps the most important branch" failed to come to a definite conclusion, Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, and the first of Canada's delegation to return to her shores, confessed to The Star in the course of an interview before landing.

I will read to you the reasons which the Minister of Justice is reported to have given in this interview for the failure of the conference:

> The failure was due to lack of sufficient definite information about the trade of Great Britain and the dominions, coupled with two complications, the necessity of the Imperial parliament sitting, and the arrival of the Indian princes for the round-table conference now on.

Those are the excuses which the Minister of Justice gave for the conference being a flop. The interview continues:

The Star called Mr. Guthrie's attention to a report in the Manchester Guardian of Nov. 5, of a speech which he made at a luncheon tendered in London by the National Citizens' Union, in which he is quoted as saying: "I don't believe that the conference is going to achieve anything in the nature of concrete proposals at the present time." Asked whether this was a fair report, the Minister of Justice said that it was. "The economic branch came to no conclusion for the reasons I have already stated," he said.

It appears to me, Mr. Speaker, and I think it will appear to members of this house and the country at large, that these excuses which the Minister of Justice gave for the conference being a flop were really no excuses at all. Surely the Canadian delegation had advisers enough and secretaries and assistant secretaries enough to get all the information they wanted over there. I took the trouble to obtain some information as to the numerical strength of the staff they took over, and I find in the report of the Imperial conference that in addition to the Prime Minister and members of his government there were a staff comprising twenty-two persons. Surely they could get enough information together for the delegation to get down to facts. So I say that is no excuse at all; it is not even the semblance of an excuse, and the Minister of Justice is right in saying that the conference was a flop. The Minister of Justice is also reported to have said in this interview that there would soon be a British election and he hoped when it came off that Mr. Snowden and Mr. Thomas would be snowed under and the Conservatives take power.

This word "flop" is not an unusual word, but I looked up the dictionary to get the exact definition. I am sorry the Minister of Justice is not in his seat at the moment, because "flop" is a word which I think he has thought over very often, and probably dreamed about, and so it naturally came to his mind in speaking of the failure of the Imperial conference, in this interview which he gave on board ship. I find three definitions of "flop" in Webster's dictionary: first, "to throw oneself heavily or clumsily;" second, "to strike about with something broad and flat, as a fish with its tail, or a bird with its wings; to rise and fall." The Minister of Justice might have had in his mind the flop that he got with something broad and flat at the Conservative convention of 1927. The third meaning given is: "to change suddenly," and it gives as an example of the use of the word in that sense, the phrase, "He flopped to the other party." Those are the dictionary definitions, not mine. So I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister of Justice was quite justified in using the word "flop."

I should also like to read to the house what the genial Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) said about his leader when he came back from England, but my time is limited.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. SANDERSON: When the house rose at six o'clock I had just finished a few remarks with regard to statements made concerning the Imperial conference by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) on his return to Canada. I mentioned that when the house resumed at eight o'clock I might make some further remarks about what the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) had said concerning the actions of his chief at the conference. I would like to quote, Mr. Speaker, from the Toronto Globe of December 3, 1930. At a banquet on the evening of December 2, held in the city of Toronto, the Minister of Railways and Canals was the chief speaker, and naturally he touched on the conference. He spoke about the attitude taken at the conference by his chief the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's great success at the Imperial conference. I quote from the report in the Toronto Globe of December 3, 1930:

The Conservative party, he said, "certainly is sitting on top of the world, such as the world is to-day."

Mr. YOUNG: A very uncomfortable seat.

Mr. SANDERSON: My answer to the Minister of Railways and Canals is that most people think the world is upside down at the moment, and if the Conservative party is sitting on top of the world—

Mr. MANION: Where must the Liberal party be sitting?

Mr. SANDERSON: The Liberal party will come back to the top of the world when it turns round the other way. Let me tell the minister that when conditions right themselves he and his colleagues in the Conservative party will find themselves at the bottom of the world, in the bottomless pit, and the Minister of Railways and Canals will be with them.

Mr. MANION: As you people are at the present time.

Mr. SANDERSON: But he was not quite satisfied with that statement. The report in the Globe continues:

So much was Hon. R. B. Bennett the outstanding man at the Imperial conference, said Dr. Manion, "that I am told there are many people in the British Isles who would like to see Mr. Bennett one of their great leaders."

Mr. SANDERSON: I venture the opinion, Mr. Speaker, that there is no such good fortune in store for Canada and Canadians. There are a great many people in the Dominion of Canada who would welcome a change if it could be brought about. They would be pleased to see the gentleman who now occupies the position of Prime Minister of this country go to England as one of the leaders of that country. The report in the Globe continues:

In view of numerous press queries as to how federal ministers felt about Premier Bennett's London Snowden speech, "when Mr. Bennett speaks,' he said, "he speaks for the whole government of the Dominion of Canada." In other words the present Dominion government has one mind, not twenty minds, as was so often demonstrated in the Mackenzie King government.

We have it from the lips of the Minister of Railways and Canals that there is but one mind in the cabinet as it is now constituted. The contention from this side of the house and the opinion of most people of this country is that we have at the present time a one man government.

Mr. MANION: So much the bigger man.

Mr. SANDERSON: I can quite understand the genial Minister of Railways and Canals interjecting those remarks. Hon. members knows that the minister has been termed a convert to the Conservative party. His chief has said that a convert never could be trusted, that he was always liable to make a mess of things. However no doubt the Minister of Railways and Canals wishes to redeem himself in the eyes of his chief and therefore is doing everything in his power to achieve that end; nobody can blame him for that. However it is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that we have a one-man government and I have no doubt that the Minister of Railways and Canals will be the chief "yes, yes" man as long as he is in the government. The reason is that he does not wish in any way to ruffle his chief. He knows if he did so he would not remain in the government very long. The report in the Globe contains the further statement:

The Liberal press, he said, trying to make out the Imperial conference and Canada's part in it as a failure. "What, may I ask the Liberal press," said Doctor Manion, "would Mr. King have done had he represented the Dominion at the conference?" What could Mr. King have done, he added, in the face of the attitude of Mr. Snowden? What could Mr. King have brought back from the conference that Mr. Bennett failed to gain?

My answer to that statement is that if the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King had gone to the conference as Prime Minister, backed by the Dunning budget, which has been scrapped by this government, we would have to-day in Canada a different story to tell as far as trade and commerce are concerned. The attitude of the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King at Imperial conferences is one of which the people of this country are proud. They are sorry that in the turn of the political wheel he did not have an opportunity to attend the conference.

Mr. MANION: They showed how anxious they were to send him there by keeping him at home.

Mr. SANDERSON: If the Minister of Railways and Canals has any questions to ask I would be pleased if he would observe the courtesies of the house and rise when asking them.

Mr. MANION: I did not ask a question.

Mr. VENIOT: Hon. members hope the Minister of Railways and Canals will make a speech at a later time in this debate.

Mr. SANDERSON: Considering the limited time at my disposal, I hope, sir, that these interruptions will not be deducted from my forty minutes. However we can always depend on the Minister of Railways and Canals to come to the rescue of the Tory party. There was a time in his political history when he was a Liberal but now he is a Tory of the Tories.

Mr. MANION: Since I have become older I have gained in knowledge.

Mr. SANDERSON: The hon. gentleman has not gained in knowledge from experience, and sometimes I think he is very, very sorry he burned his bridges behind him.

I have given the opinion of another minister of the crown concerning the alleged success of the Prime Minister at the Imperial conference. I have not time to quote further from the speech of the Minister of Railways and Canals. May I just say, however, that he was in a very jovial mood on the night he made that speech, and during the course of his remarks he said, as he had said

so often during the campaign, that the conditions in Canada to-day and the depression in our trade and commerce could all be laid at the door of the Mackenzie King government.

Other opinions, however, have been expressed in regard to Canada's part in the Imperial conference, and in that connection I want to quote to the house a letter which appeared in the Toronto Star of December 6, 1930. This article is credited to a gentleman named E. H. Durnin. I do not know him; I am uninformed as to his political views, but apparently he has kept in touch with the proceedings of the Imperial conference and the politics of the day in the Dominion of Canada. In a letter addressed to the editor of the Toronto Star Mr. Durnin has this to say:

> Sir, what a hum about this humbug! What a blazing blast from the bellows! Mr. Bennett blasted his way into the party leadership. He blasted his way to the premiership. He blasted his way through the special session of parliament. He did his darndest to blast his way through the Imperial conference. Now he has blasted this blasted Thomas. He is trying to blast Ramsay MacDonald, Thomas, et al from office. What a blast this blasting blaster has blasted!
>
> Well might this brilliant, able, vain and pompous man cry: "My kingdom for a sense of humour!" The late Elbert Hubbard had a maxim, "Don't take yourself too damned seriously."
>
> Mr. Thomas' neglect to come back at Mr. Bennett leaves this august gentleman in a prolonged poise of pained and painful perpendicularity, a position of vindicated and isolated splendour. The devil of it is to get down again from a place like that.

That is the opinion of at least one Canadian voter, apparently a gentleman who is versed in the politics of the country.

Now I should like to point to some of the remarks made by the Prime Minister himself since he came back from the conference. The house will remember, as the country remembers well, that during the election of last summer the leader of the Conservative party, and all the members of that party, laid the blame for the depression solely at the door of the King administration. They would not listen to anything about world depression, although we were in the midst of a world depression. I want to say, however, that there was not a country in the world which came through the depression in better shape than Canada, and this was largely due to the wise, honest and able administration of the King government over a period of nine years.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman has been speaking for forty minutes.

Mr. D. M. KENNEDY (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, at the risk of repeating some of the things that have been said during this debate from this corner of the house and from across the way as well, I intend to speak to-night on conditions in western Canada, having special reference to that part of western Canada with which I am most familiar, northern Alberta and the Peace river country.

Conditions are serious, and very serious, for a very large percentage of the farmers in the Peace river and northern Alberta districts, though I believe they are no worse than they are in most sections of the three prairie provinces. It has been said by a great many that the adverse conditions have been brought about by a wrong policy as far as the western people are concerned, but I think there is a very special reason why western Canada has produced wheat in preference to everything else. The reason is that the country is suited for it, and year in and year out it pays better than any other kind of farming. The farmers of western Canada, like those of eastern Canada, can be depended upon to change to any other kind of farming when it can be demonstrated that the other kind of farming will pay them better, and the best interests of western Canada and of Canada as a whole depend on the western farmers carrying on the business which pays them best.

I should like to quote a few figures for the year 1927, which is the last year for which complete statistics regarding total production are given in the Canada Year Book of 1930. The total net production of the three prairie provinces was $978,608,283. This includes the production in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, trapping, mining, electric power, construction, custom and repair, and manufactures. Out of that total, agriculture contributed $761,206,000, or about 70 per cent of the total. The gross value of field crops was $703,028,300, and of this amount wheat made up about $400,000,000, or roughly 60 per cent. It is easy to see the importance of the wheat crop as fas as western Canada is concerned, but it should not be forgotten that it is also very important as far as eastern Canada is concerned. In this connection I should like to quote the words of the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) when he was sitting on this side of the house some years ago. I refer to the session of 1926, and I am reading from page 1926 of the second volume of Hansard for that year:

> When you remember how difficult this country's economic condition is, when you remember that we have two and a half billion dollars of a debt, and are obliged to raise close on to four hundred million dollars a year, the real problem is where and how we can most readily create new wealth. New wealth is more

readily created in the west than in any other part of the dominion; I do not think there can be any doubt about that. And it is not from any sectional point of view that I make that observation. Every Canadian must be proud of the fact that a population of less than two million produced, in the year 1925, wealth to the value of $900,000,000. There is no doubt that the purchasing power of eastern Canada has been increased many fold as the result of that money having been made available in Canada at this time.

The price of wheat is the basic condition governing the economic life of the farmer. Of course, wheat is chiefly an export product. The other products of mixed farming, such as beef, other meats, dairy products and so on, are chiefly sold in the home market, but in a general way the prices of these other products follow the price of wheat. If wheat goes up they go up, and if wheat goes down they go down. Cheap wheat means cheap dairy products, though of course the fluctuations may be more violent and more sudden in one commodity than in another. In a general way, however, they follow each other. Wheat is the chief source of revenue of the western farmer and will continue to be such until something can be produced more cheaply which will bring in as much or more revenue.

The criticism that is levelled at western farmers to-day is in a great many cases of the cheapest and poorest kind. It is always easy to come along to someone who happens to be in difficulty, regardless of whether it happens to be a manufacturer, a farmer or somebody else, and say, "If you had done something different some time ago this would not have happened." I am convinced to-day that no other policy which the western farmers could have followed would have left them in any better condition than they are at present.

A good deal of the criticism advanced against the western farmer to-day is based on a one year view, but farming is a permanent occupation; it is a lifetime work. The basic success or failure of any policy with regard to farming in any part of Canada, or the conduct of any farmer, must be judged not on any one year, however good or bad that year may have been, but on a series of years, from slump to slump or around the business cycle. I have tried mixed farming, and I would be a lot better off to-day if I had refused to have anything to do with it and had grown only wheat. I merely wish to say that we cannot find any way out of our responsibility, and the government cannot find any way out of its responsibility, by arguing that the farmers were following a wrong policy through laziness or ignorance, and that they would have been well off if they had followed some other line.

[Mr. D. M. Kennedy.]

What would be the effect on Ontario and Quebec if the west swung rapidly into mixed farming? Beef and other meats, as well as a lot of our dairy products, are sold in the home market, and I think the chief worry of our dairymen now is that apparently they will have a large export surplus in a few years, and our protection against New Zealand or any other part of the world will not make any difference with regard to the price of butter, whatever may have been its value in the meantime. I have yet to learn that conditions in the mixed farming areas of the west, or of the east for that matter, are very much better than the conditions which prevail generally in the wheat farming areas. Of course the business of trying to find fault and to place the blame on someone else is as old as human nature itself. The Book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible, they tell us, and I suppose the Bible is the oldest book we have. A few of Job's friends came to comfort him when he was very ill. They sat down for about seven days studying his illness and his troubles, and no doubt thinking of the sins he must have committed to have come into such desperate circumstances. Some of the farmers' critics and advisers remind me of Eliphaz the Temanite when he said to Job:

> Think now, what guiltless man has ever perished?
> When have the just ever been swept away?
> Men as I see it, reap the evil that they plough;
> The trouble that they sow.

And a good many other people who have no better solution for the economic ills of Canada try to take that position with regard to the farmers of the west. I am not saying anything about the east; I am speaking for the part of the country I know. It may be the same in the east for all I know.

We have had our share of mixed farming experiments in Alberta. We had the Duncan Marshall cow bill and the experiment was not a great success. In the year 1919 or 1920 the Alberta government and the banks in western Canada made strenuous efforts to get the wheat farmers of northern Alberta to go into the cattle business, and a great many men who were encouraged to secure loans and bought cattle in 1919 and 1920 were forced to sell their cattle a few years later at a price not much more than 25 per cent of their original cost. Let me emphasize, therefore, that the mixed farming game is not all sunshine, any more than the wheat business. The Fordney-McCumber tariff, a few dry seasons, and a shortage of feed put the cattle business

in 1922 just in about the same difficult position as the wheat business is in to-day.

Fixing the blame may be very interesting, but we ought for a little while to try to ascertain what methods might be applied to ease the situation. Many farmers who have been following the wheat business in the west are not in difficult straits to-day. Many of them are well off and can stand one or two seasons such as we had in 1930. There are not very many such farmers—not a very high percentage, but still some. Another percentage, not very high, would be fairly well off had they not indulged in speculation; the two-dollar-wheat idea hurt many western farmers. On the other hand, I do not know of a single farmer who made any profit in farming operations in the west in 1930. There may be some, but I do not know of any.

Western Canada has been advertised by governments and government departments and officials as a place where anyone who was willing to work could settle and within a reasonable time build up a farm home where he and his family would be comfortable. A great many people took us at our word and came, and there is a tremendously large percentage of farmers in the west who have been struggling along for the last ten, fifteen or twenty years, some of them saving a little each year, building up an increased equity in their farms and farm property year by year. But they have never reached the stage where they have been completely out of debt, and now they are faced with a situation which threatens ruin. Because of the shrinkage in their credit, due to falling prices, with the consequent wiping out of practically the whole equity in their farms, they find that notwithstanding the thrift of years they are likely to be wiped out unless something is done for them. Now I submit that this is one class of settler which no government or party, no parliament, can afford to see quit. There are, of course, farmers who will not make good no matter what is done for them, and with these I suppose we need not greatly concern ourselves. But as regards those farmers of a reasonably thrifty type, who have been using their credit to the limit in the hope of building up for themselves real homes—farmers who have been compelled by financial circumstances and the needs of their business to use their credit—for every such farmer whom we allow to go out of business, or have his farm property, the land already under cultivation, go down for lack of proper attention in 1931, this government and parliament will have failed in their duty and will deserve the condemnation of the Canadian people. Unless provision is made to take care of this type of farmer in 1931, western agriculture will suffer very seriously. These farmers have been heavily hit by the slump in prices. The facts, of course, could not be otherwise when one considers that this year's crop is selling so enormously below cost of production.

A number of people, and some members of this house, have asked, what is the cost of producing a bushel of wheat? Of course, the cost varies according to the season. It is affected by weather and various other influences. However, some figures are available, figures which are fairly authoritative, taking into consideration the facts that have been studied and the years that have come under review. Anyone who wishes to consult the evidence given before the committee on agricultural conditions a few years ago will find some illuminating facts reported. Back in 1924, Professor H. C. Grant, of the Manitoba Agricultural college, gave evidence before the special committee on agricultural conditions. He made a special study of cost of production in Manitoba in 1923. He found the cost in Portage district to be $1.41 per bushel; in Deloraine $1.08 per bushel; and in Waskada 92 cents per bushel. These were costs on summer-fallow land.

Some figures were given recently in the Farm and Ranch Review of Calgary, by Mr. C. W. Peterson, in an editorial entitled "The Agricultural Crisis and its Antidote." He gives cost of production figures for 1912, 1913, 1919 and 1920, and an estimate for later years. From a section headed Some Useful Figures, I quote:

> I have analyzed the very carefully kept accounts of a large western farm operated by myself and a few others for many years and quote below figures for a pre-war and a post-war period of two years each. They throw some useful light on the subject of comparative agricultural operating costs. These figures illustrate farming as an industrial proposition. They embrace depreciation, overhead, management, and all the items of a business statement. The average, smaller farmer would ignore many of these items and show a smaller operating cost per acre.

	Pre-war		Post-war	
	1912	1913	1919	1920
Bushels per acre	17.57	31.50	12.91	20.50
Average price per bushel received	0.62	0.71	1.81	2.03
Total operating cost	$12,587 00	$17,506 73	$43,686 53	$54,340 43
Net profit for year	2,944 27	13,154 68	5,881 36	22,835 79
Cost per acre	9 16	14 44	21 84	30 90
Cost per bushel	0 52	0 47	1 68	1 50

Farm Operating Costs

This little statement contains a lot of useful information. It shows, for instance, that wheat below the dollar mark holds no terror whatever for the farmer operating on a comparable cost basis. It also clearly shows that pre-war prices and post-war operating costs will inevitably lead to swift destruction. It should be mentioned, however, that the 1919-20 operating basis cannot fairly be used in estimating present costs. Our accounts indicate a reduction of approximately 20 per cent by 1925 and a further 10 per cent by 1929. This would give us a cost of somewhere around a dollar a bushel on a twenty-bushel-an-acre crop. The small farmer would "cut corners" on this, by eliminating the larger overhead of the big farm, and, in a rough and ready way, perhaps cut it to from 50 to 70 cents actual cost.

The farm price of wheat at this writing ranges around 45 cents per bushel.

The cutting of corners and the eliminating of overhead by the small farmer would mean the conscripting of the labour of his family, for labour on the land.

The price received at Calgary, Edmonton and other points in the west for this wheat costing 50 cents to one dollar per bushel was around 45 cents. It must be remembered that the average wheat this year in western Canada will not be No. 1 northern but something around No. 3 tough, which brings about 15 cents per bushel less. Since that time wheat at Edmonton and Calgary has dropped to about 35 cents per bushel, with No. 3 tough bringing about 25 cents. That gives a true picture of the farming industry in western Canada, and I ask this house: what would have happened if the same conditions prevailed in connection with any other line of business? What would this government do if the railways were in similar condition? What would it do if the manufacturers were faced with such a crisis? I submit that whatever it would do for those industries ought to be done for the great basic industry of agriculture. In the propaganda sent out by our Conservative friends during the last elections we find the following:

We pledge ourselves to provide such a compensating adjustment as will assure the benefit of the above policies to every part of Canada.

I have in my hand a statement with reference to a car of wheat shipped from Fairview. The freight rate to Vancouver is 26½ cents per 100 pounds. This was a pool shipment and the car contained around 1,700 bushels of wheat. The initial payment by the pool was 32 cents for grade No. 4 tough. It was No. 2 northern at the time of cutting, but bad weather degraded it. The railway people took $262.73 for freight. The farmer received $209.70, a smaller amount than that received by the railway people. The other charges amounted to $66.50. The cost of threshing was $170 and the hauling charges amounted to $85, so that the wheat returned to the farmer a smaller amount than what it had cost him to thresh and haul. Taking it altogether, that gives a very true picture of what is happening to-day in western Canada.

The statement of Mr. Peterson, of the Farm and Ranch Review, is based on an average crop of 20 bushels per acre, but the average western crop is nearer to 17 bushels and instead of being No. 1 northern it comes closer to No. 3, which brings five cents per bushel less. The average crop for the last ten years was 17·2 bushels and the average price $1.04.

There is not much use in blaming the farmer for these conditions, nor is there much use in blaming either the present government or the government which went out of office a short time ago; it is a world condition. The farmers could not be expected to have foreseen this situation and to have adjusted their business accordingly. Who did see it? Very few, or if any did they were very quiet about it or did not have the courage to speak. I remember reading about two years ago an article by Sir George Paish, in which he predicted that owing to the increase in tariffs all over the world accompanied by the existing credit situation an economic crisis would occur inside of two years. The western farmer does not read the statements of Sir George Paish or those of other British economists; they work too long hours. What were our bankers saying in 1928 and 1929 as to the future of Canada? That was the time when something should have been done to readjust business to meet the coming crash, and if anyone should have had knowledge, it was the bankers. At the annual general meeting of the Bank of Montreal, held in Montreal on December 3, 1928, the president, Sir Charles Gordon said:

Our government needs to offer no apology in inviting agricultural immigrants to come to this country, as no other country in the world can hold out greater opportunities than our western provinces.

On December 2, 1929, the same gentleman said:

For the first time in five years, grain crops were a partial failure in the prairie provinces. The yield of wheat—270,000,000 bushels, being one-half of that of 1928, and that of other cereals correspondingly smaller.

Discouragement has not, however, dominated farmers of the northwest.

He stated further:

Fundamental conditions are sound, and there is no reason for apprehension as to the ultimate future of Canada.

At the annual meeting of the Bank of Montreal, held December 3, 1928, Sir Frederick Williams-Taylor said:

Canada as a whole has enjoyed more prosperity than ever before. At the commencement of 1928, a succession of good harvests had already placed the country on a prosperous footing and the position has been further improved this year by good average yields of staple crops in all the older provinces, while the prairie provinces have far surpassed their previous records.

In western Canada the year has been remarkable, not only for the record grain crops in the prairie provinces, but also for a reduction in harvesting costs per bushel, due chiefly to good weather and partly to the growing effectiveness of agricultural machinery.

These developments show the Canadian farmer to-day as a man of affairs, who is rapidly bringing his methods up to the standard of highly developed urban industries.

Sir Herbert Holt, president of the Royal Bank of Canada, speaking at Montreal on January 10, 1929, said:

The most pressing internal problem of the country is the need for more population. If the present good times are to continue, there is need for more farmers on the soil and more men in the mines and factories in order that we shall consume a larger proportion of our products.

Without a substantial increase in immigration we cannot hope to maintain that balance in expansion which is essential to sound prosperity. I believe, however, that at the moment it is no exaggeration to summarize the general situation by saying that there is no other part of the world more prosperous than Canada.

Mr. C. E. Neill, the general manager, speaking at the same meeting, said:

To our farmers, the large crops of the past four years, and particularly the record crop of 1928, have brought substantial prosperity.

Speaking to the Royal bank meeting on January 9, 1930, Sir Herbert Holt said:

Neither the prospects in foreign trade nor the situation in Canadian industry, trade and agriculture warrant pessimism concerning the outlook for the coming year. It is true that the small crop, the stagnation in the lumber industry, the unsatisfactory price of newsprint, and the decline in security prices have somewhat dampened enthusiasm, but I look forward to 1930 as being a year of normal activity in business unless unforeseen developments in the world wheat situation react in a manner to cause further substantial injury to Canadian interests.

Many farmers in the west incurred substantial losses as a result of destruction wrought by the drought.

In the face of two unfavourable years the volume of western business has been maintained at a surprising satisfactory level.

I have other extracts along this line which I would like to quote, but time will not permit. Let me, however, read the following statement by Sir John Aird in his address to the Canadian Bank of Commerce at its annual meeting held on November 30, 1928:

This review of the progress of Canada brings to our minds again the importance of the question of immigration, and both the Dominion and provincial governments seem to have given the subject renewed attention during the past year. If but a tithe of the expansion which looms ahead of this country takes place, we shall be able to find employment for and offer a career to many thousands of new settlers of all kinds, and it will be a pity if too narrow a view be allowed to prevail.

The addresses of all the bank presidents and general managers during 1928 and 1929 were along the same line. They predicted abundant prosperity. They did admit some set-backs, but claimed that these would not be such as would interfere with the normal progress and development of the Dominion.

I submit that the suggestion that the farmers should have seen this disaster coming is ridiculous. Then take the matter of the initial payments of the pool, decided at a meeting at which the Dominion and provincial governments as well as the banks of Canada were represented. The initial payment was set at 60 cents per bushel, and I am told that at that meeting not a single individual suggested that there was any chance of wheat going down to such a price that they would have to reduce that initial payment. Where were our economic experts? They did not know anything about it, or if they did, they did not say anything. The only thing to do now is to ascertain what action we can take in view of all the circumstances. I do not know that much is to be gained by censuring anybody, but I wish to suggest what we might do in view of the circumstances.

I realize that the times are difficult for everybody, the farmers, the railways and the government. I am sure the budget statement will be a long way from pleasing to the government, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. I do not know whether the opposition will derive any comfort out of it or not, but in any case we are bound to have a tremendously reduced revenue as compared with that of a year ago. I am not going to deal with any of the long-term policies that have sometimes been suggested in this corner of the house. I am concerned with what ought to be done with 1931. The spring is opening up and seeding in the prairie provinces will commence within two weeks. What kind of seeding is it going to be? The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), when he was in the west, suggested, I believe, that the right thing

to do was to seed all the land that was in good condition for a crop and to summer-fallow the rest. It takes money to summer-fallow; it takes money to farm properly in western Canada, and unless credit is forthcoming to the western farmers for 1931 to enable them to take reasonable care of the land they have already under cultivation, with regard to both seeding in the spring and summer-fallowing in order to have it ready for the succeeding year, the tendency will be to seed all the land that can be seeded and take a chance. On account of the shrinkage in the farmer's equity in his land owing to the slump in farm prices, many farmers have exhausted their credits. They have not been able to reduce the credits they secured in 1930. If additional credits are not made available the crop will be scratched in, and what will happen? There is no comparison between closing down a factory and closing down a farm. When you close down a factory the overhead, such as fixed charges and so on, goes on; the machinery may accumulate a little rust, but no great damage is done to the property. But you cannot close down a farm for a year without doing damage that it will take years of effort and expense to wipe out. Farming must be carried on in a reasonable way year after year without any rest or intermission, otherwise the farmer's resources will be depleted. We cannot have a rapid recovery, we cannot hope for what the speech from the throne says is likely to come, a new era of prosperity, unless agriculture rests solidly on first-class cultivation of the land that is now under the plough throughout the whole of the Dominion. I would ask that the government study the matter, ascertain what credits are required, and get behind the banks if need be, in order that those credits may be granted.

The farmers of Alberta, through the provincial premiers, asked for a 70-cent wheat. Some time afterwards the government got behind the banks in connection with their advances to the wheat pool. I believe that was some help to orderly marketing, but in view of the prices that have since prevailed, and general world conditions, I do not think there is much chance of that costing the government much. I believe the cost will be very reasonable, very small, and the suggestion of the western farmers that they be bonused to the extent necessary to guarantee them 70 cents on a basis of No. 1 northern at the head of the lakes, was a reasonable demand. It was not a demand for pegged prices; it was a demand for a bonus of the difference between what the wheat would sell for and 70 cents a bushel, which would be much less than the cost of production, because a 70-cent cost to the farmer is much greater than what the farmer will get on the basis of 70 cents No. 1 northern at Fort William. The whole cost might be $20,000,000. Is that ruinous for the Dominion of Canada?

What would be the compensating advantages as far as agriculture is concerned? I contend that the farmer is entitled to just as much financial advantage as the manufacturers secure out of protection. With a government whose policy is protection, the only thing I can ask in regard to agriculture is this: What compensating advantage is the government going to give to agriculture? I think Mr. Fielding must be taken as an authority on the question of what protection is worth to the manufacturer. He put a statement on Hansard away back in 1921 and so far as I know it has never been challenged. As reported at page 3151 of Hansard of May 10, 1921, Mr. Fielding said:

> If you turn to the Liberal policy—and I wish only to briefly refer to it—of 1897 you will find that in order to value the measure of tariff reform that was then given, you need to look at it from three viewpoints. In the first place there was the advantage that came to the people from the direct reduction of duties. It can be established positively, I believe, that if you take into account simply the difference between the duties that were paid during the period of the Liberal administration and the duties that would have been paid had the Conservative tariff remained in force, the money that went directly into the pockets of the Canadian people on that account alone was from $85,000,000 to $100,000,000. But it must be remembered—and economists, I think, will agree—that the saving you make in a case like that is not to be measured only by the amount that you did not pay into the customs; you have to take into account also the check that was put upon the rise of prices at home, and that for every dollar saved to the people in that direct way probably two dollars were saved in the difference between the prices prevailing and those which would otherwise have been charged by the home manufacturers.

We collect annually more than $100,000,000 in customs revenue, and if Mr. Fielding's statement is not so far out that it should be entirely discredited, the manufacturers are getting every year out of the policy of protection far more than ever the farmers asked for. I do not believe we can follow a policy of bonusing agriculture every year, because this would result in too great an increase in the production of wheat under present conditions. But this is a different year from every other year. Mr. Legge, chairman of the United States farm board, states that we have struck the low point of 335 years, and if we cannot do anything this year by way of financially assisting western farmers even by

direct bonuses, there is no reason for thinking we have a policy that is really effective. If, however, the government will not adopt a policy of that kind they ought in the interests of the whole country as well as of the farmers, to provide ample credit for the reasonable operation of farm land now under the plough, for every farmer who could make good under normal conditions throughout the western provinces, and, for that matter, throughout the whole of Canada. They should do this by a system of bonus on the basis of 70 cent wheat, or by any other method they like to adopt for 1931, just to ensure that we have established credits and a sufficient amount of money to take care of the resources we have created during the last few years. We have to take the attitude of an intelligent optimism, I would say. We cannot take the attitude of despair; it would be fatal.

The wheat crisis throughout the world is due to over-production. How did it arise? If I understand the situation correctly, it came about partly through the phenomenally good crops throughout the world, and partly through phenomenally good harvest weather which facilitated the saving of the crops after they were grown. The same conditions may not occur again for half a century. The price that is prevailing to-day will most certainly tend to cut down any excess production. I think there is reasonable ground for saying that the price of wheat cannot stay where it is any more than it could stay at the $1.50 a bushel level.

It is stated in the speech from the throne that the government is looking forward to an era of prosperity. I would plead, therefore, with the government for the sake of the whole Dominion of Canada, the prosperity of which depends upon reasonable prosperity for the western farmer and the production of crops in reasonable volume, to see that agriculture is supported in this year of tremendous difficulty. For any action it may take along that line the government will be amply repaid by a betterment of conditions not only for the western farmer but for the Dominion of Canada as a whole.

Mr. ROBERT McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I hope that the hon. gentleman who has just preceded me (Mr. Kennedy), as well as other hon. gentlemen on both sides of the house, including the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address, will not consider me discourteous if I do not follow in detail the remarks which they have made. There is one matter to which I should like to refer, and it has to do with the remarks made by two hon. gentlemen from western Canada on the opposite side of the house. I refer to the comments of the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis) with regard to a tariff on corn, and the remarks of the hon. member for Rosetown (Mr. Loucks), who, at page 234 of Hansard of this session, said:

> I have pledged myself to support this tariff on corn; before I left home my supporters asked me if I would do my best to have that tariff imposed, and so I came here supporting that proposal.

That is all very well, Mr. Speaker, so far as it goes, but if these two hon. gentlemen really desire a tariff on corn entering this country from the Argentine and elsewhere, how is it that we do not see on the order paper any notice standing in their names of a resolution to that effect? It is not sufficient for them to get up in the house and say that they are in favour of a tariff on corn; they must have the support of their colleagues from other parts of Canada. I wondered, as these hon. gentlemen were speaking, just what would be the attitude of my hon. friend from Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe), who was so vocal last year with regard to tariffs on agricultural products, but who this session up to the present has said nothing at all, not only with respect to a tariff on corn, but with regard to any of his pet hobbies of last year. I wonder also why we have not heard from my good friend from Haldimand (Mr. Senn) who represents an agricultural constituency, or from the hon. member for Durham (Mr. Bowen). Why are these gentlemen not saying what they think with regard to this proposed tariff on corn?

Mr. ROWE: I have no objections.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): We will see if the hon. member supports the proposal when hon. gentlemen from the west bring in their resolution, as no doubt they will.

Mr. ROWE: Certainly I will.

Mr. McKENZIE: I wish to make a brief reference also to the speech delivered by my namesake from Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) this afternoon. For an hon. member to receive the attention he did from both sides of the house on the occasion of his first extended address in this chamber is indeed notable. His speech was worthy of all the attention it received.

Ever since I have been in this city, for some two weeks now, the one topic of discussion in this chamber, in the corridors, in the offices of members, on the street and everywhere else, is the seriousness of the economic condition of the country. It was re-

grettable that the Prime Minister (Mr Bennett) was not in his place to hear the address of the hon. member for Vancouver Centre. We are here to offer what we consider practical suggestions for the solution of the economic problems confronting this country. The hon. member for Vancouver Centre referred to several problems and offered practical suggestions, but the Prime Minister was not in his place to hear them. One hon. gentleman opposite said that he was better employed. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Canada will wonder just how the Prime Minister could be better employed than sitting in this chamber listening to the discussions and to the proposals for the solution of the problems which face us. And it is not the Prime Minister alone who is absent from his seat; if you look across the floor at almost any time you will see in their places only one or two cabinet ministers out of seventeen or eighteen to listen to the suggestions that are made with regard to economic conditions in Canada, which we all believe to be so acute.

The depression was so evident in the constituency which I have the honour to represent that I decided before I came down here to go through the riding, meet as many people as possible, and ascertain from them their ideas in regard to economic conditions. Wherever I went among the farmers, among the business and professional men in our towns and villages—everywhere the people were asking this question: Why is it that in spite of the numerous promises that were made before the last election by Conservative speakers throughout the whole country, the prices of all farm products are a great deal lower to-day than they were at that time? In July of last year wheat on the Winnipeg market was worth between 95 cents and $1; to-day I believe the latest papers from the west quote 55 cents for No. 1 northern at Fort William—a drop of 40 cents a bushel. Butter, which was the subject of discussion to such an extent in all the constituencies of Canada, has fallen to the lowest price we have known for many years. Coarse grains have fallen to such an extent that in some parts of western Canada they are being burned for fuel, and no attempt is being made to sell them. Raw hides, raw furs—the prices of all these commodities have been materially reduced from what they were last summer when our friends pretended to be so greatly concerned about the welfare of the farmers of Canada. I shall not, however, dwell upon those significant facts.

[Mr. McKenzie.]

There is a general feeling throughout my constituency that this government made a mistake last September when it increased the duties on practically everything the farmers have to buy. Let me tell the house some of the expressions which I heard in that connection. One was that the people of Canada expect the opposition at this session to make clear to the people of the country, and if possible to the government, the fallacy of high protection. Another view I heard expressed on more than one occasion was that this is not the time to pass legislation which can be of benefit to but a very small proportion of our people and a disadvantage to a much greater number. I was quite interested the other day to hear the hon. members for Stormont (Mr. Shaver) and Lanark (Mr. Thompson) tell of conditions in their constituencies. Their statements prove conclusively what I am now saying. Certain people are benefiting very materially from the legislation passed at the last session, but even though 15 or 20 per cent of the people do benefit from it, that legislation works to the detriment of the remaining 80 or 85 per cent. Our farmers in western Canada are not asking favours from any government; all they want is a fair chance to trade on an equal basis with Great Britain as outlined in the Dunning budget. No doubt this government is blamed for more than it should be blamed, but I have heard the complaint that the main trouble at present with the government of Canada is its inability to view economic questions from the standpoint of the common people.

During the election campaign of last year the trump card of our Conservative friends, in the cities especially, was the question of unemployment. I have in my hand a clipping from the Montreal Star of May 28, 1930—and Montreal Star is not by any means a Liberal paper or a supporter of the Liberal party. The quotation is as follows:

> Employment in May favourable. Highest on record with only one exception.
>
> The Dominion Bureau of Statistics tabulated reports from 7,208 firms who reported a decidedly upward movement in employment on May 1; the payrolls of these employers were increased by 31,470 persons to 976,224 on the date under review. . . .

Then the article goes on to say this figure is the highest on record in any year since records have been kept, with the exception of May 1, 1929. Employment conditions were favourable in this country on May 1, 1930. We read that on June 1 there was an increase in the number of people employed. On July

1, there was a further increase in the number of people employed. On August 1, probably for reasons best known to some of our friends opposite who come from the provinces where there are Conservative governments and where there was very little if any road work carried on through the month of July, employment reported from 7,357 firms showed payrolls accounting for 1,042,710 persons as compared with 1,043,681 on July 1—a decrease of about 971 persons. In September 7,334 firms reporting to the Bureau of Statistics showed a decrease on September 1 of 18,800 persons. In October there is a further decrease from 7,384 firms reporting of about 2,900 persons. In November from 7,406 firms reporting there is a decrease of about 28,000 persons. On December 1, from 7,514 firms there is a decrease of about 31,000 persons.

The monthly bulletin of the Bureau of Statistics gives the following on January 1, 1931:

> January 1 showed a pronounced curtailment which, however, involved a rather smaller number of workers than that indicated on the same dates of 1930 and 1929. In spite of the smaller falling off which was partly due to the stabilizing effect of unemployment relief work, employment was at a lower level than on the same date in the two preceding years.

From 7,431 firms reporting in the month of February 1931 there was a decrease of 8,765 in the number of persons employed.

In spite of the fact that our hon. friends opposite made so much of the question of unemployment during the election campaign, we find that on May 1, as reported in the Montreal Star, the employment situation was favourable. The number of people employed increased from month to month until August, and from then on there has been a decrease each month.

On December 30 last, the Prime Minister made a speech in the city of Regina. As one hon. member said this afternoon he had a message for the people of western Canada in regard to the wheat situation and economic conditions generally. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that there has never been a greater diappointment not only to the friends of the Prime Minister but to the people of western Canada as a whole. We were hopeful that he would have a message which would help to relieve the situation. Although I heard his address over the radio I bought a paper the following morning and read it through. For fear there would be something left out in the paper I bought, the Regina Leader-Post, I obtained a copy of the Prime Minister's paper, the Regina Daily Star. I noticed that the report of his speech was very much the same in both papers, but I should like to direct attention to one very significant statement he made. After outlining the promises that he had made, he said:

> Remember too that we inherited these conditions as a legacy of nine years of Liberal administration.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. McKENZIE: My hon. friends say, "hear, hear." When we left this chamber about ten months ago, after the dissolution of the last parliament, we were all proud to go back to our constituencies and tell our people that although there was a world-wide depression, Canada was in a more prosperous condition than practically any other country in the world. We were able to say that although there was unemployment, that condition was not nearly as serious in Canada as it was in other countries, especially the countries which had adopted a high tariff policy.

In connection with this legacy I should like to quote some figures from the speech of my right hon. leader, delivered in this chamber on March 16, as found at page 16 of Hansard, where he said that for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1922, the aggregate trade of Canada was $1,502,000,000. That increased from year to year until in 1929 it reached its highest point at $2,655,000,000. No doubt owing to the world depression, in 1930 it dropped to $2,393,000,000. Our total exports for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1922, amounted to $754,000,000, while in 1930 they were $1,145,000,000. Canada had a greater aggregate trade per capita than any other country in the world. That was the proud position Canada was in. Not only that, but one would conclude from the statement of the Prime Minister that the financial condition of the country was in very bad shape when he took charge of affairs. In 1924 the national debt was reduced by $35,993,594. There was a decrease in the national debt every year for the next seven years, and in 1930 the decrease amounted to $47,740,746, giving an aggregate for the seven years of over $276,000,000. That is the legacy hon. gentlemen opposite croak about, and about which they have been talking so much during this session.

With regard to these tariff increases there has been a great deal said. We wonder just what the inevitable result of such a condition of affairs is likely to be, and I cannot express my view better than by reading an editorial

which I clipped from the Toronto Star of October 18, 1930. It is headed "Inevitable Results" and continues:

Henry Ford tells the English people on his present visit that "within two years not a single piece or part of Ford products will be brought into England from the United States."

Further on the editorial continues:

The trade policy of the United States, persevered in, raises up barriers the world over to the manufactured products of the United States. For years Canada has gained industrially from this condition of things, for branch factories were started here to produce goods for export and meet with the more favourable acceptance abroad that Canadian goods received. But now that the Ottawa trade policy is to be the Washington trade policy—all sell and no buy—how long will Canadian products enjoy that more favourable acceptance abroad which has been the secret of much of our industrial progress in recent years? Not for very long.

Then the editorial continues:

The strange notion that a country can sell abroad and do all her buying at home—the strange notion that a country can live within itself and prosper more greatly the more she does it—these strange delusions are abroad in the world and, possibly, nothing but disastrous experiment and experience will dispel the mental fog.

That expresses just about what we all feel with regard to the inevitable result of such a policy.

There is one other matter to which I should like to refer briefly, and that is the campaign which has been carried on, no doubt at public expense, by the Department of Trade and Commerce with regard to buying made in Canada products. The advertisement I hold in my hand was clipped from the Canadian National Railways Magazine, and is headed, "To give Canadians work, buy Canadian products." Then the advertisement proceeds:

To-day the opportunity is yours to render your country a service of inestimable value. And you can do it absolutely without cost to yourself in time or money. Exercise a little intelligent discrimination in your daily buying, and the thing is done.

That seems very simple to those who read advertisements, but after this advertising had been going on for some time we noticed a change. I just want to emphasize one other fact at this point. This advertising matter was carried in the daily papers and magazines, but the papers printed in my constituency, by men who are taxpayers and who will have to pay their share of the cost of the advertising, received no benefit whatever from this advertising campaign. I think our weekly newspaper men in smaller centres are entitled to a little consideration as well as the men printing our magazines and newspapers in the cities.

There is a very nice sentiment expressed in that advertisement, if you do not examine it too closely. We see that the Minister of Trade and Commerce, or somebody in his department, started out in a very fine, wide circle. One was going to sell to the other; they were going to do each other's washing, so to speak. They were all going to sell to each other and everything was going to work out fine, but as we watched these advertisements from week to week we noticed that the great circle on which they started out became smaller and smaller. Evidently they found that they would meet themselves somewhere near the centre before very long, and they came to a sudden stop.

A few days ago a constituent of mine sent me a little clipping which shows just to what extent those who hold up both hands in favour of this propaganda with regard to buying made in Canada goods practise it themselves. This clipping is a reprint from the Montreal Chronicle, and speaks for itself:

Damage in Dominion Textile Plant Estimated $350,000

Fire breaking out January 19 in the spinning department of the Dominion Textile Company's plant, St. Ann's branch, Notre Dame street east, caused damage estimated at about $350,000. The plant is covered by insurance placed in provincially registered American mutuals, of which the chief agent is A. O. Dawson, president of Canadian Cottons Company, Montreal.

Surprise is felt in some quarters that a corporation representing an industry which has been so conspicuous in seeking greater tariff protection should not have seen fit to patronize the regular home markets for fire insurance. As it happens, local insurance circles find more cause to chuckle than to complain in this particular case, but the fact is not overlooked that many prominent proponents of "buy at home" movements are striking offenders in the matter of their fire insurance.

To me this is a serious matter. We know that the Dominion Textile Company received benefit from the tariff legislation passed at the September session. That benefit was given to them to the detriment of the consuming public. We notice too that Mr. A. O. Dawson, president of Canadian Cottons Limited, is chief agent for Quebec for these American mutual companies. I have no doubt that both these firms would hold up their hands and acclaim this as the proper thing. They would approve of this advertising matter which was got out by the Department of Trade and Commerce. Yet here is what they do in actual practice: they place their own insurance, not on the principle of Canada

first, but with American mutual companies. I have been in the insurance business myself long enough to know that there are quite a number of Canadian companies with head offices in Montreal. Why did not these people practise what they preached? Why did they not put into practice their made in Canada policy and insure with Canadian companies?

I am sorry the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) is not in his seat. I wonder if he could not find some way of putting a dumping duty against these companies. He is very ingenious when it comes to imposing dumping duties against everything American. And what about the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir)? I regret that he also is absent. Why did he not see fit to bring this matter up when the question came before the cabinet council, as it did a short time ago, when they gave the Minister of National Revenue power to put a dumping duty against barbed wire? Why did he not raise his voice, if he wants the people of the west to follow out the policy he has been advocating, of diversified farming? Our people out there cannot go into stock raising unless they get wire for their fencing, and that is the only kind of fencing we can afford to buy. It looked as though they were going to get barbed wire cheaper this year than formerly. Why, therefore, if the Minister of Agriculture was present at cabinet council, did he not object to that dumping duty being imposed against barbed wire which the farmers might otherwise buy? I should like to have him, before the debate is over, express his opinion with regard to these dumping duties and explain why he sat idly by and allowed the cabinet council to give this power to the Minister of National Revenue. That minister knows nothing about western conditions, although when he came home from his visit last fall he said something to the effect that he had found nothing but the greatest optimism with regard to the policies which the Conservative party were putting into effect. I should have been glad to have him visit some parts of southern Saskatchewan and see what optimism there was there.

As a good many other hon. members have pointed out, farming conditions in the west are deplorable; things are in a desperate state. Our farmers are at their wits' end to know just what to do this spring. They do not know whether to sow a crop or not, and they are waiting for some pronouncement from the Minister of Agriculture as to just what he intends to do to solve the problems that face them. They are looking to him for some leadership. Not only that; when we go home, as we shall be doing in a short time, we shall probably be confronted with some of the unemployed in our constituencies who will want to know what the policy of the Labour department is. As has been mentioned before, we have no Labour minister in this house; but whoever is responsible for the Labour department should announce what is going to be done for these unemployed men in our constituencies. These men are wondering what they are going to do this coming summer, and there is another winter ahead of them.

We wonder, Mr. Speaker, why it is that the government we have in Canada, who are adopting the high tariff policy, cannot see what has happened in other countries that have followed that same downward course. I remember hearing the Right Hon. Mr. Meighen, when he was leader of the Conservative party in this house, say to the government of that day, "Why does not Canada follow the example of Australia and increase the tariff so as to give employment to her people?" Well, Australia increased its tariff and Canada was the only country that did not follow suit. And Australia had a greater problem of unemployment on its hands than we have. Their financial position to-day is desperate, much worse than Canada's although we are getting worse now. Cannot this government see that the countries which did not increase their tariffs were the last ones to feel the effects of the depression? Why do we plunge headlong where the United States has ventured and failed, where Australia has ventured and failed, and where other countries have met with the same fate? At a later date I shall dwell more upon this comparison. My time now is about expired.

Mr. T. A. FONTAINE (St. Hyacinthe-Rouville) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to waste the time of the house, especially at this late hour; neither would I like to unduly prolong the present debate which has been going on for two full weeks. But, since we are not under high pressure as we were at the special session of last September, I believe that it behooves us all to properly fulfil our duties as representatives of the people by serving, to the best of our ability, and in all good faith, free from any narrow party spirit as also from all animosity, the interests of our constituents and of our Canadian people as a whole.

I must acknowledge, Mr. Speaker, that never before have I realized to the same degree the very deep truth contained in the words of the Gospel: "Tarde venientibus ossa," which I would translate under the circumstances: When he follows so many

brilliant speakers, so many eminent parliamentarians, so many distinguished debaters as we have listened to since the beginning of the discussion on the address in reply to the speech from the throne, the young member finds his task no easy one, indeed, and he feels that there is very little left for him to say.

In my turn, as a French Canadian member of parliament representing the province of Quebec, I deem it my duty, as my good friend the distinguished member for Hull (Mr. Fournier) pointed out the other day, to speak in my native tongue when I rise to-day for the first time as a member of this house. I believe that it is the duty of every French Canadian who is elected to this house to use the French language when he addresses the assembly for the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I trust you will allow me in all humility and with all due modesty to join with all my colleagues on both sides of the house in expressing to you my heartfelt and truly sincere congratulations on your elevation to the exalted position you occupy as Speaker of the House of Commons. This tribute seems to me all the more fitting since I have been given the privilege of occupying the same room in this building which formerly served Your Honour.

I wish also to offer my very cordial congratulations, as did all the hon. gentlemen who preceded me, to the hon. members for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) and for North Grey (Mr. Porteous) for the very meritorious fashion in which they carried out the arduous task assigned them of moving and seconding, respectively, the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

If time were not wanting, we should like to offer our congratulations also to the French Canadian members, and to the representatives of the other provinces, on both sides of the house, for the very excellent speeches we have listened to during the past two weeks.

If I were a member of acquired standing, I should very likely not be forgiven for singing the praises of the constituency which does me the honour of selecting me as its representative in this house. But since all new members are sure of your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and of the kindly feelings of all our hon. colleagues, I hope you will allow me to say that I represent, not the finest county in our whole Dominion—the hon. friends beside me would smother me with their protests—but I shall use the expression which can displease nobody—one of the finest counties of the province of Quebec. My constituency is partly agricultural and partly industrial. On the agricultural side we have general farming, the dairy industry, cattle raising, market gardening; we also produce quantities of hay and a very large yield of tobacco, particularly around St. Césaire. The county abounds in magnificent orchards; and the country around Rougemont, St.-Hilaire and Abbotsford is aptly described as the most beautiful garden in the province. We are also given over to the maple industry, to canning activities, to poultry raising and bee culture, etc. From the industrial viewpoint we have silk factories, knitting mills, shoe factories, tanneries and organ factories. We also have distilleries, we manufacture headgear, etc. In my riding during the last election, as was done in all the other counties in Quebec province, in fact in all the constituencies throughout the country, a special appeal was made to the farming community: In an effort to obtain their votes they were led to believe that if they elected the Conservative party to office they would receive much higher prices for their produce. The working people of the cities were promised more work. None of these promises have been fulfilled. But everywhere and always our opponents have fallen back on their well known slogan: "Canada First". Mr. Speaker, whenever the Conservative party is striving hard for victory it always has recourse to some stirring battle cry that resounds like a bugle call. We had an illustration of this in the 1911 campaign when the Conservative party triumphed to the tune of: "No truck nor trade with the Yankees". And in 1911, since we are on the subject, the Conservatives, just as in 1930, played a two-faced game. In one part of the country the fight was waged by feeding the people all sorts of fantastic notions concerning reciprocity; elsewhere the same bugaboos were called into service, but this time the butt was the proposed Canadian Navy. In the 1930 campaign the motto inspired by the Conservative chieftain himself was not quite so blatant: "Canada First".

A fine motto, Mr. Speaker, no doubt about it; perhaps the finest that could be inscribed at the head of a political program on the eve of a general election. "Canada First!", how well it looks in a proclamation, how it stands out in a speech. Every single one of us approves of this magic formula; but we wish to give it its real meaning, its precise and accurate significance.

If it is meant to convey that every effort should be made to find new markets for our products, or even to keep those markets we already have, we are for it. If it means striving to ensure national union, harmony

and concord between provinces, between classes, between races, between creeds, we are for it. If this program means protecting the consumer and the middle classes, and not looking solely to the interests of the big capitalists of the country, we are for it. If it means protecting the farmer and the workingman to the same degree as the magnates of industry and finance, we are for it, absolutely and completely; for such, thank God, has always been the program of the Liberal party. But, Mr. Speaker, if by that magic formula it is sought, first and foremost, to support the might of wealth and power, and in the doing to ride roughshod over any and all obstacles; if, as a consequence of the reckless increase of our tariff, all other countries, one after another, close their doors against us; if, instead of a tariff for revenue, we find our custom receipts dwindling rapidly from day to day; if our country must relinquish the enviable position it had acquired in the world of trade among the first nations of the globe; if, instead of piling up a surplus and thus reducing our national debt, the public treasury is constantly losing ground; if, as a consequence, the government, instead of easing or even abolishing certain taxes which weigh heavily on the nation, finds itself under the necessity of increasing them and of creating new imposts; if instead of the peace, the mutual confidence, the respect, the harmony and unity, which must flourish in this Canada of ours if we wish to ensure the survival of confederation; if, I repeat, instead of all that, we find distrust, suspicion, animosity, constant bickerings among the provinces, between different parts of the country, between the classes of our population; if we even find in certain cases, sad to relate, the rights of minorities despised; ah then, Mr. Speaker, are we not justified in asking ourselves if this fine motto was not used to mask the sole object of gaining power through the application of the supremely false and evil principle: "The end justifies the means."

During the campaign of last July, Mr. Speaker, our good friends to your right saw nothing but unrest, depression, unemployment, hardship and untold suffering. For our part we are quite willing to admit the existence of an economic crisis; but we have always maintained that it had its general causes in overproduction, the weakening of the wheat market, the inroads of mechanization, the stock exchange crash, etc. Our opponents absolutely refused to look beyond our own borders, to the countries of Europe of the neighbouring republic; they refused to study the economic situation in other countries. After the election, they soon changed. Several of the hon. members who preceded me brought to the attention of the house statements made, after the election, by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens), for instance, by the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson), by the hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley). The right hon. Prime Minister himself (Mr. Bennett), in the speech he delivered at the opening of the Imperial conference in London, on October 1st, duly stressed the fact that the conference was beginning its labours at a time when the entire world was going through a period of industrial depression. Let me quote his own words, which I find, Mr. Speaker, in the official report of the conference published by order of parliament:

> We meet at a time of industrial depression, falling prices, slackening trade, diminishing revenues and rising unemployment. This situation is world-wide, and while some countries know it only in a modified degree, all are equally concerned in finding a cure for it. Those factors which once controlled the course of international trade and commerce have given place to others. The old order of things has passed. How far the present unhappy state may be regarded as the manifestation of change into a new condition of world affairs, it is perhaps profitless at the moment to enquire.

But whoever had listened to the speeches of the right hon. Prime Minister during the campaign, would have believed that if Canada were suffering from any such economic depression it was due entirely to the neglect and the incompetence of the Liberal administration. But hardly was the election over, when he unhesitatingly accepted the Liberal viewpoint. What a fitting occasion to quote the poet's words: "Quantum mutatis ab illo!"

Whenever anything goes wrong our Conservative friends always have the same explanation to offer, whether before or after an election: Blame the Liberals. As people used to say at one time: Blame Papineau. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) recalled this in one of his speeches during the campaign: "I know this refrain only too well," he said; "it was heard everywhere in the days of my great-grandfather: if the weather were bad, blame Papineau; if it rained, blame Papineau; if the roads were bad, blame Papineau; if the cows were barren, blame Papineau."

But if I remember aright, Mr. Speaker, our friends opposite boasted during the campaign that they had a wonderful cure-all that would immediately rid us of all the evils that beset our country. They told the voters: "Give us a chance, and we'll change all this; our pro-

tective tariff will put everything back on its feet again." The right hon. Prime Minister himself, stated in Nova Scotia,—his words will be found in the Halifax Herald of July 3rd and 4th; besides, I believe they are quoted on page 37 of the French version of Hansard:

If the Conservative party is victorious on July 28th I will see to it that old age pensions are paid in every province out of the federal treasury.

Let me, in passing, congratulate the hon member for Jacques-Cartier (Mr. Laurin) on the splendid speech he made last night, particularly on his eloquent treatment of this question of old age pensions. As I listened to him I thought: "If he delivered this speech in all the parishes of his county there is nothing surprising about his large majority." Mr. Speaker, who can say how many votes this promise of old age pensions rallied to the Conservative banner in the province of Quebec, and in the other provinces?

The Prime Minister went on—and this is important:

I ask the Conservative candidates who are elected to parliament from this province to vote against me and against my government if these promises are not kept.

Alas, like Sister Anne, we see nothing on the horizon. In the speech from the throne we are told: "Have patience; it will come in time: we have been in office only eight months." But these hon. gentlemen sang another tune during the campaign: there was to be no delay; everything was to be straightened out immediately. It was on the strength of these explicit pledges that they gained so many votes in Quebec and in the other provinces. Does anyone, for a single moment, think that the result of the election would have been the same if our opponents, instead of promising an immediate solution of all our difficulties, had said to the electorate: "We believe we can do better than the Liberals; but we do not know how much time we will need. One thing is certain: no improvement will be possible for a long time". That is what they are saying to-day; so much so that even after being in office for over eight months our Conservative friends are still not able to tell us when their marvellous remedies will begin to show some results.

If the situation is not one whit improved, say our opponents, if our income has decreased to the tune of $72,000,000 during the first ten months of the fiscal year which will end in a few days; if, in the same period our expenses have increased by $20,000,000 and the public debt by $44,000,000; if the government must face a deficit of $100,000,000, as the right hon. Prime Minister himself has acknowledged, there is nothing strange about that: it is the fault of the Dunning tariff. But here again our Conservative friends are caught in their own trap; for if I am not mistaken the Dunning tariff only came into effect on May 1; and the government hastily repealed it at the special session of last September. Is anyone ready to believe that this tariff, in effect only a few months, could have such disastrous results? No, the Dunning tariff which sought to open up new foreign markets for our goods, had as its necessary object the increase of our revenue. The best proof of this is found in the fact that immediately after its repeal our revenue began to fall.

Frequent mention has been made of the Prime Minister's promises during the campaign. Several of our friends opposite have sought to show—without any satisfactory proof it seems to me,—that their pledges had been fulfilled. As a matter of fact I believe that only one was kept, and that only in part; I am speaking of the special session. What were the principal pledges made by the Prime Minister and the Conservative party to curry favour with the electorate? The first was that unemployment would be banished immediately through a special session called for that purpose. The second was an increase in the prices of farm produce, especially butter. That promise has not been kept. The third was to establish a system of old age pensions in all the provinces at federal expense. We have still to see its fulfilment. Fourth promise: A national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Cape Breton to Vancouver. What has become of that pledge, Mr. Speaker? Another promise unfulfilled.

Fifth promise: a bridge over the St. Lawrence at Lachine; and a bridge, if you please, without any toll-gate whatever. This is being implemented by the provincial government of Quebec province, and not by the federal government.

Sixth promise: The St. Lawrence waterway. Mr. Speaker, can anybody sincerely and in good faith claim to-day in this house that these promises have been kept, or are about to be fulfilled by the party now in power?

I do not intend,—time is flying—to recall most of the important declarations made by the Prime Minister on the eve of last election day, July 28th. But I shall quote a few, as briefly as possible.

When I have become prime minister, on the 28th, I will see to it that all my promises are kept or my government will go down to defeat in the effort to fulfill them.

Here is what he said at Halifax:

I ask the Conservative candidates in this province (Nova Scotia) who are elected to parliament to vote against me and against my government if these pledges are not kept.

And again:

Mr. King promises to study the unemployment problem. I promise to put an end to unemployment. Which plan do you prefer?

What a fine ring there was to such statements made in the course of a political speech.

He also said:

What you want is not conferences, but work; and it is work you will get.

And the right hon. Prime Minister added, speaking this time in Quebec city—and this is important for our conservative friends; I have not yet the pleasure of knowing personally and intimately the Conservative representatives of our province, but they seem well-intentioned; those I have met in this house appear to be men of good-will and I feel sure that at the first opportunity they will dutifully follow the recommendation made to them by their leader in Quebec city—the right hon. Prime Minister stated that he wanted the Quebec members and the other members of his party to throw him out of office if, after his victory at the polls, he should be unfaithful to the pledges he had made to the Canadian people.

An hon. MEMBER: No danger.

Mr. FONTAINE: I have not the pleasure of knowing personally the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne); only I know that he enjoys, and rightly, a very high reputation; he has the honour to occupy, or he did occupy —I am not sure on this point—a position of trust at the Quebec Bar; if I mistake not he has been, may be even yet, bâtonnier. I tender him, in passing, my congratulations. He has gained in our own province, and throughout the Dominion, a high reputation as a stalwart champion of the French language. He was not afraid to criticize, as it deserved to be criticized, on the floor of this house, the conduct of the prime minister of Saskatchewan towards our brethren in those parts. But the hon. member for Montmagny has stated that in the last campaign the Quebec Liberals had raised the cry of prejudice, that they were all partisans, and that he himself had become a good Tory because he had become a good Canadian. Being a young member there is nothing I would sooner avoid than any unpleasantness towards the hon. gentleman; but I do believe that he might very well have refrained from such language. It was rather his own leader who appealed to prejudice during the last campaign, claiming that the government was nothing but a mercenary group, kept in office through falsehood and subterfuge, looking solely to their own interests, unmindful of everything save their own personal advantage; he called them traitors and compared them to Judas. Never before in our history, I believe, has the chieftain of a great political party, denounced in such scathing terms the leaders of the opposing party.

It was not the Liberals of Quebec who appealed to prejudice. We remember the attitude of the Conservative party at the political meetings held throughout Quebec last June. They said that the three western provinces were represented in the cabinet by Messrs. Mackenzie King, Dunning, Crerar, Stewart and Motherwell; that these five ministers dominated the government and controlled its financial and economic policies. I believe it was the hon. Secretary of State himself (Mr. Cahan) who, speaking one evening over radio station CKAC, in Montreal, said that for the past ten years that group had held in leash the solid Quebec bloc.

During this time what was being said in the west by the Regina Daily Star, that stupid paper, with only one ideal, one object, one policy: the persecution of our French Canadian brethren in the west; this paper which should not forget that in the province of Quebec and in the other provinces we have a French Canadian press which will always stand as a bulwark against all movements, all attacks directed against the rights of minorities in this country. This press has fought the good fight for twenty years in our province and, thanks be to God, the Saskatchewan paper can well meditate on Lafontaine's fable: "Le Serpent et la Lime;" in spite of all it may do, it will never make the slightest headway against the rights and privileges guaranteed the French Canadian minority by the very terms of our constitution. But what was this paper, friendly towards our conservative opponents in the west, saying about the liberal party? This paper which never had, and has not to-day, the slightest fellow-feeling towards French Canadians, asserted that the federal cabinet was dominated by the province of Quebec, and that through the Postmaster General and the Secretary of State every possible means were being employed to impose the French language on this country and—surprising claim, which goes to show how far bad faith may lead one astray—to impose protection on Canada.

In the west the voters were told that the liberal government was protectionist; to the eastern voters it was said that the government was under the free trade influences of the west. In Montreal it was claimed that the western members dominated the King cabinet; while in Saskatchewan our opponents appealed to prejudice by asserting that the Quebec bloc was forcing the French language and protecttion on the country. If that is not an appeal to prejudice, then words have no meaning.

A goodly number of those who have spoken, Mr. Speaker, tried to make capital out of the new immigration policy of the present government. On this subject I shall not repeat the excellent case made out the other evening by my hon. colleague from Bellechasse; but I should perhaps put clearly before the people of this country the plain fact that during the last twenty years it was the Conservative party, and not the Liberal, which brought the greater number of immigrants to Canada. Under the conservative regime, from 1911 to 1921, there was admitted to this country a total of 2,123,920 immigrants while during the time that the Liberals held office, from 1922 to 1930, the total was only 1,145,475, or almost 50 per cent less.

It must be remembered also that when our Conservative friends claim to have put a stop to immigration, they are saying something which is not so. According to the statistics of the Immigration department, reorganized by the Prime Minister, 25,000 immigrants entered Canada during August, September, October, November and December last. During the month of January 1,480 immigrants were admitted, in spite of unemployment, in spite of the Conservative party's promises to end this evil, and their boast that since they are in office all immigration has ceased. I must mention also that the present Prime Minister lost no time in reviving the Department of Immigration, abolished by the previous government; and that during the session of 1929, as certain hon. members have already recalled, General McRae, chief organizer of the Conservative party, suggested the spending of $300,000,000 for the purpose of peopling our western provinces with unemployed imported here, at our expense, from the British Isles.

We are often told that high protection is the best cure for unemployment. Those who use this argument have failed to note the experience of our powerful neighbours, the United States, high protection country par excellence. Let us follow the unemployment curve in these protectionist states during the last few years. In 1928 the unemployed numbered 800,000; in 1929, 500,000. In June, 1930, this had been increased to 4,500,000 and in the following October, only a few months later, the figure had reached 7,200,000. If the number has increased at the same rate since, the United States will soon have an army of unemployed equal to the entire population of Canada.

But, Mr. Speaker, the United States are not the only country to suffer from high protection. One of our sister dominions, Australia, thought it would be an advantage to adopt a policy of high protection. Australia is at present labouring under a national debt of $5,000,000,000; nearly the entire revenue of the country is required to meet the interest alone. The people of Australia are on the way to national bankruptcy: they do not know how to discharge this debt, or even whether they can pay it. Like our friends opposite, they also built railroads that could not pay, costly highways, and launched into numerous other undertakings of similar character. In spite of their policy of high protection they are suffering acutely from the crisis in the wheat and textile markets. The state has a hand in almost everything; state ownership has gone further in Australia than anywhere else. But all these things have not helped to restore the country's finances, which at the present time are in such a bad way that even the great international financial institutions refuse any further loan to Australia.

Which proves, Mr. Speaker, that every time a country increases its tariff the only result is to encourage other countries to retaliate in the same fashion.

During the last campaign our opponents blamed the low price of butter in 1930 on the treaty we had signed with New Zealand. The treaty was perhaps a contributing cause; and for that reason it lapsed on October 12th, through the initiative of the former government. But the New Zealand treaty was not the only cause, I even say it was not the chief cause, of the situation that existed. We must not forget that the increase in the American tariff on milk and cream had, as was to be expected, the immediate effect of drastically curtailing our dairy exports to the United States, which had come from the southern parts of Ontario and Quebec, and chiefly from the eastern townships, in the latter province. Once the American market was closed to them, our dairy producers had to ship their surplus to Montreal and other Canadian centres or to manufacture butter and cheese; inevitably prices fell as a result.

For proof of this we have only to glance at our statistics which show that in 1929 our dairy exports to the United States were valued at $5,476,254; while the following year, 1930, this had fallen to $2,661,076. I have gleaned these data from the financial and commercial review of 1930 published in the Montreal Gazette of January 3, 1931. Moreover, if I had the time I could easily show that our butter market was no worse off than in the United States, where the highest of high tariff walls protect the American producer.

Before sitting down, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a word on the question of mutual understanding, since it is mentioned in the speech from the throne, in the following words:

> In adversity that union is made still stronger by the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which is the surest bulwark of the nation's welfare and happiness.

Is it really true that at the present time, all through Canada, in all the provinces. particularly in certain provinces where there is a minority, that we do find that this spirit of mutual understanding that we have a perfect right to expect in a country such as ours? In the Patriote de l'Ouest of March 4th, 1931, there was published an appeal, a veritable cry of anguish and despair, from the French Canadian and Catholic minority of those parts. I am going to read it to the house:

> Citizens of Canada for centuries, explorers and pioneers of the west, it is hard for the French Canadians to see themselves, in their own country, put in the same footing as the immigrant of yesterday. It is hard that the French Canadian alone should have no say in laws which concern only himself. It is painful to see himself despoiled of rights acquired at the very dawn of our history, and for motives which have not even the appearance of truth.
>
> Altogether aside from the Catholic and French aspect of the question, we are convinced that premier Anderson of Saskatchewan is making a mistake in outlawing the teaching of our language. The result will not be a stronger union among the citizens of our province, nor any progress in the field of education. Whether he knows it or not, Mr. Anderson is leading the country towards a Communist reign of terror and not towards that spirit of brotherhood which is based on the respect of each other's sentiments. This coercive policy will be brought into play in other fields, will strike other groups than ours, perhaps some people dear to Mr. Anderson. Once tyranny is let loose it creates much greater havoc than its master ever willed.
>
> The French tongue will reecho over our immense country long after the present prime minister will have disappeared from the scene; and many experiments, of a religious or non-religious nature, will have run their course, when the silver voice of our Catholic belfries will still be heard consoling the souls of the faithful with the hope of a future life.

I will end on that. I trust that such appeals will be heard and understood, and that the province of Saskatchewan, emulating the example of the province of Quebec, will safeguard the rights, advantages and privileges of the French-Canadian minority guaranteed them by the constitution of our country; rights, advantages and privileges which Quebec province has always held sacred as regards our English-speaking minority.

On motion of Mr. Dupré the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Guthrie the house adjourned at 10.12 p.m.

Monday, March 30, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

PETITION AGAINST VIVISECTION

Mr. R. S. WHITE (Mount Royal): I beg to present a petition from residents of Montreal and district and other parts of Canada praying for the passing of legislation to suppress the practice of vivisection.

CIVIL SERVICE ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. O. L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 18, to amend the Civil Service Act (returned soldiers' preference).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. BOULANGER: This bill is similar to one introduced at the last session. It proposes three things. First, it is intended to restrict veterans' preference to Canadian veterans, the term Canadian being defined by the Canadian Nationals Act, chapter 21 of the revised statutes. Secondly, it proposes to extend from three to five years the requirement in regard to necessary residence in Canada demanded of applicants for positions in the civil service. In the third place, it proposes to do away with a practice which has been introduced into the administration of the Civil Service Commission regarding exceptions made to the clause requiring three years' residence in Canada for applicants. The Civil Service Commission has adopted what I might call blanket regulations, which seem to contradict the terms of the Civil Service Act, and in virtue of which applicants are admitted practically as a matter of course into the civil service without complying with the requirements of the Civil Service Act in

this respect. This bill proposes to discontinue that practice and return to the sense and spirit of the Civil Service Act. Whenever it may be necessary to make an exception to the requirements of the Civil Service Act, it is proposed that such exception shall be a special case to be specially considered by the cabinet.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 19, to amend the Criminal Code (unlawful assemblies).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: This bill is simply to provide a safeguarding clause to ensure that the general nature and character of speeches on public affairs shall be the ground for regarding any meeting as unlawful. In some of our cities recently there has been what seems to some of us an abuse of the law, whereby citizens have been prejudiced with regard to their utterances, while others who may have been listening have been declared to be members of an unlawful assembly; and this without any regard to the general character of the speeches made. This bill is merely to prevent that sort of thing in future.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SUPPLY

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Pursuant to notice, and in accordance with our understanding, I move, Mr. Speaker, that you do now leave the chair and that this house resolve itself into committee of supply.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Agriculture—contingencies, further amount required, $3,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This item represents the excess of expenditures over the appropriation for contingencies by the Department of Agriculture last year. It arises primarily because of over-expenditure in connection with delegations that went out of the country in relation to investigations into agricultural matters.

Mr. POWER: If it is not out of order at this stage, I would ask the Prime Minister to have the courtesy to bring down all the documents and correspondence and statements of accounts in connection with an item, No. 61, which will come up in the course of the afternoon's or evening's discussion. The item in question has reference to a governor general's warrant and deals with certain matters under the Department of National Defence.

Mr. BENNETT: I will see that it is done.

Mr. POWER: I am afraid it will be impossible to go on with the discussion unless the papers are down.

Item agreed to.

Civil Service Commission — contingencies, further amount required, $20,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This is similar to a large number of items that will appear in these supplementary estimates. The custom grew up of carrying forward balances from one year to the other. A printing account of $25,000 at the end of last year was owing by the Civil Service Commission to the Department of Public Printing. When the estimates for the last year were made available it followed that when the balance of printing accounts for the preceding year was paid there remained just that much less money to take care of the business of the department. The result is that some $22,000 would ordinarily have been required, but owing to economies effected otherwise the amount called for to pay the balance due to the printing department to square the accounts of the commission is $20,000.

Mr. POWER: I do not know whether this is the proper time to discuss the Civil Service Commission, but I would ask the government whether it has arrived at any policy with respect to the abolition of that body. I have in my hand a report of a speech made on February 23, 1931, by the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon). I will translate freely from the French. The hon. member is reported in a newspaper called Le Franc Parler, published in the city of Quebec under the auspices and with the imprimatur of the deputy speaker of the house.

Sir EUGENE FISET: That is the only controlling interest?

Mr. POWER: That question might be asked on the orders of the day and I have no doubt that the deputy speaker, in the non-partisan manner to which he is accustomed, would give a non-partisan reply. However, the hon. member for Dorchester says:

I denounce in my turn this commission. At the next caucus of the party—

I assume he refers to the Tory party in Ottawa—

—the matter will be brought up. The Hon. Mr. Sauvé lately complained about it and regretted that we Conservative members could not recompense the brave servants of our party. This law is a negation of the principle of responsible government.

May I say to the hon. member for Dorchester that he is not the first one to discover that? The article continues:

To-day a minister has no longer the right to name a messenger for his office or a chauffeur without passing by commissioners and by a commission and its employees amongst whom we find often imbeciles and venal persons. Our Quebec ministers—

This is important, and I would ask the attention of the Prime Minister—

—share my ideas and I am sure, I am certain that at the next session this law will be amended, if not abrogated.

An hon. MEMBER: Wait and see.

Mr. POWER: My hon. friend says "Wait and see." I shall be glad to wait and see if I have the assurance of the government or of the Prime Minister that they have no intention of supporting the contention of the hon. member for Dorchester. May I say that the hon. member, during the late ill fated visit to England of the right hon. Prime Minister and the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) was publicly styled in the newspapers the Acting Solicitor General. Therefore, his statement is almost an official or at least a quasi-official statement. He says that he speaks for the members from the province of Quebec and his statement is published in a newspaper owned or at least directed by an important official of this house, the deputy speaker. I believe it is the duty of the ministers from the province of Quebec and of the Prime Minister to take the committee into their confidence in this matter. This should be done before we vote any further sums, and I ask the Prime Minister to give us this information.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, I hasten to take the committee into my confidence. This sum of $20,000 was expended last year and this vote is to make good a deficiency caused by an appropriation made by the Civil Service Commission which was used to to extent of $25,000 for printing, payment for which was past due on April 1, 1930. My hon. friend gives point to the argument I advanced the other day when he gibes at the chairman of committees because of his non-partisan character, knowing that the chairman cannot reply.

Mr. DUFF: He may leave the chair.

Mr. BENNETT: He cannot leave the chair.

Mr. DUFF: Oh, yes he can; he can leave the chair and put somebody in his place.

Mr. BENNETT: Not unless the committee gives him permission. It is hardly in accordance with the usual sportsmanlike qualities of my hon. friend. So far as the large question of the civil service is concerned, from the warning which has been given I feel quite satisfied that there will be considerable discussion of this item when the estimates are before the committee. At the moment we are not submitting any estimates of our own, these amounts being necessary to make good moneys which were expended in the manner which I have indicated.

Mr. POWER: With respect to the sneer of the right hon. the Prime Minister—

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, no, the sneer was my hon. friend's.

Mr. POWER:—I have this to say with respect to my sportsmanlike attitude. The hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), after the Prime Minister had indicated to him what his conduct should be, deliberately went out of his way to indulge in a partisan address to this house. I think the remarks which I addressed to him were of a nature which he himself could understand or at which he himself could not take offence. So far as I know he has made no attempt whatsoever to hide his connection with this newspaper, nor has he—I could quote his paper—made any attempt publicly or privately to hide his feelings with respect to the Civil Service Commission. If he so desires, the chairman of this committee may leave the chair and reply to the remarks of any hon. member. If the chairman thinks that I have cast unreasonable or unjust reflections upon him, he can reply.

I resent the attitude taken by the Prime Minister in this respect. We have been in this house together for a great many years and he should know that I have not on any occasion since he has been here taken advantage of my position unfairly or unjustly to assail any hon. member. For the right hon gentleman to say that this is not a matter which should be brought up during a discussion of the civil service estimates—

Mr. BENNETT: I did not say that.

Mr. POWER: I am sorry.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend must have heard what I said.

Mr. POWER: On these estimates.

Mr. BENNETT: I said there would be ample opportunity.

An hon. MEMBER: Just like the special session.

Mr. POWER: I accept my right hon. friend's statement, as I must, that these are matters which should not be discussed on these estimates, but we in Quebec understood that this was an urgent matter. It is extremely unlikely that the Civil Service Commission's estimates will come up for several months. During the period which will intervene between now and the end of the session when the Civil Service Commission's estimates usually come up there will be hundreds of friends of the right hon. gentlemen, hundreds of friends of the hon. member for Dorchester, of the Solicitor General and of the Postmaster General seeking positions in the civil service but who will be precluded by the rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission. A large number of those are my electors, some of whom up until last September were my devoted friends and on their behalf and in order that the position of the hon. gentlemen opposite may be made known to the public, in order that the people of this country outside of their constituencies as well as within may know something of the value of their statements, I think it is the duty, if the Prime Minister does not wish to do it, of members of the administration from the province of Quebec who are specifically mentioned in this article, to express their views on this matter. There should be no question about it and the people for whom I speak should know where they stand.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. POWER: No; I am prepared to stay here a long time. I think the Prime Minister owes it to the house to make some statement on these estimates. We have no desire to be obnoxious, but when our friends were sitting on this side of the house we did the best we could to accommodate them in every way. My right hon. friend will not deny that we gave him and his supporters whatever information was asked for, and whatever questions were asked were answered by the ministers of the then government. I believe it is a duty, at any rate it is a courtesy, to give whatever information is asked for, and I do not believe the Prime Minister would be lacking in courtesy to hon. members. It is only in conformity with the ordinary amenities of public life that he should answer a question put to him in a courteous manner. I do not ask him to give a general statement as to the policy of the government, although I think I would be entitled to do so; but I ask him, if he will not speak himself, to allow his ministers, the Postmaster General, the Solicitor General, or some of his other ministers to do so. Let someone on that side of the house say in the Commons of Canada what they have been saying throughout the country. The hon. member for Dorchester, who was so bold at a banquet, should be willing to explain his views to the house. Hon. members would, I am sure, be interested; I should be much interested and if on this estimate he will move for the abolition of the Civil Service Commission, I promise him my most cordial support. I will support him to the best of my ability. There are on this side of the house a large number of members who, like him, have had to suffer from the Civil Service Commission in days gone by.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Why did you not take action in that regard yourself?

Mr. POWER: If the hon. gentleman will look up Hansard of 1923 he will find that a resolution to that effect was placed on the order paper and debated. If at that time we had had the support of hon. gentlemen opposite who to-day would be quite willing to abolish the commission, this infamous commission, composed of imbeciles, would long ago have been abolished. The question is a live one before the public. If the Prime Minister will not give an answer, the Postmaster General should give one. If he will not do so, the Solicitor General should, and if the Solicitor General will not, his deputy, the hon. member for Dorchester, ought to do this.

Mr. BENNETT: Probably no other member of the committee knows better than the hon. member for Quebec South who has just taken his seat, that even observations that are made with respect to items under consideration in the estimates, should be relevant to the question raised. If there is any information which the hon. gentleman desires, or which any hon. gentleman desires, with respect to this item, I shall regard it as my privilege and duty to furnish it to the extent of my ability, but I share to the full the observations with which the hon. gentleman commenced his remarks. He said that he did not know whether this was the appropriate place to discuss the matter or not. I think, being a member of the legal profession as he is, he will agree that neither is this the

appropriate place, nor yet can the observations be said to be relevant because they should be directed to the obtaining of information with respect to an expenditure which has been made, and regarding which we shall have something to say later as to the desirability or not of absolutely restricting expenditures to the estimates except there be cases where governor general's warrants may be issued. So far as that is concerned, anything the hon. gentleman asks shall be at once furnished him. As regards discussing the Civil Service Commission, my hon. friend can do that to his heart's content by placing a resolution on the order paper, and I look in vain to find that he has placed on the order paper a motion to have the Civil Service Commission abolished. On going into supply he has, of course, ample opportunity to move an amendment that the house regrets that the Civil Service Commission continues to exist. All those are avenues that are open to him, but no one knows better than he that this is not the appropriate time for such a discussion, and in the best of good nature let me say to my hon. friend that his efforts to draw his compatriots of Quebec will fail.

Mr. POWER: May I say that many of them will not be pleased to be called my compatriots. As to the appropriateness of the time, I am not disposed to enter into a discussion with the Prime Minister. He knows very well that if his prominent supporters wish to abolish the Civil Service Commission, they are quite competent to put a motion on the order paper. They could also, on the house going into committee of supply, move that the Civil Service Commission be abolished. They could, even at the present moment—and I realize I could do this myself if I so desired—follow the constitutional practice which obtains in England and with which, no doubt, the Prime Minister is familiar, of moving to reduce the estimates by one dollar. That could be done; I am glad the Prime Minister brought that matter up.

Mr. BENNETT: This item does not include salaries.

Mr. POWER: That does not matter.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, it does a great deal.

Mr. POWER: I very rarely differ from the Prime Minister on constitutional matters, but it seems to me, unless I am much mistaken, that a motion could be made to reduce this item by one dollar—to one dollar.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, to one dollar!

Mr. POWER: I am glad the Prime Minister indicated that method of procedure. Now I ask the hon. member for Dorchester to follow it. The Prime Minister has said just what he should do. The hon. member should do it before he returns to Quebec over the holidays, or I am sure he will have to find some explanation to give to the people of Quebec why he did not follow his own leader's advice and move a reduction in these estimates. It is no longer a matter of great interest to me: it is of purely academic interest to me whether the Civil Service Commission continues in existence or not. In the better days when we sat on the opposite side, I was in the habit of saying to my hon. friends that the Civil Service Commission appeared to have been created for the Tories and the Liberal back-benchers. I believe in all probability it is now created for the Tory backbenchers and the Liberals. Nobody else that I know ever seems to suffer. If the backbenchers desire to be rid of this institution, they have only to follow the method and advice laid down by the Prime Minister, and for once we promise them our hearty cooperation.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Mr. Chairman, in order to elucidate the point raised by the Prime Minister, I should like to have your ruling on the subject matter that can be discussed. I should like to call your attention first to the fact that this is the only item in these supplementary estimates where the name "Civil Service Commission" is mentioned. In the past it has been the rule of the house that when any general estimates of any department came under discussion, hon. members had the right to discuss anything that pertained to that department. I should like your ruling on the matter.

Mr. POULIOT: While you are considering your ruling, Mr. Chairman, may I ask the Prime Minister whether or not his government has reached a decision regarding a reorganization of several departments, and whether it is true that many employees of the civil service will lose their jobs within a short time?

The CHAIRMAN: In answer to the hon. member for Rimouski, I am not here to explain the rules of the house, but if the hon. member wishes to raise a point of order, I will give him my ruling.

Mr. POULIOT: Do I understand, Mr. Chairman, that my question was not put politely? I was speaking in my mildest and sweetest tones to the right hon. gentleman. If there was something offensive in what I said, I have not the slightest idea what it was. I

should appreciate highly receiving an answer from the right hon. gentleman, even if it means nothing.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I think, Mr. Chairman, that you have given a ruling already. The very fact that you have given that answer enables any hon. member to go on with the discussion. I am quite satisfied.

Mr. POULIOT: The satisfactory thing about your ruling, Mr. Chairman, is that no one has to pay the costs, and in that respect it is unlike a legal ruling. May I ask the Prime Minister once more, with all the suavity I possess, if he will be good enough to give me an answer to my question. So many civil servants and their families are very anxious to know what is going to happen with respect to their jobs, especially in these hard times. No answer? If there was something wrong with my question, I would ask the Prime Minister to tell me what it was. I cannot answer myself. Will you, Mr. Chairman, please let me know if there is no answer to my question. I am not deaf but I did not hear any answer.

Mr. GOTT: The question is a joke.

Mr. POULIOT: It is no joke. This is a very serious matter to the civil service. We are here representing the people. We have two members in this house representing the city of Ottawa, and every other hon. member represents the country at large. We are all interested in this question. It is no good for the government to say: We are going to do this and we are going to do that; and then do nothing at all; and when something is done, it is most often wrong. I wish to be nice to the right hon. gentleman, but if he does not intend to answer me, I shall have to drop my sweet tones and speak roughly.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The hon. gentleman—

Mr. POULIOT: I think I know why the hon. gentleman is so cross. It is because a dark horse has won the international Bennett race for the ministry. It is very sad, Mr. Chairman. We are travelling on a mystery ship to treasure island. We know nothing, and nothing is told us. The government asks us to vote these items blindly. According to parliamentary institutions that date back to Magna Charta, the representatives of the people are entitled to know what is the policy of the government. Here we are ready to cooperate with the government in all good measures. We on this side of the house are not narrow-minded; we are broad-minded. I have sat in this house for several years on the opposite side, and when hon. gentlemen opposite were sitting over here, never did I see a Liberal minister refuse to give them any information they desired. Very often indeed Liberal ministers have supplied Conservative members with confidential information, trusting them to keep it confidential. The Liberal ministers treated all members of the house fairly, without any distinction of party. The fiscal year ends to-morrow, Mr. Chairman, and there are many people who are anxious to know what is the policy of the government with respect to the civil service. Is the government going to give its policy to the press before advising members of the house. I would not be surprised at that at all. Am I to receive no answer? I wish to be courteous to the right hon. gentleman and his colleagues and supporters in this house, but I say that in this request for information I am backed up by all the electors of my constituency irrespective of political affiliations. Once more I ask the Prime Minister if he has anything to say regarding his policy with respect to the civil service.

Mr. BOULANGER: I should like to get some information from the Prime Minister in connection with this matter. There are rumours that retrenchments are to be made in the civil service, and that the employees of one department in particular, the Interior department, are to be placed elsewhere. I should like to know if, in considering the retention of employees in the service or their placement elsewhere, the government will give a preference to native-born Canadians. I am in receipt of a resolution from the Native Sons of Canada, asking that such a preference be given. I am sorry that I have not the resolution here; it is in my room, but if the Prime Minister will allow me, I will send him a copy of it. This is an influential society, which is taking a great interest in the affairs of the Dominion, and it recommends that so far as possible native-born Canadians be retained in the service in preference to non-Canadians.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman—Central, please get me a connection with the ministry! The line seems to be busy. I want to speak to the right hon. the Prime Minister. Ah, I see the line which was out of order has now been repaired and that I have the attention of the right hon. gentleman. I would ask him once more, what is the policy of the government regarding civil service employees. This question has frequently been discussed in the press, and I would like to know what is going to happen. If the Civil Service Commission

is abolished, will all the present employees be dismissed? Will there be a complete change of staffs in the departments?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POULIOT: Hon. members laugh; but I am serious. The Prime Minister smiles. I like to see him smile. He is at his best then; it is the natural thing for him to do. Apparently, Mr. Chairman, the line has got out of order again. It is very sad, Mr. Chairman, to have such a disgraceful experience.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. POULIOT: Some hon. gentlemen say, "hear, hear." It shows that they understand. They are not deaf, but they are dumb. Yes, they are dumb. La chatte leur a mangé la langue. The cat has eaten their tongue; they do not speak; they have nothing to say. They think a lot; in fact they think so much they have nothing to say. Yes, they think all the time. My hon. friends opposite remind me of a very clever little boy who went to see his grandfather and spoke to him about candy.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

An hon. MEMBER: The hon. gentleman is wasting the time of the house.

Mr. POULIOT: Well, well, listen. The little boy said: "Il ne parle pas." I would say that of the right hon. the Prime Minister. I wonder if the right hon. gentleman said all he had to say during the last election campaign.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. POULIOT: I am reminded of the bright sunshine which follows a long period of rain. The smile of my right hon. friend might be likened to that sunshine. However we on this side of the house are just poking little jokes at him to keep him in good humour. As he is in good humour now I would like to have an answer.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

An hon. MEMBER: Sit down.

Mr. POULIOT: No, I am not here to sit down. My right hon. friend knows that as soon as he gets up I will sit down. Until that time, however, I will claim my right and privilege as a member of this house to ask for all available information in the matter. To be dumb is a contagious disease, and I am afraid my hon. friends on the other side of the house are stricken with that complaint, except for purposes of heckling. They make no answer. I would like to know if an answer is to come. Will it come? And from where will it come? The hon. the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) who is in charge of the Civil Service Commission is not in the house and the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) is piloting the estimates. I know very well that the Prime Minister must be familiar with all the details in connection with those estimates and I would be very thankful if he would tell us something about them. The silence of my hon. friends opposite reminds me of a practice which prevailed at college. When I attended school there was a period called le grand silence which extended from eight o'clock in the evening until six o'clock in the morning, and in that time nobody was allowed to speak. To-day we have a similar situation; no hon. members on the other side of the house will speak. Well, we have some doctors in the house. We have the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) who is a doctor. I wonder why he does not cure the dumbness of the Prime Minister. The hon. gentleman is a doctor and I am told he is a very good one. Then there is the hon. the Minister of Health (Mr. MacLaren) and he is a doctor. Is it not a disease to be dumb? The hon. gentleman does not say a word. Perhaps he is suffering from that contagious disease. I think the right hon. gentleman should delegate his first medical officer in the department to cure the dumbness of all the Tories on the other side of the house. I am pleased to bring to the attention of the Minister of Health the illness of my hon. friends opposite. No answer; we must have Rip Van Winkle before us. La belle au bois dormant.

Mr. HEENAN: May I ask the right hon. the Prime Minister if this $20,000 is to pay the printing account; is it going to the Printing Bureau?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, partially, but not wholly.

Mr. BOULANGER: A few minutes ago I raised a point in all seriousness and I would like to have an expression of opinion by the government.

Mr. POULIOT: The Prime Minister is rising from his seat.

Mr. BENNETT: I hold myself in readiness to answer any question which may be directed to an item under consideration by the committee and to furnish all information available in the departments of this country in regard to items in question. This item does not affect the question of employees; no part of the money is to pay the salaries

of employees. The balance that was overexpended was with respect to printing and contingencies. The question of reorganization will be made known in due course, but, as my hon. friend will appreciate, a discussion of that question is not relevant at the present time.

Mr. POULIOT: If this commission is abolished it will print nothing.

Mr. DONNELLY: The right hon. gentleman has said that the expenditure is for printing and contingencies; what are contingencies?

Mr. BENNETT: In every department of public service there are contingent accounts to take care of unenumerated items of the public service. They are unforeseen expenditures and sums of money are voted to each department for that purpose. Sometimes it happens that the unforeseen expenditures exceed those which have been foreseen. With respect to this item however there is no such condition. The truth of the matter is that there were accounts amounting to $22,532.50 which remained unpaid from the preceding year. Economies in the department however have been made to take care of the balance so that only $20,000 is necessary to provide for accounts carried over from the preceding year.

Mr. VENIOT: Are there any details concerning the contingent accounts paid?

Mr. BENNETT: The details are in the report of the Auditor General. The accounts have been passed by the auditors, and paid. When we reach the report of the Auditor General which involves a sum of about half a million dollars I think the house will have to adopt a very definite policy which will be spoken of when that item is reached.

Item agreed to.

Insurance — contingencies — further amount required, $11,500.

Mr. BENNETT: That amount is to pay for the printing of the second volume of the insurance report for the year ending December 31, 1929. The carry-forward from the preceding year involved some items but in this item no provision was made. The cost of printing was $11,500.

Item agreed to.

Justice — contingencies — further amount required, $2,500.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is that for?

Mr. BENNETT: First of all, this sum is to cover the expense in connection with some temporary employees, but printing and stationery constitute the major part of it. I think it may be fair to say to the committee that the greater part of these items refers to just such incidents as that in the transaction of the public business. When we reach the large item of $500,000 I shall attempt to make a clear explanation of the whole matter.

Item agreed to.

Marine—salaries—further amount required for an assistant private secretary, $1,710; contingencies — further amount required, $13,000—Total, $14,710.

Mr. BENNETT: The sum of $13,000 represents an over expenditure beyond the appropriation carried forward from the preceding year; $1,710 is to take care of the payment of an assistant secretary for a period of six months, until March 31, 1931. The payment for the current year will appear in the estimates.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does this newly appointed official come under the Civil Service Act?

Mr. BENNETT: All secretaries, private secretaries and assistant secretaries do not come under the provisions of the act. That is one of the difficulties we have had on our hands during the last few months.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Has any portion of this $13,000 been used for travelling expenses of civil service employees and ministers? The contingencies usually include the travelling expenses of civil employees.

Mr. BENNETT: The knowledge which the hon. member has through his experience in the Department of National Defence enables him to speak with much authority about a matter of this kind, but that entire amount of $13,000 represents an over expenditure, representing a carry over from the preceding year which diminished the estimates for the current year by that sum, and this amount of $13,000 represents exactly the amount which had to be paid out of the current estimates because of the carry over from the preceding year.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): May I ask the Prime Minister if the salary of the assistant secretary is to be $3,400 a year? It is $1,700 for six months.

Mr. BENNETT: It is $3,420 per year for an assistant private secretary, Mr. Laflamme.

Item agreed to.

Department of National Defence—contingencies—further amount required, $10,000.

Mr. BENNETT: That represents an over expenditure in the same way.

The CHAIRMAN: Carried.

Mr. POULIOT: May I ask in connection with this item—

The CHAIRMAN: The item has been carried.

Item agreed to.

Administration of Justice—Supreme Court of Canada—law books and books of reference for library, and binding of same—further amount required, $2,550.

Mr. BENNETT: That item merely represents the over expenditure to enable the fiscal year to be commenced without a deficit.

Item agreed to.

The Senate—salaries and contingencies—further amount required, $7,296.39.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. COOTE: No.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member for Macleod desires an explanation. This item with reference to the Senate represents expenditures in connection with the special session. With respect to the House of Commons the corresponding item represents in part the expenditures incidental to the special session also the expenditures for the payment of sessional clerks and for certain numbers which were carried over, about which there will be ample opportunity for discussion when the Auditor General's report is under consideration by the public accounts committee.

Item agreed to.

Legislation—House of Commons—expenses of committees, clerical assistance, etc.—further amount required, $6,000; contingencies—further amount required, $18,500; estimates of Sergeant-at-Arms—further amount required, $23,000—Total, $47,500.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The question I should like to ask my right hon. friend does not relate so much to the item under consideration as to a matter of procedure, which, however, I feel might best be mentioned at this stage. Up to the present, in reference to the explanation of estimates which affect several departments of the government, we have only heard from the right hon. Prime Minister. I am not sure whether my right hon. friend is taking control of the estimates in his capacity of Prime Minister or in his capacity of Minister of Finance, but I wish he would tell us whether the other ministers who are in charge of the different departments are to be allowed to explain their own estimates or whether we are to look only to him for explanations of the items that appear in the estimates which have been presented to the house.

Mr. BENNETT: It has been the practice generally for the Minister of Finance to deal with supplementary estimates because the items have not been numerous, and, as the Minister of Finance is in control of the supply bill when it is ultimately submitted to the house I thought it desirable, and have prepared myself, to deal with them as has been done on previous occasions. There are not many items, and I thought I could furnish any explanations that might be required with respect to them in my capacity of Minister of Finance.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Do I understand my right hon. friend desires by his remarks to have it inferred that the ministers who are responsible heads of the different departments are not to be expected to answer questions put to them in regard to matters affecting their departments, where these matters arise out of the estimates which are before us?

Mr. BENNETT: It has not been the custom heretofore, and I have followed that custom.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I cannot agree with that statement.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes; that was the procedure followed last year when the supplementary estimates for the preceding year were submitted. These do not involve future expenditures. These are expenditures that already have been made, and I might further say to my right hon. friend that these were largely made before we came into power. The duty is cast upon me, and I think he will agree in a moment as to the soundness of the position I take, of endeavouring to ensure that every minister in his department faces the new year on April 1 without carrying forward a balance which he must pay from this year's appropriation, thereby making his appropriation deficient for the present year. I am endeavouring to do that; I believe it is sound business, and if I might anticipate what I am going to say in a moment, the Auditor General points out that that should be done. I brought with me the volume of the Auditor General's report containing that recommendation. In his report for the year ending March 31, 1930, at page

9, the Auditor General points out what the difficulty has been from year to year. In the year 1928-29 the carry over was $1,572,000, and last year it was $505,000, so there was $1,000,000 appropriated for the current year that had to go for the purpose of paying the accounts of the past year. As these estimates are of that character I assumed that the usual practice of the Minister of Finance, who is responsible for the passage of the supply bill, of making explanations, would be the proper one to follow, and I was going to make a little more lengthy explanation in connection with this matter and ask the committee to agree with me that there should be no over expenditure in the different departments. Certainly the right does not exist in any department to over expend money through the officials when there has been no appropriation by parliament. I should think that principle has been clearly laid down, although it has been departed from in some instances without the ministers knowing about it. The time has come when some very drastic action will have to be taken to prevent a recurrence of that condition.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I entirely agree with what my hon. friend says about over expenditures on the part of the officials; I think he is right in trying to put an end to that. However, I do not agree with him as to it being the practice for the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance to handle all the supplementary estimates. Parliament generally has been accorded the fullest information in respect to all relevant questions which have been asked, and I submit that full information can only be obtained from the ministers at the head of the different departments concerned, with the aid possibly of their deputies.

Mr. BOULANGER: May I get some information in relation to the item of $23,000 for the Sergeant-at-Arms?

Mr. BENNETT: That means the department of the Sergeant at Arms and all that is involved in it up to March 31, and as it involves a large number of items in connection with what might be called the internal economy of the house at the special session and otherwise, details of which are in the Auditor General's report for the current year, I am only asking the house, now that they have been paid, to legalize the payment of them.

Mr. DONNELLY: Does that mean expenses for the special session and up to the 31st of March this year, and this session as well?

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BENNETT: Up to March 31, 1931, being the end of the fiscal year. These supplementary estimates cover expenditures already made, some of them possibly in 1929. They will also cover all expenditures that have been necessarily made up to the end of this year, which is to-morrow.

Mr. DONNELLY: Are there any of these expenditures which go back to 1929? Can the Prime Minister give us any information?

Mr. BENNETT: There is one item that went back to 1929, not in connection with the Sergeant at Arms. Because of the carry forward from 1929 to 1930, there was not enough to take care of the whole of it and a balance was left to 1931.

Mr. DONNELLY: The sum of $500,000 has been expended by the Department of Agriculture since the first of September last. Is not the Minister of Agriculture going to explain how that amount was expended and why? Is he not going to be allowed to say anything about it or give information of any kind?

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure my hon. friend will use different words. He says the minister is not "allowed" to explain. There is no such word as that in this house. The fullest possible opportunity will be given hon. members to ask any questions, and the answers will be forthcoming.

Mr. POULIOT: Will the details of these accounts appear in the report of the Auditor General next year?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Agriculture—fruit—further amount required, $20,000.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: What is this for? Was the department short to this extent on the original estimate of a year ago?

Mr. BENNETT: The $20,000 was largely owing to the demand made in Nova Scotia and British Columbia in connection with the fruit crop, which was exceptionally heavy. The vote was not sufficient to carry the account, together with the sum that had to be taken from the main estimates by reason of other expenditures carried forward from last year. This is for fruit inspection in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, for reasonable additional work.

Mr. DONNELLY: How much was carried forward from the previous year?

Mr. BENNETT: I have not the figure.

Item agreed to.

Live stock — further amount required, $100,000.

Mr. BENNETT: The shortage in this case arose because the department undertook additional work in the sheep and swine divisions and assisted in the club work and sow purchase policy of the administration. Then there were increases in the exhibition grants which could not have been foreseen and are not fixed by rule, and an increase in the record of performance policy in cattle and poultry, which hon. members will understand was the policy of the administration when the former minister left the department. There are similar increases in other directions. I can get the details of all these expenditures if it is desired.

Mr. VALLANCE: I would ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) if he would do so—because he is in a much better position, probably, than the Prime Minister to give the information—to tell us just how much of this $100,000 was spent under the swine, sheep and cattle policy. He might also give us the information which has been asked for quite frequently at this session as to just what is the policy regarding live stock.

Mr. BENNETT: We can leave the item and the details will be given to the committee. The item can stand for the moment.

Item stands.

Health of animals—administration of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act and Meat and Canned Foods Act—further amount required, $300,000.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps the committee desires the details of this item. This is largely in connection with the compensation that has to be paid because a larger number of animals reacted than provision had been made for in the estimates. There is a considerable amount of additional money required for the purpose. We may let the item stand and I will see that details are furnished.

Item stands.

Administration of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act—further amount required, $20,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This is an item with which the former Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) is familiar. It represents the increased activities of the inspectors under the Destructive Insect and Pest Act. The greater portion of the expenditure, if not the whole of it, was, I think, incurred before this government came into power. It was necessary because of the prevalence of larger numbers of insects and pests in some parts of the country, and additional help had to be employed.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: This is a very important item, and I think the committee would like to have a detailed explanation as to how the entomological staff is getting on in the rounding-up of cut-worms which were destructive on the prairies last summer.

Mr. BENNETT: I had not anticipated that the practice which has heretofore obtained would be departed from. This is not the time, in my judgment, at which to discuss the general question of destruction caused by pests and insects. This is money that was expended under the policy of the former administration. I could give the hon gentleman the details, but they are involved in the details of the whole departmental enpenditure. There is no segregation of this $20,000, which is an over-expenditure beyond the appropriation made. The main estimates called for $625,000 and the expenditure was $645,000.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: In view of the fact that spring operations are beginning on the farms to-day, I would ask the Prime Minister to let all these items under agriculture stand until the Minister of Agriculture is in his place to carry the estimates through, in order that we might get some information from him. Most of us from western Canada are going home on Wednesday, and we should like to know from the Minister of Agriculture whether he really has an agricultural policy or whether he contemplates doing anything for the farmers. We should get that information from him. It is only fair and proper, even if these items are to cover money already expended, that the committee should be given information such as I am asking for. The house and the country are entitled to it. I should like to be able to tell the people whom I represent, and who are practically all farmers, that the government has some policy which will be of benefit to them.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure the members of this committee will agree that it has never been suggested before that the policy of the government should be declared on the voting of supplementary estimates for the current fiscal year. These debts have been incurred largely by appropriations made by the hon gentleman's own administration, and I should think in fairness to those who have to be responsible for their payment that the payment should be legalized without any delay. With the exception of one item, that is all that is involved in these supplementary estimates.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The present session opened rather late and we are already in the midst of our spring operations. Unless I am very much mistaken, during the last ten years hon. members have had the right to discuss the general policy adopted by any department at the time their estimates were being considered, no matter whether it was an item which had been spent or otherwise. I do not desire to embarrass the Prime Minister, but in view of the lateness of the opening of the session and the disappointment of the farmers at receiving nothing of a definite character, after having been prepared for a pronouncement by the Prime Minister at the Regina meeting, a statement of policy should be made by the government. I am making this suggestion in fairness to the people whom I represent and who are very vitally interested in the agricultural policy of this government. I do not claim that governments can do everything for the farmer or for the unemployed, but at the same time these people are expecting something. If we have nothing to give them, let them know it so that they can act accordingly.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, stands.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Inasmuch as my right hon. friend has said two or three times that the practice now being followed is what it has been heretofore, and in view of the fact that for some time I occupied the position which he now occupies, I may respectfully remind the committee that when estimates were brought down, whether they were supplementary or other estimates, not only were the ministers expected to be present and to give the desired information, but their deputies were expected to be present in the gallery and to come on to the floor of the house as might be necessary in order to give any information which the committee might wish to have. My hon. friend both in the special session and at this session, has been treated very generously and leniently by the opposition with respect to all matters he has wished to advance, and I think he owes it to the committee to see that a liberal interpretation is given to the obligation of the government and of its ministers to reply to any questions asked with regard to items appearing in the supplementary estimates. When the house began its sittings this afternoon the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) was in his seat, but after the first item respecting agriculture came under discussion in committee he left. I submit that the committee is entitled to more in the way of respect from the hon. ministers. Questions should not be left unanswered and hon. ministers should not deliberately absent themselves from the committee when matters pertaining to their departments are under discussion. If my hon. friend will allow his ministers to give us such information as they are able to, we will make allowance for limitations that may be all too evident.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, the last observation is hardly worthy of the right hon. gentleman or of any hon. gentleman who leads the opposition in this house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We have received no answers to our questions.

Mr. BENNETT: At my request the Minister of Agriculture left the committee to obtain particulars which he thought he had with him. He did not deliberatly absent himself from the committee. It has been and is the practice of parliament when estimates are being voted for the future to allow the fullest possible discussion with respect to policies and everything else connected therewith, but when we are endeavouring only to legalize expenditures which, according to the Auditor General's report were very deliberate, I think another set of considerations prevail. This committee, being anxious to retain some semblance of integrity with respect to its dealings, is now legalizing the unwarranted acts of those who made certain expenditures because they say they were instructed to do so. In my judgment, that is a wrong conception of their public duties by the permanent officials of this country. I am seeking to do only what I think any minister in my place would endeavour to do as Minister of Finance charged with the responsibility of a supply bill—to deal with these items without any undue delay. The sum total of these items is not large, except the one item of $2,000,000 for the Welland ship canal. This item permitted the contractors to continue work in a very open season, but they did so on the understanding that they would not be paid until parliament had voted the money. The amount of $505,510.46 is to cover items which, according to the Auditor General's report for 1930, were illegally and improperly expended.

So far as the inquiries with respect to the item under discussion are concerned, I asked the Minister of Agriculture to obtain from his department the list of expenditures as it has been found impossible to segregate these items from the whole. The original estimate of $25,000 was expanded into $645,000, and the

extra expenditure is now being compensated for by this item: it is to take care of the overdraft.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend inferred that these estimates were different from other supplementary estimates in that they were to meet payments for alleged unwarranted acts. I ask my right hon. friend whether he wished to imply by that remark that these estimates are different in any material essential from the supplementary estimates usually brought down at the beginning of each session.

Mr. BENNETT: I will admit that during the last few years they do not differentiate, but now that the right hon. gentleman has raised this question I might as well answer it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: I was going to discuss this matter when the item of $505,510.46 was under discussion.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Have the chairman call the item.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Is that amount for unprovided items?

Mr. BENNETT: Item No. 64.

Sir EUGENE FISET: May I suggest that the chairman call the item in question; it would be more regular.

Mr. BENNETT: It would be much more regular, but inasmuch as the right hon. the leader of the opposition has raised this question I am ready to answer it. If it is the will of the committee that we take up item No. 64 I shall be very glad to do so, but we have an item under discussion at the moment and I suggest that it should be disposed of first.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. DONNELLY: The question asked by the hon. leader of the opposition is right and proper. We are discussing a vote for the administration of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act, and we desire to know what progress has been made in destroying the cutworm. We want to know what progress they have made in overcoming the cutworm, because it has done a great deal of damage in western Canada and has destroyed a number of crops. What progress has been made in fighting that insect? It is right and proper that they should tell the committee what has been done.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the committee going to discuss the present item or have it stand?

Mr. BENNETT: Stand.

Item stands.

Unprovided items, 1929-30. To cover unprovided items, 1929-30, as per Auditor General's report, vol. 1, page 5, 1929-30, $505,510.46.

Mr. BENNETT: Resuming my observations with respect to this item, the Auditor General at page VII of his report for 1929-30 says:

> The unexpended portions of grants for the fiscal year amounted to $73,609,335.23, an increase of $15,353,248.78 over the amount unexpended in 1928-29. The amount by which grants were exceeded was $505,510.46, for which a special parliamentary appropriation will be necessary.
>
> The following comparative statement shows, under services, the amounts by which grants were exceeded in each of the last three fiscal years.

Then follows the page from his report on the items:

Service	1929-30	1928-29	1927-28
Administration of justice	.....	.....	$ 31 47
Agriculture	$ 6,055 87	.....	.....
Charges of management	21,289 95	$37,799 29	787 95

Then follow, one after the other, down to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

Royal Canadian Mounted Police	.....	.....	$8,141 86

Then he goes on to say:

> From the figures given in the above statement it will be seen that, after allowing for the unusual over-expenditure of $1,048,482.21 on account of Pensions in 1928-29, the amount of the over-expenditures of appropriations in 1929-30 exceeded that of the preceding year by approximately $20,000. As pointed out on page V of my report for last year, the responsibility for these over-expenditures rests entirely with the departments administering the appropriations exceeded and especially with the accountants of the departments whose duties in such cases are clearly defined in an executive regulation approved by the Governor in Council on July 7, 1892. The over-expending of appropriations has the effect of lessening parliamentary control over expenditures and, although in very exceptional cases it may have to be permitted, the practice is to be deprecated and means should be taken to prevent it.

No explanations with regard to appropriations not fully expended were furnished by two of the departments. As the amounts voted were based on estimates submitted by the various departments, I consider that the House of Commons is as much entitled to explanations of under-expenditures as of over-expenditures.

Then he goes on to discuss other matters. Each minister, upon asking his department, as the ministers have to do, as to what had to be provided in the way of money in the supplementary estimates to make good expenditures that had been made prior to the 31st March, 1931, was furnished with the details that I have submitted to the house. This item of $505,510.46 is one of them. I know not how long the practice may have continued antecedent to 1927-28, but it is apparent that during those three years it grew from a practice amounting to about $109,000 to one amounting to $1,572,000. The responsibility is, as the Auditor General says, with the accountants of the departments, and if parliamentary control of appropriations is to be maintained except under very exceptional conditions that may sometimes prevail, it follows that discipline must be applied, or the whole system will be wrecked for if accountants and deputy ministers under the control of ministers may make, beyond parliamentary appropriations, expenditures amounting to $1,000,000, they can do it to the amount of $5,000,000 or $10,000,000. All we are doing is to endeavour to start on the first of April with a clean sheet, and every appropriation that the committee is being asked to make to-day is to legalize what has been done and to pay back debts that have been incurred by the departments.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In speaking a moment ago, I agreed with my right hon. friend as to the desirability of having the closest kind of control exercised in order to prevent government officials from sanctioning over-expenditures. What I should like to point out to him is that with respect to the expenditures we are now discussing he has had that control for eight months; the previous government had it for four months. If there is a very large excess of expenditure, my right hon. friend and his ministers are the ones who are primarily responsible for it; they have had the control at the time when its exercise was required. Moreover, I am quite sure, although I have not had an opportunity to secure the estimates, that if we look back for many years in the past, we shall find that the item which is now before the committee is one that has appeared regularly in the supplementary estimates. It does not arise solely from over-payments in the current fiscal year. As my right hon. friend said a moment ago, there are many things which are unforeseen, items that even deputy ministers and ministers have not foreseen and the Auditor General has not foreseen. In a business involving the expenditure of between $300,000,000 and $400,000,000 annually, it would be extraordinary if there were not items here and there running into a few thousand dollars that might escape notice in that way. This item is inserted to make good those unforeseen amounts. It need not imply any real neglect on the part of anyone unless it is carried to too great an extreme.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My right hon. friend will find as he continues his administration, that with a great many contracts unfinished, it is very difficult to end a year with a complete payment of accounts covering that particular year. Provision is made for a short period in which to cover those accounts. I am quite well aware of the practice spoken of by my right hon. friend, but may I point out to him that the Auditor General is the individual who is in charge and who has control and can control.

Mr. BENNETT: I know. But the trouble is the money is spent before he gets a chance.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That may be; but my right hon. friend will agree with me that the Auditor General has the authority to prevent payment. What happens is that very frequently contracts run from one year to another, and it is difficult to say what the exact amount really is at the end of the fiscal year. The appropriation really ceases at the end of the fiscal year. It is most difficult to have a complete and exact accounting closing out accounts and contracts for the fiscal year ending on the 31st of March.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have been able to secure a copy of the supplementary estimates presented to parliament for the session 1922-23 and which contain the item to cover unprovided items for 1921-22. This would correspond with the session we are now holding. The Liberal administration had come into office and had been in office for, I believe, three months when these excess estimates were presented. The present administration will very soon have been in office for about eight months. The item before us is to make good unprovided expenditures amounting to $505,-510.46. In the supplementary estimates of 1922-23, the item there recorded for unprovided items for 1921-22 which relates to expenditure under the previous Conservative administration is $2,055,030.86. My right hon. friend will see from this to what extent the

Liberal administration has exercised care and caution in supervising expenditures in the departments as compared with his friends when they were in office.

Mr. BENNETT: Would my right hon. friend kindly let me have the estimate?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I will read the item to the house:

Unprovided items, 1921-22—434 to cover unprovided items, 1921-22, as per Auditor General's report, part b, page, 3, 1921-22, $2,055,030.86.

Mr. BENNETT: I suppose my right hon. friend remembers the circumstances in connection with that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There are always special reasons.

Mr. BENNETT: There are no special reasons about this one.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The same reasons.

Mr. BENNETT: No. My right hon. friend will remember the extraordinary demands made on the treasury in connection with unemployment relief in 1920-21. The supplementary estimates for 1922-23, from which he has quoted, are for the fiscal year ending on the 31st day of March, 1923. They are supplementary estimates for future expenditures, and what my right hon. friend read there was just one block item, instead of giving the details as I have done.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am reading precisely the same item that my right hon. friend has here. His item reads:

To cover unprovided items, 1929-30, as per Auditor General's report, vol. I, page 5, 1929-30.

It is an item to cover unprovided items for the previous period.

Mr. BENNETT: The estimates that were submitted for the year ending March 31, 1923, were estimates for that period, not for the period ending March 31, 1922. But I am dealing with items that have been expended, and I have given the details of them. I am doing that, instead of allowing them to run into next year, and putting an item in to cover them. The Auditor General has put in an item of $505,510.46, which compares with the item which my right hon. friend has mentioned. What has not been realized, apparently, is that we are now endeavouring to start the year clear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: So were we.

Mr. BENNETT: No, because the next year you did the same thing. What I am trying to do is to avoid this step next year.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That has happened every year since there has been an accounting.

Mr. BENNETT: No. There may be a small sum. My right hon. friend says that it was $2,055,000 odd for the year 1921-22. It was $1,500,000 in 1928-29.

The Auditor General directs attention to what must be painfully apparent to everyone. It means that you substitute the minister and an accountant for parliament, because the money has gone and there was no appropriation for it. Instead of doing what I might have done, namely, let this be treated as a supplementary estimate next year, or in the supplementary estimates this year by putting in an item "to cover amount unprovided for", I am giving the details of each department where the overdraft was, so there might be upon the record an indication of what these overdrafts were, and then we would start fair and square with the world. That is what has been done. The question as to policy cannot enter it because I could abandon all these items and treat them simply as one item, as was done in the main estimates. But I am going to endeavour at least—one may fail in the endeavour; an ex-minister says that we will fail, but I do not thing that we will—to see that hereafter there will be no over-expenditures by accountants and deputy ministers in departments, with the aid of a minister, about which the minister may know nothing—

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Except under governor general's warrant.

Mr. BENNETT: Exactly, but that is another thing altogether. Then those over expenditures are legalized in the estimates that come before the house. Once more I desire to make it clear to the committee, although it may be that my conception of my obligations as Minister of Finance is not such that I shall be able to realize it—the hon. member for West Edmonton says that is so—

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No.

Mr. BENNETT: But this is so. We are asking the committee this afternoon to pass these estimates of money that has been expended so that this house may hold this administration responsible for what happens from the 1st day of April next, after which we cannot say that any part of the expenditures were incurred by the former administra-

tion. I think an effort should be made to make it possible for each department to live within its appropriation. If not, some men will lose their positions. That is all I have to say.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Would the minister be kind enough to elucidate one point. He says that these expenditures have been incurred by different departments, but that no payments have been made. The expenditures were authorized but no payments were made.

Mr. BENNETT: In many instances the payments have been made in full.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Speaking from experience, I would say that some of the statements that have been made by my right hon. friend are not exactly—I do not like to use the word, correct—but I remember when I was deputy minister, and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) whom I had the honour of having as my minister at one time will bear me out in this—never was any over-expenditure of that kind authorized. The expenditure may have been incurred, but no payments were made before the appropriation was voted. I think that applies in this case also, unless there were extraordinary payments that I am not aware of.

Another thing: In every department, before the accountant or even the deputy minister can authorize any over-payment of that kind, the Auditor General must sanction that over-payment.

Mr. BENNETT: He says not.

Sir EUGENE FISET: He is making a mistake, because in my experience as deputy minister never has an accountant paid out a check without getting the authority of the Auditor General. That is provided by law.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I think my right hon. friend must be under a misapprehension because there are cases where an appropriation is exhausted, and then either the account must stand until the money is voted or—

Mr. BENNETT: That is what they do not do.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Where do they get the money?

Mr. BENNETT: With an overdraft.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I never was able to get it except by a governor general's warrant. My right hon. friend will find that the accounting situation is not quite so loose as he would depict it.

Mr. BENNETT: I would just answer my hon. friend by saying that his own department owed the printing bureau a large sum of money, which we had to pay, thereby reducing by that amount the grant that was available for the purpose indicated. The printing bureau rendered their accounts promptly, and there was no reason why these accounts should not have been paid; but by not paying them you got past the passing of the estimate, and showed just that much less money to vote. If you wish to go on in that way, that is all that it is necessary to do. But the liability has to be met another year.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I am not questioning that at all.

Mr. BENNETT: Let me give the figures. There was over three-quarters of a million dollars owing to the printing department by different departments. Part of that was in consequence of the election, the same as the census vote, which is a large item, but matters of that kind can be dealt with and should be dealt with. My hon. friend says that the Auditor General passes upon the account. All I can say is that he says not.

Sir EUGENE FISET: He is a new man; he has been imposed upon.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not see how the Auditor General necessarily sees the accounts before they are paid. He does not know the sum total. All he passes on is the accuracy of the account.

Sir EUGENE FISET: In my department there was pre-audit, a continuous audit, and a post-audit.

Mr. BENNETT: This is not sufficient to enable him to say whether the appropriation is exhausted. He says in his report:

> As pointed out on page V of my report for last year, the responsibility for these over-expenditures rests entirely with the departments administering the appropriations exceeded and especially with the accountants of the departments, whose duties in such cases are clearly defined.

And then the order in council is given. Since I have been in the Department of Finance I have observed that to be the case and to the best of my ability I have endeavoured and purpose to continue to provide that there will be no over expenditures next year beyond the appropriations.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Will the right hon. gentleman allow me to make one more remark? During the war and even while demobilization appropriations were being made my hon. friend will remember that under the War Appropriation Act the audit was changed to the extent of allowing the Auditor General to take charge of audits of the expenditures

made by the Department of Militia and Defence. I am more familiar with those expenditures than with the expenditures of the department about which my right hon. friend is talking at the present time. I know however that there is a provision in the audit act that every accountant before incurring any expenditure not voted by parliament absolutely must consult the Auditor General.

Mr. VALLANCE: I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question. Are we to understand that these supplementary estimates are being asked to cover a deficit for which this government is not responsible? Have new policies for which this government is not responsible brought about some of these expenditures? Take for instance the subject of agriculture.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not use the word deficit generally as perhaps the hon. member will follow. I used the word deficit in respect to appropriations in every instance, and the details are given with much greater fullness than has usually been the case. Instead of putting in the supplementary estimates for the whole account under one item we pursued the other course and gave to the committee details of every department as to contemplated expenditures. Some of the expenditures represent a continuation of policies and some of them represent sums already expended. I give the following illustration. We will suppose that the grant is $600 and the expenditure is $700 but exactly the same policy has been followed at which involved the spending of only $600. Extraordinary circumstances however involved the necessity of increasing the expenditure to $700 and we have asked for a supplementary estimate because the money has been paid. I will say to my hon. friend the ex-Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence that in many instances the money has not been paid. In the major number of instances however it has been paid. Despite what the hon. member thinks should have been the practice, and with him I agree, the Auditor General has said it is not the practice and as he is charged with the responsibility I am bound to accept his interpretation and I think my hon. friend will agree there has been no mistake made in the matter so far as I am concerned.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I was merely asking for information.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The right hon. the Prime Minister has given to the house as an explanation of the $2,055,000 unprovided item in the accounts of 1921-1922 the fact that the amount was due to special grants for the unemployed.

Mr. BENNETT: The years 1922 and 1923.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, 1921-22. I quote—

Mr. BENNETT: I thought the right hon. gentleman said 1922 and 1923.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No. My right hon. friend had the book before him, and it shows an unprovided item for 1921-22. The sum mentioned is to cover unprovided items for the years 1921-22 as per the Auditor General's report part b, page 3. I have that part of the report in my hand and I will read from it in order to explain how the unprovided items arose. The grant for agriculture was exceeded by $12.72. The charges of management grant was exceeded by $3,088.31; civil government salaries, by $5,416.95; civil government contingencies by $507.22; customs and inland revenue by $167,705.67 and demobilization by $976,322.89.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the item to which I referred.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, demobilization. But that does not account for a million dollars; the amount to which my right hon. friend referred was over $2,000,000. Then, in connection with militia and defence the grant was exceeded by $2,999.14. The grant for penitentiaries was exceeded by $161,738.24; that for pensions by $298,428.06; for post office, outside service $417,935.29; for public works, income, $20,510.36; for the collection of revenue, $350.84; for trade and commerce, $15.17; making a total of $2,055,030.86. If we deduct the amount my right hon. friend had in mind, that for demobilization amounting to $976,322.89, there is still left over $1,055,000 of grant exceeded which appeared as unprovided items for the years 1921-22. That was a period during which hon. gentlemen opposite had been in office for nine months and the Liberal administration in office for three months. The item we have this year arises when a Liberal administration has been in office for four months and hon. gentlemen opposite have had control for eight months. It is not the figure of $2,055,000 but the figure of $505,000. I would ask the house and the country to draw their own conclusion.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I do not wish to leave my hon. friend under a misapprehension that I have made the statement that there was absolute control. I agree that perhaps more control is desirable. In departments there is such a thing as switching votes,

and that practice should I think be prohibited. It should not be practised to any considerable degree. I do wish to say to him however that never in my nine years experience have I known the department to pay by cheque out of an appropriation that was exhausted. That is what would have to happen before a supplementary would be required. May I say to my right hon. friend that that cannot be done. Either money would have to be provided by warrant or the practice would have to be adopted to which my right hon. friend has taken exception, the practice of allowing it to run over into the next year and paying it out of the appropriation for the following year. I will admit that has been practised but not to any great extent. I think however that is a practice which might very well be stopped at once and permanently.

Mr. BENNETT: All I can say is that the Auditor General has used this expression:

"the over expending of appropriations." . . .

and it can mean only one thing.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I do not question that.

Mr. BENNETT:

—has the effect of lessening parliamentary control over expenditures and although in very exceptional cases it may have to be permitted, the practice is to be deprecated and means should be taken to prevent it.

That is the statement made by the Auditor General.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): He does not refer to payments?

Mr. BENNETT: In some cases payments have actually been made.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is the point to which we take exception.

Mr. BENNETT: I believe we are not so much at variance. I see the point taken by my hon. friend. The Department of the Interior owes the printing department several hundred thousand dollars. Instead of paying that amount between the end of March and the first of May, thereby incurring an extension of the estimates to that extent, payment was not made. As soon as the estimates are voted however payment is made. That decreases the amount of money available for the estimates.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That undoubtedly is what happens all along the line.

Mr. BENNETT: Hon. members will find amounts passed by this house against which I protested to the extent of three-quarters of a million dollars. In tracing the matter I have found that practice has been followed right through the piece. The Secretary of State approaches various departments and and asks for money to which they reply that they have no money, the money having been used for some other purpose, namely to pay deficits of the year before. If that is what the hon. gentleman means then we are one.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): There is no doubt that is what has happened. I do not question that, but what I do question is the statement of my hon. friend. Those moneys we are now voting could not be paid unless my hon. friend had warrants for them, and all the warrants that have been passed are here.

Mr. BENNETT: They have nothing to do with these things.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The amounts for which you are now asking the consent of parliament will have to be paid after the appropriations are made.

Mr. BENNETT: My information is that they have been paid, and the Auditor General says so.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): They could not have been paid unless the Auditor General allowed them to switch accounts. There is no other way in which it could be done.

Item agreed to.

Agriculture — publications — further amount required, $3,000.

Mr. McINTOSH: May I ask the Prime Minister just what publications are referred to here?

Mr. BENNETT: Publications of the Department of Agriculture, brochures with respect to weeds, seeds, livestock and so on for which the appropriation last year was $28,000. They required $31,000, a considerable part of which was incurred by reason of the fact that a new office was being occupied, and the movement of the publications entailed considerable expense.

Item agreed to.

Pensions—salaries and contingent expenses of the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada—further amount required, $40,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This represents a sum for which parliament made no appropriation last session, and which was expended for the purpose of setting up the tribunals under the statute passed last year. There is one chief counsel at $4,000 per annum; seven assistant counsels at $3,600 per annum; one junior

solicitor at $2,640; two clerks, grade four, at $1,680 each, and a medical staff consisting of one assistant medical adviser at $4,020; four pensions medical examiners at $3,040; one stenographer, grade two and four additional stenographers, making a total of $59,420. Then there are travelling expenses and the subsistence for six months amounting to $12,600. The total of the items I gave is $59,420, and $40,000 further is required to take care of the service.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I think this amount is put in the estimates under a misnomer. It is said to cover salaries and contingent expenses of the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada, but the Prime Minister in his explanation tells us that the money is required for the establishment of the tribunals, which is an entirely different thing.

Mr. BENNETT: The Board of Pension Commissioners is the designation under which this is all classed.

Sir EUGENE FISET: No, the Board of Pension Commissioners is the standing board, and this amount is required for the tribunals. I think it is a mistake.

Mr. POWER: I think that item should be divided; that portion which has to do with commission counsel might apply to the Board of Pension Commissioners, while the remainder should be credited to the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman is quite correct as to the item covering two services, the commission service and the medical staff. The medical staff which I gave is under George V, chapter 35, section 1051, and the other is under sections 1, 2 and 3 of the same statute, with respect to commission counsel. The one amounts to $23,820 and the other to $35,600.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Perhaps by adding the words "and staff" it might be sufficient.

Mr. BENNETT: It has been all treated in the Auditor General's accounts up to the moment as part of the Board of Pension Commissioners. The setting up of the new tribunals has been carried for the moment in that classification, but the appropriations will be separate in the main estimate which provides for that work. This, I understand, is sufficient to take care of the deficit.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Will the right hon. gentleman give us the names of the solicitors who have been appointed, together with the salary in each case?

Mr. BENNETT: I have given the salaries. I have not the names at the moment. These items will all be revoted in the main estimates.

Item agreed to.

Railways and Canals—Welland ship canal; construction and betterments—further amount required, $2,000,000.

Mr. VENIOT: The Prime Minister gave a short explanation in connection with this matter some time ago. Would he mind repeating that explanation now?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, I should be very glad to do so. The construction of the Welland ship canal, as the committee well knows, is being done under contract. It is usual, weather conditions being as they are, that the work stops at a certain season of the year and is resumed in the spring. Having regard to unemployment conditions, the minister authorized the contractors, who employ several thousand men, to continue their work, it being well understood that this did not increase the cost to the country. They continued their work and gave employment during the winter, but they were informed they would not be paid until parliament made new provision accordingly, and this item is to enable that to be done.

Mr. VENIOT: Then this is at least $2,000,000 for which the old government is not responsible.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so; I did not suggest that at all.

Mr. POWER: I am not quite sure that I understood the explanation of the Prime Minister. Am I to understand that the contractors were paid an extra amount to have them carry on the work later in the season?

Mr. BENNETT: No agreement was made to pay them extras, but they were asked to continue the service in view of the fact that a large number of men were unemployed. They have not been paid. This is a case in which they have not been paid, and they were told they could not be paid until provision was made for that purpose.

Mr. POWER: But I understand certain sums of money were voted last year for the Welland canal. Tenders must have been called for and contracts let. Am I to gather from what the Prime Minister has said that these contracts were extended to cover more work, larger quantities of work, or that the units of work were extended?

Mr. BENNETT: The total estimate last year was $7,600,000 and it was anticipated that between $5,000,000 and $6,000,000 would be

spent. As a matter of fact more than that was spent, and this $2,000,000 is to take care of that sum, which will be available after March 31. That is, they merely had a contract and went ahead with it. There was no money in the estimates to take care of this expenditure.

Mr. POWER: It was really an additional contract which was given, then?

Mr. BENNETT: No, just the same contract.

Mr. POWER: The same contract, but more work was performed than was anticipated at the time the contract was let.

Mr. MANION: The engineers of the Department of Railways and Canals had estimated that the contractors, who have a contract to continue the work to completion, would spend in the neighbourhood of seven million dollars last year. But the weather was so fine, the fall was so open that the contractors had finished that portion of the work for which the seven million dollars was appropriated and would then be obliged to lay off their men. It was in September some time, and the question was whether we should tell them to go on and wait for the passing of this estimate by the house, or allow them to lay off two thousand men.

Mr. POWER: The unit prices were the same?

Mr. MANION: Yes.

Mr. McINTOSH: Just what period was covered by the work represented by this extra two million dollars?

Mr. MANION: We figured it would take two million dollars up to March 31, and when this estimate is passed the contractors will get their money.

Mr. DONNELLY: How much more money will be devoted to the Welland canal? How far has the work progressed?

Mr. MANION: The work is obviously progressing rapidly or we would not spend the extra two million dollars.

Mr. DONNELLY: How many more millions do you want?

Mr. MANION: There is a requirement of about seven or eight million dollars—in the neighbourhood of seven million dollars—to complete the work. Whether it will be all completed this year or not is not known at the present time.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. VENIOT: As I understand it, under ordinary conditions this work would have closed down at a certain period—

Mr. MANION: That is not quite right.

Mr. VENIOT: —and the appropriation voted last session would have been sufficient to carry on the work up to that period. Owing either to the open season or to the necessity for carrying the work along further than ordinarily, with a view to relieving unemployment, the contractors were authorized to go on with their operations, which would represent an expenditure beyond the appropriation voted last session. In view of that permission given them to go beyond that appropriation, and naturally supposing that, it being out of the ordinary, the work might cost the contractors more per unit at that advanced season of the year, has the department obligated itself to the contractors to pay them anything additional beyond the unit prices of the contract?

Mr. MANION: None whatever. May I point out that my hon. friend's premise is wrong. Under ordinary circumstances, with ordinary weather conditions, the amount of $7,000,000 voted last year would have taken care of the work until the freeze-up. But because the weather was so fine, the season so open, the freeze-up being delayed, the contractors could carry on their work further than they otherwise would have been able to do. Consequently they got through more expeditiously than they had anticipated the work which they had estimated to do this year, and rather than allow them to lay off a couple of thousand men in strenuous times we permitted the contractors to continue operations on the condition that they would not be paid until the estimate was passed by the house. It makes no difference whatever, except that there was performed this year work which, under ordinary weather conditions, would have been held over.

Mr. VENIOT: Suppose we had had the ordinary freeze-up, this work would not have been carried on?

Mr. MANION: That is right.

Mr. VENIOT: I claim that there has been the ordinary freeze-up, to use that term. It has not been as early in the season as heretofore, but there has been a freeze-up and these men have carried on work after that freeze-up.

Mr. MANION: Not the part interfered with by the freeze-up. They got a good proportion of the work done earlier because the freeze-up was so late, but certain other works they were in a position to carry on.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister has been speaking of the desirability of controlling expenditures by the government. A fundamental principal is that when parliament votes money for a particular purpose that appropriation should be used exclusively for that purpose, and if a further appropriation is necessary the ministry may take one of two courses: It may ask parliament to vote the further appropriation, or, if parliament is not in session, it may secure from His Excellency a governor general's warrant, should the work be urgent, and the additional expenditure be justified on that ground. The minister has told us that this work was continued in order, as I understand it, to give employment to men who otherwise would have been unemployed. The minister says so. That being the case, I submit that the government should have adopted one of two courses. It might have taken a part of the appropriation which this parliament made for the purpose of relieving unemployment—the $20,000,000—and used it to provide employment in some such way. I am not so sure, there being a contract already in existence, that it would have been wholly proper for the government to do it in that way. But at least there was money voted for unemployment purposes under that specific heading. As an alternative, however, had the matter been one of great necessity, the government might have done what apparently they have done in other cases; they might have secured a governor general's warrant for the necessary amount. But they had no right whatever, of their own accord, to issue contracts to contractors for work to be done on the Welland canal or for anything else without this parliament having in the first instance made the requisite appropriation. In this instance the government has taken upon itself to spend $2,000,000 without having a governor general's warrant for the purpose, or without having an appropriation from parliament. I say that is an entirely wrong method of procedure, and if the Prime Minister is anxious, as apparently he is, to reform the methods of controlling expenditures, he had better begin immediately with his own colleagues and his own administration.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): Mr. Speaker, evidently, this amount of $2,000,000 has been spent to relieve the unemployed in the province of Ontario. That is discrimination. The government has no right to have parliament appropriate $2,000,000, for Ontario, over and above the $20,000,000 voted for all the provinces, in the course of the emergency session. I repeat it, that is discrimination. I think parliament should refuse to vote this amount. Moreover, why should Ontario be more favoured than the other provinces.

Mr. BENNETT: It is well to correct a misstatement on the part of my right hon. friend (Mr. Mackenzie King). There was no new contract; the contracts were made by the right hon. gentleman's government. They are contracts that will have to be paid The contractors had exhausted the money voted, and the only question was whether or not they should go on—because they will have to be paid anyway. It makes no difference; they will have to be paid under that contract which the former government made and which we could not break. The only question, therefore, was whether or not they should continue the work instead of laying off the men, as would ordinarily be done. It was the question between discontinuing the work or allowing the men to get the benefit of employment during the still open season. We said, "We have no money to pay you because the government, anticipating the requirements, provided what they thought necessary for the purpose." And the money not being ample to carry on the additional work performed by the contractors under their contract—it was not a new contract but the same one—we allowed them to continue operations on the understanding that they would finance the work themselves and when parliament met, as it was bound to do, the necessary appropriation would be passed. Parliament had to do it anyway.

Mr. VENIOT: They could have carried on under the general estimates.

Mr. BENNETT: They did carry on under the general estimates, but the money was exhausted.

Mr. VENIOT: I mean, they could have carried on under the general estimates for the current year.

Mr. BENNETT: No. It was thought desirable to let the house know what was spent instead of carrying forward into the next year a deficit or over-expenditure on the past year's operations. This committee is being told exactly what the situation is—that $2,000,000 has been spent.

Mr. CARDIN: Told afterwards.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, but it was under the contract which my hon. friend's government made and which had to be paid anyway.

Mr. CARDIN: Only as regards that item which was voted last year. Parliament did not pass on the $2,000,000.

Mr. BENNETT: No, but it is not referable to any item; the contract covers the work which is to go on from year to year. Money was voted to pay the contractors based upon the contemplated amount of work to be done. That amount of work was finished and then the contractors, having their machinery and plant on the ground, said that they could go along with the work and an appropriation could be put in the estimates. They wanted to know whether they would go ahead or stop work, and we said: Go ahead and do it.

Mr. VENIOT: Why not put it in the general estimates?

Mr. BENNETT: It is not put in the general estimates—

Mr. VENIOT: Put it there then.

Mr. BENNETT: —for the simple and obvious reason that the work was done prior to March 31, 1931.

Mr. VENIOT: The work is done but the contract is not completed.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. VENIOT: Why not put it in the general estimates for 1931?

Mr. BENNETT: The money was expended before March 31, 1930, and we want this committee and the House of Commons to know it.

Mr. VENIOT: It was an accommodation to the contractors to be allowed to go on with the work.

Mr. BENNETT: We do not think so.

Mr. VENIOT: It should not be included in the supplementary estimates. The Minister of Railways and Canals has informed this committee that one of the reasons for allowing this expenditure to be made was in order to help unemployment. I am glad to hear him make that statement and I am pleased to know that at least something is being done in that part of Ontario. Nothing has been done in New Brunswick, and especially in the county which I represent. Money was voted last year by this house for public works in New Brunswick and tenders were called for—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. VENIOT: I am speaking on the question of unemployment and I think I am in order. Money was voted by this house and tenders were called for but contracts were never let.

An hon. MEMBER: The same thing applies to British Columbia.

An hon. MEMBER: The same thing applies also to Quebec.

Mr. VENIOT: The attention of the Minister of Labour was called to the fact that unemployment was very acute in Caraquet and Little Shippigan and the government was asked to go on with its work. That work has not been proceeded with and no relief for unemployment has been accorded to the people in those sections. In this instance, $2,000,000 is being expended, although no appropriation has been made, in order to relieve unemployment in some other section of Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Was an order in council passed appropriating what would be necessary for this work or authorizing the contractors to proceed after the contract had expired?

Mr. BENNETT: The contract has not expired.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: After the moneys which had been voted by parliament had been exhausted.

Mr. BENNETT: Speaking from memory, the order in council provides that they were to be paid when the moneys should be voted by parliament.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think we can now see clearly where we are in the matter of how moneys are likely to be expended hereafter. The regular method is for parliament to appropriate a certain sum named in an estimate and when that sum is exhausted the government is supposed to come back to parliament for further appropriations for the particular purpose—

Mr. MANION: They are doing that now.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —or if the matter is one of great urgency and work must be completed before parliament can be reassembled, then a governor general's warrant may be issued in order that the work may be carried on. The Prime Minister is adopting a third method under which, when the supply is exhausted before the fiscal year is ended, the government may by order in council direct the contractors to proceed and incur further outlay, and then ask parliament

by means of a supplementary appropriation, to make good the amounts thus expended. I submit that that is something which has not been done heretofore, and it is entirely irregular.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is no justification for it whatever.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): It was done many times by the right hon. gentleman's government.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not that I am aware of at the moment, although I speak subject to correction. Since we are seeking to reform the government's method of financing I should like to know if this is to be taken as a precedent. Are we to understand that in the next year when parliament puts through appropriations whether for the Welland canal or for public buildings or for any other service, when those appropriations are exhausted, the government of the day, as of right by order in council, is to order the work to be continued and further expenditures incurred without having any appropriation passed by parliament till after the work is completed.

Mr. BENNETT: I have no doubt that I could cite a large number of cases—I have two or three before me now—where contracts were made and the contractor rushed his work and carried it beyond the appropriation. This applies to the construction of public buildings and other works and the contractor has the choice of making a claim for damages for breach of contract, or relying upon the infallible justice of the crown. The Welland canal is under contract and the contractors could have stopped work last fall. However, the season was good, a large number of men were being employed, the freeze-up was delayed and the minister said: Go ahead. The contractors did not require authorization from the minister, they could have gone ahead themselves. However, they did work certified to by the engineers to the extent of $2,000,000. The same thing has happened in connection with public buildings, one or two cases being right here in this city; the sum expended far exceeded the amount of the estimate. This always will be so. We have come to parliament with a supplementary estimate for the fiscal year in which it belongs. We say to parliament: that much money has been spent on a contract made heretofore and we desire it to be paid and charged against the fiscal year in which the money was expended. The contractors, exercising their choice, have preferred to go ahead with their work and to wait for payment until parliament votes the necessary funds. Either the right hon. gentleman has not examined the files of the Public Works department or he has not checked up with the former Minister of Public Works (Mr. Elliott) because if he had he would have discovered that in at least five cases out of every ten where a contractor gets his equipment erected he pushes the work with all possible speed and relies upon what was described by a great judge as the infallible justice of the crown to see that his contract is preserved and the balance of the contract price paid.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Will my right hon. friend tell me where there is any difference between the method pursued by this government and that adopted by the preceding government?

Mr. BENNETT: It is being brought down now and the committee is being told that it was an expenditure made during that fiscal year. There is no new principle involved in this procedure.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My right hon. friend was inferring there was.

Mr. BENNETT: This procedure is adopted in order that the contractor may receive his money just as soon as possible.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend lays claim to special virtue for having asked parliament to appropriate $2,000,000 in order to pay for work already performed. By what other means could he hope to obtain the money? There is no virtue in asking parliament to appropriate this money because it could not be obtained by any other means. What I would point out, not only to the Prime Minister but to other hon. members, is this: money is voted not only in relation to the particular project upon which it is to be expended, but with some relationship as well to the work being carried on in other parts of the Dominion. Where large appropriations are made, such as for the Welland canal, where the contract has run for a great many years, my recollection is that it has always been a question of how much the government would be justified in allotting to that particular project having regard to what was being allotted to other provinces and other projects. If the Welland canal is to be picked out as the one favoured scheme of the Dominion, if it is to receive an additional appropriation of $2,000,000 without similar treatment being accorded to other parts of the Dominion, there will soon be a good deal of dissension throughout the country as to the way in which public contracts are awarded.

My right hon. friend would have been in a much stronger position had he held to the ground which his minister took when he rose to speak, and had said perfectly frankly: This has been a hard year; there have been a lot of men unemployed; the contract had expired; we thought this was a way of giving employment to an additional number of men, and we decided therefore that the contractor would be given the work. In other years the contractor has been obliged to cut his cloth according to the appropriations made by parliament. This is a ground which the minister might well have sought to defend, but there is no defence whatever for the government by order in council appropriating $2,000,000 or practically appropriating—

Mr. BENNETT: I did not appropriate any money.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is a technical term—by order in council guaranteeing to the contractor and thereby to the men employed that it would come to parliament, ask for $2,000,000, and however irregular the procedure, put that appropriation through by the majority which they have in the house. If justice is to be done to all parts of the country and to all the objects and services for which the government is called upon to make appropriations, public appropriations cannot be made in that way. I say again, I hope the Prime Minister will not feel that he is establishing a precedent at the moment, and certainly we on this side will not countenance as a precedent the step which he is now taking of asking parliament to make good expenditures that have been incurred without any previous appropriations by parliament and no governor general's warrant for the making of them at a time when parliament was not in session.

Mr. POULIOT: There is a point I do not understand in this item. The Minister of Railways telegraphed me with regard to a station that he could not find a sum amounting to a little less than $7,000 to pay the difference between the appropriation and the lowest tender, or the tender that I know of, and yet this is an item amounting to $2,000,000 for which he has found the money. There is not a separate department for railways and another for canals; the department is the Department of Railways and Canals Therefore I believe I am in order in asking the minister how he made this discovery of $2,000,000 for canals when he was unable to find less than $7,000 for railways in order to build a station at Rivière du Loup. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways have full information in regard to the matter because I took the trouble to send both of them some papers and complete particulars. I have appealed to them without success. I am not surprised at that at all, but now I appeal to the House of Commons.

There is nothing like a Tory panic. There was a Tory panic in 1911 about reciprocity, later a Tory panic during the war, a Tory panic accompanying the War-time Elections Act, a Tory panic in connection with unemployment, and to-day it is a Tory panic in rushing through the business of the house. Plutarch says that big men are judged by small actions. To-day we shall judge small men by big misdeeds. I shall arraign several ministers, some as accessories before the fact; others as accessories to the fact, and finally, some others as accessories after the fact. I have a voluminous report that has been sent by the provincial board of health to the railway commission, with regard to—

The CHAIRMAN: I must ask the hon. gentleman to confine his remarks to the item under discussion.

Mr. POULIOT: I will only say, Mr. Chairman, that you will understand me better, because I am speaking on a question of principle. It is the principle involved in the minister being unable to find $7,000 although he has no difficulty in finding $2,000,000. This is a secret that every one of us would like to know. The report relates to the building of a station at Rivière du Loup.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not mind my hon. friend discussing his principle, but he must confine his remarks to the item before the chair.

Mr. POULIOT: May I read the correspondence with my hon. friend in which he said he could not find money for the building of the station?

The CHAIRMAN: That is relevant, certainly.

Mr. POULIOT: Thank you. I will proceed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask my right hon. friend—

Mr. POULIOT: I am very sorry to interrupt my leader, but I am sure he will be pleased with my argument. On October 14 —and may I say all the people in my consituency were expecting gold bricks from the

Minister of Railways, instead of which they have received Irish confetti—I sent a night letter to the Minister of Railways as follows:

Rivière du Loup, October 14, 1930.

Hon. R. J. Manion,
Minister of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Canadian National railway officials supposed to have notified tenderers for new station building here that your department has refused to sanction construction of same. Please wire me if such is the case and if so why and at whose request did you refuse your sanction?

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot see that this is relevant to the Welland canal.

Mr. POULIOT: If the Chairman is kind and patient enough to listen for half a minute, the question of money will arise, and he will see how it was impossible then for the minister to find any money. The telegram continues:

May I draw your attention to the fact that the actual station building is condemned by board of health.

This is the reply that I received:

Ottawa, Ontario, October 15, 1930.

Jean-François Pouliot, M.P.,
Rivière du Loup, Quebec.

Yours received. The question of new station at Rivière du Loup like many other matters held up because, of costs involved. Necessary repairs to station have been sanctioned.

R. J. Manion.

The cost involved was about $7,000. I have another letter in which there is a great complaint of poverty. It reads:

Office of the Minister of Railways and Canals.
Ottawa, Canada.

February 25, 1931.

Dear Mr. Pouliot,

I have your letter of February 23 with enclosures. As you are already aware, it has not been possible to provide a new station at Rivière du Loup for financial reasons. As you are also aware, the revenues of the railways, instead of improving, are decreasing—

All the money is spent on canals.

—and these revenues in the case of Rivière du Loup and vicinity are further decreased by the 20 per cent reduction from normal rates accorded shippers in the maritime area. Under the circumstances, I can see no early hope or expectation of the provision of a new station at Rivière du Loup. The railway management is, however partially from revenues and partially by capital appropriation in the estimates, endeavouring to find $15,000 for necessary repairs and improvements to the present structure. I, personally, trust that nothing may occur to prevent this expenditure being made.

Very truly yours,

R. J. Manion.

It is most extraordinary, Mr. Chairman, that the minister can find so much money for the canal and yet can find no money for the building of a station, when it has been said by such a big business man as Mr. Atterbury, the president of the Pennsylvania railroad—

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I want to be as fair as possible, but for my hon. friend to be discussing a station at Rivière du Loup is not the same thing as discussing the Welland canal, for which there was a contract. I must ask hon. members to keep to the item before the chair.

Mr. POULIOT: Shall I be allowed to proceed, Mr. Chairman, when the estimates for the railways is called?

The CHAIRMAN: Undoubtedly.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: During the last parliament there was an appropriation in the estimates for the construction of a post office building in my district. The Minister of Railways said a few moments ago that $2,000,000 was spent on the Welland canal in order to relieve unemployment. The item I speak of, $10,000 for the construction of a post office building, was urged by the reeve of the municipality where the post office was to be erected, in a telegram which he sent to the Minister of Public Works, urging that the contract be let as soon as possible in order to relieve unemployment. So if the government can find $2,000,000 to relieve unemployment by carrying on work on the Welland canal, and provide the money by order in council, it seems to me that they could have found it proper to construct this building to relieve unemployment. To that telegram of the reeve of the municipality urging that the contract be let as soon as possible in order to relieve unemployment, there was no reply.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot see that this is relevant to the item under discussion.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: It is relevant if the remarks of the Minister of Railways, who has referred to work for the unemployed, are relevant.

The CHAIRMAN: I think I must keep the committee to the discussion of the item before the chair.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Then keep the minister in order, too.

The CHAIRMAN: I am quite willing to do so, if I can.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Would the minister or the Prime Minister advise the com-

mittee who the contractors on the Welland canal are, and when the last payment was made to them under the appropriation made by parliament?

Mr. MANION: The contractors were the Porter people, the Lyall Construction Company, the Canadian Dredge Company, the Atlas Construction Company, and A. W. Robertson. That I think completes the list of the big contractors who were given contracts by the late government. I am sorry that I cannot say offhand when the last payment was made, but it was made out of the appropriations that was voted by the late government. When the appropriation was exhausted, naturally we stopped paying. Now we are asking for the money to pay for the balance of the work. The contractors have carried on of their own free will. They could have retired, but they chose to carry on.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is very material to have a statement from the minister as to when the last payment was made. Perhaps the minister will let the item stand, and after recess I would ask him to tell the committee what amounts have been paid to the contractors under the appropriations made by parliament what contractors received payments, and the dates the payments were made.

Item stands.

Ottawa—addition to central heating plant—further amount required, $21,500.
Ottawa—National Research Council laboratories and equipment — further amount required, $41,330.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I should like details with respect to these items.

Mr. BENNETT: This amount of $21,500 is required for payment of balances due on the following contracts in connection with the addition to the central heating plant at Ottawa:

1. Balance due on contract with A. T. Garvock for addition to building, $6,122.
2. Balance due on contract with W. G. Edge Ltd. for alterations to mechanical equipment, $8,217.
3. Balance due on contract with J. Inglis Co., Ltd. for pulverizing and burning equipment, $3,660.
4. Balance due on contract with Canadian Vickers Ltd., for boilers, $1,550.
5. Balance due on contract with Bailey Meter Co., Limited, for flow meters, $1,888—Total, $21,437.

The work in connection with the addition to this plant was commenced in the year 1929-30, and it was expected that $80,000 out of the appropriation of $200,000 would be expended on the above contracts during that year.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

The sum of $130,000 was provided in the estimates of 1930-31 to complete the work but that sum was insufficient owing to the fact that instead of $80,000 only $58,500 was expended in 1929-30, thereby mortgaging the appropriation of 1930-31 by $21,500 greater than was anticipated. It is to pay off this obligation that the amount of $21,500 is required.

The amount revoted in 1930-31 was $120,000.

With respect to the contract with A. I. Garvock for an addition to the building, an order in council was passed on September 3, 1929, accepting the tender of Alex I. Garvock at $82,000, for an addition to the central heating plant at Ottawa. There was only one tender received for the work. The contract was subsequently increased by authority granted on October 23, 1929, to accept the tender of Mr. A. I. Garvock, at $4,756. The total contract was for $87,312, and the contractor received $81,190, leaving a balance owing of $6,122.

The other item refers to the laboratories that are being built in connection with the national research council. The particulars are rather extensive, but if the house desires to have them they can be furnished. This amount of $41,330 is required to pay the contractors, Robertson and Janin, of Ontario, Limited, for work performed during 1930-31 in connection with their contract for the erection of laboratories for the national research council, and for which there were no funds owing to the exhaustion of the appropriation of $1,500,000. The expenditure incurred in 1930-31 was $1,541,330, and the amount paid $1,500,000, leaving a balance due of $41,330.

Item agreed to.

Burlington channel—improvements—further amount required, $151,495.
Port Arthur and Fort William—harbour improvements — further amount required, $288,530.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to ask the Prime Minister if this is a case similar to that of the Welland canal. The harbour in question happens to be in the constituency of the Minister of Railways and Canals. I notice that over a quarter of a million dollars is voted to further the work. May I say to my right hon. friend that where there are small amounts, amounts say, of a few hundreds or thousands of dollars necessary in order to complete particular work within the fiscal year there may be a reason why some latitude

should be shown. However when we come to items amounting to a quarter of a million, half a million or two millions, special explanations are required and should be given.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure my right hon. friend has observed that in respect to the last item to which I referred the contractor had gone ahead with the work and appropriations had been exhausted. In this particular case the further amount required to pay the balance owing on three contracts for work performed in the years 1930 and 1931 on the widening and deepening of Burlington channel is $151,495. The balance owing to the R. C. Huffman Construction Company Limited on contract number 21051 for the new substructure of the Canadian National Railway bridge and substructure and roadway approach for the new leaf of the Bascule lift bridge is $61,104.90. The balance owing the Hamilton Bridge Company on contract number 21098 for construction of Strauss Trunnion Bascule bridge, the new leaf, including alterations and additions to the existing span, is $75,090. The amount owing to the Canadian National Railway Company for work done in 1930, placing ballast, ties and rails in connection with the new Canadian National Railway spring bridge rendered necessary by the widening of the channel is $15,300. The total amount required is $151,494.90. Those items constitute expenditures under contracts which were not made by the present administration. As far as I know the expenditures were properly made under that contract. The appropriation having been exhausted the companies interested now ask the government to provide for the amount to which they are entitled.

Mr. VENIOT: Have the contracts been completed?

Mr. BENNETT: This particular contract?

Mr. VENIOT: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: My information is that contracts in regard to that particular work have been completed, yes. There is further work however to be done in that locality. This particular work is completed. The amount of $15,300 is payable to the Canadian National Railways for putting in ties, ballast and rails in connection with the bridge. As I have said the total amount required is $151,494.90.

Mr. DONNELLY: What was the original amount of the contract?

Mr. BENNETT: The original amount was a very large sum of money. The appropriation in 1930 and 1931 was a million dollars. The expenditure was a million dollars. I have before me the report of the officials which I shall read:

When the $1,000,000 was voted in the main estimates 1930-31, it was considered sufficient for all the work expected to be performed during the year, but owing to favourable weather in the fall and early winter, more work was done than expected.

This statement would seem to explain the position in regard to that expenditure. I presume my hon. friend wishes to know the details concerning the balance owing Huffman and Company. I will give the following in that connection:

Amount of final estimate		$505,084 90
Amount paid 1929-30	$113,180	
Amount paid 1930-31	330,800	
		443,980 00
Balance owing		$ 61,104 90

Four tenders were received for this work in answer to public advertisements. The four firms tendering were the R. C Huffman Company Limited, Canadian Engineering and Contracting Company, Port Arthur Construction Company Limited, and Russell Construction Company. The tender of the R. C. Huffman Company Limited was $385,508.30. The Canadian Engineering and Contracting Company asked $360,054.90; the Port Arthur Construction Company Limited asked $404,544.30 and the Russell Construction Company asked $418,566.40. During the progress of the work it was found necessary to authorize an increase in the quantities in the pier foundations, excavation, timber and steel sheet piling. This was authorized by order in council of July 26, 1930,—two days before the earthquake.

Then I have before me a statement showing the balance owing the Hamilton Bridge Company. It is as follows:

Amount of progress estimate No. 5 for work done to end of February 1931.		$248,170
Less drawback		24,810
Net amount earned		223,360
Amount paid		148,270
Amount owing, due to exhaustion of appropriation		$ 75,090

Order in council April 28, 1930, accepted tender of the Hamilton Bridge Company, for the construction of a strauss Trunnion Bascule bridge, including alterations and additions to existing span.

Three tenders were received March 25, 1930, in answer to public advertisement:

1. Hamilton Bridge Company Limited, Hamilton	$236,005 85
2. Canadian Bridge Company, Limited, Walkerville	243,627 15
3. Dominion Bridge Company, Montreal	248,606 00

The contract was let for $236,005.85. The amount owing to the Canadian National Railways after deducting the salvage for old tracks, bolts, nuts and so on in connection with putting in the new rails and tracks on the new bridge was $15,277.

In answer to the question by my hon. friend from Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) I will read the following:

It is expected that the two bridges will be open for traffic over the new highway by April 15, and the entire works including dredging, new north pier, et cetera, should be finally completed and ready for use June 15, 1931.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I am confused by the statements made by my right hon. friend. Do I understand him to say that only $75,000 of the $151,000 required has actually been spent in the year 1930, or during the fiscal year 1930-31?

Mr. BENNETT: I told my hon. friend how the totals were made up.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): From the explanation of the Prime Minister it would appear the actual expenditure was only $75,000.

Mr. BENNETT: No, I am afraid my hon. friend is confused between two things. The first figure concerned the construction company, the second the bridge company and the third the railway company. The sum total of all amounts to $151,495, the figure in the estimates. The sum of $75,090 was the amount due to the bridge company.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I think my right hon. friend has discovered how difficult it is to deal with contracts. There are many and varied contracts throughout Canada for the construction of buildings and other public works governed by appropriations by parliament. He will have to come from time to time to get those appropriations through.

Mr. BENNETT: Of course.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the explanation of the second part of the item?

Mr. BENNETT: The explanation of the second part of the item concerning Port Arthur and Fort William is a little more lengthy. It is as follows:

This further amount is required to pay amounts owing on three contracts for work performed in 1930-31 for which the appropriation was insufficient, as follows:

Balance owing Messrs. Chambers, McQuigge and McCaffrey on final estimate on contract No. 15,924 for the construction of a section of the rubble mound breakwater in Port Arthur harbour and the extension thereto, to the end of the working season of 1930, $254,308.01.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Balance owing the Great Lakes Dredging and Contracting Company on final estimate on contract No. 22,088 for deepening and widening entrance channel to the dry dock and slip of Port Arthur Shipbuilding Company and removal of part of lot 10 at the confluence of the Kaministikwia and Mission rivers, $29,969.12.

Amount owing to Messrs. Chambers, McQuigge and McCaffrey for rubble mound protection work on Kaministikwia river at Fort William between the Fort William terminal elevator and the consolidated elevator, $4,252.50—Total amount required, $288,529.63—say, $288,530.

Appropriation 1930-31, $140,000
Expenditure 1930-31, $140,000.

In other words the whole sum has arisen out of a contract which was made about a year and a half ago. The work proceeded slowly at first and then with greater rapidity, with the result that the balance I have mentioned has become due.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This appears to be a contract similar to that amounting to $2,000,000 in connection with the Welland canal. I point out to my right hon. friend and to the house that the previous administration brought down estimates setting forth certain amounts to be expended on this particular work. When parliament was about to prorogue the government again looked over the estimates to see what was necessary in the way of supplementary estimates in order to conclude the work within the fiscal year. At the time the estimates were brought down we placed on the table an estimate of the amount we believed to be necessary to complete a certain amount of work within the fiscal year or to go the length we thought proper at that time. Most of the estimates now before us are in the nature of amounts to make good additional sums of money the contractors have been authorized to incur without any appropriation from parliament. In fact, they would appear to be in opposition to the sum that parliament had declared was the total amount which should be paid. The matter is entirely irregular and the situation is not made any better by the fact that in some of these cases, as in the present one, the present administration has practically doubled the amount which parliament at its regular session thought would be ample to expend in the present fiscal year on a particular contract. I realize that we are in the hands of the government in the matter of these payments, but I do think the house should understand that what we are doing now means virtually making good large sums of moneys to contractors for public works, none of which moneys have been authorized by parliament heretofore in the regular way

but all of which have been incurred by the government's direction to the contractors simply to go ahead with the work and to trust to the government, with its large majority, putting through the accounts when parliament reassembled.

Mr. ARTHURS: In all cases I understand the contracts were let by the previous government, were they not?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I should like to make that perfectly clear. These contracts have been running for a number of years, and each year parliament appropriated the money it thought was ample to be spent during that fiscal year. The fact that the contract was let by a previous government does not affect the situation at all. The important fact is how much the government of the day asked parliament to appropriate, and the point which comes up for consideration now is how much the government opposite, of its own volition, has incurred by way of public expenditure by order in council, without any authority from parliament and without any warrant from His Excellency, The Governor General.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN: The item under discussion is No. 18, harbours and rivers, $440,025.

Mr. BENNETT: I think I had given a full explanation of this when the committee rose.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Can my right hon. friend tell us what payments have already been made within the present fiscal year on account of harbour improvements at Port Arthur and Fort William, and when the last payment was made? I understand that the item of $288,530 which appears in this estimate is for payment to be made on work that has been done in this fiscal year but for which there was not available money under the original appropriation.

Mr. BENNETT: That is correct. This case perhaps very clearly illustrates something which my right hon. friend has overlooked, and it becomes essential to take a few moments to clear the situation. In every appropriation of public moneys tenders are usually called for and a contract is entered into. The contract involves, on the part of the crown, the payment of the price agreed upon and, on the part of the contractor, the performance of the service which he undertakes. There is usually in all such contracts a date within which the work is to be completed, and if the contractor finishes the work within the time that is all that can reasonably be expected. But if by pushing the work forward with expedition, he anticipates the conclusion of the contract, it sometimes follows that he is in a position to get his money before he would otherwise receive it, provided that parliament has made an appropriation. If not, he has to wait until the session of parliament before he can receive it. It would be entirely wrong to grant governor general's warrants in a case such as that. Warrants are not issued where contracts have been outstanding. That has been the general principle of governments, because it has been held that the necessity which justifies the issue of a warrant does not arise where there is a contract. That principle has generally governed, although it has been departed from in some cases; for instance, it has happened where there has been a great disaster or any occurrence of that kind, even although there has been a contract, where a particular work has been destroyed. This case amply illustrates the point I was making. The contract was No. 15914, the original amount $472,500, and the contractors Messrs. Chambers, McQuigge & McCaffrey, the date of the contract, September 19, 1928, and the date for completion, July 28, 1930. I wish the committee to bear in mind that the contract was to have been completed by the middle of July last year. The contractor commenced work in September, 1928. This was authorized by order in council passed on August 26, 1928. The work was awarded to the lowest tender. There follows in the particulars I have a description of the work that was done. It was done on the unit basis. In a letter dated October 8, 1930, the minister authorized Messrs. Chambers, McQuigge & McCaffrey to proceed under the terms of their present contract with supplying and placing of core stone and cover stone in the prolongation of the section of the breakwater next adjacent to the section then under contract. This authority was given partly to relieve unemployment in Port Arthur, and was to expire at the end of the working season, the contractors to wait payment and the government to ask parliament at its next session to provide the necessary funds. The above additional work was covered by authority of order in council dated January 28, 1931, after it was known exactly how much work had been performed. The additional expenditure incurred by the

above authority amounted to $219,225. The total amount owing the contractors is $254,-308. That is the situation with respect to that item.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Is the contract finished?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, the work was finished. There is no contract outstanding for further work.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Inside the estimate?

Mr. BENNETT: No, not quite, but the difference is not substantial. The amount is about $35,000. There is a balance owing to the Great Lakes Dredging & Contracting Company in connection with the same work. The amount of the final estimate is $62,146.37, the amount paid being $32,177.25; the balance remaining is therefore $29,969.12. The original work under this contract consisted of certain operations which I need not mention. The work was extended on September 19, 1930, to include an additional 100,000 cubic yards from lot 10 at the confluence of the Kaministikwia river and Mission river to give more room for steamers to turn, on condition that the contractor would await payment until further funds had been voted by parliament. I mentioned this in parliament last September, when I made reference to these matters.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I wish to call the attention of the Prime Minister to this point. In a number of localities where there has been public work either contemplated or commenced, the work has been stopped and there has been unemployment. Communications have been sent to the government asking whether it would be possible to have the work proceeded with and replies have been sent by the government to the effect that parliament has not made an appropriation beyond a certain amount and that it would therefore be altogether unlawful to proceed with the work. One case was mentioned this afternoon by the hon. member for Provencher. That was a case in point. Either this reason is a true one or it is not true; either the condition given in that reply should apply in all cases or it should apply in none. What appears to have been the case here is that in some localities where there have been contracts certain contractors have received, as it were, special favours; they have been allowed to go ahead with the work. They have been given to all intents and purposes new contracts, although they have been told that they would have to wait until parliament reassembled in order to have the money voted to make good what would have to be paid to labour. On the other hand, where other communities have asked that a similar course be adopted, they have been told that it was illegal to proceed in that way. One way must be right and the other wrong, and I submit that the right way is to limit the work to the amount parliament has voted for the contract. I recall several of the contracts which relate to items in the supplementary estimates as having been fully and carefully discussed by the previous government. It was recognized that it might not be possible to have the work completed within the fiscal year, but it was contemplated that it would be continued in the next year. My right hon. friend will, I am sure, agree that when he brings down his main estimate there will be item after item which will read somewhat in this way: To complete work, amount required in addition to—mentioning the previous amount voted. That is the way in which estimates are presented to parliament. A given work or service may involve the expenditure of $1,000,000, and the minister in presenting the estimates to the house will inform the house that while the work when completed will amount to $1,000,000, nevertheless the government is asking only for $500,000 for what is to be done within the fiscal year. The estimate for the additional $500,000, or a portion of it, will appear in the estimates of the next year. That is the way estimates are voted when voted regularly, and I submit again that wherever a departure is made from that course it is irregular.

The Prime Minister has explained to us that this expenditure was made in part to relieve unemployment. That is part of the explanation which he has put on the record. Again I would point out that parliament at the last special session voted $20,000,000 to aid in unemployment. If it was contemplated that these public works would be continued beyond the point at which it was intended by the previous administration that they should be continued, in order to provide work for the unemployed, then hon. gentlemen opposite should have submitted additional estimates at the special session, and have stated at the special session that there was going to be so much unemployment during the coming winter, that they intended to go further with the dredging of harbours, the extension of wharves and the building of public buildings than had been contemplated by the previous administration. The estimates should have been submitted to parliament and we should have been told that they were for the purpose of relieving unemployment. That would have been

treating parliament fairly and the public fairly, but the present method is highly irregular and is not at all defensible.

Mr. BENNETT: I am glad the right hon. gentleman made that closing observation, for it enables me to point out to the committee that at the special session, on September 10, I directed attention to that particular policy as being the policy which the government would pursue. The words I used on that occasion, which appear on page 68 of Hansard, were as follows:

Work is being carried on in connection with the breakwater, we will say, at the head of the lakes—I give that as an illustration—the parliamentary appropriation has been exhausted; the work could be usefully carried on, and give employment to several hundred men for several weeks longer; it would be proposed, at the same unit cost, to continue that work.

And on September 11 I made the following remarks, which appear on page 94 of Hansard:

But, as I said yesterday, it is proposed to continue existing contracts upon the unit basis upon which they have been let by my hon. friends opposite, in cases where by so doing employment will be provided which might not otherwise be available. And I gave an illustration. It happened to be the illustration of a breakwater which had been brought to my attention. That is, the appropriation for the year is exhausted. The work was let by tender on a unit basis.

Employment could be given to a few hundred men from now until the close of navigation by continuing the present contractors in their work under the same unit basis. That I conceive to be a proper case to deal with, and I mention it as one of those it was proposed to deal with.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Out of the $20,000,000.

Mr. BENNETT: No. We were asked many questions as to how we proposed to deal with this problem, and we replied that we proposed to extend the docks, for instance, upon a unit basis, and we have done so. There is a clear distinction and there should be no difficulty in the committee's deciding between what is new contract and what is the continuance of existing contract. Had the work at the head of the lakes been terminated the equipment would have been removed. It was admitted that at some time or other this rock breakwater would have to be extended, and the unit cost of the work was fixed by the contract. The equipment being on the ground, the work was extended on the basis of the same unit cost as had prevailed in the original contract.

Some of the matters mentioned this afternoon involved the voting of money for new contracts, and I am sure that when we come to the main estimates my right hon. friend will admit that no government he has ever known has succeeded in extending to the same extent the contracts of the former administration. Case after case will be found where tenders were called for and contracts let for the very reason mentioned by the right hon. gentleman, namely, to endeavour to provide employment for those who might not otherwise be usefully engaged. Many of these cases involved constituencies which had not supported the present administration, and when the main estimates are considered I feel satisfied that hon. members will admit that this government has been extraordinary in that regard. We did not do as has been done at times—cancel contracts on accession to power. A few days before the late government gave up its seals of office they passed many orders in council accepting tenders.

An hon. MEMBER: After defeat.

Mr. BENNETT: No effort was made to cancel those contracts. How unlike the action taken by the former administration. They came into office and found that the Journal Publishing Company had leased a portion of its office space to the Agriculture department. The Auditor General's department decided that other quarters should be found and the contract was cancelled, with a resulting cost to the country of $22,000 in damages and costs. I think it will be found that a very earnest effort has been made by the officials in charge of these contracts to meet in every sense the public necessity rather than to serve any political ends.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend has referred to a certain contract and has tried to have it appear that with respect to contracts his government has acted differently from the previous administration. Might I remind the committee that with respect to that particular contract, and other contracts which were dealt with similarly, they were dealt with in the manner in which they were for a very obvious reason; the administration which had been in office prior to the time at which the action was taken was an administration that had never received any authority to act, either from this parliament or from the people of this country. It was a phantom administration which came into being for a short time in 1926 without having the support of the majority of this House of Commons or of the electorate of the country.

An hon. MEMBER: That is quite different.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: When that so-called shadow government undertook to award contracts to its friends, it became a first duty

of the incoming administration to see that contracts of the character should not be permitted to continue. What my right hon. friend in continuing existing contracts describes as being such a virtuous act upon his part in contrast to what was done by other administrations is in reality nothing of the kind. In regard to what his administration has done in continuing the contracts which were in existence when they came into office, it will be found that in each case tenders had been called for before the elections. Moneys had been appropriated by parliament at a previous session, in all particulars the authority of parliament had been obtained, and the government which held office at the time these contracts were signed simply performed an executive act necessary to complete the will of parliament in regard to these contracts. There is nothing there for which my right hon friend is to be specially thanked.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Live stock—further amount required, $100,000.

Mr. BENNETT: This vote is required, first, to meet grants to fairs and expenditures in connection therewith, $19,300. Of this amount, $6,000 is needed for four new fairs named by the late administration to receive class B grants, namely Chilliwack, Armstrong, Assiniboine and Waterloo. It might be mentioned that these four fairs were named as B fairs during the elections but that has no reference to the fact that they were deserving. The fair at Valleyfield was changed from class A to class B at an increased cost of $3,500. A winter fair was started at Sherbrooke at a cost of $9,800.

In the cattle division, the amount voted for cow testing service was $55,000 while the total estimated expenditure for the year was $62,500. This is not an abnormal increase, as I think hon. gentlemen opposite will agree that when you are dealing with a matter of $55,000, an increase of $7,500 is not out of the way.

The poultry item is the largest of those I am reading. The total expenditure was in round figures $290,000. The appropriation, as will be noticed is $258,000. The departmental officials observe that the increased expenditure is due mainly to the following reasons:

1. Very greatly increased activity in poultry promotion in Quebec, in cooperation with the provincial department. In all, six new poultry promoters were added to the staff and the sum of $3,000 was set aside to assist in cokerel distribution.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

2. The increase in the work of car-lot inspection of dressed poultry in the western provinces, an increase of easily 30 per cent. In this work, fifteen additional men were employed over the previous year. Further, the period in which the men were employed was considerably longer than in previous years, owing to the increased number of killing and plucking demonstrations and the fact that many points were induced to ship their poultry earlier than previously.

For sheep work there is a deficit of $15,000. For sheep promoters the amount voted was $34,000 and the amount expended $42,000, leaving a deficit of $8,000. During the year, the increased demand for pure bred rams, increase in the organization of sheep clubs, increased demand for ewe lambs for breeding purposes, for sheep demonstrations, including demonstrations on wool, docking, castration, dipping and the control of sheep parasites necessitated increased travelling on the part of officers connected with this work. For the ram premium policy the amount voted was $10,000, the amount expended $17,000, leaving a deficit of $7,000.

As I said this afternoon, these policies were not those of the present administration. These items are but carrying out new policies as regards which I am bound in fairness to say the exact amount that would be spent could not with definiteness be ascertained, but the appropriations made were regarded as being sufficient for the purposes. A somewhat larger sum was actually expended.

The vote for the general grant was $10,000 and the expenditure slightly over $37,000, made us as follows:

Manitoulin Turkey Growers Association, $100.
Canadian National Railways (transportation of boys to Great Britain), $600.
Eastern Canada Live Stock Union, $1,000.
Western Canada Live Stock Union, $2,500.
Canadian Cooperative Live Stock Producers, $20,000.
Toronto Horse Parade, $500.
Ottawa Horse Parade, $400.
Ottawa Riding Club, $300.
Montreal Horse Parade, $400.
Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere Horse Show, $450.
Canadian Hunter and Light Horse Society, $5,000.
Maritime Live Stock Marketing Board, $1,000.
Ontario Plowman's Association, $300.
Maritime Cooperative Egg and Poultry Association, $1,250.
British Columbia Plowing Match, $75.
Silver Fox Exhibitors Association, $1,500.
Winnipeg Live Stock Exchange, $455.
Montreal Poultry Show, $1,407.

These make up the sum total of the items which I have mentioned, and I think altogether they make up the whole $100,000.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: The Prime Minister stated that there were four class B fairs for which $1,500 each is required, and I believe he said that that indebtedness was incurred by the former administration. We have in western Canada some class B fairs which were discriminated against by the former administration. I happen to know of one particular fair, that of Kindersley, Saskatchewan, which is a class B fair on a par with those which have received the $1,500 each, yet the Kindersley fair has never yet been paid the $1,500. I believe there are two or three others similarly situated. While I know there is not much hope of receiving redress under this item, this discrimination should cease. There is absolutely no reason why one particular district in Canada should be given $1,500 of federal money while another district similarly situated is refused. I believe the present administration wants to be fair, and in fairness to all the districts, when this apportionment is made for the ensuing year, I trust that those which have been discriminated against will be included in the grant to class B fairs.

Mr. VALLANCE: Might I point out to the administration that there are two classes of class B fairs?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. VALLANCE: That is true. The Minister of Agriculture will bear me out. He knows, because he has been written to about the matter. In the class B fair, there is class 1 and class 2. It has been suggested to him, as the hon. member for Kindersley points out, that the class 2-B fair, should receive the same consideration as the class 1-B fair. The four that are receiving the grant have, I think, been accepted as class 2-B fairs. The 1-B class practically controls the B class fair, and they have not seen fit to allow the new B class fair to get into the 1-B class and they propose to segregate them as 2-B class fairs. What the hon. member for Kindersley states is absolutely correct. In my home town we have the same condition as he describes. The minister has been approached regarding this matter by those that are looking for this assistance, and I should like the minister, through the Minister of Finance, to state what position these 2-B class fairs are in.

Mr. BENNETT: I assume hon. members will present in writing to the minister their statements with respect to the qualifications to share in the grant in question. The only difficulty that I had about the matter was in ascertaining just why four should suddenly become entitled to a grant by telegram during the election, but that may have been due to an oversight. Presumably the matter became so pressing because it had been overlooked, as much departmental business necessarily is, and it was taken care of in that way. May I observe in all these matters no new policy has been initiated by the Minister of Agriculture. If hon. members will take the trouble to look at the supplementary estimates presented on May 11, 1922, by the then government with respect to the previous fiscal year, they will find that the late Mr. Fielding, then Minister of Finance, took complete control of the estimates. They will find on column 1662 of Hansard how he dealt with them and got them passed. I am bound to say that no such information was given then as has been given on this occasion.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Neither the Hon. Mr. Fielding nor the succeeding Minister of Finance took the responsibility of answering for every department. The ministers were in their places and ready to answer if questions were asked.

Mr. BENNETT: That may be, but all the answers were given by the then Minister of Finance, Mr. Fielding.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I was present in the House of Commons at the time and have been on every occasion since, and the ministers always answered the questions that were asked. The Minister of Finance of course took charge.

Mr. McINTOSH: Might I suggest to the Prime Minister in connection with his agricultural policy that it may be wise to launch a new policy with regard to these fairs? There are two class B fairs: 1-B and 2-B. I do not know what grants the government is going to give to class 2-B fairs, but I know what grant has been given to the class 1-B fair, and that is $1,500 a year. The class A fair has been receiving $5,000 a year. Regina gets $5,000; Saskatoon gets $5,000, and other fairs are getting $5,000—fairs which in my estimation are not doing as good work for agriculture as those in many of the smaller cities like Yorkton, Prince Albert, North Battleford and so forth. I would suggest to the Prime Minister that when he is investigating policies with regard to agricultural fairs he endeavour to remove that grievance. The class 1-B fair ought perhaps to be put into the same category as class A, and given the same grant, namely, $5,000 a year.

Mr. DONNELLY: Every year during the past several years we members from the west, when the grants to class B fairs came up for discussion, have urged that something should

be done about them. These grants to class B fairs were started several years ago under the Union government to promote agriculture, more especially in the outlying districts. A closed list was formed, and if you happened to have a fair of a certain size, you got the grant; and if your fair was not up to that size, you did not get the grant. We contended year after year in this house that there should be some policy laid down with respect to these class B fairs, and urged that any fair coming up to a certain standard should get the grant. I make that same recommendation to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) now, that he decide upon a standard for the class B fairs, and that any fair coming up to that standard get the grant; if the fairs now getting the grant do not come up to that standard, withhold the grant. Assiniboia gets a grant for a class B fair. When these grants were first inaugurated, that was a new country, hardly settled, but it has now a bigger fair than many other towns of larger size. We always contended that we were absolutely entitled to the grant and that we should not be discriminated against just because ours was a young fair, and finally we got the grant. I would again urge the minister to establish a standard for these fairs and that every fair coming up to that standard should get the grant.

Item agreed to.

Health of animals—administration of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act and Meat and Canned Foods Act—further amount required, $300,000.

Mr. BENNETT: It will perhaps be within the memory of members of the committee that in 1929 it became essential to vote $500,000 in the supplementary estimates for this very purpose. This year the necessity arises out of an increase in the sums payable in the infected areas in eastern Ontario, in the counties of Stormont, Dundas and Russell; in Quebec, in the counties of Stanstead, Sherbrooke, Chicoutimi, and Lake St. John; and in New Brunswick, where the compensation exceeded the anticipation by about $25,000, making in all the sum of $300,000. This is an item which, with the best intentions in the world, it would probably be impossible for any government to gauge very accurately. It turned out that a larger number of cattle were attacked than was contemplated.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I have to congratulate the minister upon continuing this good work. I think that the over-expenditure, however, is largely due to new areas being opened up during the period of this government's administration. I noticed by the Gazette during the winter that a new area was opened in Manitoba, another in Quebec near Sherbrooke, and another in New Brunswick. It is all good work, but I believe it will be found that the over-expenditure was due to opening up these new areas. The rumours were that this work was going to be discontinued, but here is evidence that it is to be continued, and I want to compliment the minister upon that. It is of tremendous value not only in that it checks the spread of bovine tuberculosis, but because of direct effect in checking the spread of this terrible disease among humans as well.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman is correct. In New Brunswick the compensation was about $25,000 more than estimated, and the expenditure in eastern Ontario was $125,000 more than normal.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: There were some new areas established in Manitoba, one adjoining my riding. I have received several letters asking me to ascertain if this good work is to be continued. When I go home at Easter may I assure my people that it is to be continued?

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly.

Mr. GRAY: Is the Prime Minister aware that the Department of Agriculture, through the health of animals branch, has sent out a letter through the office of the chief inspector advising that a recommendation has been made by the minister's office that officials when on departmental business in Halifax should stay at the Lord Nelson hotel, and directing them to govern themselves accordingly? I mention this because, as I think this house will realize, there is in the city of Halifax a government-owned hotel, and while I do not urge that there should be discrimination, at least we should not point out to these officials that they should use a privately-owned hotel operating in competition with a government-owned hotel.

Mr. BENNETT: Will the hon. gentleman be good enough to produce the letter?

Mr. GRAY: Does the right hon. gentleman deny that it was sent out?

Mr. BENNETT: He has no knowledge of it nor has the minister in charge. We want the letter that we may deal with the official accordingly.

Mr. GRAY: I have in my possession a copy of a letter signed by A. E. Moore, chief

travelling inspector. It is dated December 16, 1930, is sent out to inspectors in the health of animals branch, and reads as follows:

To Inspectors:

Sir,—I beg to advise you that recommendation has been given by the minister's office to the effect that officials of this department when visiting Halifax should stop at the Lord Nelson hotel. Kindly govern yourself accordingly when on official visit at that point.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Chief Travelling Inspector.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the name on it?

Mr. GRAY: A. E. Moore.

Mr. BENNETT: Has the hon. gentleman seen the original letter?

Mr. GRAY: I have seen the original letter.

Mr. BENNETT: That being so, Mr. Chairman, I hasten to assure the committee that the matter will be investigated. The minister himself has no knowledge of it, and had not heard of it until the statement was made by the hon. gentleman. I had not heard of it. No instructions of that character were given by the minister or by the government so far as I am aware.

Mr. DUFF: As shareholder in the Lord Nelson hotel I have no objection to these officials staying at that hotel.

Item agreed to.

Administration of the Destructive Insect and Pest Act—further amount required, $20,000.

Mr. BENNETT: The information that was given with respect to the other items applies also to this. Increases in salaries and wages account for $9,500, travelling expenses $8,000, laboratory and field equipment, $2,500. These increases were due to an unusual demand for potato inspection for certified seed production in Quebec and Prince Edward Island. As a result of an increase in inspections, there was an increase in the cost of the operation of laboratories and field equipment. The number of plants coming into the country that had to be inspected at ports of entry increased by over nine million. Further, some extensions and improvements were necessary in two or three of the plant pathalogical laboratories. The estimated cost in Prince Edward Island for potato inspection was $30,000, and the actual cost $37,000. The contemplated expenditure in Quebec was $20,000, and the actual expenditure $31,000. The increased cost of laboratory equipment accounted for $2,000.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Before dinner recess I drew attention to the extreme severity of the cutworm outbreak in the west. I have here a map that was sent out by the entomological branch of the Department of Agriculture, a very efficient branch. I should like to know what success they have met with in attacking this invasion of cutworm on the prairie We would like to know if experiments have been made to show how the cutworm larvae have wintered. We are in hopes that a large number of these larvae will have been destroyed by the intermittent freezing and thawing during the last winter. If some accurate information were given out as to the fertile or non-fertile present condition of these larvae, the farmers would be guided as to their spring sowing. They are advised in this bulletin not to sow their grain until small seeding tests have been made and if on May 15 it is found that there is no cutworm, they may sow their fields. That is too late, however; they will run into danger of frost if they wait until May 15 to sow their wheat. I suggest that the minister take steps to test the topsoil where the larvae are located, incubate them and find out the condition of the eggs. If the eggs are found to be in a dormant and non-fertile condition the farmers may feel easy; if on the other hand the eggs are fertile notwithstanding the exposed winter through absence of snow, the farmers might be disposed to follow the advice given by this bulletin. I can assure my hon. friends opposite, however, that the advice given in this bulletin would mean that wheat sown after May 15 would be too late for many districts. I suggest again that experiments be made by testing the incubatory capacity of the larvae, in the same way as hen eggs are tested in an incubator. A test could be made so as to ascertain the percentage of fertile larvae which develop into cutworms and from that stage into the moths. If this procedure is adopted the results would be of great value to the farmers in determining the date of their spring sowing, because if eggs prove non-fertile, seeding can proceed forthwith as soon as spring opens.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member is aware of the fact that the Department of Agriculture works in conjunction with the provincial departments of agriculture in these matters. At this moment field studies are being carried on for the very purposes mentioned by my hon. friend. Necessarily in a country as large as this those studies must be of local import and are carried on largely through the efforts of the provincial authorities with the aid of skilled and scientific assistants which may be furnished by the federal Department of Agri-

culture. That work is being carried on, and a brochure is now in process of being printed which will contain the information gathered through the efforts of these provincial and federal authorities. It is believed that the knowledge thus obtained from actual field studies will enable the farmer to be advised as to how best to cope with the evil the hon. gentleman has so properly mentioned.

Item agreed to.

Welland ship canal; construction and betterment—further amount required, $2,000,000.

Mr. BENNETT: My right hon. friend asked for some information as to the last payments made.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As to the total payments which have been made.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, in connection with the Welland canal. J. P. Porter received his last payment on December 12, 1930; Lyall and Sons, on November 13, 1930; J. P. Porter on his next contract, section (B), on December 12, 1930; the Canadian Dredging Company on November 13, 1930; the Atlas Construction Company on December 11, 1930; the Canadian Dredging Company on section 7, on December 11; A. W. Robertson on November 13. In connection with the powerhouse substructure the last payment is on September 16 made to Messrs. Aiken, Inness & MacLachlan and McLachan. The Canada Cement Company was paid on December 12; payment was made on November 20 for the metal work for locks and installation; payment was made on November 20 for the steel gate, gate machinery and installation and on December 11 for the bridge superstructure. There was a payment made for transmission lines on November 11, and in connection with the Ryan contract $7,200 was paid on November 13.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That exhausted those payments?

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: So that we may understand the significance to be attached to the main estimates when they are brought down, I wish to ask my right hon. friend if the procedure attempted and being countenanced to-day will be followed by the administration in the next fiscal year. If for example, parliament is asked to appropriate $7,000,000 for the Welland canal in the main estimates, are we to assume that that $7,000,000 is the total amount to be spent within the next fiscal year, or will the total amount to be spent be $9,000,000 or $10,000,000, made so by orders in council passed in order to enable the contractor to continue the work? The reference to the estimates made by my right hon. friend means something or nothing, and I would like to have an explanation.

Mr. BENNETT: I think my right hon. friend in making his observations has done some violence to his own equipment. It must be perfecty obvious that unless there is a contract outstanding there can be no expenditures, and the contractor has the option to finish his work within the time stipulated by his contract. We on the other hand have the option of not paying until there has been a further appropriation. We are bound however for the work done within the terms of the contract. Failure to do so constitutes a breach of contract. Therefore parliament must provide or take the consequences of the breach of contract. That is all that is involved in these payments.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, no.

Mr. BENNETT: My right hon. friend must realize that this is not a new contract.

An hon. MEMBER: That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. BENNETT: If one could attach any value to what my hon. friend has muttered one certainly would not attach much importance to it as a matter of law.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I did not mutter anything.

Mr. BENNETT: No, my right hon. friend did not; it was an hon. member. Clause 43 reads as follows:

Should the amount voted by parliament and applicable towards payment for the works hereby contracted for, be at any time expended previous to the completion of the works, the minister or the engineer may give the contractor written notice to that effect. Upon receiving such notice the contractor may, if he thinks fit, stop the work—but shall not be entitled to any payment for work done beyond the amount voted and applicable, as aforesaid —until the necessary funds shall have been voted by parliament in that behalf. And in no event shall the contractor have or make any claim on His Majesty for any damages or compensation by reason of the suspension of payment, or by reason of any delay or loss caused by the stoppage of the work. And in the event of the contractor electing to proceed, or proceeding with such work after such notice—

Such notice was given in this case.

—and before such additional funds are voted, no action of the engineer, or of any other person on behalf of His Majesty, in giving orders, instructions, or directions, or otherwise

acting with respect to such work, shall be taken or considered as in any manner improving the rights of the contractor or as waiving in any particular any of the provisions of this section.

In other words this whole contract contemplated the possibility of a contractor being ahead of the appropriations when doing his work, and such contractor took the chances. Further, in five cases out of every ten in this country a similar practice is followed. I could go further and say that it is followed in 75 per cent of the cases. The minister might expect that $25,000 would be sufficient for a particular year but he might spend $100,000. The next year the same thing might happen.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My right hon. friend knows better than that.

Mr. BENNETT: I know just that, and there is one instance in Edmonton at this very time.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): But my right hon. friend knows that appropriations are made on the recommendation of engineers of the department.

Mr. BENNETT: I know how they are cut down. The engineer may recommend $100,000 but the Prime Minister may cut it down to $50,000 and say that that is sufficient.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Quite right.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, but that does not interfere with the validity of the contract and the necessity of paying the contract price. That is the procedure in most contracts. The complaint made by my hon. friend's leader is that the present practice is so unusual and so unheard of that the whole fabric of government is threatened and all the institutions of this country may be swept away. As a matter of fact what is being done in this case has been done in three-quarters of all the cases in this country. In all the cases I read this afternoon in connection with orders in council which were signed in July these conditions prevailed and they will continue to prevail where there is a time limit for the conclusion of the contract. The contractor takes the chance when he goes forward with his work that there will be a vote from parliament.

Mr. VENIOT: He waits for the appropriation; he does not get it the way my right hon. friend is giving it to him.

Mr. BENNETT: Is there ever a time when there is justification for the payment of the bill?

Mr. VENIOT: Only when his contract is finished, if he takes upon himself the responsibility of going ahead with the work.

Mr. BENNETT: The clause I read provides that the contractor will get his money but in the meantime he must spend his own.

Mr. VENIOT: That clause provides also that there is no possibility for payment on the part of the government unless money is voted.

Mr. BENNETT: Unless it is voted, of course not.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: All that my right hon. friend has read only goes to confirm the contention which we who sit on this side have made, namely that the contractor has no claim against the country for any work for which there has not been special provision made by parliament. That is the essence of the clause which my right hon. friend has read.

Mr. BENNETT: No, just the opposite.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No matter what work he proceeds with, unless parliament has made the appropriation for that work he is not entitled to any claim whatever and, as I say, it simply confirms the statement that the ministry in this action has been taking an entirely wrong course.

Now may I come back to the Welland canal. That contract has been continuing for many years; I think it runs back ten years or more. This house has been voting a certain sum year after year for a certain amount of work to be done. I do not recall any previous year in which any of the contractors on the Welland canal ventured to go beyond the amount of work for which this parliament voted money, but this year, when parliament has appropriated $7,000,000 my hon. friends, after they come into office, say to the contractors, "Parliament has voted only $7,000,000, but you are at liberty to go ahead and incur an expenditure of $9,000,000. We have a majority in the house and we will see that you get your extra $2,000,000, if you wait until parliament reassembles." What I want to ask my right hon. friend is this: If that is the proper and legal way of proceeding this year it will be equally proper and legal next year, and if my right hon. friend comes to parliament with his estimates after the Easter recess and there is an amount included therein of $7,000,000 for the Welland canal, what guarantee has this house that this amount of $7,000,000 will represent what the government proposes to spend on the Welland canal next year? If they follow the course they are adopting now it will not be $7,000,000; it will be $9,000,000. If we allow this

matter to pass and this action on the part of the ministry to become a precedent there is no reason why it should not be $10,000,000 or $11,000,000. In other words the whole principle involved in the appropriating of public moneys by vote of parliament is of no value; it becomes null and void. I say, Mr. Chairman, this is wholly irregular. I cannot understand what my right hon. friend can have in mind when in one breath he talks about the necessity of reforming the financial methods of the country, and the next moment comes before parliament and asks us to make an appropriation of $2,000,000 for work which already has been performed under order in council and not in any particular by authority of parliament.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Shall the item carry?

Mr. BENNETT: No, Mr. Chairman; I cannot let the erroneous statements remain without making a proper explanation. Once more I say to the right hon. gentleman that he does not seem to appreciate or understand the value of a contract. According to his statement all you would have to do would be to let the contractor go ahead and finish his work and then find no money for him, and he could not get it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would not allow him to go ahead; I would have him stop when the money was used up.

Mr. BENNETT: You cannot make him stop, because you have entered into exactly the opposite kind of contract.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): What was the meaning of what my right hon. friend read a moment ago?

Mr. BENNETT: That provides for this very case.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Read it.

Mr. BENNETT: I will read it again:

> Should the amount voted by parliament and applicable towards payment for the works hereby contracted for, be at any time expended previous to the completion of the works, the minister or the engineer may give the contractor written notice to that effect.

Any one who is familiar with the interpretation of contracts knows that this merely means that when the appropriation is exhausted, the contractor is so advised. Then it proceeds:

> Upon receiving such notice, the contractor may, if he thinks fit, stop the work,—but shall not be entitled to any payment for work done beyond the amount voted and applicable, as aforesaid—until the necessary funds shall have been voted by parliament in that behalf.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. BENNETT: What does that mean?

Mr. RALSTON: No liability until parliament votes the money.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly; the liability is there, but there is no claim. May I say to those hon. gentlemen who happen to be lawyers that in the Windsor v. Annapolis railway case the authority is contained for what I have said. If that is not sufficient authority, there is the case of Onderdonk v. the King. The third case is McEwen v. the King and the next is the case of Creelman v. the King. I happen to know about these cases because I had something to do with two of them. This paragraph which I have read merely provides that upon receiving such notice, the contractor may, if he thinks fit, stop his work. If he stops, then well and good, but he cannot stop; he must go ahead to complete the work within the time limit.

Mr. RALSTON: He does not have to go ahead if he is notified to stop.

Mr. BENNETT: No, that is not what he is notified. If in a court of law counsel made a statement like that I know what the judge would say. He is told that he will have to wait for his money until parliament provides it, and that is all. All that is suggested from the other side is this: never provide him with that money and never pay for the work. In other words we are told that we should repudiate the contract by not appropriating money. Do hon. gentlemen opposite mean to say that any contractor could not get a fiat for that?

Mr. RALSTON: You do not repudiate the contract if you act according to its terms.

Mr. BENNETT: But you do not act according to the terms of it.

Mr. RALSTON: If my right hon. friend will permit me to finish, I was going to say that the contract contemplates the giving of notice and the stopping of work, and the fact that the contractor shall not be entitled to his money unless that money has been voted by parliament. He therefore does take the risk, but he knows he takes the risk when he enters into the contract. Therefore there is no repudiation.

Mr. BENNETT: Surely my hon. friend realizes what it says: it says he may stop work if he thinks fit. If he goes on—

Mr. RALSTON: He takes the risk.

Mr. BENNETT: The risk of what?

Mr. RALSTON: The risk of the vote never being made.

Mr. BENNETT: I had some little respect for my hon. friend's legal ability, but surely he does not mean that.

Mr. RALSTON: I say that is the risk he takes, the risk of the money never being voted.

Mr. BENNETT: The risk of parliament never voting the money?

Mr. RALSTON: Yes.

Mr. POULIOT: It is the risk the Postmaster General takes—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: I think junior counsel will add nothing to the argument. May I venture to say that my hon. friend from Shelburne-Yarmouth will remember the old maxim, "the infallible justice of the crown." The crown cannot repudiate a contract by failing to do what parliament is bound to do, having entered into a contract for a party to finish work within a fixed time, and not having voted enough money to finish it within the first year, or within the term fixed for its completion, if the contractor goes ahead and does it at this risk, the risk being that parliament must vote the money. The crown cannot escape its responsibility by failing to discharge the obligation imposed upon it by this contract, the obligation being to pay the amount required. That condition does not relieve the crown from paying.

Mr. RALSTON: The contract says he is not to be paid.

Mr. BENNETT: No, quite the opposite.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Then what was the object of the order in council?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend has not read the clause which states that a definite time has been fixed within which this work is to be completed. That is the vital point in his present argument. In that connection may I remind him of what the minister in charge of this department has said. The minister told us that this additional work was gone on with in order to furnish work for the unemployed. The two statements do not hold together. The minister on the one hand says: "We spent $2,000,000 additional on the Welland canal because there were men unemployed this winter, and the government thought this was a good way to give them employment." The Prime Minister now says this $2,000,000 is required because the contract has to be completed within a specified time and it has not been so completed. I say that either one of these explanations is the correct one and the other is incorrect, or maybe both of them are incorrect. The point I should like my right hon. friend to clear up now is where in the contract the clause is which states that this work must be completed within a certain time.

Mr. BENNETT: I am afraid few things better illustrate the attitude of mind of the right hon. gentleman that what he has just said.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Never mind my attitude of mind; let us have the facts.

Mr. BENNETT: Do not get excited; possess thy soul in patience. The illustration I had in mind with respect to a contract in which a certain time was named was given this afternoon—I had the date before me, July 30, 1930. That was the contract for the central heating in this city, and that is the case to which I referred. I had not the papers with respect to the Welland canal. I was illustrating my point and I did not say there was a definite date or that this work was done for that purpose. I said, "assume that the contractor desires to do it." Last fall, on September 7, in this house, in the remarks I then made, I pointed out that if favouring conditions made it possible the government would, on a unit basis, proceed with the work if it added no extra cost, for the purpose of providing employment to people in a given area, and I took Port Arthur by way of illustration. This, as a matter of fact, affords a second illustration, and as it happened, at the unit cost the contractor went on with his work and gave employment, to a thousand people in one instance, and several hundred in another. I cannot see that anything I have said detracts from the general principle that, in the extraordinary circumstances that arose in connection with the unemployment situation, which was a national problem, where a unit cost was fixed for the construction of works under an outstanding contract, and it was within the time fixed for the completion, if the work were expedited by the contractor for the purpose of supplying employment to a large number of people it was a perfectly legal and proper exercise of power to allow the continuance of operations. And upon parliament devolves the legal obligation, the infallible justice of the crown, at the first moment that the house meets afterwards, to supply the contractor with the money to compensate him for the work he has done. I do not think there is any doubt as to that being the practice followed in this country from time immemorial, and it will be the practice in the future. Wherever work is done within the time fixed for the completion of the contract and the contractor goes forward, takes

his chance and does his work, the crown is bound at the first session to provide the money he has expended to prevent him from going into bankruptcy, as one contractor did because of the failure of the crown to supply him with the money he had expended.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We now have a third reason for the expenditure. My right hon. friend says that parliament should make provision in this way in order to prevent a contractor from going into bankruptcy.

An hon. MEMBER: He did not say that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Of course he said it; they were the last words he used before he sat down.

Mr. BENNETT: Not this contractor.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not this contractor, no. We have had three separate explanations. One is that the contractor may go into bankruptcy—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If hon. gentlemen are not anxious to have the estimates passed they may proceed as they wish. These are not our estimates; I wish to make that clear. The late Liberal administration when in office presented certain estimates to the house in the form of main estimates. They were carefully reviewed before parliament prorogued and a supplementary estimate was brought down. Hon. gentlemen opposite were then on this side and they were free to criticize the estimates. We made the statement that according to our best study—

Mr. BENNETT: There was no criticism of this item.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —what we were asking for was all that we considered necessary. With respect to the Welland canal, which is only one case in point, we asked for an expenditure of $7,000,000 for the fiscal year. That was the extent of our estimate. Now we are confronted with a supplementary estimate for $2,000,000 for the Welland canal in addition to the $7,000,000 which we said was sufficient and all that should have been expended in the last fiscal year having regard to what was being spent on other public works in other parts of the Dominion. The question which many hon. members opposite as well as members on this side are asking themselves is this: Why should the contractors on the Welland canal and up at Fort William and Port Arthur be specially favoured in one case to the extent of an additional appropriation of $2,000,000 and in the other of a quarter of a million dollars, while the contractors in other parts of the Dominion receive nothing additional and even in some cases, where we had unemployed walking the streets and parliament had made an appropriation for buildings, contractors should receive no authority even to proceed with work for which parliament had made appropriations. The excuses and circumlocutions of my right hon. friend up to the present are not adequate to satisfy us on this side of the house as to the wisdom of voting this amount at this time. I want to get from my right hon. friend before this item is passed the clause in the contract which provides that the work must be completed within a period of time.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not say that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then I wish him to say that there was not such a clause.

Mr. BENNETT: I said I did not know.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We will wait until my right hon. friend gets the information. We are entitled to it.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Stands.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This house is entitled to the information. Last session we voted $20,000,000 without question for unemployment relief and now we are told that there is in connection with the Welland canal $2,000,000 spent in addition, according to the minister, for the relief of unemployment. The Prime Minister gave the explanation that it was because of some legal requirement which obliged him to see that the contractor was paid if the work was done within a certain time. And he said that no contractor should go into bankruptcy. This country is entitled to know the terms of the contract in its entirety and on what grounds we are asked to vote this extra $2,000,000. I therefore ask the Prime Minister or the minister to give the house the terms of the contract with respect to the matter, indicating the time limit within which the work should be done, together with a copy of the order in council which was passed.

Mr. BENNETT: It is within the right of hon. gentlemen if they desire to delay this estimate, and I wish them much joy in so doing. I think this country will properly appraise their value. The truth is that these men have spent this money, they have done the work. The reasons moving towards the

doing of the work are matters of record. It helped unemployment and enabled them to keep their crew together. The freeze-up was later than usual and the fall was open. Not a single cent more has been expended on this work by the country on this account, and the leader of the opposition, who at one time led a government, comes into the house and tries first to raise the sectional issue. He says, "How is it that this much has been spent here and not elsewhere?" That is the sectional issue. Year after year millions of dollars have been voted in connection with the Welland canal, which is a link in a great chain of transportation. This is a very ambitious undertaking on the part of a population of less than ten millions and at a cost of $100,000,000 or more; and it will cost probably $125,000,000 or more before completion. When the minister said that the work was gone on with because it would furnish employment, that was perfectly correct; and I pointed out, as I repeat now, that this item is in the estimates because it represents toil, labour, material furnished by the contractors under the contracts—because there are many contracts, as the house knows, covering various sections of the canal. I say, therefore, that the contractors are entitled, at the first session of parliament after the work has been done, to the provision of the money necessary to compensate them for the services which they have rendered. This must be done or parliament ceases to keep faith with its own contractors.

Now, I said this afternoon that there was an order in council with respect to the matter. The minister tells me that no order in council was passed. No authorization by order in council was required for the work to be proceeded with and none was passed. They merely went ahead with the work, because there was no limitation imposed upon them to stop. They went ahead knowing that the appropriation had not been made, but they took their chance. The illustration I gave, happened to have reference to the Welland canal. Hon. gentlemen know that it is an old device to endeavour to divert an illustration to a particular case before the house. As a matter of fact, no such effort was made on my part, for I had no figures indicating when the contract was to be completed. It may have been that it should be completed years hence or when all the work was done. I did not know; I was not concerned about it. But I did give an illustration, one in which the Public Works department provided a date within which the work was to be completed. I showed that on July 26 last an order in council had been passed by the late administration. I did not for a moment suggest that it was passed improperly—in my judgment it was properly passed—because if business is to be carried on in a proper and legitimate manner work should be done without adding any cost to the public or increasing by a single cent the money that must be paid for the service rendered. This is especially so in cases where the work will give employment to several thousand people at a time when employment is at a premium. At such times it is not the privilege but the duty of a government to afford a contractor the opportunity to do the work. When, as in this case, the contractors signified their willingness to take the risk in the good faith of parliament, then I submit that it is only a proper exercise of its power that parliament should grant supply for that purpose. If this committee desires further information and asks for the production of contracts which might be brought before it when the general estimates are under consideration, that procedure will have to be followed. If it is desired to hold up this estimate for the Welland canal until to-morrow, it is always within the power of the opposition to do so. Whether or not that power is properly exercised is not for me to say; that is for them to determine. The general estimates will afford an opportunity to consider this matter in its entirety, as well as every matter which we have been discussing. Of course the identical items will not be before the committee, but so far as any discussion upon the principle of appropriation and expenditure is concerned, the general estimates will provided a most ample opportunity to secure from the ministers in charge of the respective departments such information as is desired. I submit that it has never been the custom for the house to pursue the course which my hon. friend suggests should be pursued in this case. Notwithstanding what the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) has said, the discussion on similar estimates in the past does not seem to have been carried on by any minister other than the Minister of Finance. They were passed very rapidly in bulk, and that seemed to be the end of them. I did think at that time, and I still think I was right in suggesting, that the widest possible explanation be given in the estimates themselves so that the members of the committee might have before them such reasonable details as it was possible to give as to how the moneys were to be made up. When the former Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Motherwell) inquired as to this matter, I thought reasonable explanation should be

forthcoming with respect to this item, as to how much each contractor earned as certified by those who checked their work. This is merely an effort to relieve them in respect of the liabilities necessarily incurred in carrying on work of this kind, and also to keep the good faith of the country with the contractors.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend has referred to the opposition as having certain powers. May I remind him that the opposition has also certain duties, and the first duty of an opposition is—

Mr. BENNETT: To oppose.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —to safeguard public expenditures; to see that the moneys of the people are expended in accordance with the methods provided by the constitution, and that the requirements of the law and the practices of parliament in all particulars are fully carried out. In view of the latest explanations which have been given, the situation seems to be going from bad to worse. The Prime Minister admitted this afternoon that no appropriation had been made by parliament for this purpose, and we assumed naturally that in that event there had been a governor general's warrant. My right hon. friend then said that no warrant had been issued, and we began to consider how these contractors came to have the right to receive $2,000,000 from the public treasury for expenditures incurred in connection with the construction of the canal. We assumed that the government as a whole had some responsibility in the matter, and I asked my right hon. friend how that responsibility had been assumed. I received from him the reply that an order in council had been passed. He now tells us that no order in council was passed. If we had left the matter where it was this afternoon, where my right hon. friend thought we ought to leave it in order to save time, the record would have been to the effect that an order in council had been passed and the public would have assumed that the members of the government, who have a collective responsibility, had known something of this transaction. I submit that parliament and the country have a right to assume that the Prime Minister would be very careful in making a statement of that kind. The right hon. gentleman found fault with me because I complained—I complained in the interests of the country—of his taking upon his shoulders all the work of government. If there ever was a reason why each minister of the crown should explain his own estimates, we have it in the remarks of the Prime Minister this afternoon when he, as president of the council and the one who signs the orders, told the country that an order in council had been passed authorizing this expenditure, and then comes back in the evening, after further consultation with the minister of the department, and tells us that no order was passed. What are we now reduced to by way of authority for expenditure of this $2,000,000? It has come down to the mere word of a minister. In other words, the precedent being established at this time is that under the present administration—this is the first opportunity we have had to question them on their methods—all that any contractor who has a contract for any given amount appropriated by this parliament needs to do in order to go ahead after that amount has been fully expended, is to have the direction of the minister in charge of the department to go ahead; then parliament will be asked to vote the money and because the government has a majority he will receive it in due course. My colleague to my right tells me that he does not even need that, and when I reflect upon the Prime Minister's words I am inclined to think that he is correct. From what the Prime Minister told us, all the contractor has to do is just go ahead and spend as much money as he likes and then it will be up to the infallible justice of the crown—to use the phrase that was used—to see that the amounts are paid. If that is the way in which public moneys are to be appropriated by this administration, the sooner we understand it the better, because it is altogether contrary to the proper method and it should not be sanctioned for one moment.

I have no desire to delay my hon. friend in getting his estimates through, and I think I have done as much as any one in this parliament to facilitate the passing of estimates. However, I am going to see to it that in attempting as I shall to facilitate the business of the house we receive the information to which we are entitled and that nothing is going to be put over by mere bluff.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We are going to ascertain the facts and we are going to understand them.

I would ask my right hon. friend to let us have this contract and a statement of the expenditures which have been made under it so that we may consider it. In the meantime, the item might stand over until to-morrow.

Mr. BENNETT: It was my impression that an order had been passed. Upon inquiry, I found that although preparation had been

made for an order in council the legal advisers of the department were of the opinion that it was unnecessary. Whereupon the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals wrote to each contractor, in the following words:

It is the desire of the Department of Railways and Canals that the construction of the said works be continued, without suspension thereof, pending the voting by parliament of the necessary funds therefor, and, in the event of your electing under the provisions of clause 43 aforesaid to so continue the construction of the said works, I have to assure you that early in the coming session parliament will be asked to vote an additional amount to make payment under the said contract for the construction of the works so continued.

That was signed by the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Addressed to whom?

Mr. BENNETT: Addressed to each of the contractors.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That makes it worse than ever.

Mr. BENNETT: That letter was dated December 27, 1930. The contractors had represented that owing to the conditions then existing they could continue the work without cessation at the same unit price, supply some employment to the unemployed, and carry forward their undertaking. That is the contract which has always existed with reference to that work; there was no change. I regret having made the statement that an order in council had been passed. The question was asked and I answered as I did knowing that the material for an order in council had been prepared by the minister. I recalled later that the legal opinion was that it was unnecessary to have an order in council. The terms of the contract were such that it was sufficient that a notice be given by the deputy miinster, and the letter I have just read contains the terms under which they continued their work.

I would be the last person in the world to suggest that an opposition should fail in its duty, but I find it difficult to understand just what is involved in the production of a dozen contracts that I have not seen, that were made, as the right hon. gentleman said, at least ten years ago, and that are still in force and effect and will be for some time. I am not conscious of endeavouring to withhold from the committee any information and I think I have given it somewhat fuller information than ever before has been placed upon the records in connection with supplementary estimates, not for a further year but with respect to a period that has passed. I think in previous years you will look in vain for details with respect to similar estimates.

Mr. POWER: Was the letter which has just been read written at the request of the contractor?

Mr. BENNETT: It was written after the contractor and the deputy minister had had a conference, in order to regularize a matter having regard to section 43 of the contract, which section I read a few minutes ago.

Mr. POWER: Does that not put a different interpretation on the matter from the one the right hon. gentleman has given? We find now that a new contract has been entered into between the Department of Railways and the contractor; or rather, it is not a new contract but they have authorized an obligation binding upon the so-called infallible justice of the crown, because it is a written contract. As the Prime Minister explained his position to us, he stated that under the old contract as he read it to the committee, the crown was bound to make payments for this work provided that the contractor decided to carry on, and this was at the contractor's option. Now we find from the letter which the Prime Minister has read that these contractors, as a result of conference with the deputy minister, exacted from the deputy minister a letter regularizing their position.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps it would help the matter if the hon. gentleman had the other part of the letter. I was directing myself entirely to one portion of it.

Mr. POWER: If the hon. gentleman will not put all the facts before us, how are we to judge?

Mr. BENNETT: The other part shows the contract that was referred to. I did not think it necessary to read it, and I do not think my hon. friend would have done so had he been in my place. It is as follows:

In accordance with the provisions of clause 43 of your contract No. 24275, dated the 18th day of August, 1921, entered into with His Majesty the King, therein represented by the Minister of Railways and Canals, for the construction and completion of sections Nos. 1 and 2 of the Welland Ship canal, I hereby give you notice that the amount voted by parliament and applicable towards payment for the works thereby contracted for has been expended.

Then came the second part which is exactly within the terms of section 43.

Mr. RALSTON: No. The second one is not within the terms of section 43.

Mr. BENNETT: The second paragraph quotes it.

Mr. RALSTON: Does the paragraph not suggest that the contractors go on with the work and promise to get a vote of parliament? What the minister is doing is asking parliament to make good this letter written by the deputy minister.

Mr. DUFF: Mr. Chairman—

An hon. MEMBER: Another legal mind.

Mr. DUFF: No it is not a legal mind. Perhaps it is just as well for the lawyers to let the rest of us have an opportunity to discuss the matter. Am I right in assuming that the Deputy Minister of Railways wrote that letter to the contractor on the advice and instruction of the minister?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): If the letter had not been sent, would that money have been due to the contractors, according to the contract?

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly, the money would still be due without the letter.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Were there accounts still pending?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, there are large accounts pending and the country would still be liable. The contractor chose to go on.

Mr. DUPUIS: I would ask the Prime Minister to produce the letter and give the date of it.

Mr. BENNETT: I did. It is dated 23rd December, 1930.

Mr. DUPUIS: I understand a large part of the $2,000,000 was already spent at that time.

Mr. MANION: None of it.

Mr. BENNETT: Not at that time. I gave the date of the last payment in answer to a question of the leader of the opposition.

Mr. DUPUIS: That is not the date the work was done.

Mr. BENNETT: The work was done subsequently to that and the amount of work done by Porter came to $40,000, that done by Peter Lyall and Sons to $203,000, and so on, making a little over $2,000,000.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. POWER: Would the hon. gentleman put on Hansard the names of those who are to profit by this $2,000,000?

Mr. BENNETT: I gave them to Hansard a moment or two ago in answer to my right hon. friend.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): It seems to me that this is a most extraordinary situation. As I understand it—and I trust the Prime Minister, or his deputy, the Minister of Railways and Canals, will correct me if I am wrong—last year at the regular session parliament voted the sum of $7,000,000 for the Welland canal. I understand there is on record a letter from the deputy minister to the contractor, advising him that that amount of money was exhausted, that is, the amount legally and properly voted by last year's parliament. I further understand that the Prime Minister, in explaining the matter to parliament to-day, said that in speaking of the $20,000,000 voted last year at the special session for unemployment relief, he referred to certain possible undertakings, including perhaps the undertaking which we are now discussing, which might have to be resorted to by the government in order to relieve unemployment throughout Canada. If this amount of $2,000,000 had been taken out of the unemployment relief fund regularly voted by parliament, I would raise no objection whatsoever. But the point is this: it is much worse than proceeding by order in council. Here you have a contractor or a number of contractors carrying on public undertakings in the Dominion of Canada on the signed letter of a deputy minister of the crown without ever having received the authority of parliament. That is the situation and I suggest to the Prime Minister that these contractors financed their undertakings from the banks on the authority of a letter from the deputy minister, which letter has been produced by the Prime Minister. Therefore we are in the position to-day that a letter from a permanent official of the crown is supplementing the regular authority of parliament when a vote becomes a grant. During the special session of parliament, the Prime Minister took away from parliament its power over taxation. He is now taking away from parliament its control over public contracts throughout the Dominion.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Do I understand that two letters were written by the deputy minister to the contractor, one stating that the amount of money appropriated was exhausted, and the other advising the various

contractors that they could go on with their work and be paid afterwards by amounts of money that would be voted by parliament? If there are two such letters, I ask the government to produce them.

Mr. MANION: There was just one.

Mr. BENNETT: I said there was only one, and I read it.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Both statements, I understand, were in the same letter.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): In view of the anxiety regarding unemployment, may I ask the Prime Minister whether the policy followed in connection with the Welland canal was the policy followed by this government after July 28 last, in connection with other government contracts?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The Prime Minister has, of course, taken the leadership with regard to the supplementary estimates, but every minister of the government of which I was a member used to be instructed to be in his place in the house and to be prepared to answer any question which might arise in respect to his department. It has taken a long time to produce this letter, but we know now that this government is irrevocably committed to paying this two million dollars.

Mr. MANION: So was your government.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Not necessarily. I beg to differ.

Mr. MANION: The contract was there.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The contract was there, I admit, but parliament up to a recent date had authority even over contracts. If the situation is to be changed, we had better know it. If the government of the day and contractors are to be all-powerful and to supersede parliament, the sooner we know it the better. But the government of which I was a member did not proceed in that way. I do not suggest that governments can repudiate contracts, but it surely would be a nice thing to have a progressive contract running over two or three years and parliament having no control over the expenditure until the work was done.

Mr. MANION: We have control. We are dealing with the matter now.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I beg to differ. Year after year estimates were brought down for the Welland canal and voted by parliament. The expenditures were made under those estimates, and when the estimates ceased, the work ceased. That has been the system pursued with respect to work on the Welland canal. I am willing to admit that last year was an exceptional year, and if our hon. friends opposite had told us that this work was undertaken for the purpose of giving employment, and if the letter binding the government had been produced, I do not think the government would have had as much trouble as they are having this evening over this particular item.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. member for Northumberland has asked a question to which I think he is entitled to an answer. I confess that we are still a little in doubt as to what the attitude or policy of the government is in this matter. As I said a moment ago, the Prime Minister has indicated that in some way or another it related to the time factor and to legal conditions of the contract, but I am prepared to take the word of the minister of the department, who was of the view which the Prime Minister subsequently veered round to, that this work was in part gone on with because of the unemployment conditions existing. I shall not inquire too far, but will say that apparently such was the policy, to provide work for the relief of unemployment. The question which the hon. member for Northumberland has asked is whether that policy was adopted with respect to other works in Canada or whether it was confined to work on the Welland canal. If that was the policy, and it applied to other works, what were the other works to which it applied? I think we are entitled to an answer to that question.

Mr. McGIBBON: As a member representing largely a labour riding I am very pleased indeed at the attitude of the opposition tonight on this question. The leader of the opposition has just stated that in his opinion the government did this work to relieve unemployment, and yet we find him and his own party condemning the government for having spent two million dollars to help relieve the unemployment situation in this country.

Mr. DUPUIS: We are not condemning the government. We are asking for information.

Mr. McGIBBON: You are camouflaging. For hours this evening the party opposite has been condemning the government for spending this two million dollars, and it was not two million dollars of their own money. The contractors spent the money, and it did not cost the Dominion government one extra dollar. The party opposite has objected to paying the contractors for the money they spent on that work. That is the situation we find

in this house to-night, and as a member representing to a large extent a labouring constituency I am glad that the opposition have made their attitude known.

Mr. SANDERSON: May I ask if the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario was speaking for the Prime Minister or for the Minister of Railways?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not know how carefully the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario has been following the discussion, but certainly he has heard no word from my lips condemning any assistance given to relieve unemployment. What I have been trying to ascertain, and am still trying to ascertain from the government, is whether this work was undertaken for the purpose of relieving unemployment. If that was part of the government's policy, I am asking whether that policy was confined to the work on the Welland canal or extended to other public works in this country; and if so, what those public works were. I am asking for that information and would like my right hon. friend to give an answer.

Mr. BENNETT: I did state to the committee this afternoon that the government had taken the estimates prepared by hon. gentlemen opposite, and so far as was reasonably possible, where the situation warranted it, the government called for tenders and carried on contracts for the purpose of supplying the public works required; and especially was that so where by so doing employment would be furnished to anyone. That is what was done. If hon. gentlemen, when the main estimates are before the house, will take the estimates of last year and compare them with the expenditures made during the year, with the contracts outstanding and the sums of money that it will be essential to vote in the main estimates to carry to completion the works thus started, I think they will agree that, to a very large degree, a real and earnest effort has been made to carry out wherever possible undertakings that would not only meet the public demands but help also to supply employment to those who needed it.

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): I am not satisfied from the evidence I have at hand that the policy referred to by the Prime Minister with regard to the Welland canal was made applicable to other government contracts.

Mr. RALSTON: I understood the Prime Minister to say that the committee would be given the benefit of a copy of the order in council. I presume he will bring down also whatever other documents are relevant.

[Mr. McGibbon.]

Mr. BENNETT: I said there was no order in council.

Mr. RALSTON: I beg pardon—the contract.

Mr. BENNETT: Do not have any misunderstanding. I did not say the contract. I said that the production of it would serve no useful purpose.

Mr. RALSTON: If my right hon. friend has not already agreed to that, I do wish to point out that enough has been revealed in this discussion, I think, to show that we cannot be perfectly clear as to what is in the contract or what documents are on file without having them produced.

Mr. BENNETT: You ought to know what is in the contract. You made it ten years ago.

Mr. RALSTON: We do not carry the details in our heads.

Mr. BENNETT: But you expect other people to do so.

Mr. RALSTON: Probably if we had been as close to it as my right hon. friend we would have remembered whether there was any time limit, which is, I understand, one of the essential points which was suggested by my right hon. friend as constituting a ground for liability. We do not know whether there was a time limit or not.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not suggest that there was a time limit, because I said that I did not know what was in it.

Mr. RALSTON: My right hon. friend was giving that as a reason generally why there was liability under these contracts and why we had to pay a contractor because, he said, there was a time limit in most of these contracts, and if the contractor did his work on time we were liable to him whether parliament voted the money or not. I understand now that the Prime Minister does not know whether there is a time limit in the contract or not. That can only be decided by an inspection of the contract itself. Secondly, it was thought that there was an order in council extending the time and asking the contractors to go ahead. Apparently that is not correct; there was nothing more than a draft order in council which it was not considered necessary to pass in view of the advice of the law officers of the crown. But the remarkable thing that has come out in this discussion is the letter which my right hon. friend has read. The term of the contract is that if the appropriation has run out the government may give notice that the appropriation has

expired and then if the contractor goes on he does so at his own risk. Apparently the government wanted the contractor to go on notwithstanding the fact that the appropriation had expired. If they wanted him to go on why did they give notice at all? What is the use of this stop and start notice—and that is all it is—all in the same breath? One minute the government says the appropriation has expired, with the consequences which the contract specifies but, the next minute it says in effect: "Even though there is no appropriation and even though the contract says you go on at your own risk, go ahead; we shall be very glad if you will go on and we will put a vote before parliament at the next session." That is the situation as it appears so far from the documents we have heard, and I feel, as do many other hon. members, that we ought to see the contract and ought to see all the documents just to ascertain the real attitude of the government in regard to the expenditure of this money. It is not a question of criticizing the expenditure if made for the purpose of unemployment; it is a question of the regularity of expenditures and the policy which this government is following in connection with expenditures without previous parliamentary authority. We want to know when we enter into a contract whether the contractor must stop if the money runs out, or if he goes on, does he do so at his own risk. We want to know whether the deputy minister can simply write a letter and do away with the express provision of the contract, and make it absolutely obligatory under the principle of the "infallible justice of the crown" which so often this evening has been invoked that parliament should vote this money. I submit, Mr. Chairman, that you should not press the vote and that your repeated suggestions that the vote "carry" might perhaps be discontinued, if you do not mind. I would suggest that the vote be not carried until the Prime Minister brings down the contract and other documents.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. DUPUIS: May I ask the Prime Minister if it is possible with the documents he has in hand to tell this committee how much of the $2,000,000 was paid as salaries to ordinary working men?

Mr. BENNETT: Roughly speaking I would say in reply there were 2,000 men employed. They were employed during the months of December, January, February and March. The major part of the money expended would be for wages.

Mr. DUPUIS: The amount is not available?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: On behalf of the opposition I am asking the Prime Minister to produce the contract under which these moneys are being paid. Do I understand that he refuses to produce the contract?

Mr. BENNETT: This is the contract under which the right hon. gentleman has for a period of nine years made payments. It is a contract with which every member of his government is thoroughly familiar. It is not here. It is dated August 18, 1921, and there have been no alterations whatever in it. I refer to one of the Porter contracts; the others may have been on different dates No possible purpose can be served in having it here, and it is not sought for any useful purpose.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The last remark of my right hon. friend is altogether gratuitous and very much out of order. May I say to the Prime Minister that it is quite conceivable that the original contract might contain in it clauses which would prohibit anything in the nature of the action he has taken, and that may be the reason he is trying to keep from this parliament and the country the contract in question. I venture to say my right hon. friend cannot suggest an instance in the history of this parliament where parliament has been asked to vote money under a contract and has been refused the right to see the contract itself. My right hon. friend knows very well that hon. members on this side of the house do not remember the terms of contracts which were passed many years ago. He knows also that no one on this side of the house has attempted to manage the affairs of all the departments of government, or to carry in his mind all the particulars referring to all matters in all departments. We are entitled to the information. I hope the Prime Minister will realize the seriousness of declining to give to this house a contract under which he asks us to vote the sum of $2,000,000.

Mr. BENNETT: So far as I know, Mr. Chairman, there has never been a case in which a contract upon which payments have been made for ten years has been sought by the opposition. Does the right hon. gentleman remember any such contract?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No payments were made by the opposition in this matter.

Mr. BENNETT: Did anybody ever hear of such a thing? What relevance has it to this issue? What relevance has it to the payment of $2,000,000 for services rendered and work done?

Mr. RALSTON: Why did my right hon. friend bring down the clause in the contract?

Mr. BENNETT: It was obtained by one of my hon. friends at dinner time for the purpose of indicating that there was authority to pass the amount.

Mr. RALSTON: It is remarkable that we are not entitled to see the other clauses of the contract.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not the point; the contract is not here and the offices are closed. If it had been asked for before dinner it would have been here.

An hon. MEMBER: Get it to-morrow.

Mr. BENNETT: It may be obtained for to-morrow if the hon. members wish to tie up the estimates. The only question in my mind is whether or not it is right and in the interests of the country to tie up the country's business in this way. This is a contract in connection with which the previous government had knowledge and under which money has been paid for nine years; yet my hon. friends opposite want the people to understand that their solicitude for the public interest is so great that now, on this last day of the fiscal year, they must have the contract before payment upon it can be made. My hon. friends talk about their solicitude for the public interest; yet they want to see a contract nine years old. May I ask the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart, Edmonton) who has become so virtuous in his observations in reference to parliamentary institutions and payments from the federal treasury, if he got a governor general's warrant to pay the cost of putting in certain flooring for a political favourite just before the last election? Did he or did he not? Was a governor general's warrant laid upon the table of the house in the early days of the session concerning Mr. Marshall, a former resident of Edmonton and a contractor, giving him money as a gift, by warrant, just before an election?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): For doing what?

Mr. BENNETT: For doing certain work in connection with an elevator in the city of Edmonton.

Mr. DUPUIS: Amounting to about $25.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman is not clever.

Mr. DUPUIS: The Prime Minister says I am not clever.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The Prime Minister has the floor.

Mr. DUPUIS: I rise to a point of order. I think the right hon. gentleman has no right to say that.

The CHAIRMAN: If the hon. gentleman is rising to a point of order he must state the point of order, and the Prime Minister will sit down.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the point of order?

Mr. DUPUIS: I would like to know if the right hon. gentleman, who has the reputation of being a one-man government—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. DUPUIS: Just a moment.

The CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

Mr. DUPUIS: I would like to know if he is so much a judge as to reflect on an hon. member of this house in a way that is not parliamentary.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member must state his point of order and not make a speech. While I am chairman the rules of the house must be observed, and if hon. members are not satisfied let them appeal to the house.

Mr. DUPUIS: My point of order, Mr. Chairman, is this: I protest, not because of myself—

The CHAIRMAN: That is not a point of order.

Mr. DUPUIS: I protest against the term used by the right hon. gentleman, and I ask him to withdraw it, not because of my humble person, but because I am one of the representatives of the people here and he has no right to say that about me. I remember that the right hon. gentleman was called a humbug, and he did not like it, so I do not like him to say that about me. I would like the right hon. gentleman to withdraw that statement.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the hon. member state his point of order?

Mr. DUPUIS: I would like the right hon. gentleman to withdraw that statement.

The CHAIRMAN: To withdraw what?

Mr. DUPUIS: That expression.

The CHAIRMAN: What expression? My hon. friend must understand I cannot hear everything that goes on in this house. If the

hon. member will state which expression he wishes to be withdrawn I will decide on the matter, but I do not know to what expression he has reference. If he does not know himself I cannot guess it.

Mr. DUPUIS: Of course I do not want to go very far with this matter, Mr. Chairman, but you know very well that this expression is not parliamentary.

The CHAIRMAN: What expression? If my hon. friend will state it I will be able to give a ruling. If it is not parliamentary I will ask the right hon. Prime Minister to withdraw it, but the hon. member must state which expression he means.

Mr. DUPUIS: I am very sorry that the Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot hear everything.

Mr. DUPUIS: I am very sorry—

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. member once more to state his point of order, and if he does not do so I will ask him to take his seat.

Mr. DUPUIS: If the chairman will allow me to speak I will state my point of order.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow the hon. member to make a speech; he must state his point of order, because he has risen to it.

Mr. FAFARD: On the point of order, Mr. Chairman, if I were to say that the deputy speaker of the house was not clever, would I have to withdraw that expression?

The CHAIRMAN: Is that the point of order my hon. friend is raising? If so, I would not consider it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Withdraw.

Mr. BENNETT: After these interruptions, Mr. Chairman, I will proceed. I can quite understand, as I said, the solicitude for the public interest which is shown by hon. members opposite, but I find it a little difficult to appreciate in view of the fact that this is a contract under which, according to the statement which was just made, over $7,000,000 was voted last year. It is the same contract with the same people; payment is to be made to them for the same class of services, certified by the same inspectors. The only difference is that they continued their work beyond the appropriation that was made by parliament at the last session.

Mr. RALSTON: And that is the difference.

Mr. BENNETT: Just what does that involve? Every contract made in this country is open to that construction, and in five cases out of ten that has been done. Looking through the parliamentary proceedings I see no record of any effort to challenge that procedure in respect to contracts sanctioned by parliament. If this contract had not been sanctioned by parliament I could understand it, but under the circumstances hon. members will agree that the time of the house is being needlessly taken up. What will the production of the contract do? What purpose can be served by it? That is the real point. The house has a right to cognizance of the contract. In the main estimates we must vote further moneys for this canal; there are balances still due, and the house once more will determine whether the contract in respect to which the Liberal government voted money for nine years will continue to have money voted under it for two years by a Conservative government. All the hullabaloo has been raised on this point. To quote the language of the right hon. leader of the opposition, is this elevating to the reputation of parliament? Is this calculated to enhance its value in the minds of the public? Is this giving a finer appreciation of the value of parliamentary institutions to those who look on from afar? These are questions which the right hon. gentleman asks so frequently that I may be pardoned if I venture now to make the same inquiry. Apparently the idea is to tie up parliament, to prevent the business from being transacted, because you cannot have brought before you to-night a certain document to which no reference was made before six o'clock. Hon. gentlemen opposite knew the offices would be closed after six, that there would be no opportunity to get the document after that hour, but now they ask that the contract be produced. They gave no notice of such a wish before the dinner adjournment; they indicated no desire of that kind in all the time they had at their disposal. Now, when the vaults are closed and the offices empty, they wish to get the contract in order to delay this item. Well, they can get the delay they desire; I can wait as well as they can wait. I am not in the least worried about it. I hope they will enhance their position before the people of this country, and that my right hon. friend will have the opportunity of referring to the high place that parliamentary institutions must hold in the minds of the people. He should have ample opportunity for making such references, in view of the scenes we have

witnessed during the last few minutes. An hon. gentleman opposite rose to a point of order when I remarked about his reference to a governor general's warrant that paid Mr. Robert Marshall something over $25 for work done. I said the hon. gentleman was not clever when he made that reference. Does anyone say he is clever in making an observation of that character? I will leave it at that. Five or ten minutes go by; a whispered consultation is held; the rear troops are brought up; the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) tells the hon. gentleman what he should do in order to put himself right. The spectacle goes on, and we are told that this is a sign and a symbol of cleverness in the parliament of Canada. Well, Mr. Chairman, as far as I am concerned I think this item should pass. We can stay here for another hour, however, and let the people see the spectacle if hon. gentlemen opposite insist.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister is fond of using the expression "what a spectacle" and of referring to the amount of time consumed in unnecessary discussion. If my right hon. friend will take time to look over Hansard to-morrow he will be surprised to see the spectacle he has made of himself during this evening, and the amount of time he as Prime Minister has taken up in the house in regard to this one particular item, giving first one version, then another, none of them correlated or consistent one with the other.

May I make our position very clear. We are asked to vote $2,000,000, which is not a small sum, under a contract the terms of which are not known to this house at the present time.

Mr. COTNAM: You had them under your fingers for nine years.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The right hon. gentleman's government has had them recently in the council chamber, and I venture to say he does not know anything about them.

Mr. SPENCE: You must be in the same boat; you do not know anything about them either.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is why I am asking for them. The Prime Minister has said he does not know what they are; the Minister of Railways does not know the terms of the contract, and there is not an hon. member of this house who knows those terms. All we are asking now is to be permitted to see the contract in order to learn what are the terms.

[Mr. Bennett.]

An hon. MEMBER: But you voted money on it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, and it has been stated that we entered into the contract at the start. If a Liberal government entered into that contract, if I am not mistaken, it will be found that there is a clause in it providing that unless the moneys are appropriated by parliament they shall not be available for any of the work. And if that clause is there it furnishes a very good reason why my right hon. friend may not wish to produce the contract to-night or at any time. I am not asking him to discontinue the whole discussion until the contract is produced. I said fully an hour ago that I thought it would be well for the item to stand until the contract was produced, and I am still of the opinion that it should stand until then. Obviously it cannot be produced to-night. But there are a good many more estimates still to be discussed. If the Prime Minister refuses to produce the contract and wishes to have the discussion continue until it is produced, that must be his responsibility. We are anxious to facilitate the business of the house and get on with the items, but we are going to know the terms of that contract before we vote $2,000,000 under it.

Mr. BENNETT: Had the request for the contract been made before six o'clock the contract would have been secured, but the staff of the Department of Railways and Canals does not work at night, and these contracts are treated as having some value. One of the deputies hearing the discussion this afternoon obtained a copy of the letter and also section 43 of the Porter contract which I read to the house, believing that these were the only important clauses to read. This matter must come before the house on the main estimates, and I will undertake to produce the contract and, if desired, have copies made before that time. But so far as this item is concerned I cannot see that it has reference to it at all. I do not think any purpose can be served, so far as the passing of this item is concerned, by the production of the contract, and it would be very much to be regretted if the House of Commons took the attitude of one party saying, "We will not go on until you produce the contract," and the other party saying, "We will." I am perfectly frank in saying that the house has a right to the contract and we shall be glad to table it. But I cannot produce it when I have no notice, and did not know that it would be called for, seeing that it is a contract which has been

nine years in force and under which my hon. friends have voted very large sums of money indeed. The relevant section—at least the section which I thought relevant—the minister got one of the deputies to get for him. He sent word out as soon as the question was raised, hoping that he might procure it, but he has not got it. It cannot be produced at the moment. That is what I am informed. I shall be very glad indeed to lay on the table of the house copies of the Welland canal contracts, and before the main estimates are considered there will be ample opportunity to do so. The truth is, I am sorry to say, that I treated these supplementary estimates for the year ending March 31, 1931, in perhaps a much more casual way than I should have because I had been under the impression that the expenditures having been made and the obligations incurred, parliament as a matter of course would authorize them. In connection with the main estimates there will be every opportunity for discussing any question involved, or giving any information desired. If I were in the position of the leader of the opposition I would endeavour to obtain all the information that might possibly be procurable; but no one has ever heard me suggesting that we should ask for information with respect to a contract if it were merely a contract upon which payment had been made for seven or eight years. The time to do that is when the contract is first brought to the attention of the house, and usually this is done. I believe, in this case, the same thing occurred. The contract, I think, was made in August, 1921. Perhaps it was after the government came in, but I believe I read that it was made in August, 1921. That was one contract, because there are various contracts in connection with the various sections, bearing different dates. I can only say that the items are here and to-morrow is the last day in the fiscal year in which these moneys can be paid. That is all there is about it, and if the opposition takes the view that they should not be paid, we will endeavour to do the best we can. In the past, however, it has been customary to pass these estimates without much discussion. It is true the pages of Hansard will show that I took a great deal of space making explanations, but these explanations were made not because I desired to give them at length but because I was asked by the house itself to make them. And if the reasons I have given lack coherence I can only say that there were many considerations that led to our purpose, which we believed to be in the public interest, to vote the money to which the contractors are entitled.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My right hon. friend has made reference to some contract undertaken by one Mr. Marshall for which I am accused of getting a governor general's warrant to pay for the work done. He has not offered any explanation. I am bound to say I do not remember the matter at all, but if Mr. Marshall was paid by order in council, undoubtedly the government knew all about it, and I cannot see why my right hon. friend should at this time make reference to this particular question. So far as my memory serves me, I never asked the government to grant me a warrant which was not justified and necessary in the public interest. Let me say to my right hon. friend that if he expects to get estimates through he will find that the quickest way is to produce all papers asked for, or to allow an item to stand until they are produced. Nor was he recreant in his duty in asking ministers, when we were on that side, to produce papers before an item was passed. We are well within our rights in asking for all information and for all papers, and it will not hurt my right hon. friend to allow the item to stand until to-morrow, seeing that he still has a great many more items to pass.

Mr. BENNETT: The sage observations offered by my hon. friend from West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) and the advice tendered may be most excellent; I fancy they are. But they have no application to this particular case, because this afternoon when the question was raised I asked that the item stand and I supplied in detail the information requested. Had the opposition asked for the production of the contracts they would have been here to-night. But we were not asked for their production.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No sage observations have been made. So far as I am personally concerned I do not like references to past actions on my part without full opportunity being given to review them, when an impression is left or sought to be left that there is something wrong somewhere about the transaction. I may say to my right hon. friend that any time he attempts that with me he will not get away with it without a reasonable explanation. There is nothing sage about that statement. May I observe, however, that he, himself, tendered some sage advice across the floor when we were sitting on the side he and his followers now occupy. And we were bound by what he at that time decided was in the best interests of the public—we produced whatever was asked for.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman will have, produced from the files and laid on the table of the house, the original with respect to the matter. He brought the criticism on himself.

Mr. IRVINE: I have been listening with great care to the discussion that has been going on between the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition. I have been doing my best to discover what the real issue is and to endeavour to come to some conclusion respecting it. The whole spectacle this evening proves the contention I have often put forward in this house, that the committee of the whole is not a very good place in which to discuss any estimate. I hope some day we shall have more adequate facilities provided. It is significant that for very many years money has been voted by parliament in connection with the contract at present under discussion. The challenge that no one knows what is in that contract has been issued and no one has taken it up. Having voted so much money during all these years without knowing what is in the contract, I do not mind doing it once more. I do not see that we will be doing more harm than has been done already. To me all this discussion seems to be nothing more than red tape. The declaration has been made that this vote is irregular. If I understood the Prime Minister correctly, he said that it is not irregular, it has been done before by hon. gentlemen on this side. That has not been denied, and therefore I can only conclude that if it is irregular it has been done before. Having been done before, why not go ahead and be irregular some more? This discussion is simply red tape. The amount will have to be paid. If it is authorized by the contract it will have to be paid; if it is authorized by the government apart from the contract it will have to be paid, and so it does not make much difference to me personally whether we vote this to-night or to-morrow.

Something has been said about the authority of parliament being jeopardized by this vote. Parliament never had any authority except the authority of the governing party. That authority comes from the cabinet, and that has been the only authority exercised by this parliament ever since I entered this chamber. I see no reason why we should object to following the same system. Perhaps we should have a better one, but although I have contended for a change, the right hon. leader of the opposition did not see fit to bring that about when he was Prime Minister. I see no reason for holding up this vote, particularly when we are advised that under the contract the company was authorized to carry on because of unemployment conditions. We know that such conditions existed and we know that such work would give employment to many men. We know they got work and in view of that I think this is an excellent time for conciliation. I enjoyed the speech of the leader of the opposition on conciliation in connection with the Imperial conference; if that is good for the Imperial conference it is a most excellent thing for the parliament of Canada. Let us have some conciliation and let us have it now and get on with the business of the committee.

Mr. BENNETT: The original Johnston P. Porter contract has been secured by the Minister of Railways and Canals. It being an original document, obviously it cannot be laid upon the table. However, I will pass it over to my right hon. friend. The contract which is dated August 18, 1921, was authorized by order in council dated August 13, 1921. It calls for the construction of sections 1 and 2 of the Welland ship canal to be completed by March 31, 1925. Security of $400,000 was furnished. This matter is covered by departmental records file No. 14902, and the insurance policies required by section 125 were filed. The time for completion was extended to March 31, 1927, by a supplemental agreement which is attached to the contract. It was later extended to March 31, 1929, by order in council. It was again extended to June 30, 1930, by order in council dated March 16, 1929. It was finally extended to March 31, 1931, by a supplemental agreement dated January 8, 1931, which is attached to the contract.

Mr. POWER: A great deal of this information is new to us, especially that in connection with the supplemental agreement dated January 8, 1931.

Mr. BENNETT: It is the same as those of 1927 and 1929.

Mr. VENIOT: Why have not we the right to see that?

Mr. BENNETT: I do not dispute the hon. member's right to see it.

Mr. POWER: We have been told all afternoon that there was no new contract.

Mr. BENNETT: Neither there was.

Mr. POWER: I should say that a supplementary agreement would be very similar to a contract.

Mr. BENNETT: It merely extends the time for completion.

Mr. POWER: It is a new condition.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. POWER: The time was extended. Although it may have no great bearing, I think we have occasion to resent the right hon. gentleman's manner towards us during the course of the afternoon. No one on this side of the chamber had an idea other than that this contract had been authorized by order in council, and so we did not ask for its production.

Mr. BENNETT: The original contract was authorized by order in council.

Mr. POWER: I am sorry if the right hon. gentleman misunderstood me. When the matter was being under discussion this afternoon we were given to understand that this $2,000,000 vote was an amount authorized by order in council. Before six o'clock we did not ask for the production of the contract because we did not think it was necessary, but after the dinner recess the right hon. gentleman moved from one position to another. He then proceeded to cite one clause of the contract without laying the complete contract upon the table of the house as he should have done. He knows very well that had we raised a point of order and asked the Chairman to require the production of the contract he would have been obliged under the rules of this house to produce it.

Mr. BENNETT: I think not.

Mr. POWER: As the right hon. gentleman thinks not, the next time a similar question arises we will ask for a ruling from the Chairman. In any case it was only after the dinner recess that this matter of a contract came up. A clause from the contract was cited and a letter was read, and now we find that there was a supplementary contract. I submit that events have shown that we were perfectly justified in requesting the information which we have received from the right hon. gentleman. He has laid great stress upon the fact that this contract has been in existence for nine years, and that millions of dollars have been voted under it, but I would call his attention to the fact that on every occasion upon which moneys were voted on this contract there were in their seats some responsible ministers who were prepared to give explanations. To-night we had the right hon. minister stating that he knew nothing about a contract; he gave us to understand that the Minister of Railways and Canals was not familiar with the details—the minister will correct me if I am wrong—and he said: You must vote the money under this because you have voted money already. I submit that we are entitled to differentiate between the manner in which this contract has been treated in other years and the manner in which it should be treated this year.

A further reference was made by the right hon. gentleman which might be rather annoying to hon. members on this side of the chamber. He has intimated that on the last days of the fiscal year we are endeavouring to obstruct or to retard the progress of this estimate. The right hon. gentleman could have brought these estimates down last week.

Mr. BENNETT: No, he could not.

Mr. POWER: Why could he not?

Mr. BENNETT: He could not bring them down until he obtained the consent of the house.

Mr. POWER: He could have obtained that consent last Monday; there was no necessity for waiting until the last days of the fiscal year in order to bring them down. We are being asked to vote $2,000,000 without having any information or without being permitted to have the documents to which we are entitled.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I thank my right hon. friend for having produced this contract. The production is all the more remarkable because the Prime Minister told us only a moment ago that the vaults were locked and the clerks were in bed and therefore it was impossible to get anything. However, it is here and he has been kind enough to give it to us. I believe I have discovered the reason why my right hon. friend did not wish to produce this contract. The latest version with respect to the matter was that there was no order in council. I find here a definite contract reading:

> This agreement made the 8th day of January, 1931, between Johnston P. Porter, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax and province of Nova Scotia, of the first part, and His Majesty the King represented herein by the Minister of Railways and Canals of Canada, of the second part.

This is a formal contract signed by Mr. Porter, the contractor, and the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals, but in this formal contract there is reference to an order in council in virtue of which this present contract has been entered into.

Mr. MANION: Is that not just an extension of the contract?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, but it is in virtue of an order in council granting an

extension of time that it has been possible to make a new contract. I hope the hon. member for Wetaskiwin will not hold us lacking in any desire to be conciliatory when we are simply endeavouring to get at the terms of contracts which are for expenditures involving millions of dollars. One of the reasons given for this contract is as follows:

And whereas, under and by virtue of an order in council (P.C. 2303) dated the 30th September, 1930, authority has been given to the further extension of the time for the completion of the works contracted for under contract No. 24275, by the party of the first part, to the 31st day of March, 1931.

Mr. BENNETT: That was not the order in council my right hon. friend was talking about.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is an order in council pertaining to the contract and in virtue of which the contract was made.

Mr. BENNETT: Not for $2,000,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In virtue of which the agreement respecting the $2,000,000 expenditure which we are being asked to make good to-night was entered into.

Mr. MANION: The right hon. gentleman's own government during its regime extended the contract three times, and since we came in we extended it once. This is just an extension of the contract. There is no change in it. The ex-Minister of Marine nods his head. He agrees with me.

Mr. RALSTON: It is quite right that we extended the contract.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I come to the original contract. We have now an order in council which extends the time under which this work is to be done, an order in council of which the house up to this moment had received no information and of which it would have had no knowledge but for the production of the document in consequence of all the efforts we made this afternoon and evening to obtain it. In virtue of the extension of time given by order in council of September 30, the Minister of Railways and Canals subsequently had a contract entered into between the contractor and his deputy.

Mr. CHAPLIN: What is the date of the order in council?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The order in council extending the time is dated September 30, 1930, a rather significant date. After we had had the special session of parliament, after parliament had voted $20,000,000 to aid unemployment, and after my right hon. friend had had an opportunity to ask parliament for any privilege or right which he wished to have with respect to meeting the unemployment situation, it is then that the government by order in council extends the time of this contract. Then we come to the month of December.

Sir EUGENE FISET: When the appropriation voted for that same year had expired.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: On September 30 there still was some of the appropriation, but after that the appropriation had expired—

Mr. BENNETT: The appropriation had not expired.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not the whole of it in September, but my right hon. friend and his colleagues were paving the way for this further amount to be authorized later on.

Mr. BENNETT: The Prime Minister was away.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not imagine my right hon. friend's colleagues did anything without his full knowledge. Even if he were away, I think he knew all about it. But this agreement is dated the 8th day of January, 1931, a formal agreement signed by the contractor and the Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals.

Mr. BENNETT: Merely extending the time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, authorizing further expenditures. This is not even the letter to which reference has been made. All we were told of was a letter written by the deputy; there was nothing about a new contract, but this is a contract, signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of Mr. F. S. Lazier for the party of the first part, and in the presence of Mr. J. Proulx for the party of the second part.

Mr. BENNETT: Will my right hon. friend read the operative part of it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I shall read the whole of it. It reads:

This agreement made this 8th day of January, 1931, between Johnston P. Porter, of the city of Halifax, in the county of Halifax and province of Nova Scotia, of the first part, and His Majesty the King, represented herein by the Minister of Railways and Canals, of Canada, of the second part:

Witnesseth a contract bearing No. 24275, dated the 18th day of August, 1921 (hereinafter referred to as "contract No. 24275") was entered into by and between the party of the first part and the party of the second part for the construction and completion of sections Nos. 1 and 2 of the Welland Ship canal, for the considerations and subject to the terms, covenants,

provisoes, agreements, conditions and reservations as in contract No. 24275 set out, which, by reference thereto, will at length and more fully appear;

And whereas the time for the completion, by the party of the first part, of the works contracted for under contract No. 24275 was therein fixed for the 31st day of March, 1925, as in clause 3 of contract No. 24275 set out and provided;

And whereas the time for the completion of the works contracted for under contract No. 24275 was extended by supplemental agreement dated April 20, 1925, to the 31st day of March, 1927;

And whereas the time for the completion of the works contracted for under contract No. 24275 was further extended by order in council (P.C. 395) dated March 14, 1927, to the 31st day of March, 1929, and by order in council (P.C. 448) dated March 16, 1929, to the 30th day of June, 1930;

And whereas the party of the first part has not yet done, furnished, performed and delivered the works contracted for under contract No. 24275;

And whereas, under and by virtue of an order in council (P.C. 2303) dated the 30th day of September, 1930, authority has been given to the further extension of the time for the completion of the works contracted for under contract No. 24275, by the party of the first part, to the 31st day of March, 1931.

Witnesseth that, in consideration of the premises, the parties hereto have mutually covenanted and agreed as follows:

1. That the time for the completion, as set and provided in clause 3 of the contract No. 24275, by the party of the first part for the party of the second part, of the works contracted for under contract No. 24275 and as extended by supplemental agreement and orders in council aforesaid is hereby further extended to the thirty-first day of March, 1931, and that each and all, except and subject as hereinbefore set out and provided, the terms, covenants, provisoes, agreements, conditions and reservations in contract No. 24275 set out and provided shall be and continue in force and effect between the parties hereto in as full and complete a manner as if the date (the 31st day of March, 1925) set out and provided in clause 3 of contract No. 24275 for the completion of the works contracted for under contract No. 24275 had been the 31st day of March, 1931 (the date herein named and fixed) named and fixed in contract No. 24275 in the first instance instead of the date therein so named and fixed.

In witness whereof the parties hereto have executed these presents the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the party of the first part in the presence of F. S. Lazier.

J. B. Porter.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the party of the second part in the presence of J. Proulx.

V. I. Smart,
Deputy Minister of Railways and Canals.

J. W. Pugsley,
Secretary.

In other words, the amount of $2,000,000, which we are now being asked to appropriate, is in virtue not of any estimates submitted to the house by a previous administration nor of any act of a previous administration at all, but by virtue of an extension of time made by the government of the day opposite on the 30th September last and in virtue of a new contract entered into between the contractor and the present government in January of this year for which at the time there was no existing appropriation. That is the position. It is in respect of moneys that were not voted previously. May I quote to my right hon. friend what he himself had to say in parliament at the special session with respect to appropriations that had not received the sanction of parliament? He was referring to remarks of the ex-Minister of Justice in the debate on unemployment relief, and he will find his own words at page 91 of Hansard of the special session as follows:

> Having regard to the attitude taken by the right hon. gentleman as to the desirability of having antecedent parliamentary sanction for expenditures—
>
> Not post-parliamentary sanction of expenditures, but antecedent parliamentary sanction of expenditures such as we are now discussing.
>
> —I am sure that he will agree that any effort to appropriate so substantial a sum as that mentioned in the resolution should have parliamentary sanction before the money is expended.

And my right hon. friend adds these words:

> I think that is a cardinal principle of representative institutions and of responsible government.

Those are the words of the Prime Minister on the 11th of September, before this extension of time was granted with reference to this $2,000,000 contract that we are now discussing, and three or four months before the actual contract itself was entered into with the contractors for the additional $2,000,000. So I say to my right hon. friend that out of his own lips he stands condemned. I am prepared to leave the matter at that.

Mr. BENNETT: Now that the contract has been produced, I do not intend to take up very much time beyond saying that the general principle upon which I have always proceeded is that there should be antecedent authorization by parliament of public expenditures. There was in this instance antecedent parliamentary authorization because parliament had approved of the contract and of its terms by voting money for the work for nine or ten years in succession. It will be remembered that this contract was to be fulfilled in March, 1925, and when the right

hon. gentleman's government went out of power in July, 1930, the contract had not been completed. Therefore there were extensions, three in number, and a further extension was made until the 31st of March of this year. There had been an antecedent approval by parliament of the contract that involves this large expenditure, but parliament had voted part of the money only.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): But not approval of the expenditure itself.

Mr. BENNETT: Parliament had antecedently approved of the contract and of the whole of the expenditures that were to be made for the purpose of carrying into effect the terms of the contract. Only part of the money, however, had been voted. It would be incumbent upon the crown to make good the moneys due for the work that was performed. I am not going to discuss that further.

When the right hon. gentleman and those associated with him were so insistent that they had never done such a thing, might I ask them whether, in 1928-29, the government of that day did not authorize work on the Hudson Bay railway, and that it be proceeded with after the appropriation for the year had been expended? Afterwards the sum of $1,700,000 was included in the 1929-30 estimates for that work. Let hon. gentlemen look up the estimates and see. The situation that arose then was not one of grave unemployment. It was simply a question of carrying on the work, and the government of that day arranged to get the money without coming to parliament. The Canadian National Railways put up the money in the meantime and parliament voted the money later. That hon. gentlemen will find by looking at the estimates for those two years.

I have endeavoured with a good deal of difficulty to get the contract for the right hon. gentleman and his friends. There is nothing about this matter that is irregular or improper or in any way at variance with the principles which I laid down. That is the reason why in respect to some new works to which reference has been made expenditures were not carried on: because it was felt—I have a very strong opinion about it—that as some of these works could not be completed before the end of this month, no start should be made upon them, the moneys voted being wholly insufficient for the purpose. So instead of calling for tenders and letting contracts, we decided we would do the best we could under the circumstances then existing, and I do not believe that there is any member of this house who will say that if the right hon. gentleman opposite and his friends were in power and confronted with the same situation he would not have extended the contract for the same purpose, to enable the contractor to complete his obligation within the time mentioned and to take care of the problem of unemployment.

My hon. friend from Quebec South (Mr. Power), who has referred to the order in council, knows perfectly well that the order in council read this evening was not the order in council to which reference was made this afternoon, nor was there in point of fact any new contract made. There was merely an extension of time granted, the only change made being in the date fixed for the completion of the contract by March 31, 1931. If there has been any violation of the principles of responsible government or representative institutions it certainly has not been in this case, because all that was done was to permit the contractor to go forward and finish his work, and he had to finish it by March 31 anyway.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Is it finished?

Mr. BENNETT: So far as I know, it is not finished.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The contract will go on.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh yes. It will continue.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My right hon. friend would take the position that the government are in duty bound to let that man finish the whole contract.

Mr. BENNETT: If they extend the time for completion by order in council, which has always been done.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My right hon. friend was arguing the opposite to-day.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Until this contract that was entered into in 1921 is completed, the government will feel under obligation to allow the contractor to complete the contract.

Mr. BENNETT: Not beyond the time fixed for completion, unless there is an extension.

Mr. POWER: I do not wish to delay the committee further. We have now got what we have been looking for all day. The Prime Minister has been kind enough to produce the contract, and so far as I am concerned I am perfectly satisfied. But I desire to point out

that we now find that this vote of $2,000,000 is authorized under some specific instrument, namely, a contract that was entered into, or an extension of contract if the right hon. gentleman prefers it that way, on September 30, 1930. That puts an entirely different face on the situation. First we were told that there was no new contract. We were told that there was an order in council, and then we were told that there was no order in council. We were told that is was an old contract which had been in existence since 1921, that it had been let in our time, and then we found that it was let under the Conservative regime. We are now told that there have been three or four different extensions of the contract, and the last one that was made was made since the right hon. gentleman came into power. That puts an entirely different construction upon it, and shows that we were at any rate amply justified in insisting upon having the fullest information.

Item agreed to.

Quebec—Ville Marie—public building—further amount required, $14,370.

Mr. POULIOT: When an amount is voted and not spent, does it lapse or is it applied to another item?

Mr. BENNETT: It lapses.

Item agreed to.

Sturgeon Falls — public building — further amount required, $1,873.95.

Mr. HEENAN: Would the Prime Minister or the Minister of Public Works state the rate of wages that the ordinary labourers were paid on this work at Sturgeon Falls?

Mr. BENNET: Forty cents an hour, I am informed.

Mr. BRADETTE: Will these rates apply to all works done by the federal government? I refer to the rate of forty cents an hour for common labour.

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot answer that question, because the fair wage clause is inserted in contracts and my hon. friend knows the meaning of it as well as I do.

Item agreed to.

Saskatchewan: Dominion public buildings—improvements, repairs, etc.,—Further amount required, $3,500.

Mr. TOTZKE: What public buildings come under that item?

Mr. BENNETT: There was an appropriation for repairs and matters of that kind of $17,000. The expenditure amounted to $3,500 in excess of that sum.

Mr. McINTOSH: Will the right hon. gentleman give us the names of the places affected?

Mr. BENNETT: There are many places where small repairs were made; I have no names here.

Item agreed to.

Alberta — Delia — public building — further amount required, $2,000.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: There is no over-expenditure in the province of Manitoba, some of the money voted by the last parliament having not been spent?

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Item agreed to.

Ottawa public buildings and grounds—
Elevator attendants—further amount required, $2,700.
Departments generally—char service—further amount required, $23,300.
Repairs, improvements, additions and maintenance—further amount required, $17,000.
Water—further amount required, $2,250.
Rideau Hall—amount required to complete payment for additional furniture and furnishings, including the purchase from the retiring Governor General of the Chinese gallery, $15,000.
Dominion public buildings—
Fittings, general supplies and furniture—further amount required, $5,000.
Light and power—further amount required, $40,000.
Supplies for caretakers—further amount required, $12,000.—Total, $117,250.

Mr. POWER: I would like some explanation concerning the purchase of the Chinese gallery. Would the Prime Minister tell us whether or not that is an expression of good will so that we may sell our wheat to China?

Mr. BENNETT: That item represents a sum which the government agreed to pay Their Excellencies for the Chinese gallery at Rideau Hall and the furniture at the citadel which was not taken away. The Department of Public Works had the articles appraised before it was agreed to make the contract in question. Inasmuch as it was felt that a sum would have to be expended for the purpose of furnishing that particular part of Rideau Hall, and considering that the price was reasonable because of the fact that the pieces were of very great value, the contract was closed and the arrangement made.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Was the appraiser a Chinaman?

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I hate to use the expression "I told you so," but hon. members must recall that two or three years ago the right hon. gentleman and his friends while sitting in opposition took serious objection to further expenditures on furniture, trappings and draperies for Rideau Hall and the Quebec citadel.

Mr. BENNETT: This is neither for draperies nor trappings.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: It is for furniture.

Mr. BENNETT: One of two things had to be done; either the furniture in the buildings had to be purchased or other furniture bought.

Mr. DUFF: Mr. Chairman, some reference was made earlier in the evening to myself as a lawyer. I would like to ask the Prime Minister a constitutional question: Under the constitution can the government pay the Governor General the moneys set down under this item?

Mr. BENNETT: I am advised the Governor General can be paid after he has ceased to hold that office.

Mr. DUFF: By whom?

Mr. BENNETT: He shall have ceased to be Governor General on Saturday.

Mr. DUFF: Was not the contract made by the Governor General when he was acting?

Mr. BENNETT: The contract was made with his representative. I am advised such representative was perfectly competent to make the contract and the money will be paid after His Excellency has ceased to be Governor General.

Mr. VENIOT: Could not this item stand until the general estimates are considered without doing an injustice to His Excellency?

Mr. BENNETT: Under the circumstances I think it would be unfair to let the item stand.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Does the Prime Minister think the new Governor General will want the Chinese gallery?

Mr. BENNETT: I feel there will be no difficulty in disposing of the furniture.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Bennett.]

New Brunswick

Fairhaven—wharf repairs—further amount required, $2,218.12.

Mr. VENIOT: Was this work done under contract or by day labour?

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend is referring to the work which cost $2,218.12. This amount is required as a balance due on repair work to the wharf at Fairhaven. The work was performed under contract.

Mr. VENIOT: That was under contract?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Ontario

Cobourg — harbour improvements — further amount required, $48,995.40.
Port Elgin — breakwater repairs — further amount required, $2,909.93.
Sarnia — harbour improvements — further amount required, $11,770.
Sault Ste. Marie—harbour improvements—further amount required, $56,556.58.—Total, $120,231.91.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not rise to object to the items but I should like to direct your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that it is customary to call the individual items. If we are allowing them to pass in this collective fashion it is simply in order to save time. The practice however is not to be taken as a precedent when we come to the general estimates, or for any future time.

The CHAIRMAN: The right hon. gentleman is quite correct. However, I have been asked to call out the number only.

Mr. BENNETT: I agree with the remarks of the right hon. leader of the opposition.

The CHAIRMAN: Item No. 29, is it the wish of hon. members that I read the whole item?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

British Columbia

Comox—wharf repairs,$2,200.
Fraser River—In full and final settlement of claim of Coast Quarries Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., in connection with their contract No. 15,942 for section 5 of the north jetty at Steveston, B.C., $12,260.16.—Total, $14,460.16.

Mr. REID: Would the Prime Minister give particulars regarding the second item in this estimate?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, I will give the hon. member the information he desires. The statement reads as follows:

In full and final settlement of claim of Coast Quarries Limited of Vancouver, British Colum-

bia, in connection with their contract No. 15,942 for section 5 of the North Jetty at Steveston, British Columbia, $12,260.60.

This amount of $12,260.16 is asked to be provided in full and final settlement of claim of Coast Quarries Limited of Vancouver, British Columbia, in connection with their contract No. 15,942 for the construction of section No. 5 of the North Jetty at the mouth of the Fraser river at Steveston, British Columbia.

In memo of November 25, 1930 chief engineer Cameron states as follows:

Under authority of order in council of August 16, 1928, contract was entered into with Coast Quarries Limited of Vancouver, British Columbia, for the construction of Section No. 5 of the North Jetty at the mouth of the Fraser river, at Steveston, New Westminster district, British Columbia.

Contract was dated October 1, 1928, and called for completion April 1, 1930.

The contract provided for the supply and placing of rock to form a continuation of the existing Steveston North Jetty. The length of the section No. 5 proposed to be built was 5,000 lineal feet, and the estimated quantity of material under the contract was 41,300 tons of 150 lb. rock at 1.72½ per ton; 106,200 tons of 500 lb. rock at 1.67½ per ton which involved an estimated expenditure of $249,127.50.

Final estimate was forwarded March 24, 1930 and paid. It certified to

24,093 tons at $1.72½..	$ 72,610 42
105,164 tons at $1.07½..	176,149 70
and involved a total earning of..	$248,760 12

Which, it will be observed, is within a few dollars of the amount mentioned in the estimate.

In transmitting that final estimate I observed that Coast Quarries Limited had filed a claim for additional payment. This report deals with that claim. The contractors' solicitor, J. E. Bird, of Vancouver, wrote on February 3, and 13, 1930 setting out the grounds on which the claim was based. These letters were followed by numerous interviews in Ottawa with W. A. Bickwell of the contracting firm, and with district engineer Worsfold who was in Ottawa on departmental business.

The amount asked by the contractors as additional compensation is—

for extra dolphins..	$ 3,036
for rock dumped by hand 10 August to 31st December 1929, 43,700 tons.. ..	17,480
for rock dumped by hand 31st December 1929 to completion 17,000 tons..	6,800
	$27,316

A report to council was prepared February 26, 1931 recommending that an amount of $12,260.16 be paid the Coast Quarries Limited.

Mr. REID: What was the date of settlement?

Mr. BENNETT: The report to council by the department was made February 26, 1931.

An. hon. MEMBER: Was this settlement accepted by the contractor?

Mr. BENNETT: The department determined on the report of the engineers that this was all they would pay, and so advised the contractors. This item is for that purpose. I am advised that they would have liked to get something more, but they cannot get it.

Mr. MacLEAN: Before these public works items are passed, could the minister give the house the amount of money voted at the last regular session for public works that was not expended? If I understood the Prime Minister correctly a short time ago he said that no contracts that were entered into, for which money was voted by the late government, were cancelled by the present administration. I wish to say that, speaking for my own county, I know of two contracts that were entered into but which were cancelled and the work under which was never carried out.

Mr. BENNETT: Would the hon. gentleman be good enough to give the names?

Mr. MacLEAN: One public work was the Summerside wharf, amounting to $7,500. Not only was the contract not carried out, but the cheque of the contractors was kept at Ottawa until just about a month ago, when it was returned to them. They were told then that the contract had been given to another party, and as far as I know that party did not even put in a tender for the work. These men were given a small cheque to pay the interest on their deposit cheque, which has been held here since last July. I think in all fairness, when money was voted at the last regular session of parliament, when there was unemployment in the country and a special session of this house was called during which $20,000,000 was voted for unemployment, that the $25,000 which was voted for the county of Prince should have been spent, especially when tenders for these works were called for and accepted. That amount of money would have been a great help to the farmers, fishermen and labourers of that county last fall, when unemployment was rife. Instead, the cheque of the contractors was held here and the work never was proceeded with. I submit further that if the government, for political reasons or otherwise, did not wish to allow the contractors to go on which those contracts, they had plenty of time to call for new tenders and to allow some of their own men to get the contracts and proceed with the work. We worked for years in the house to get those votes through, and they were very important. One concerned a harbour for poor fishermen along the shore. They have been fighting for that harbour for thirty or forty years. The item was supported by the Minister of

Fisheries and put through this house, and the contract was awarded. The work was never proceeded with, and I want an explanation from my good friend the Minister of Public Works as to why the deposit cheque was held here at Ottawa for four or five months and the work never proceeded with. I think the government has some explaining to do to square itself with the people of that county with regard to these two contracts.

Mr. BENNETT: The information the hon. gentleman seeks will be supplied in due course, either when the main estimates are under consideration, or through answer to a question put on the order paper. It is obvious that the information is not available at the moment. It will be supplied, in the one way or the other, by the Minister of Public Works. I may say that I am advised that there must be some mistake in my hon. friend's appreciation of the facts.

Mr. DUFF: The hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacLean) has made a very serious assertion with regard to the Department of Public Works. He has stated that a contract was cancelled and that the Minister of Public Works or his officials entered into a contract with new contractors without calling for tenders. I think we should have some explanation of this matter before going any further.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough realizes that this has nothing to do with the item under consideration. We are considering the British Columbia item now.

Mr. DUFF: As the deputy speaker would say, it is a matter of principle.

Mr. BENNETT: We are now considering the British Columbia item.

Mr. MacLEAN: The reason I brought it up on this item is because we are now considering the public works for the various provinces, and there is no estimate for Prince Edward Island. If I brought it up at all I had to bring it up when we were considering the public works estimates. The only other estimate on which I could have discussed it was the dredging estimate, and I might have been shut out under that. I am willing to let the matter stand for now, but we should have an explanation why these contracts were handled in this way.

Item agreed to.

Public works—roads and bridges—Dominion roads and bridges generally—further amount required, $10,100.

[Mr. MacLean.]

Interprovincial bridge over Ottawa river at Hawkesbury, the Quebec government to contribute one-third of cost of construction only, the Ontario government to contribute one-fourth of cost of construction and to pay annually one-fourth the maintenance costs—further amount required, $28,300.—Total, $38,400.

Mr. BERTRAND: How much money has been paid to the contractors on the Hawkesbury-Grenville bridge so far, and how much money has been collected from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec?

Mr. BENNETT: The amount earned by the contractors is $96,340; the amount paid by the Dominion government is $35,926, and by the Quebec government $32,114. The balance due is $28,300. Of that amount of $28,300 asked for, the provincial governments will eventually refund their portions.

Mr. BERTRAND: I would like to ask also if there will be a further sum in the main estimates with regard to this bridge, because there is additional information I would like to secure.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, there must be another estimate because the contract is outstanding for $150,000.

Mr. BERTRAND: Then there will be another amount in the main estimates?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

PRIVILEGE—MR. LAVERGNE

Mr. ARMAND R. LAVERGNE (Montmagny): I rise to a question of privilege. My good friend from Quebec South (Mr. Power) said this afternoon that I was owner and director of a paper in Quebec called Le Franc-Parler. I wish to say that while I write in that paper I neither own nor direct it. My hon. friend also cast a sort of aspersion upon me, implying that I might be a partisan. I understand that so long as you do not lay flowers at my hon. friend's feet you are supposed to be a partisan, but I appeal to the loyalty of my hon. friend from Quebec South: he knows better than anyone else that I am not a partisan.

Mr. C. G. POWER (Quebec South): I hate to detain the house at this late hour, but may I be allowed to explain why I was under the impression that the hon. gentleman was particularly interested in this newspaper to which he refers. I have here a section of the newspaper in question bearing the following:

"Le Franc-Parler"
Armand LaVergne, C.R., M.P., Président.
[Vice-Président de la Chambre des communes]
Eugène-F. Dussault, Directeur.
Hormisdas D. Langlais, Administrateur.
Publié par la Compagnie "La Publication Laurentienne, Limitée" 105, Côte de la Montagne, Québec, P.Q. Tél. 2-6203.

Mr. BENNETT: What is the date?

Mr. POWER: December, 1930. However, if the house is not convinced, I could possibly make—

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not see that the representation now being made to the house by the hon. member constitutes a question of privilege. It can be made on the proper occasion. The deputy speaker addressed himself to what was plainly a question of privilege, which is not a matter for debate.

Mr. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is all very well for an hon. member to say that he rises to a question of privilege, but if in fact he is not doing so he should not rise.

Mr. POWER: I quite agree with your honour that perhaps there has been too much of that sort of thing in the house, but I wish to state my point.

Mr. SPEAKER: Up to the present moment the hon. member has said nothing that affects privilege.

Mr. POWER: My point is that my word has been brought into question by the deputy speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot accept that. The hon. member did suggest that the deputy speaker was a director of or was interested in a certain newspaper, but the deputy speaker has just stated that he is not. Surely that is an end of the matter.

Mr. POWER: I am explaining why I made the statement I did.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the hon. member has done so.

Mr. POWER: I wished to read from the newspaper in question to make my point still clearer and in order to explain to the house why I stated that the deputy speaker was connected with this newspaper—was a director of it. I propose to read a letter published in the paper. Surely I am entitled to explain my position.

Mr. BENNETT: That was December, 1930.

Mr. POWER: This letter—

Mr. SPEAKER: I must disagree with the hon. member. He has not spoken to a question of privilege and in what he is now saying he is not addressing himself to a question of privilege.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Tuesday, March 31, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

WORLD WHEAT CONFERENCE

REPORTED PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO REGULATE EXPORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, a Canadian Press cable which arrived this morning states that Mr. Howard Ferguson has made the following proposal in Rome:

> That it is desirable that delegates of countries exporting wheat, namely Argentine, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Hungary, India, Poland, the Union of Soviet republics, Roumania and Jugoslavia should meet together as soon as possible to organize on an international basis the exportation of the crop year of 1931-32.

I should like to ask the government if Mr. Ferguson is authorized to make a proposal that involves negotiations with the Soviet government. If so, it is the best news we have had for some time.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The hon. member's inquiry will be taken as a notice of motion.

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO DISCUSS MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave under standing order 31 to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, to call the attention of the house and the government to the acute distress existing among large numbers of industrial workers throughout the Dominion.

Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the form of the motion but judging from what the hon. member has said it would not be in order inasmuch as this matter has been under debate and is mentioned in the speech from the throne.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): May we have the motion, please?

Mr. SPEAKER: If any hon. member desires to speak on the point of order as to whether or not the application is in order, he should do so before I give my ruling.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will Your Honour read the application?

Mr. SPEAKER: The application is by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) and asks for leave under standing order 31 to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of public importance, namely, to call the attention of the house and the government to the acute distress existing among large numbers of industrial workers throughout the Dominion.

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to say just one word on the point of order? Without disputing the importance of the subject raised by the hon. member for North Winnipeg, I submit that the interpretation which always has been placed upon this rule has been that it must be a matter of recent occurrence. Furthermore, it must be of such urgent character as would create an injustice were hon. members of this house precluded from discussing the subject matter. I submit, first, that it is not a matter of recent occurrence, and, second, that it would be open to hon. members to discuss this question during the debate which is now before this house. Therefore, the hon. gentleman is not in order in asking permission to discuss this subject as a matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. HEAPS: In moving this motion I was guided by the actions of—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. DUFF: The hon. member should speak to the point of order.

Mr. HEAPS: I am speaking to the point of order raised and I desire to call the attention of the house to one precedent. In 1926, when the present government was in opposition, I find the following action taken by the house. It was moved by the then hon. member for Cape Breton North-Victoria (Mr. L. W. Johnstone), that leave be granted under rule 39 to adjourn the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, to call the attention of the house and the government to the acute distress existing among the coal miners of Nova Scotia, many of whom were actually on the verge of starvation. My motion follows almost word for word the motion made in 1926.

I might state also that in the speech from the throne delivered in 1926, reference was made to the conditions in Nova Scotia, as follows:

> With a view to affording such remedies as may appear to be practical and appropriate, the government also propose to appoint a royal commission to inquire fully into the claims that the rights of the maritime provinces in regard to the operation of the Intercolonial railway have not been observed, and that in regard to transportation, immigration and other economic factors these provinces have suffered prejudicially, in their position under confederation.

At that time the condition of the miners in Nova Scotia was not a matter of recent occurrence. I would draw the attention of the house to the fact that in 1926 this motion was made during the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. My motion is on almost all fours with the motion made in 1926, and I submit that I should be allowed to proceed.

No direct reference is made in the speech from the throne this year to any action which the government intends to take to deal with unemployment. We should not at this time insist on technicalities as I consider there is no more important question to be dealt with by parliament. The speech from the throne makes a certain vague reference to the economic conditions which prevail at the present time but there is no reference at all to any definite action which the government intends to take in order to meet the existing situation. In the rules of procedure the word "definite" is used, and we have to deal with a definite rather than an indefinite matter. May I point out also that the appropriations which the government has voted will expire to-day and there will be no further funds available for the municipalities or the provincial governments with which to cope with the present conditions.

Therefore, I consider thare is an urgent need for a discussion of this question which, as I have stated before, I believe to be the most important question that can come before this house.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in speaking on the point of order it seems to me that this matter involves the rights of the members of this house. In stating the procedure subsection 3 of standing order 31 reads as follows:

He then hands a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed to Mr. Speaker, who, if he thinks it in order, and of urgent public importance, reads it out and asks whether the member has the leave of the house. If objection is taken, Mr. Speaker requests those members who support the motion to rise in their places and, if more than twenty members rise accordingly, Mr. Speaker calls upon the member who has asked for leave.

I submit that the mover of this resolution (Mr. Heaps) has complied with the rules. He has handed to the Speaker a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed. I realize that the next clause of the standing order is to the effect that if the Speaker thinks it in order it is read out, but I take it that that is only a formal matter. The proposed motion might not be formally in order; then it is for you, Mr. Speaker, to say that it is not in order and to reject it. But we are here dealing with another matter. With all deference to Your Honour I do not think it can be said that the possibility of the introduction of a motion of this kind is dependent upon the decision of Your Honour as to what is an urgent matter; that is dependent upon the twenty hon. members who may rise and support it. I do not think there can be any question that the motion is formally in order. Several years ago a motion in precisely the same form was introduced upon a like occasion and no question was raised by the Speaker as to its being out of order. A precedent was established and I do not see how it can be said that this is not in order. The only ground upon which he can rule that it is not in order is as to whether it is a relevant matter or not, and that depends on the decision of twenty members. I claim that it becomes your responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to ask whether or not twenty members believe that this is a matter of urgent public importance.

The suggestion has come from the opposite side of the house that already a reference along this line has been made in the speech from the throne. It must be conceded, however, that that is a very general reference, and my colleague has more than answered that when he has shown that similar action was taken on a previous occasion when the members of the present government were in opposition. As to the urgency of the matter, may I emphasize that the grant runs out today and that already a number of municipalities are cutting off direct relief to large numbers of men and women? The municipalities take the ground that they have no help from the Dominion government. What is to be done in such a situation as that? The Dominion government has given no indication of what its policy is to be and tomorrow these men will be on the streets. I have to-day from a western city a letter along that line.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member confine himself to the point of order?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am submitting that the matter is urgent and I do not know of any way of putting it more strongly than that unless some action is taken before the Easter recess, there is very serious danger that riots will occur.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Nonsense!

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Hon. members may say that is nonsense, but if it is desired to have the urgency emphasized I cannot put it more strongly than to say that thousands of men are without work and without food, and inevitably there will be riots. For that reason I urge that before the Easter recess some action be taken to meet this emergency situation.

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): On the point of order, may I say that the 1926 case cited may or may not have been quite appropriate at that time, but the point of order was not raised then. Now the point of order is definitely raised for Your Honour to decide. I submit that the motion is out of order. Standing order 31, section 6, subsection (c) provides:

> The motion must not revive discussion on a matter which has been discussed in the same session.

And the following subsection provides that the motion must not anticipate such a matter. My submission is that the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) raises this very question. It has been under discussion in the house since that amendment was moved, and it will continue under discussion until that amendment is voted upon. The amendment reads:

> We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that this house, while recognizing the serious economic conditions prevailing throughout the world, regrets that the policies of His Majesty's government have not only failed to afford a remedy for employment and agricultural distress, as pledged by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, but have served further to prejudice the deplorable position of the agricultural interests, thereby causing additional unemployment and substantially reducing the national revenue.

The whole question of present-day unemployment is specifically raised in the amendment now under discussion in this chamber, and, that being the fact, I submit that the motion is distinctly out of order.

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): I do not know of any matter of

greater national urgency than the question raised by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps). Probably the reason why no objection was taken to the matter being discussed in 1926 was that the government of the day invited discussion on unemployment as well as on any other subject. I am surprised that the present government would raise any technical objection in order to shut off debate on this particular question, because during the election campaign they themselves said that it was—

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member confine himself to the point of order? The question as to the policy of an opposing party during a previous election has nothing to do with the point whether this request is in order or not.

Mr. HEENAN: If Your Honour will allow me to finish my sentence you will see the objective I have in view.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why not let us have your objective first?

Mr. HEENAN: I could not turn my sentence around. As I said, the government of the day claimed during the election campaign that this was a national question, and inasmuch as the situation is worse now than it was then, it is more of a national question now than it was at that time. I submit that without regard to whether the motion is in or out of order, the unanimous consent of the house should be given to the hon. member for North Winnipeg to proceed with his motion.

Hon. IAN A. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Speaking to the point of order, I find myself in absolute agreement with the motives behind the motion submitted by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps). On the other hand, I find myself in substantial agreement with the point of order raised by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) and spoken to by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie). The house is therefore confronted with what is largely a question of policy, and although this is not distinctly on the point of order, I think it is important at the present time that the supplementary estimates should be disposed of, as hon. gentlemen opposite realize. The leader of the government (Mr. Bennett) should, however, give an opportunity to the house to have a discussion raised by the hon. member for North Winnipeg, if it cannot be raised in this way. During the debate—and this is only on a question of policy—we asked for a statement of policy from the Acting Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) in regard to labour and agricultural conditions. If this statement were given, it would do a great deal towards meeting the wishes of the hon. member for North Winnipeg. I am compelled on the point of order to agreement with the Minister of Justice.

Mr. SPEAKER: This application is made under standing order 31, which reads:

(1) Leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the house (when made for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance) must be asked after the ordinary daily routine of business has been concluded and before notices of motions or orders of the day are entered upon.

(2) The member desiring to make such a motion rises in his place, asks leave to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, and states the matter.

(3) He then hands a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed to the Speaker, who, if he thinks it in order and of urgent public importance, reads it out and asks whether the member has the leave of the house.

In the first place, before the matter is read to the house, the Speaker must consider that it is in order and of urgent public importance. Perhaps I cannot do better than to read to the house the written opinion I gave to the hon. member for North Winnipeg this morning when he kindly notified me that he was going to make this application. I said:

Since discussing with you your proposal to move the adjournment of the house for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely—to call the attention of the house and the government to the acute distress existing among large numbers of industrial workers throughout the Dominion, I have carefully considered the same and it seems to me the matter to which you propose to call the attention of the house is now actually being discussed in the debate on the address, and is a matter specifically referred to in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth paragraphs of the speech from the throne and in the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition.

For the moment the house has laid aside the debate on the address to deal with supplementary estimates required for the administration of government. Within a few days the debate will be resumed and if the house considers that the matter you propose to call to its attention should be discussed forthwith, it has only to revert to the debate on the address for that purpose.

If it is suggested that the members now seeking to move the adjournment have already spoken in the debate on the address, I might point out that it is open to a member to move a sub-amendment to the amendment to the address and to then discuss the matter, and that when the amendment now before the house is disposed of there will be a further opportunity to speak on the main motion.

The reason for allowing such a motion for the adjournment is to afford members an opportunity of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance which they could do in no other way, but as the matter has been, and will continue to be very thoroughly discussed in the debate now in progress, I am obliged to decide that the application is not in order at this time.

In support of this decision I would quote May's Parliamentary Practice, 13th edition, page 248:

Motion for adjournment regarding matters for the discussion of which the committee of supply or other appointed business—

The appointed business in this case being the debate on the address:

—would afford an early opportunity, or a matter which is under the consideration of a select committee, have been ruled to be out of order.

I therefore rule that the motion is out of order on the ground as stated in that letter, and on the ground taken by the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) under paragraph (c) of section 6 of rule 31. That the motion anticipates a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration by the house, and particularly by the amendments to the address moved by the leader of the opposition.

PERMITS TO KILL BUFFALO

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): I notice in the western press that permission has been given to missionaries to kill barren buffalo cows in Wood Buffalo park. I would like to know if this permission has also been given to travellers, traders, Indians, prospectors and inhabitants in the district, and also how in the heat of the chase, the missionaries are to determine just which animals to kill.

Hon. T. G. MURPHY (Minister of the Interior): If the hon. member will put his question on the order paper I shall be pleased to answer it.

PEACE RIVER OUTLET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. HANSON (Skeena): I would ask the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) if he has yet received the joint report of the railways on the Peace River outlet, and if so, whether it will be presented to the house before the Easter recess.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): I did not quite catch my hon. friend's question, but I think it was in regard to the same report that was asked for by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie). I wrote to the premier of British Columbia asking him if they had had their report tabled, but I have not yet received a reply.

EXPORT BOUNTY ON GRAIN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. M. CARMICHAEL (Kindersley): I have received several telegrams during the past few days with reference to resolutions passed at farmers' meetings in my constituency. I shall read one and ask a couple of questions based thereon:

At a meeting held in Glidden, 150 present, resolution passed that we demand an export bounty of fifteen cents wheat, ten cents rye, five cents oats, be put by the government.
F. B. Hailes.

In view of the present financial distress existing among agriculturists, will the government give favourable consideration to an export bounty on Canadian grain; or failing that, has the government any substitute plan for giving financial relief to the farmers?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the question be put on the order paper.

CIVIL SERVICE

REPORTED RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF INTERIOR AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. R. E. CHEVRIER (Ottawa): In view of persistent rumours and newspaper reports with reference to retirements and superannuation of civil servants, more particularly of the Interior department, and the resulting apprehension and unrest, I desire to ask the Minister of the Interior what action is presently being taken or will be taken by the government in reference to the employees of that department.

Hon. T. G. MURPHY (Minister of the Interior): The question which my hon. friend has raised is a matter of government policy which will be announced in due time.

RETENTION OF THE SERVICES OF NATIVE-BORN ASKED BY NATIVE SONS OF CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse): I have received a letter enclosing copy of the following resolution which was adopted by the Native Sons of Canada:

In view of the persistent public rumour that it is the intention of the government, in the near future, to dispense with the services of many permanent employees, it is recommended by the executive of Capital Assembly, No. 86,

of the Native Sons of Canada, that if such rumour be true, the government consider the retention of the native-born in preference to those of other countries, all other considerations being equal.

If the government is going to make retirements from the civil service, will it start with officials not native-born?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The government will be governed by the statutes of the country.

PENSION EXAMINER AT SASKATOON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): May I ask the Minister of Pensions and National Health a question based on telegrams and other communications that I have received from northern Saskatchewan in connection with political pressure that I understand is being brought to bear on his department with regard to the removal of Dr. Cox, pension examiner at Saskatoon. The minister made a statement on this question to the house about a week ago, and I thank him for that declaration of policy. I should like to hear from him to-day, however, if his policy as then announced is still his policy to-day, or whether he has something to add to his statement of last week.

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): The policy as announced a week ago still stands, and the position remains the same.

Mr. McINTOSH: That is all right.

AUSTRO-GERMAN CUSTOMS UNION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): I have in my hand a newspaper report of the tariff agreement between Germany and Austria, and I notice that section 2 of article 1 reads as follows:

> Both parties specifically declare themselves bound by this contract to negotiate with any other nation desiring to enter a similar agreement.

In view of the fact that Germany at one time was one of our best customers for wheat, and is not now, I would ask the Prime Minister if he would be willing to take advantage of this offer and negotiate a treaty with these countries?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The hon. gentleman's observations will be treated as notice of a question.

[Mr. Boulanger.]

SUPPLY—UNEMPLOYMENT

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Before you leave the chair, Mr. Speaker, I wish to follow the advice that you gave when you ruled on my motion a few moments ago. You stated that that motion was not debatable, but that other opportunities would occur when the question of unemployment could be raised, and I now take this opportunity of raising it on the motion for going into supply.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): It is hardly competent, Mr. Speaker, for the hon. gentleman to discuss a question that is now before the house in an amendment, and with respect to which you have already ruled.

Mr. HEAPS: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that on the motion for supply every member of this house has the inalienable right to discuss any grievance that he wishes to bring before parliament.

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I submit that a member cannot on the motion for supply make a motion of any kind that he sees fit. He cannot, for instance, discuss a question that is on the order paper; he cannot discuss a question that is under consideration by the house; he cannot anticipate a motion standing in his name on the order paper. Your Honour has directly ruled that this question is under consideration by this house, and I submit that your ruling applies to the hon. gentleman's present remarks.

Mr. SPEAKER: On the motion to go into supply the ordinary rules of debate are applicable. For instance, I quote the following from Bourinot:

> A matter already decided by the house or of which notice has been given, or which stands upon the orders of the day, cannot be discussed nor can any subject or matter of detail which should be discussed in committee, be debated in these occasions.

The question which the hon. member for North Winnipeg has undertaken to discuss undoubtedly stands for discussion on the orders of the day, because it has been brought before the house through the amendment by the leader of the opposition and also by reference to it in the speech from the throne which is now being discussed in debate before this house and which stands for further discussion.

Mr. HEAPS: May I interject Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: I am discussing a matter—

Mr. HEAPS: Have I not the righ to speak?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEAPS: I wish some of the hon. members opposite who last year were so enthusiastic in the discussion of the matter of unemployment would show the same enthusiasm at this time.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEAPS: Have I not the right to move an amendment on going into supply? That is what I am going to do.

An hon. MEMBER: Not that amendment.

Mr. HEAPS: Hon. members cannot restrict the character of an amendment. No ruling of the house can restrict the character of the amendment I intend to make. I have an amendment to move if it is necessary to move it.

An hon. MEMBER: Move it then.

Mr. SPEAKER: Such an amendment as that sought to be moved by the hon. member is not in order.

Mr. GARDINER: May I call the attention of hon. members to the fact that no amendment has been moved. Any member of this house has the right upon going into supply to discuss any matter and to move any amendment, and I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is not your duty to rule against an amendment which has not yet been moved.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understood the hon. member to say he moves an amendment to the same effect as the matter I have already held to be out of order.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member said he was going to move the same amendment.

Mr. HEAPS: I will place my case and my grievance before the house and then I shall state my amendment. At the moment there is no amendment before the house; last year I took exactly the same stand when the house was going into committee of supply. Certainly at that time there was no objection from any place in this house, either from the government or the opposition. From the opposition in the year 1930 we had a great deal of support in the discussion of certain matters when going into supply. Up to now Mr. Speaker, I have not taken up any time of the house with the exception of asking two questions. In connection with one question I had the honour of receiving an answer and the other question I was asked to place on the order paper.

I feel Mr. Speaker, that I would be recreant to my duty towards those people I represent in this house if I did not take the opportunity before the adjournment for Easter recess of drawing to the attention of the house some of the conditions which at the present time prevail in the Dominion of Canada. Those conditions are of such a nature that I feel parliament ought to take some definite action before we adjourn to-morrow. Following the adjournment a great many of us will be going back to our constituencies and will be meeting the people who sent us here. There is hardly a constituency in Canada at the present time which is not suffering from some form of economic distress. The first question which will be asked by our constituents and the first question we will face when we return to our home is, "What has parliament done to cope with the existing crisis?" Hon. members in this house with the possible exception of some members of the government, know nothing of what the cabinet has in mind to meet the conditions which now prevail. We had a special session of parliament. In July last year a change of government took place and at that time the opposition thought it was right and proper immediately after the election to summon the parliament to deal with the then very serious unemployment situation. Now, if there was a condition in September last year with which this house should deal, I say that at the present time it is much more necessary. There is no hon. member of this house who will claim that conditions are not worse now than they were in September last year. If conditions are worse in the month of March than they were in the month of September then I think it is high time that parliament had before it certain definite proposals to deal with the existing emergency. When we go to our respective homes at the Easter recess we feel that half of the parliamentary session has expired. Up until this time however nothing has been done; not one worth while action has been taken by this parliament and no inkling has been offered to the people of this country concerning what action is likely to be taken. After all, Mr. Speaker, I believe the cabinet should have taken the house into its confidence and told the people of this country what it intends to do in order to deal with the pre-

sent emergency. This is the 31st day of March and money voted in September last practically ceases to exist because parliament is not in a position, except by another act to vote further sums of money. Apart from that, the whole of the $20,000,000 voted by parliament has been more or less used up by municipalities in dealing with the unemployment situation. At the present time, Mr. Speaker, I find a worse condition of unemployment in this country than I have ever known in the past. We could travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific and find these same deplorable conditions prevailing. I have before me certain communications to which I wish to refer to briefly. Here is one from Calgary which reads as follows. It is from the Mine Workers' Union of Canada:

> In view of the deplorable conditions which exist in the mining industry throughout Canada.

Another one comes from the province of Nova Scotia. The statement is contained in a report of a special committee of a conference held on January 20 in Halifax. The report reads in part as follows:

> Conditions of grave and calamitous unemployment have for some time existed and are at this time prevalent in the coal fields of Nova Scotia.

What else do we find? In the city of Vancouver 10,000 people have registered as being out of work. The number who have registered does not of necessity indicate the total number of people out of work because there are thousands who refuse to register but who nevertheless are unemployed. I could travel to Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg and find a similar condition. In the city of Winnipeg we have had more than 7,000 men who have been actually receiving relief from the city. In the cities of Fort William and Port Arthur the same deplorable conditions prevail. In the city of Toronto vast numbers of men are out of work. In fact only last week in that city a crowd of unemployed men looking for work were actually clubbed because they dared to look for jobs.

An hon. MEMBER: That is wrong.

Mr. HEAPS: Just a few day ago in the city of Montreal a large number of unemployed men trooped into an office and the man in charge actually shot one of the men who came in looking for work. Apparently the man who did the shooting was afraid some harm might befall him. The man was shot right through his body.

[Mr. Heaps.]

These are the conditions prevailing throughout Canada, and I feel that this parliament ought not to adjourn for the Easter recess until the government brings down immediate measures to cope with the situation. The excuse may be offered that we have been in session only since March 12th. But there is no good reason why the house could not have met two months earlier to deal with the problem. If parliament could have met in September in an emergency session there is no reason why it could not have met at the ordinary time this year so that we could have done something to meet existing conditions.

In the last session of parliament the government adopted three measures which they claimed would in some way alleviate or possibly put an end to unemployment in this Dominion. I never expected for one moment that the party now in power could end unemployment, and I am not going to blame them if they do not end unemployment in this country. The only blame I attach to this government is that hon. members opposite made such wild and rash promises to the electors, representing that they were the only ones who could solve the problem.

I have said that we could have met much sooner so that we might have dealt with the unemployment situation. I was very sorry indeed, Mr. Speaker, when a few weeks ago I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) what action the government intended to take to meet this serious state of affairs, the only reply I received from the right hon. gentleman—and then it was only after he had been requested by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) to do so that he replied—was that I should put the question on the order paper. I was to put the question on the order paper and then it might be answered. That may be a way of evading a question, but it is not the way to reply to an important question asked in the House of Commons. If the Prime Minister had answered my question in the way in which a question of that kind should be answered, I might probably not have found it necessary to get up in my place to-day and insist upon some action on the part of the government. When the Prime Minister of the government evades the answering of such a question, it seems to me the only resource we members have is to bring to the attention of parliament and the country the situation as it actually exists. In fact, when the Prime Minister made that reply to the question I asked him, he said he was going to follow in the footsteps of the former

government. Now that is a rather unusual attitude for a Conservative Prime Minister to take in this house. But I have noticed of late how eager the Prime Minister is to follow Liberal practices. Upon his return from the Imperial conference he intimated that he was following in the footsteps of the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier. And when the right hon. gentleman was in opposition he used to quote continually from Lord Morley's Life of William Ewart Gladstone. He seems to have quite a tender spot for such quotations, a desire to follow in the path of Liberals of the past. I sincerely trust, however, that the Prime Minister will not follow entirely in what the Liberal party has done in the past, but will branch out into new lines in order to meet the problems we have, with new ideas, because the old ideas cannot solve the problems of to-day. It is no use attempting to deal with twentieth century problems with nineteenth century ideas; it cannot be done.

In September last the government had three proposals for dealing with the unemployment situation. The first was the prevention of dumping into Canada. That was one of their proposals and it became law. But not only did it become law; the government took upon themselves the right and prerogative which for many years parliament has exercised There is therefore no excuse to-day that foreign goods are coming into competition with Canadian manufactures. That, as I say, was one remedy. The second remedy was the voting of $20,000,000 to give immediate relief where that was thought necessary. And the $20,000,000 more or less has been spent. Now I want to lay down, first, the maxim that capital expenditures are no remedy for unemployment. In fact, the more capital expenditures are made for unproductive works, the more we aggravate an already serious situation. Consequently the mere voting of sums of money for the carrying on of certain public works will in no way settle the problem of unemployment. Now we come to the third remedy offered by the government—and this was their trump card. They claimed that if the tariff were raised extremely high so as to prevent the importation of goods it would provide work for people at home and practically solve the unemployment problem. To-day, after about six months' experience, we find that none of these so-called remedies are in any way a solution for unemployment.

I wish to show, by the figures supplied by the government, the extent of unemployment in Canada at present. I find there were 228,351 persons who received work as a result of the emergency vote passed by parliament last September. They worked a total of 3,975,355 days; that is to say, they worked on an average, approximately 18 days during the last five or six months. Now, the average wage they would receive from those who employed them would be approximately $60. In other words, they earned an average of $60 under the emergency legislation passed last year. What do we find further? In addition to the numbers who received work, there were also large numbers who received relief by way of groceries, meals and so forth. I find on page 11 of the report of 1931, dealing with the unemployment situation that there were 49,946 families and 64,728 individuals who received relief. In other words, over 130,000 persons received direct relief in addition to the 228,351 persons who were given employment during the past few months. This will give some indication of the serious unemployment situation which exists to-day.

I find that the index for employment on August 1, 1930, was 118.8, and on February 1, 1931, it had dropped to 100.7. If we deduct only a proportion of the number of people who were employed on emergency work, working under some form of government assistance, we find that in that same period the drop in unemployment was in the neighbourhood of 30 per cent—certainly a very grave state of affairs and one that demands the attention of parliament. Then we have to consider the vast numbers of men who at present are on part time employment. We find that throughout this country men who formerly worked on full time are working three or four days per week, and they have a most difficult struggle to make both ends meet. What have the unemployed to look forward to? In previous years, in the spring men would look forward to being able to go on the farms and find employment in that way. This year those men will not be able to do so; in fact I am inclined to believe that instead of men going from the cities to the farms there will be people coming from the farms to the cities to look for work. Consequently the already bad situation which prevails in our industrial centres is likely to become much worse through that reverse movement. I find, Mr. Speaker, that in the few times the Prime Minister has spoken in public since the emergency session of last September he has made special reference to what he would do if the conditions were not changed when parliament again met. Speaking in Regina on December 30, the Prime Minister said:

> I tell you that when parliament meets, if there is not then evident further increase in employment, additional steps will be taken to meet the situation.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, we have a right to know what those additional steps are to be.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): If any.

Mr. HEAPS: Yes, as the hon. member for Bow River says, what additional steps there are to be, if any. The hundreds of thousands of men and women who at present are out of work and who are marching through our streets in demonstrations, men and women who are hungry and many of whom are starving, have their eyes fixed on this parliament, and they expect us here to take some action that will in some way deal with this very pressing problem. At the present time, on this 31st day of March, we do not know what parliament is likely to do in an attempt to meet the situation, and we are not likely to meet again until April 13. There is involved in this question something which I regard as of very great importance. As I have already said, I believe there is no question that ought to challenge the attention of members of this house and the attention of parliament collectively more than the question of unemployment, yet I see scant attention paid to-day to this important problem. I noticed that when my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) spoke on this question recently practically the whole Conservative party walked out of the house, and it just makes me wonder how much hon. members really care for the men and women who happen to be out of work and suffering at the present time. When my hon. friend from South Vancouver (Mr. MacInnis) spoke on the same question he was met in exactly the same way; he found complete indifference to the suffering of our fellow-Canadians.

Mr. SPOTTON: You never propose anything.

Mr. HEAPS: It is for the government to bring proposals before the house, and when the government will come to the house with concrete proposals I will be willing to give them all the support of which I am capable, if I believe those proposals will help the situation. If the government will listen to what I have to tell them and will adopt my proposals, they may be equally sure of my support, and perhaps before I get through to-day I will bring forward a few suggestions which they might do well to adopt.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): But there are only forty-six members of the Conservative party to listen even now.

Mr. HEAPS: Well, that is nearly three times as many as were here when my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre spoke the other day. When the hon. member for South Vancouver dealt with this question he was met with jeers by hon. members opposite when he attempted to tell of the sufferings of the unemployed in the city of Vancouver. It is all right for the party in opposition to show sympathy for the men and women out of work, but it seems another matter when that party happens to attain power.

There is a rather strange coincidence which came to my notice to-day, Mr. Speaker. On March 31 of last year I rose in my place to call the attention of parliament and particularly of the government to this question of unemployment. On that day I brought forward a motion asking the government to take immediate steps to deal with the then existing unemployment situation. The Conservative party was in opposition at that time, and the opposition benches were pretty well filled on that occasion. There were no jeers, and there was no question of my bringing forward certain proposals. The Conservative party insisted on the government of the day bringing in their proposals to deal with unemployment, and I hope that party to-day will be just as consistent in their attitude and will take immediate action to deal with the situation.

I said this parliament had a collective duty in connection with this question. We have a responsibility, and we cannot evade it either individually or collectively. The main responsibility, however, naturally rests with the government, and the responsibility of the government is to deal with this very grave menace that is confronting us. We must bear in mind that the people of this country look upon this parliament to govern, but if we allow hundreds of thousands of workers and their dependents to go without the bare necessities of life I want to ask you, Mr. Speaker, what kind of confidence, if any, can those people have in our parliamentary institutions. I claim that the very fitness of this parliament to govern the country under such circumstances is at stake to-day. If we do not live up to our responsibilities we will deserve everything the people of this country may hurl at us.

We claim that we are living under a form of political democracy; I have heard the Prime Minister speak about the dignity of parliament and the respect with which it should be looked upon by the people throughout this country. The degree of respect we receive from the people of this Dominion will be only in proportion to the way in which

we give the people the things to which I claim they are fully entitled. I want to say in all seriousness that parliament is losing its grip upon the people, because while we have a form of political democracy we have allowed to grow up side by side with it a financial autocracy, which to-day is more powerful than the democracy. The question now arises whether we are to be subordinate to these economic forces which seem to have a strangle hold upon the very life of the millions of our people. That is the question, and to-day the problem arises, in dealing with the unemployment situation, what steps parliament will take to meet the conditions which exist throughout the country?

It has been claimed by some hon. members opposite that the unemployment situation is due first to the Liberal government which was previously in power, and secondly to the fact that certain economic conditions have been experienced throughout the world. To overcome the maladministration of nine years of Liberal rule, and to give additional employment to the workers of this dominion the Conservative party set about the task of increasing tariffs. If world conditions are responsible for unemployment no local application of a tariff will improve them; that goes without saying. If we are faced with world conditions, a tariff is no remedy for unemployment existing in Canada.

It would seem that the causes of unemployment lie far deeper than can be reached by a tariff and I think this matter should be considered from that angle. In our collective capacity as a nation we are not suffering from any shortage of goods; we have more than we know what to do with. Our elevators are choked with wheat and so much grain has been produced that it does not pay the farmer to ship because he will receive nothing for it. Yet, side by side with that condition, we have vast numbers of people in our cities who are without the bare necessities of life. How are we going to bring about a more equitable distribution of the goods produced? The tariff policy of the government is based upon the assumption that production must be increased. If production is increased how can the people consume that increased production if to-day they are unable to consume our present production? The great masses of the people must be given that purchasing power which will permit them to consume far more goods than they are allowed to at the present time. Production has been increasing by leaps and bounds for a number of years yet side by side with this enormous increase we find that the purchasing power of the masses has remained practically stationary. If that purchasing power remains stationary and production increases it means that commodities will be piled up, and as that process continues sooner or later men find themselves out of work because they are unable to consume the goods they have produced.

Wages, based upon purchasing power, have remained practically stationary. To-day the human being is being exploited by the machine for the benefit of those who own the machine. Henry Ford said some little time ago that the machine was to be the slave of man. However, what has happened is that man has become the slave of the machine. From a governmental standpoint, we have not the faintest idea of how to cope with this situation. It is claimed that the labourer is a partner in industry, but that is not so. He is only a drudge who receives a mere pittance for his labour.

I have been asked, what have we to offer as a remedy to meet the situation? I submit that capital to-day is taking too great a toll out of industry. If statistics were consulted I have no doubt that they would show that the amount of money paid out per annum in interest would equal the total payroll of the country. Unfortunately, we have not those statistics from our own Bureau of Statistics, but those of the United States show that that is the case. Industrial conditions in both countries are on a par, so the same would apply to Canada.

I claim that industry ought so to adjust itself as to guarantee to the labourer a fairly steady annual wage. At the present time a man receives so much per hour when there is work to be performed; if there is no work, he receives nothing. A man with $10,000 to invest receives an annual return on his investment and I claim, Mr. Speaker, that a human being who invests in industry all that he has to invest is entitled to an annual return. He is more deserving than is the man who invests a few thousand dollars.

In times of national emergency the government mobilizes our national resources. This is a time of great emergency with many thousands of our people facing starvation, it is an emergency for the meeting of which the government should mobilize all national resources. As I said before, we have in our warehouses more commodities than we know what to do with and side by side with that aggregation of wealth and commodities we have hundreds of thousands of Canadians who do not know where their next meal is coming from. That is the problem facing the government. It may be very well for the leader

of this government to offer certain nebulous proposals as outlined in the speech from the throne, but what we need are definite proposals to meet the present situation. Something is said in the speech from the throne about returning to normal and prosperous conditions the like of which we have never seen in the past. Let me tell the right hon. the Prime Minister that such fine phrases as those contained in the speech from the throne will not fill one empty stomach. We want such action as will return us to the right kind of prosperity. We do not want a prosperity which is reflected in the bank clearings and in the annual statements of financial and industrial concerns, a prosperity affecting only the few and not the many. We do not want a prosperity which will make millionaires out of the few and paupers out of the millions. We want a prosperity which will give to the man on the farm and in our industrial centres a decent livelihood, a prosperity which will afford an opportunity for his children and all those dependent upon him and give that security of life which to-day is denied him.

To-day the responsibility is on the government. The Prime Minister said that they were going to deal with the question or perish in the attempt. The time has come when he must deal with it, and although we are a small group, although there may be only three labour members in the house, we are to-day speaking for hundreds of thousands of people throughout the whole length and breadth of the Dominion. As hon. members know, when any matter arises pertaining to labour in various constituencies represented by members who are now in the house on the government side or the official opposition side, resolutions which are sent to those members are also sent to the Labour members. Those working people, whether they live in Nova Scotia or in the central provinces or in the western provinces, look to the small Labour group to bring these questions before the house, and as the government and the members generally deal with those questions, so shall they be judged by the working men and women in those constituencies.

When my colleagues, the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) and the hon. member for South Vancouver (Mr. MacInnis) and I raise questions in the house, we feel that we are speaking for far more people than our own immediate constituents. By resolutions which have been sent to us and by dozens of letters which we have received, we know they are looking to us to raise this question; they are demanding of us that we impress upon the government and the house the urgency of the matter. Therefore I hope the government will rise to the occasion, and will not deal with this question as if it were of no importance, for never has there been before the house a question of equal importance to that of unemployment at the present time. From coast to coast we have vast numbers of men asking for action from the government and I hope the government is not going to disappoint the workers or the agriculturists of this country.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): I should like to assure the house that we have raised this question to-day, not with any desire to delay the ordinary business of the house, but because unemployment throughout the country at the present time is so serious that we could not allow the Easter holidays to pass without at least making an effort to have some definite pronouncement from the government with regard to what they intend to do in this matter. It may be very important that the estimates should be considered before the Easter holidays; it may be important that the contractors on the Welland canal should be paid, but it is equally important that the unemployed of this country should be cared for during the next two weeks.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): A great deal more important.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: My hon. friend from Bow River says that it is a great deal more important. I quite agree with him, because, after all, some of these contractors can manage in one way or another to get along for a few weeks. On the other hand, many of the unemployed are on the bread line and within a day or so they will be on the verge of starvation. It is tremendously important that this matter should be attended to without delay.

There are in the house members who claim to stand for the ancient rights of the British people. I am glad indeed that parliament has throughout the centuries permitted the ordinary members to voice their grievances before supply can be granted, and I am pleased we have this opportunity to-day of voicing what I believe are the real grievances of a large number of people in Canada.

When the question of the point of order and the introduction of the motion was before the chair, I ventured to say that I thought this matter was urgent and among other things I suggested that unless it were attended to, we might very easily have riots within the

next two weeks. I think those who have been in the house for any length of time will agree that I am not in any way inciting to riot, but I should like to point out that the very first responsibility of the government is to make such arrangements as will at least allow the people to live, to eat, and to-day there are many people who are not in a position, unless something is done in an organized way, even to obtain an existence. I am glad to notice many hon. gentlemen on both sides are giving attention to this matter to-day. I know quite well that as individual members they are very much interested in this subject and I would hope that a subject of this kind could be taken out of the range of party politics. I do not know how many other members feel about it, but the other day, although I have been in the house for ten years, I could not but be rather shocked at the levity that characterized the discussion on unemployment. It seemed to me that we were footballing it back and forth in order to obtain some party advantage and were not dealing with the question as its merits would warrant our doing. I know members individually would take a great deal of interest in any poor person who came to their doors, but a large majority of the members have not been quite so fully in touch with labour as some of us have, and from day to day they are perhaps not besieged as we are by unemployed people seeking relief. Under these circumstances I think they will pardon us if we stress more than they feel like doing, the importance of the question. Someone during my colleague's speech atempted to throw discredit upon his statement with regard to certain unemployed being clubbed. I happen to have in my hand a clipping from the Evening Citizen of March 28, 1931, and in it I find this statement contained in an editorial entitled "No Slave Labour in Canada.":

> From Toronto, last Thursday, came word of the mayor's stand against the clubbing of unemployed men when they crowd eagerly before an unemployment portal in search of work.

I think no discredit should be thrown on the statement of my colleague. Further the editorial states:

> In Montreal on the same day, revolver shots were fired at a crowd of free but unemployed Canadian workers when they surged around the office of a private contractor.

The editorial proceeds in discussing these two news items, to say:

> The wisdom of the law may have to be invoked in Montreal to determine how far the freedom of the Canadian workless is to be observed. They are free to starve, as this winter has demonstrated.

Again it says:

> But the limit is being reached. The line is drawn at the portals of employment offices where men go to seek work. They must apparently be satisfied with freedom to starve. They cannot have employment. It is just a question how long this superior freedom of the Canadian workless can go on.

I do not think I need to spend much time to-day in stating the actual facts of the situation. In this corner we were glad last year to have the support of the Conservative party when we introduced the question of unemployment and urged that the government do something about the matter. The situation is worse to-day than it was a year ago. I think that will be frankly admitted. I am not going to discuss the question whether the onus for that should be placed upon the government or not. I do not think the government is primarily to blame for that, but I do say that if we obtained support from the Conservative party last year, we ought to obtain support this year when we introduce the question again and urge immediate action.

Mr. SPENCER: The conditions are worse.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, the conditions are worse.

I do not propose to deal with the government's own report on the Unemployment Relief Act of 1930, but I would like to emphasize one statement made by my colleague, that we succeeded in providing for less than eighteen days' work, or three weeks' work, for the unemployed. Here was the special session called; we sat for two weeks and voted twenty million dollars for the relief of the unemployed. As a matter of fact, all that effort succeeded in providing only three weeks' work for a very limited number of individuals, 228,351, a smaller number than are now unemployed. That is an astonishing situation, that with all the effort we have made we have provided less than three weeks' work for less than the number of unemployed to-day.

In some way they have been looked after during the past winter. What is to happen after to-day when the relief is cut off? That is the emergency. I do not think we ought to go home for the Easter recess without provision being made to carry them for at least a few weeks longer because the ordinary spring work will not open up before that time and it should be remembered there will not be anything like the amount of spring work this year which there has been under normal circumstances.

I take just one or two items almost at random from the government's own report. In Manitoba, for example, there were 36,968

individuals granted direct relief. I turn to the note at the bottom of that same table on page 11 of the report and read:

In addition to above, the city of Montreal reports having given 178,659 nights' lodgings to single men and 1,063,034 meals.

And so on. These extracts are simply indicative of the conditions that prevailed. If one wanted to go outside of the government's own reports, there are abundant evidences of the seriousness of the situation. There came to me the other day the March number of Social Welfare, a social workers' magazine, in which an account is given of what is being done by churches and philanthropic societies outside altogether of the aid which has been given by the government. One article concerns Winnipeg, and in this particular case includes what is being done by the government. It says:

The employment service of Canada reports no farm, camp or bush work, and the situation has been in the same condition since the early autumn of 1930. Since September 1, 1930, 4,012 married men have applied for assistance, 347 of whom have been placed in work on bridge and subway building, in which the provincial and Dominion governments participate, and 320 of whom have been given work in street cleaning, which is financed entirely by the city.

Or I turn to Montreal, and I find this statement by Dr. F. G. Pedley:

In the vicinity of Dufferin square, where five thousand idle men are registered, our slums are an eyesore to the community. Throughout the country there are countless level crossings where citizens of the Dominion are daily imperilled. In our own city there is great need for a subway to meet the ever-increasing traffic. The excuse that there is no work to do cannot stand in the face of these facts. If social work is to be constructive in this community and this country, it must carefuly consider ways and means to overcome such economic conditions as we are afflicted with this year.

I could turn to Hamilton or to the capital city itself, or Toronto. Let me quote a paragraph in regard to work that is being done by the United Church in the city of Toronto:

In these institutions 85,000 free meals were supplied, and 30,250 free beds provided. Clothing—including boots, socks, underwear, suits of clothes and overcoats, totalling many thousands—was distributed free to homeless men.

Take St. John, away down in the maritimes. From an article by Clarence Smith I quote:

On January 15, 728 men (25 non-residents) were registered, about 80 per cent of whom were day labourers. When the registrations at the labour unions' headquarters were added, between 1,000 and 1,100 was the estimated total. The population of Saint John is about 60,000.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

I could proceed to read extracts from papers from coast to coast, but as I said I do not consider that it is necessary. We are all receiving daily, at least I am, letters and resolutions telling about the appalling conditions that prevail.

Now, what is being done? For one thing, the government is deporting a large number of the unemployed. Whilst I agree that it is a considerable relief to the individual municipalities to have these men deported, I think it is a serious state of things when men who have come to this country in good faith to settle here, and have attempted to get work, should be deported just because they are unable to get work. I have had scores of examples of that character. The way it is done is this: A man cannot get work, and he then either has to starve or commit a crime, or apply for relief. If he obtains relief, he is then a public charge, and on the ground of being a public charge he is deported. I think that is hardly fair to the immigrants that we have begged to come to this country. The older members of this house will remember that year after year I have stood in my place and protested against immigration to this country. I thought that we were bringing in more people than we could take care of. I thought these people were tending to crowd the local labour market, and that they themselves were being exploited. Now I urge that when the government has definitely adopted a policy of bringing people to this country and has definitely promised them work, as has been done through the various agencies, it is not for us immediately work is slack to deport them to the countries whence they came. Many of them have broken all their home ties in the old country. Many of them have spent all they had in order to pay for their passage to this country, and many of them would be excellent settlers if they got half a chance in this country. I would suggest that after we have spent millions of money in trying to advertise this country in Great Britain and Europe, it is, to say the least, very poor policy for us to return a great many of these disgruntled people to the old country suffering from what they regard, and I think rightly, as a substantial injustice. From that standpoint alone it seems to me we ought to look after these people.

There is a tendency at the present time to turn off all the single men. We have in the past had so many opportunities for work that it was considered that a single man could get out and rustle for himself. That is not true to-day. A single man is almost as help-

less as a married man so far as obtaining work is concerned. Of course, the unmarried group are a little more mobile and can drift more readily from place to place than can the married men, but it is no easier for them to get work. In fact, in nearly all our municipalities a preference is given, and perhaps quite rightly, to married men, but that means that when a single man is turned out of one city he simply drifts to another, and he finds it next to impossible to obtain work. I think of the situation as it was presented to me only a week or ten days ago when I happened to be back in my own city for a day or so. A young man whom I have known for several years came to see me. He was an Englishman. He had been employed on the provincial telephone lines. His work had stopped and he had been unable to obtain work since. He was forced to accept city relief. One day he objected to the treatment a fellow citizen was receiving. He considered the treatment was brutal and whether or not he was right he objected to it. As punishment relief was immediately cut off. "Now," he said, "what am I to do? I have not anything behind me; I have no resources whatever; the city refuses to give me relief; I am ostracized and I am driven to become a criminal." I gave him a small sum of money to tide him over for a day or two. I want hon. members to know that he was not begging but I gave him a small sum; then I came down to Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, I ask hon. members of this house what there is for that man to do? There is absolutely no work in the city for him; there is no work that he may get throughout the province. The only thing he can do is to smash a window.

Mr. SPENCE: No, no.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The only thing he can do is to become a criminal in order to live.

Mr. SPENCE: It is such members as my hon. friend who incite them to do it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, I am not inciting them.

Mr. SPENCE: Yes, my hon. friend is doing it right along.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, I am not. I am putting the predicament of that man before hon. members of this house and I ask what there is for a man in that position to do. In the city from which I come during the last winter many men begged to be allowed to sleep in the jails, and they have done this for several years. Those conditions were reported a year ago before our industrial relations committee in connection with the unemployment investigation. So we have it that this man is put into a position whereby he is forced to become a criminal in order to obtain anything to eat. I do not know what he is going to do. Of course he may beg. He is likely to be arrested for begging, because it is a crime. However, he is only one of hundreds across this country who find themselves in similar positions. If we go on in our present course without announcing any definite way to take care of these people there will be a great many people who will practically be forced into crime. After all it is a fundamental principle that people have the right to live; I repeat, they have the right to live. Each person feels that right. For the life of me I cannot see how any government can claim the loyalty of individual citizens if it does not in some way provide for them a means of livelihood. In the absence of some such provision the very basis of organized government is swept away.

At this time I would like to call the attention of hon. members of this house to other classes who have not been provided for. Let us for instance consider the imperial veterans. We are endeavouring and are succeeding fairly well in providing for our own returned men. However, there are a great many people who were encouraged to come to this country after the war; they were imperial veterans. They came to our land with the intention of making it their home and for a year or two they did very well. Then there came the present depression. What are they to do? Our laws are not sufficiently wide to cover those people. Our own veterans are being cared for but the imperial veterans are not. Perhaps hon. members might say that they should look to Great Britain. However, they broke their relationships with the old land when they came to Canada. As individuals they are helpless. Hon. members can readily understand that the individual imperial veteran cannot write to Great Britain in the hope that he may receive relief. It would seem to me therefore that we should make special provision for the care of this group of people.

Then there is a large group of people who have been in the country for a period less than five years, or in individual cities for periods of less than one year. In many cases the period of one year is taken as the period necessary to establish residence. These people cannot be blamed because they found it necessary to drift from city to city. The fact is that a very large number of our

transient labourers must move from place to place to find work, so they cannot establish residence in any one city. The governing body of the individual city however feels that it is not under any responsibility to take care of such transients. I sympathize with the ratepayers of those cities. In the city of Winnipeg we have had thousands of people crowd in upon us from every quarter and we as citizens have felt that we have been asked to carry an unjust burden. Yet the indvidual unemployed transient is helpless; what is he to do? He has been in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and in a dozen places of northern Ontario getting jobs for short periods of time. In the proper sense of the term he cannot establish residence in any one of these places. I say it becomes necessary to take care of that group of people. Because of the fact that the relief is being cut off at the end of this month by a great many municipalities it seems to be that some provision should be made for those people, at least for the next few weeks.

The most serious aspect in this whole situation is the fact that the unemployed man is regarded as a near criminal. I take it that that mode of thinking is a relic of the old pioneer days in which most of us Canadians have been brought up. Undoubtedly in the old days any man who wanted a job could readily find it. If he could not find it on his own farm he could go to that of his neighbour, and in those days they were anxious to have hired men. If he could not find employment on the farm he could go back to the bush; most of our people did go to the bush for several months during the winter. If a man could not find work in the city he could go out on construction work, but to-day construction work is very limited in extent. The days of the rapid building of our railroads are past. There are not the possibilities for work which existed at one time when the west was so rapidly opening up. Now, what are we to do under these circumstances? If a man cannot obtain work in Winnipeg he may go to Regina, but he may probably find more unemployed men in Regina than there were in Winnipeg. He could go up to the Pas and as happened last spring he would find himself stranded with several other hundred men waiting to go up to Churchill. He may return from the Pas by freight train, as hundreds of them did, and go to Saskatoon. That is the situation with which we are faced to-day. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe we can deal fairly with this question until we clear our minds of the conception we gained in our earlier pioneer days regarding unemployed men. We must recognize frankly that to-day it is not a crime to be unemployed; it is no crime whatever. It is not even an indication that a man is of low mentality, that he is lazy, useless or anything of that character. Many of our best men are caught at this time. That fact ought to be recognized and we ought to treat those unemployed men as self respecting citizens. Of course I would admit that if a man has some weakness, if he drinks or is lazy he might be the first to be turned off. The fact remains however that he has been doing work and that if suitable work were provided he would be at work again. I think we ought not to treat our unemployed men as criminals or near criminals.

I do not wish to expect too much from the government with regard to this question of unemployment. It may be true that the Prime Minister said that he would abolish unemployment. Well, if he expected to do that he was evidently mistaken; if the electors voted for him on that ground they also were mistaken. The very worst that can be said is that the government occupies its official position more or less under false pretences, or because they themselves were not apprised of the significance of the situation. I am not going to go into the political side of the question however; probably we have had enough of that. To-day we are actually facing a very serious situation and I ask: "What can be done about it?" For several years we in this corner of the house have urged that provision should be made in the form of unemployment insurance. Unemployment insurance has been ridiculed as a dole. If one can properly interpret the speech delivered not long ago by the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) it would seem that we were not to have anything in the form of unemployment insurance in the near future. I have never suggested that unemployment insurance was a solution of our difficulties. The only solution is to find employment; and behind that, the still more fundamental problem the distribution of what is produced. But in the meantime I do suggest that unemployment insurance might help to tide over the present extremely critical situation. It has been despised as the dole; but I submit that nothing is more degrading than our present system, or lack of system, in providing relief. This practice of turning people out into the streets

to stand in queues before soup kitchens; turning them out to beg until they are passed over to some mission which may keep them overnight; this practice that prevails in my own city, of giving relief tickets and sending men to all sorts of places to tide them over a day or so—this is all absolutely demoralizing. I ask the government therefore to consider most seriously the question whether it would not be possible in the near future to institute some form of unemployment insurance.

I do not want to be hypocritical in suggesting this, because I know the difficulties with which the government would be confronted. This is not a time when there could be any reserve piled up through contributions. We are in a period when the majority of people think it is a time to economize. I do not agree with that policy, but the majority of people take that position. I know the government would face grave difficulties in instituting unemployment insurance at this time. More than that, I am doubtful—and I say it frankly—whether unemployment is not so great that it would almost swamp the resources of any government that might attempt to relieve it in any adequate form. Nevertheless, it is at the same time incumbent on the administration of the day at least to make an effort to do something of this character, even though a full-fledged scheme might not be feasible.

Some of us perhaps are a little handicapped in advocating reforms of this kind, simply because we have come to the conclusion that the present economic system under which we are living is not capable of maintaining itself and at the same time taking care of the people. I think we shall have to face this fact in the near future. I know that when I make a statement of that kind many people think that I am simply ranting. When I cite the evils of the capitalistic system they say, no doubt, that I am simply taking advantage of an opportunity to voice a little cheap socialism. But we have reached the stage of the world's development where we have to face great economic facts; and even though some of the remedies may not be quite to the liking of some of those who in the past have advocated the present system and benefited by it, I submit that if such people want to maintain that system—I will put it on that ground for the moment—they will have to take some action of this kind. You can blow up a balloon to a certain limit, but if you blow it up too far, as we used to do as children, we know what the result will be. The balloon bursts. Now I suggest that the balloon is pretty nearly at the bursting point, and if you really want to maintain the system as it is to-day I suggest that you let out a little of the air in the form of some relief to some of the people; otherwise there is apt to be a catastrophe. The balloon is apt to burst. I do not think that this danger can be simply swept aside as chimerical. If one looks at the financial system to-day, at the enormous dividends on which we are expected to pay interest, watered stock, and all that sort of thing, taxation and the international debt responsibilities we have, I think it must come home to every thoughtful member of the house that we cannot stand a great deal more, unless indeed the system is considerably more elastic than most of us imagine.

It would seem to me that we have almost reached the point where we shall have to face the issue frankly. To which are we going to give priority? Dividends, profits, vested interests of all kinds, or, on the other hand, the needs of men, women and children? There are those who say it is quite possible to pay large dividends and high wages. There are some who say it is quite possible to maintain our banking reserves and at the same time take care of unemployment. Well, I would suggest that now is an excellent time to try it out. I doubt very much whether it can be done. The overhead has become so great that we cannot very well carry that overhead and at the same time look after immediate needs. If you say we can, then we agree at least on this: You look after the immediate needs in the meantime, with the idea that it may be one way of perpetuating the system, and I will look after those needs with the idea that this is only the beginning of a break up of the system, being convinced that human needs ought to come before so-called property rights.

Going into various municipalities and in my own city, I find on every occasion that it is taken for granted that the bond interest is the first claim, and that if you cannot pay bond interest there is no use talking about helping unemployment. I may be heretical; you may call me bolshevist or whatever you like; but I say that caring for the needs of men, women and children in the community ought to have precedence over bond interest. We shall have to face that sooner or later, and in that connection I am tempted to say this. When we remember that most of the bonded indebtedness was incurred at a time when the buying power of the dollar was approximately twice what it is to-day, I would say that in all justice you should at least cut the bonded indebtedness in two in order to

give even the most fundamental justice to those who have to pay the taxes to pay the bonds. There is the situation as we have it to-day, and in this house we have that alternative presented to us. We come to vote estimates and I find a considerable amount which has to be paid by the government on account of our public debts; or the amounts to be paid are statutory, and that settles it. If it is statutory it goes through without even consideration by the house; it goes through as a matter of course. And immediately we are told, "Well, we cannot provide for any of these fancy schemes, in relation to unemployment for instance; we cannot provide for unemployment relief or insurance because we have not revenue enough to go around." And the bugbear is held up, that we shall have to pay greater taxation, of which we are all afraid. There is enough wealth in this country to enable us to stand a great deal more taxation, if that taxation were upon the great corporations and were not levied, as it is to-day, upon the rank and file of the small people of the country. So long as there is wealth which is being invested in foreign countries by people who have made it in this country, I say there are sources from which we can obtain greater funds. So long as we in this country are allowing the greater part of the wealth to pass down to the next generation, there are sources from which we can obtain increased taxation. After all, it seems to me that we have to get behind these financial questions to the real fundamentals.

We have enough wheat in this country to feed the people; we have enough timber to build all the houses; we have enough clothing to clothe all the people. At the moment I cannot think of a single commodity produced in this country of which we have not a sufficient supply to-day. There is no use telling our people to go out and work harder; we should tell them, from an economic standpoint, that they should work a fewer number of hours per day. There is no use telling our people we should lay up more goods on the warehouse shelves when the fact is that we should enable them, in some way, to get the goods off those shelves. The fact, as recognized by every economist to-day, is that the question now is not one of production but one of distribution, but most of us are still living in the earlier pioneer days when we had to produce more as the only way in which we could eat anything at all.

We are living in an age of surpluses; the question is not to get more but to distribute what we have. The unemployment we have to-day is a result of the labour saving devices which have been introduced during the last few years and the labour saving organization that has taken place, which together have resulted in greater efficiency. Unemployment has resulted from these causes, yet we turn around and treat the poor unemployed almost as if they were criminals. If we, as a community at large, have in any way benefited by all this wonderful development of the past hundred years it seems to me that the very least we can do is to care for those individuals who through the maladjustments of our system are thrown out of work.

I would ask the government and the Prime Minister to give the most serious consideration to this question, and I would point out again that if there was any occasion to call a special session in September to deal with this question, there is an equal or greater occasion for dealing with it at this stage of the present session.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I had intended to speak on the address, and had listed this question of unemployment as one of the matters which I wished to take up, but I am glad to take advantage of the occasion and present my remarks to the house now. This was the one policy amongst all the policies of the government on which I felt compelled to unhesitatingly and unqualifiedly criticize the government, the lack of any mention in the speech from the throne of any preparation for meeting the unemployment situation not in the past but in the future. I admit that if you look at the speech from the throne with a microscope you will find a very delicate reference to it, but a very cautious reference indeed. I find that the reference is to suggested

> . . . . possible safeguards against a recurrence of the present subordination to world forces.

That is a very mild way to refer to the unemployment situation. The other references to unemployment in the speech from the throne all deal with the past, as to what has been done and with what success those measures have met. The speech contains nothing whatever to give us any hope or any anticipation that the government intend to bring forward at this session any proposals to deal with what is immediately, or very soon will be, in front of us. I refer to the destitution which will be in evidence next winter.

I believe that next winter the unemployment situation will be worse than it was last year, and I have several reasons for making that statement. The reserves are all gone. The workingman, the small man who had

put aside a little sum of money in order to allow his daughter to go to normal school to become a teacher, or to help his son go to technical school, has had to use that sum of money in the support of the family. The car has been sold, and so on. Then again, the municipalities, and especially the smaller ones, are in the same position. They thought they had an unusual condition to contend with last winter and stretched their resources. They spent money when they had to perhaps borrow it in order to help the situation. They were compelled to do so or they would not have received the assistance of the government in unemployment relief. These municipalities will not be in a position to do the same thing next winter. Even the railways will not be able to help as they have last winter. The big railway companies have been subsidized by the government, at enormous expense, to anticipate their building programs. They can hardly be expected to project their developments so much further ahead in order to do the same thing again this coming winter.

We find that other bodies take a similar view of this matter. I have in my hand a column out of the Vancouver Daily Province dealing with conditions in that city. A special meeting of the city council was called to consider this question of the conditions which will prevail next winter, and one of the prominent aldermen said:

> But we must have concrete proposals for next winter, and not just drift along.

I am afraid we are just drifting along here, and will continue to do so until a desperate situation faces us. Then we find, as one of the hon. members who preceded me said, a reference to a small riot that took place last week in Vancouver. There were over 1,500 unemployed men engaged in that riot, in the middle of spring when there should not have been any person out of work. God knows how many more unemployed men were not engaged in that demonstration. In the same paper we find that a delegation went down from Nanaimo to Victoria asking the government what they were going to do to relieve the situation in that coal mining area, which is very bad at the present time. Again, in the last paper I received from home I find that Premier Tolmie is coming down here—and this may be news to the Prime Minister—to ask that $100,000 be given to the city of Vancouver to help out their present unemployment situation without the city being asked to match it dollar for dollar, because the city frankly state they have followed that policy up until now, but that the civic funds for relief purposes are virtually exhausted. What are they to do unless Premier Tolmie can get that $100,000, and not on the basis of dollar for dollar?

As I say, now is the time for us to make preparations for next fall and next winter. We do not want to have to call a special session of parliament to deal with the situation, so now is the time for us to consider what plans can be made to meet the inevitable destitution that will ensue next year. I saw the case of the unemployed summarized in a couplet the other day, and with the permission of the house I will place it on Hansard. It was as follows:

> Five wolves hunt for the soul of men
> And all have hunted me.
> Hunger and cold and fell disease,
> Aloneness, misery.

I think that puts the situation in a sentence. I might go further than that and say, "Let us beware lest we allow these wolves to be turned loose on society." They have tasted blood, so to speak, in the sufferings of the unemployed, the destitute unemployed and their wives and children, but suppose they are not satisfied and want more. What a feast they would have if they were turned loose on the leaders of society, the big magnates of business, these people who feel secure in their wealth and position, some of them fortified by having it handed down for a generation or two. These people have acquired a sort of smug, contented outlook on life; they have really come to believe that they are of finer clay than the common run of humanity, and they think that no matter what suffering may come to the submerged masses, as the saying is, it never can come to them. I would suggest, however, that they be not too sure, because what has happened in the past may happen again in the future. We admire the massive bulwarks of the great concrete dam, which holds back waters which have a potential energy of a million horse power. But dams have been known to crumble and the greater the dam the more disastrous its death-dealing capacity, the more terrible the onrushing force of the water which overwhelms the whole community.

In our day and generation it is not good to permit dry matches and powder to be too close together. It has been said that the cause of the French revolution was a remark made by a gentleman of high rank to the effect that if the common people were starving they could eat grass. Of course, that is quite wrong because a silly remark by an ignorant man was not the cause, but only the match which set fire to the powder, which was the realization by the people of the great chasm existing between what were called the upper

and the lower strata of society; the utter lack on the part of the ruling classes of comprehension of, let alone sympathy with, the misery and degradation suffered by the masses of the people. The result was that the dam burst, and out rushed the pent-up forces of these desperate people, just like the water, careless of where it went, striking recklessly and wildly, doing great harm in the manner perhaps least calculated to produce the needed reforms of which the people themselves were only imperfectly aware. So, Mr. Speaker, I might warn the wealthy, ruling classes.

An hon. MEMBER: Where are they?

Mr. NEILL: We should take steps now, not to prepare against a revolution but to prevent the causes of revolution. An hon. member asks: Where are the wealthy ruling classes? They are to be found in almost every country of the world in spite of our supposed democratic systems of government. If you doubt it, Mr. Speaker, obtain Bradstreet's report on the financial resources of the federal cabinet ministers. Or, if you like, do the same thing with reference to the cabinet ministers of the province of British Columbia. If that does not satisfy Your Honour, go to the big moneyed companies of Canada and inquire if they do not expect something in return for their large campaign fund contributions. Were those contributions made simply from a love of humanity? I rather doubt it.

It behooves us to consider how we can meet this situation or overcome these conditions. Remedies will have to be adopted and policies considered which are of a far-reaching character. Greater cooperation than that which now exists will have to come about between capital and labour. To-day some of the far-sighted industrialists of the United States are looking towards that greater cooperation. I will not use the expression, "production for use and not for profit" because that would hurt the sensibilities of some hon. gentlemen opposite, but perhaps some of the best ideas conveyed in that phrase will sooner or later have to be adopted in our economic system. However, that is for the years to come, and in order to meet the situation which we will have to face for the next ten years there should be some form of unemployment insurance. As the hon. member for Winnipeg said, that cannot be brought about in a day because it would necessarily take time and be a contributory scheme which would have to be worked out by the best actuarial ability we have. The only thing we can do meantime is to make some provision for the emergency which is confronting us and provide work for the coming winter. That would mean the voting of money and the laying out of a program possibly somewhat similar to that carried out at the special session.

Let me conclude my remarks with a quotation from a hymn. I will mention that this is taken from the hymn book of the United church, because otherwise it might be thought that I was lending myself to communistic or bolshevik propaganda. This hymn is as follows:

> When wilt Thou save the people,
> Oh, God of mercy, when;
> The people, Lord, the people,
> Not crowns and thrones but men.
>
> Lord save the people, Thine they are,
> Thy children like Thine angels fair.
> From want, oppression and despair
> God save the people.

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, the matter which has been brought to the attention of the house by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) is one of great importance to every hon. member of this house and to the country as a whole, but I regret very much that it should have come up in the manner in which it has. The government and the house being very anxious to get certain business completed, I shall occupy only five minutes of the time of the house. This subject is of such importance that I could not sit quiet without taking part in the debate.

I desire to suggest what to me seems to be the practical thing to be done under the circumstances. If the distress in the country is as great as hon. members have represented it to be, there is no doubt that the government will have to take similar action to that taken last year. There is no doubt that had that action not been taken conditions to-day, bad as they are, would have been worse. It will be necessary to dip into the treasury and spend some money if present conditions continue and I suggest the following, not as a solution for unemployment, but as a practical proposition for immediate relief. The farmers are in need of relief. The hon. member for Kindersley (Mr. Carmichael) is asking that certain definite relief be granted for agriculture, and the government may have to do that. My suggestion is that the government purchase so many thousands of bushels of wheat, the eggs that are now rotting without a market, as well as the meat impossible of purchase by hundreds of thousands, and establish in every city a distributing food centre for those out of employment. That would settle the grub-stake of those people and with the same money would provide a certain amount of relief to the farmer.

I would suggest also that the government build highways and undertake other public works as quickly as possible so as to create employment. In order to do this, the government should issue treasury notes which could be taxed back again when times improved. Times will become better; we will have another of those funny things they call cycles no matter which government is in power, and then these notes can be taxed back and no increase will be incurred in the national debt. Those are my suggestions and I will not stop to develop them. I am sure that the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) is listening, as well as the hon. ministers on the front benches, and probably they will do something about it. Hon. members who have spoken during this debate have spent too much of their time in discussing fundamental problems without considering the matter of immediate relief. I hope if any more speak they will be more specific as to what should be done after to-morrow when the relief will be withdrawn.

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, when a similar debate took place at the last regular session I recall that I was criticized by the then opposition, now the members of the government, for having allowed so many speakers sitting on the opposition benches to discuss this important question without my making a reply on behalf of the government. Several hon. members of the opposition have urged to-day that something be done for the relief of unemployment, and yet not one member of the government has risen to state the case of the government. At that time I had to confess that although I was vitally interested in the question of unemployment, I had not suggested and could not suggest a cure for it; but the present government, during the last campaign, assumed the responsibility of ending unemployment. Therefore if the members for the Winnipeg constituencies and the hon. member for Vancouver South, the three Labour members, urge upon the government of the day to do something towards relieving unemployment, the responsibility is one which the government has taken upon itself. The present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) when speaking at Regina on June 10 last, as reported in the Leader-Post of June 11, had this to say, referring to the government of the day:

> They play with the lives of men and women. What for? Do they realize there are lives that they are playing with, food for wives and children, hunger? Nine years of wasted effort before the great betrayal. It did not take Judas that long.

Again, speaking at Regina on the same day, as reported in the Toronto Globe of June 11, he said:

> When you gamble with a nation's prosperity for power the result is inevitable. The government of to-day has not seen the to-morrow,—they have only thought of to-day and thinking only of it the result has been that now we have unemployment, people walking our streets, men and women hungry,—we have all these things in this great rich country.

Again, speaking at Moncton on July 10 last, the present Prime Minister had this to say:

> The Conservative party is going to find work for all who are willing to work, or perish in the attempt. It is going to call parliament at the earliest possible date after July 28 and take such steps as will end this tragic condition of unemployment and bring prosperity to the country as a whole. . . . Mr. King promises consideration of the problem of unemployment. I promise to end unemployment. Which plan do you like best?

Again, speaking at Quebec, as reported in the Ottawa Citizen of July 14 last, the present Prime Minister said:

> There was no necessity for a conference on unemployment, he continued. The solution was too apparent. "What you want is work," he exclaimed, "not conferences, and you are going to get work." Unless his promises to the people of Canada were kept if elected to office, Mr. Bennett said he wanted Quebec and other members of his party to vote him out of office.

There are other promises along those lines, but I am not going to take up the time of the house in quoting them. In view of these statements it seems strange that not one word with respect to how the government proposes to end unemployment is contained in the speech from the throne. It was not surprising, therefore, that the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) should inquire a few days ago as to what the government proposed to do with respect to the relief of unemployment. I am sure every hon. member was astonished that the government made no answer to his question. Under the circumstances it was the duty of the hon. member for North Winnipeg to bring the question before the house in the only way that I suppose he could do so. It was also surprising to find that instead of inviting suggestions from the opposition or from members sitting behind the government, members of the government rose in their place in order to endeavour to prevent a discussion from taking place. I consider it is the duty of the government to make a statement to the house and to the country as to how they propose to end unemployment.

There is no question that the unemployment situation is far worse than it was when

the Prime Minuister made those promises to the people. One has only to take the figures supplied us over the signature of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) as of March 1. Hon. members will find that when my hon. friends took office in August last, the index of employment reported by over 7,000 firms in Canada stood at 118.8, and that a decrease occurred every succeeding month until on March 1 it stood at 100.2, or more than 18 per cent fewer employed in those industries than when my hon. friend took office. That is a confession of failure. I do not know what opportunity my hon. friends from Quebec and other districts who are sitting behind the government are going to take advantage of in order to do as the Prime Minister invited them at Quebec to do, namely, vote him out of office. But while they are considering that matter, we might point out that under the measures brought down during the special session, the government appropriated $20,000,000 for the relief of unemployment and made contributions to the municipalities and the provinces, with great beating of drums and blowing of trumpets, but they actually withheld public works for which appropriations had been made by the preceding Liberal government and which would have employed workmen throughout the country. According to the report of the Department of Labour, work amounting to 3,975,355 days' work was supplied to 228,355 men, an average of sixteen days' work per man from the time the act went into force until the first of March. Under what conditions? The conditions set out in the regulations and under which the grant was made to the provinces and the municipalities, provided that the prevailing rate of wages should be paid to the workingmen, and that the same working conditions should apply. Nevertheless we have in northern Ontario, of which I am most conversant, men working to-day at starvation wages, not at prevailing rates that obtain in the district, and under such conditions that if they open their mouths for a minute they are deprived even of the pittance they are receiving.

Mr. ARTHURS: What are the railway companies paying for the same class of labour?

Mr. HEENAN: Forty-three cents an hour for the lowest paid men they have. Does the hon. member want me to show him the contract indicating what the men are receiving?

[Mr. Heenan.]

Mr. ARTHURS: I do not think the ex-Minister of Labour is correct in that.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to be interrupted. One of the ministers of the Ontario government, after I spoke at Hamilton, stated that in northern Ontario they were paying the same rate of wages that obtained on the railroad. I have in my office a schedule of wages and working conditions showing that the wages of the sectionmen on the railway run from forty-one to forty-three cents an hour.

Mr. ARTHURS: I am talking about the extra gangs.

Mr. HEENAN: Why does the hon. member not raise the question as to what they are paying in Russia instead of looking for the lowest wages in Canada?

Mr. ARTHURS: We are talking of conditions in Canada.

Mr. HEENAN: I have in my hand a schedule showing the prevailing rate of wages in northern Ontario. When I had the honour to be Minister of Labour, we had public buildings under construction in northern Ontario and we had officers who went out and secured figures showing the prevailing rates of wages. according to the Labour Gazette for December, 1930, the prevailing rate of wages paid on the public building at Keewatin was 42½ cents an hour for common labour and 50 cents an hour for skilled labour. In the same territory, an Indian public school was being erected at Kenora, and the rate of wages paid on that building for common labour was 42½ cents an hour, as reported in the Labour Gazette for February, 1929. On a public building at Fort Frances, according to the Labour Gazette for October 1929, common labour was paid 40 cents an hour and skilled labour 50 cents an hour. The Labour Gazette for August, 1930, reports that on a public wharf at Kenora common labour was paid 42½ cents an hour.

Those, Mr. Speaker, are the prevailing rates of wages in my district, and yet in spite of the agreement that was made between this government and the government of Ontario, the provincial government is denying to its labourers a proper scale of wages as provided for in that agreement. I was very glad to hear the Acting Minister of Labour in this house (Mr. Gordon) say in reply to a question I put to him the other day that if any provincial government or other body was not paying the prevailing rate of wages the federal grant would be withheld until the wage rate

was adjusted. I thank my hon. friend for saying that; it is what I expected him to say. I would point out to the minister that it really means the holding back of thousands and thousands of dollars of which the workingmen of this country have been robbed up to the present time, and in that connection I would suggest that as there have been three million working days up to the present, and I am satisfied that in many instances as much as one dollar a day has been withheld from these men, say three million dollars, a royal commission should be appointed in order to see that these men get justice. I know the conditions that prevail all through northern Ontario, and I know that if any of these men had complained that they were being deprived of this pittance, they would have felt the heavy hand of the Ontario government, acting for its own selfish ends. I do not intend to take up more of the time of the house; I think that we should have some answer from the government.

I could go on and advocate a policy of unemployment insurance. I am satisfied that if the government of the day will follow up what was done by the late administration, we shall have unemployment insurance in this country before very long. This house has already gone on record as endorsing the principle of a contributory system of unemployment insurance. The house did declare that under our constitution it was a matter coming under provincial jurisdiction, but declared further that the matter should be taken up with the provinces at the first Dominion-provincial conference. We were in touch with the provinces in connection with the matter before we left office. Some of the provinces have endorsed that principle. I noticed that only the other day the premier of Manitoba stated that that province was in favour of unemployment insurance and had conveyed its ideas to the Dominion government and asked for a conference, but as yet had not been advised as to any such conference. I consider that it is the duty of this government to state, not only to the hon. members from Winnipeg, but to the whole house, what they propose to do, not simply to end unemployment but to relieve immediately the present urgent conditions.

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): I have a few remarks to make, Mr. Speaker, before the end of the fiscal year Yesterday I asked the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) if the items in the estimates that were not expended during the fiscal year lapsed to-night at twelve o'clock. He said, yes. I am very glad to see my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) in his place. I am very sorry that the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) is not present, but I would ask the Prime Minister to ask the faithful messenger who brought down the Welland canal contract last night to look after the Minister of Marine this afternoon.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways are both familiar with the question which I am about to bring before the house. I have already supplied them with all the facts relating to the non-building of the station at Rivière du Loup by the Canadian National Railway.

There was first a report by the director of the provincial board of health, dated December 21, 1928. It is in French, but I will read it for the benefit of my hon. friends who both understand the French language very well. It is addressed to the Acting Chief Commissioner of the railway commission, and reads:

Quebec, December 21, 1928.

Mr. Thomas Vien, K.C.,
Acting Chairman,
Railway Commission,
Ottawa, Ont.

My Dear Mr. Vien:

Complying with my instructions, Doctor A. Barabé, medical officer of the Sanitary Unit of the county of Temiscouta, accompanied by Doctor Dumais, District Inspector of Health and Mr. Labelle, Inspector of the Unit, inspected the station of the National Railways, at Rivière-du-Loup.

I have just received their report and I deem it my strict duty to forward you a copy without further delay.

The perusal of this report will acquaint you with the unwholesome sanitary condition in which the Rivière-du-Loup's station is kept. This railway centre is the most important existing between Levis and Moncton, and I hardly can understand why the public place herein mentioned is so neglected.

On many occasions we notified the officials of the Canadian National Railway, from Sir Henry Thornton down to and including the Divisional Superintendent, of the deplorable condition, not to say unwholesome in many instances, of the station under the management of the Canadian National Railways in our province, and invariably we received the answer "That they would look into the matter, that the lack of appropriation had prevented them, heretofore making improvements, that certain reports received by us were exaggerated, etc," with the result in the end that nothing or little is ever done to meet our claims.

In no way, do I wish to impute to anybody intentions or dispositions which he has not, but I wonder how it is having visited many places in this country, that in other provinces we see tidy stations where hygienic precautions exist, while in the province of Quebec, some stations are in a deplorable state.

I am very sorry to trouble you, but in dealing with dilatory methods to which some have

recourse in order to evade our requests, I cannot do otherwise than calling your attention to this matter. I hope you will forgive me and trust that I shall not have to publish the report in question in order to obtain satisfaction.

The conditions prevailing in Rivière-du-Loup exist in numerous stations in the Lake St. John and Chicoutimi districts, and in many other stations under the Canadian National Railway system, and to which I have already drawn the attention of the official authorities.

I feel confident that in bringing to your notice the state of things of which I am complaining you will find means to help us in the best interests of the population which the National Railway system serves in our province.

Your obedient servant,
The Director,
Dr. A. Lessard.

The conclusion of the report is as follows:

After reading this report, it seems to us that the conclusions are easy enough to draw. The fault lies in the condition of the building which is very old, and poorly kept. Adequate repairs would be difficult to carry out and with perhaps doubtful results.

Without being taxed with exaggeration, we wish to state that only a new building would answer the purpose, if the officials of National Railways have at heart improving this station to the satisfaction of the travelling public.

Mr. LAVERGNE (Translation): What is the date?

Mr. POULIOT (Translation): I have not the date, but I may say to my hon. friend that it was sent by Doctor Lessard at the same time as the letter of December 21, 1928, to Mr. Thomas Vien, Railway Commissioner.

Last year during the special session, Mr. Speaker, I brought the attention of this government to the fact that before any further money for unemployment was spent the appropriations which had been made during the regular session of 1930 ought to be exhausted. Of the amounts allocated to the use of the Canadian National railways nearly $80,000 was put aside for the building of a new station at Rivière du Loup. That station, one of the oldest in the province of Quebec, was built by the old Grand Trunk Railway Company. The Canadian National Railways decided that it was time to build a new station. After conditions were explained to the railways and shipping committee, the money was voted by the house, but since this government took office nothing has been done. Money was voted for the improvement of the wharf at Rivière du Loup, but, on account of some strange circumstances which I explained to the Minister of Public Works the other day, only part of it was spent. There was money for the building of a post office at Trois Pistoles. The sum of $20,000 was set aside for that purpose, but nothing was spent. Money was set aside for improving the wharves at different places, but only a portion of that money was spent as a measure of unemployment relief.

A resolution was passed by the chamber of commerce of Rivière du Loup on April 19, 1929, asking for the building of a new station. Also on April 22, 1929, a resolution was passed by the town council of Rivière du Loup to the same effect. On May 1, 1929, the general manager of the Atlantic region of the Canadian National railways, Mr. Appleton, wrote as follows:

May 1, 1929.

Louis S. Pommet, Esq.,
Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce,
Rivière du Loup, P.Q.

Dear Sir,—This will acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 22nd ultimo, enclosing copy of resolution passed at a meeting of the council of the Chamber of Commerce of Rivière du Loup, held on Friday, the 19th day of April, 1929, respecting Canadian National Railways station building at Rivière du Loup and would advise that this matter is receiving our earnest attention and the necessary arrangements are being made to include an item in our budget for 1930 covering the construction of a new station building and appurtenances, for the consideration of our executive officers.

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. U. Appleton,
General Manager.

The deputy minister of railways wrote me thus on May 10, 1930:

In answer to your letter of May 5, I wish to advise that there has been included in the Canadian National Railways budget for 1930 an item of $77,136 for the construction of a new station at Rivière du Loup, P.Q.

This detail is taken care of by section (d) of vote number 323, 1930-31 estimates.

Yours faithfully,
V. I. Smart,
Deputy Minister.

The total amount voted was $52,870,000. The amount necessary for the building of a station would be only a small sum as compared with the large sum I have mentioned. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that there has been no pressure brought to bear by politicians in connection with the building of this station. The matter was pressed upon the railway commission by the board of health, and following that the Canadian National Railways took action by putting an item in their budget for the building of the station. On May 28, 1930, Mr. L. V. Hummel, principal assistant to the president of the Canadian National Railways, wrote me thus:

Dear Mr. Pouliot:

In reply to yours of May 19, I beg to advise that plans are now being prepared for a new station at Rivière du Loup.

As soon as these plans are ready, it is the intention to call for tenders, and have the work done by contract. In view of the size of the building, it is impracticable for us to construct the station with our regular B. and B. forces.

Yours faithfully,

L. V. Hummel.

On July 14, 1930, Mr. I. C. Rand, general counsel of the Atlantic region of the Canadian National Railways, wrote thus to the city of Rivière du Loup:

We are anxious that the work be proceeded with without undue delay.

He was speaking on behalf of the Canadian National Railways. I have in my hand a poster published by the Conservative candidate. This poster is full of promises and in section (e) of article 6 the promise is made to build the new station so long expected at Rivière du Loup. This poster was published on July 24, four days before the election.

I now come to the words used by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister. During the campaign my right hon. friend spoke at Brandon, the constituency of the former Minister of Railways. What did the present Prime Minister say upon that occasion? In the Winnipeg Evening Tribune of June 23, 1930, I find the following:

Again declaring his opposition to an amalgamation of Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways, Mr. Bennett said he had just heard a new canard to the effect that if elected he would appoint one of the Canadian Pacific Railway officers to the presidency of the Canadian National. "Can you imagine anything so ridiculous?" he asked. "I want to say that the Conservatives in power will give the Canadian National management a stronger support and a more disinterested support than they have had under the King administration. There will be less log rolling and interference. The management will be better able to carry out their policies without politicians butting in and trying to stop them.

On August 22 the hon. Minister of Railways wrote to the perpetual Conservative candidate in my constituency. That gentleman stated that he was independent from our leader and from Mr. Meighen, when he supported Mr. Patenaude. Later he became a partisan of Mr. Meighen and afterwards of the right hon. the Prime Minister. I hope his fidelity to the latter party will last long.

An hon. MEMBER: He polled a big vote.

Mr. POULIOT: Yes, but since then some of the people who voted for him have been operated on for cataracts. The hon. the Minister of Railways wrote to that gentleman. The information I have in my hand is in the French language, but with your permission Mr. Speaker, I will translate it.

I have received your favour of August 20, with enclosures. I shall be pleased to do all I can with regard to your proposals or suggestions.

I believe I am properly quoting my hon. friend.

On September 19, during the short session, I asked concerning the prices submitted by each tenderer for the work on the Riviere du Loup station. The reply was that it was not in the interest of the public or the railway to divulge any information of this character. Then I asked two further questions: What tender was accepted, and on what day; and on whose recommendation would this work immediately be carried out. The answer was that no tender had been accepted and the matter was under consideration. That was several weeks after the tenders had been received in Moncton. I am told that those tenders reached Moncton on August 26. The government were then studying the matter very carefully; I believe they were thinking about it. On October 3 my hon. friend the Minister of Railways was on his way to Hudson bay. He was replaced by the acting minister, the hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley), who was sworn as such on October 7. I am sure the Prime Minister will admit that the hon. member for Argenteuil was sworn in as acting Minister of Railways in order to put into effect the policy of this government to take a million and a half dollars from the unemployment relief fund in order to pay the interest on the proposed work of the railways, amounting to $21,000,000. That is the reason why the hon member for Argenteuil was appointed acting Minister of Railways. The Prime Minister is in the house and he will not deny it.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know what the hon. member is talking about.

Mr. POULIOT: I beg your pardon.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know what the hon. member is talking about.

An hon. MEMBER: Neither does he.

Mr. POULIOT: I will repeat my statement for the benefit of the right hon. gentleman. That is the only statement I shall repeat on account of the limitation of time. I wish to set for him a good example by answering him, so that he may answer me when at a later time I put some questions to him. The point is this, that his colleague the acting Minister of Railways, the hon. member for Argenteuil, was appointed temporarily to that office in order to carry into effect the policy of the government to take $1,500,000 from the unemployment fund in

order to allow the railway companies to undertake new expenditures with a view to relieving unemployment. My hon. friends know it is true.

Mr. BENNETT: I know nothing of it.

Mr. POULIOT: Well, I am dumbfounded if the Prime Minister does not know anything about it. I would ask the Minister of Railways whether it is not a fact that the reason the hon. gentleman was appointed acting Minister of Railways at the time was as I have stated.

Mr. MANION: I presume he was appointed to act as Minister of Railways for all purposes. What the hon. member mentions is only one of them. The government dealt with it.

Mr. POULIOT: Was he appointed acting Minister of Railways in order to refuse to sanction the construction work at Rivière du Loup?

Mr. MANION: Certainly not.

Mr. POULIOT: I am very glad to hear my hon. friend say he was not, but as a matter of fact it was the first thing the acting minister did, because he was sworn in on October 7 and his first act was to send a wire to the Canadian National Railways informing them that he had refused to sanction the building of that station.

Yesterday I read two telegrams and I asked my hon. friend who had recommended to the acting minister that he refuse to sanction the carrying out of that work. He did not answer me, but he said that the cost involved was the reason why the station had not yet been built. The decision was arrived at under instructions from the acting minister, because the Prime Minister is enough of a business man not to allow any department to be carried on without one of his colleagues in charge when the minister of that department is away from the capital. October 7 was the very day the newspapers announced that the Canadian National Railways were starting this program of construction throughout Canada from ocean to ocean. I have many clippings here, but I will not quote them now; I have not the time at present.

There is another point which I wish to mention. It was understood that there would be no politics in connection with the unemployment fund, and this is the presumed intention of the order in council of Friday, September 26. There was some correspondence between the Board of Railway Commissioners and the railways, who said that the repairs mentioned by my hon. friend in the telegram which I read to the house yesterday were sufficient. But they said something further, insulting to my constituency. In a letter dated January 23, 1931, Mr. Alistair Fraser makes this statement:

> The floor area is slightly over one-third of the area of the whole building and is ample to take care of all purposes.

There is no cellar in that building, it is falling to pieces; but it is good enough for the people of Temiscouata county.

I have another communication, a report from the medical officer, which was forwarded by him to the secretary of the railway commission on January 30, 1931, by the director of the provincial board of health:

> Dear Sir,
>
> I deem it my duty to forward to you the enclosed further report of the Sanitary Medical Unit Officer of the county of Temiscouata with reference to the unhealthy state of the station, at Riviere-du-Loup.
>
> As you will observe on reading this document, a building of such importance should have a cellar of equal dimension. As regards the sewer system, it is certainly defective and of a nature to be noxious.
>
> It would be desirable that your Commission make the necessary representation in this matter with the Canadian National Railways.

My time is limited and therefore I will not read the report just now; I will read it tonight on the railway estimates. I brought the matter to the attention of the Minister of Railways, to whom I despatched the following telegram on February 25, 1931:

> May I draw your attention to my letters of 16th and 23rd instant. As proposed repairs to Rivière du Loup station do not include construction of basement therein nor improvement to sewer system nor repairs to foundation. Will you sanction same as satisfactory although condemned by board of health? If you do not approve proposed repairs will you reconsider decision regarding immediate construction of new station building?

The reply was this:

> Your telegram received in absence of honourable Dr. Manion. Minister acknowledged your letter 23rd before he left city yesterday.
>
> F. T. Collins,
> Private Secretary.

No further answer came. There is another letter from the assistant general counsel Alistair Fraser, dated March 3, 1931, in which the following statement is made:

> In stations it is not customary to construct basements the entire area of the building, and the basement area is generally confined to a size suitable for the requirements of the heating apparatus and coal bin.

This is the policy of the Canadian National Railways. Now let me read to the house this excerpt from the Montreal Gazette of February 25, 1931:

W. W. Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania railroad, announces that the company's $175,000,000 improvement program, which includes the erection of new stations, will cover a period of two and a half years. In the United States, as in Canada, it is evident that the railways have great faith in the future. They are giving tangible proofs of this and are furnishing extra employment when it is most needed.

Mr. Atterbury, as everyone knows, was the mentor of Sir Henry Thornton, in his younger days.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to sum up the matter. First of all, the board of health condemned that station as unhealthy and recommended the building of a new station; and the chamber of commerce—and city council of Riviere du Loup, supporting the report, passed a resolution which they sent to the railway officials. Moreover, the general manager of the Atlantic region declared that it was important to build a new station at Riviere du Loup. And as a matter of fact the Canadian National Railways included in their budget, without any undue interference on the part of politicians, an item from that building. The Conservative candidate promised that that station would be built as soon as my right hon. friend came into power. And now, first of all, he asks the minister not to take any decision in the matter until he comes to Ottawa. That must be so, because the railway was anxious to have the station built. But we find that no action was taken on the tenders for the reason that all expenditures on railway capital, and otherwise, have to be approved by the minister. But this course would be followed in any case, as the minister knows. I say that in the first place there was interference in the fact that the Department of Railways did not go on with the matter, as it should have done, in accordance with the views of the Canadian National Railways.

A resolution was passed by the city council of Riviere du Loup on November 3, 1930. It is quite lengthy and if my hon. friends wish to have it I will read it on the railway estimates to-night. But my hon. friend the other day said that the Conservative candidate had been working as hard as I have done for the building of the station. Why have I worked hard for it? First of all, because I am proud of my constituency. I believe such a shameful building as the present one is a disgrace to the community, and all thought that last winter, when times were so bad, would be the proper time to have a new building constructed.

My hon. friend the minister was fair to me in saying that I have been working very hard for that station. That is true, and I thank him for that remark, but he was very unfair in stating that the Conservative candidate has been working just as hard. The hon. gentleman himself has written to the contrary to the city council of Rivière du Loup. In a letter dated November 6, 1930, to the secretary-treasurer of the city of Rivière du Loup, he said:

Votre cité ne fut pas proposée d'une manière spéciale lorsque la question fut posée.

The translation is: "Your city was not proposed in a special manner when the matter came up." How did the matter come up? On October 7 the Department of Railways and Canals and the Department of Labour were joining together to give millions of dollars to the railways in order to allow them to spend a great deal of money to relieve unemployment. At that very time the Conservative candidate and his assistant were in this city. They did not go to see the Acting Minister of Railways, the hon. member for Argenteuil; they could not see the Minister of Railways, because he was on his trip to Hudson bay. They did not even see the acting minister, who perhaps has been exiled in disgrace to Buenos Aires because he stopped the building of the station at Rivière du Loup. The acting minister wrote the Conservative candidate and said, "You certainly did not come to see me during the past six months, nor have I had the pleasure of meeting you since the election last summer." If that gentleman worked so hard for the station how was it, when he came to Ottawa on October 7, Christmas Day for the unemployed, that he did not even go to see Santa Claus in the Department of Railways and Canals? Perhaps that was the reason why the right hon. Prime Minister chose one of the oldest members of the cabinet to represent Santa Claus, who was to give so many gifts to the people in order to help them. What has happened to bring about this discrimination against my constituency?

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 1930, Mr. H. P. Hazen, assistant chief engineer, Operation department, Canadian National Railways, wrote the following letter to those who had sent in tenders for this station:

Montreal, Que., October 7, 1930.

File 1920-217

Gentlemen:

With reference to your tender for the construction of new station at Rivière du Loup.

The Department of Railways and Canals has refused to sanction the construction of this new station, and all tenders and deposit cheques have been returned to the railway.

I am therefore returning herewith your deposit cheque for $8,398.30, and if you have not yet returned your set of plans and specifications, I would suggest that you do so at an early date, so that arrangements may be made to also return your deposit cheque for $50.

That letter would go to show that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals was wrong when he stated that his department had nothing to do with that. The letter shows that the department refused to sanction the building of the station and that is why it was not completed.

Mr. MANION: May I interject a few words in an attempt to clear the air? This station was dealt with, as were other matters in the constituencies of other hon. members on both sides of the house, as a building program which could not be gone on with because of the decreased earnings of the Canadian National Railway and because of the large amount of money which this government had to raise for the purposes of the railway.

Mr. POULIOT: When this matter was decided by the Acting Minister of Railways and Canals, the minister himself was not in Ottawa, neither was the Prime Minister or the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré), who has spoken along somewhat the same lines. That is why I have been indulgent so far with the hon. minister, but I will now inform him that he should speak only of things whereof he knows.

Mr. MANION: I do, but my hon. friend is not so particular.

Mr. POULIOT: When I make a statement it can be proved. I speak the truth. What about what my hon. friend said in Toronto in December, 1927:—"I believe the Conservative party has been too honest in the past. Our party in the past has been too honest in strictly defending its position and policies on controversial and sectional questions." The Liberal party has been honest in the past and will be honest in the future, and that is the difference between the Liberal and Conservative parties.

I have been courteous enough to give two minutes, or one fifth of the remainder of my time, to my hon. friend, and I desire to proceed with my argument. My hon. friend has stated that the two travellers have been working to have this station completed, but he knows that that is not the case.

Mr. MANION: It is the case.

Mr. POULIOT: If the hon. gentleman does not know it, then he should not speak.

Mr. MANION: Mr. Dubé has been working just as hard as or harder than the hon. member.

Mr. POULIOT: Can my hon. friend speak of things about which he has no knowledge? Did he have a special channel of communication with his department, which was kept open while he was on his way to Fort Churchill?

Mr. MANION: The hon. gentleman called on me a number of times and discussed this matter; that is how I know.

Mr. POULIOT: Before the Tory candidate knew the amount of the tenders he still expected that his partisan protégé or partner would secure the contract and thus benefit both of them to the prejudice of the people in my constituency. Then when my hon. friend found that he could not satisfy the greedy appetites of his Tory friends in my constituency, the population as a whole were forced to suffer.

I have a high regard for the Prime Minister and he knows it. I have high respect for the Minister of Railways and will continue to hold that feeling so long as he does not repeat the erroneous utterances made by the Tory candidate in my constituency.

The Canadian National Railways intended to build this station at Riviere du Loup; the money was voted by parliament, but the elections came along and when the minister was asked to hold up this matter he did so. The department has refused to sanction the building of this station, which is a direct interference with the decision of the railway officials. It is "log-rolling and butting in" of the worst kind. The department was told: "If you cannot give this contract to my protégé who submitted one of the highest tenders, do not give it to anyone else." The people were made to suffer because that man could not obtain the contract. I will say this to the right hon. the Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways: I have no desire to cause them any inconvenience, but I want to know what is going on. I promise them that if I do not receive a satisfactory answer I will demand an explanation for every dollar in the Canadian National Railways estimates. Those estimates will not pass before the com-

ing recess if that explanation is not given to the house. If such action is taken in connection with $100,000, what would be done with $13,000,000?

I believe the Prime Minister was sincere when he expressed such lofty ideals at Brandon. I trust that he will stand by those ideals, and that is one reason why I have attempted to let him know what is going on within the ranks of his party in order that he may have an opportunity of putting a stop to these practices.

Mr. ARTHUR DENIS (St. Denis) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I am quite pleased that the unemployment problem was debated, in the house, from the very outset of the session, because it is precisely the one to which our good Conservative friends resorted most during the last campaign in order to win the election. Since the very beginning of the session, I have closely followed all the very interesting speeches which were delivered in the house. However, I wondered why the hon. ministers of the crown seemed to neglect this matter. Seldom have ministers so persistently absented themselves from the house as has been done since the beginning of this session. They could certainly profit by the nice things we have said and show some gratitude for the good advices we offer them, with all due courtesy and consideration so as not to wound their susceptibilities.

Up to the present, only one or two of them have been bold enough to rise in their seats in order to uphold their policy. I well understand their bashfulness, considering the numerous pledges that they and their friends made during the last election campaign. They had to face a situation which, instead of improving became considerably worse, and, having no excuse to offer for their inability to remedy the ills which they pledged themselves to cure should they assume power, they preferred to remain silent. It is now, sir, eight months since the present government took over the administration of this country. Have we witnessed any change in the economic crisis under which we have been suffering for more than a year? Is unemployment still with us? Have our workers been able to get work to provide for themselves and their families? Have the farmers of the province of Quebec and other provinces found more remunerative markets for their products? Did the Prime Minister, while in England, find markets to facilitate the wheat sales of the western farmers who are grievously suffering because of this handicap.

I can positively state, sir, that the present government has done nothing to relieve the economic depression which we are undergoing. It was nevertheless a pledge given during the last election campaign: In three days it was to relieve unemployment. The latter still exists, even to a greater extent than in July, 1930. The government failed to carry out its pledges. However, to be fair to our friends on your right, sir, I must admit that there is one pledge they carried out: that of having parliament meet immediately after the elections. The session took place in September last, at this emergency session the government had an amount of $20,000,000 voted to relieve unemployment, and thereby give work to our working classes. It was a splendid deed, and I shall not deny, sir, that the impression created among our distressed workers, was one of satisfaction. It is now more than six months since we voted that amount and I find, in a report published lately, that Quebec heretofore, received, out of the total amount, but $155,414, this includes $36,455 which was given as direct aid.

I wonder, sir, whether the act was of great assistance to the 30,000, or more, unemployed that we had during the winter, in Montreal? Can the government boast of having in any way relieved unemployment? I think, sir, that this legislation—like all their election pledges—was designed to lure the Canadian people.

The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) feels quite hurt when we charge the government with not having fulfilled its pledges and shown incompetence by not putting an end immediately to unemployment which existed and still exists in this country; a crisis which they were to relieve in three days. On the contrary this crisis is, to-day, more acute. Our workers, in Montreal, are unemployed and I can state that the satisfaction which they felt in September last, has entirely disappeared. They are unanimous in stating that the government deceived them and are not worthy of the trust placed in them. In no way do I wish to put the blame on the Quebec government or the municipal administration of Montreal, but I state that from September to the beginning of this month no work has been carried out to relieve the unemployed. How are we to explain this delay? I, for one, find no other reason than the red tape to which were subjected our provincial government and municipalities previous to receiving the grants. I think, sir, if the present government had been sincere in having those $20,000,000 voted, a sum which was to give the unemployed a ray of happiness and prosperity, they could have handed over this sum to those interested in a more expeditious way, so as to have it distributed during the

winter. No doubt the law had to take its course. For the time being, I do not object, provided however, that all the provinces be treated on an equal basis. That is not what happened and I intend to prove this fact immediately. In their eagerness to help Ontario—the latter having nearly always shown sympathy for the Tory policy—the present government authorized an expenditure of $2,000,000 over and above the amount allotted to her from the $20,000,000 appropriated by parliament, in September last, for the relief of unemployment. And this was done without any other authority than that of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion), who told the contractors:

> Owing to the unemployment crisis, you may carry on the work, I grant you $2,000,000 more. The province or the municipalities will not be called upon to contribute their share in carrying out this work.

What became of the authority of parliament? They scoffed at it, ignored it. To-day, in their meek way the government asks parliament to legalize an act the purport of which is to favour Ontario to the detriment of all the rate-payers of this country. I state again, it is always the same Tory policy, "favouring their friends."

Just think, only one job has been started in Montreal out of the grant voted to the unemployed—I mean the tunnel of St. Hubert street, under the Canadian Pacific Railway. Nothing else heretofore has been started. There is of course a shovelful of earth which was dumped into a small pail by a member of the Executive Committee of Montreal, at the Wellington street tunnel, under the Lachine canal, this is kept as a souvenir of this wonderful feat. Moreover the work has since stopped owing to some difficulty which arose between the Department of Railway and Canals and the city of Montreal. If this can be called a remedy to unemployment, then I state, on behalf of the numerous workers of St. Denis riding who suffered extremely from the crisis, that you have not lived up to your pledge and responsibilities, and I charge you with having failed to carry out your duty. You are too incompetent to remain at the head of the administration of this country. You now come and beg of us to give you an extension of time. Our answer is: what you were unable to carry out in eight months, you will not be able to accomplish in a year or more. Your policy rests on absolutely false economic principles. The high tariff changes adopted in the course of the emergency session have not resulted in the benefits hoped for. Quite the contrary the working classes which form the larger part of the consumers

are still obliged to pay for the necessities of life, prices which are not in keeping with their wages. Worse than that, your high protective tariff, sir, has been profitable but to one class of people: the large financial and industrial interests. You have deprived the working class of the benefit of this fair and legitimate competition that we, the Liberals, were happy to grant through a moderate tariff, and which was detrimental to nobody. Both consumers and producers were fairly and equitably dealth with. That is why, Sir, that under the late administration, union and harmony always existed between capital and labour. Our country witnessed happy and prosperous days; now, I fear that under the present regime depression will increase and that the worst calamities are yet to come.

Eight months of administration, is too short a time to relieve unemployment! Yet, it is long enough to increase the public debt by more than $100,000,000, and too brief a time to find markets for the sale of our western wheat. Did not the Prime Minister, as well as his friends, state, that if the people sent them to the Imperial conference, they would force England to purchase our wheat? Did they not state that if dynamite were needed, they would make use of it to blast their way to success? The Imperial conference took place. The Prime Minister, together with some of his ministers were delegated to attend this conference, and they also returned but disconcerted and downhearted. No markets were found for our wheat.

The British government looked upon the proposals made as absurd, and they discovered that a Bennett was not a King or a Lapointe, and still less a Laurier. The government hide themselves under the mantle of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and try to impress on the people the idea that the proposals made in London by the Prime Minister were about the same as those made by our great leader in 1902 and 1907, at the conferences which he attended. Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked that a preference be given to colonial products, leaving, however, Great Britain free to grant it or not. He did not ask Great Britain to tax her food products so as to favour those of Canada. This, however, was done by the right hon. Prime Minister. Laurier would never have been so bold as to proclaim "Canada First" at a conference where all the delegates from the various dominions were convened to discuss the interests of the whole empire.

It is the first time that a Canadian Prime Minister made such a blunder, and I hope it will be the last time. Canada on that score

was subjected to the worst humiliation. I am amazed, sir, that the members of the cabinet do not realize the great blunder which the Prime Minister of Canada made. I heard, the other day, the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) apologize, saying: "After all, the proposal of the leader of the government was not so bad as our opponents contend, since all the delegates of the Dominion gave him their support." Did the hon. Postmaster General take the trouble to study and does he realize what is the total amount of business each Dominon does with Great Britain? Is he aware that Canada alone among the British dominions has a favourable trade balance—and does not this fact give him some matter to ponder over? If we sell to England for nearly $100,000,000 more than we purchase from her, is the Prime Minister jutified in stating: "Canada First"? It might, perhaps, have befitted the other dominions to express such a thought, exactly for the reason just given, as England was justified in her reply to the right hon. Prime Minister, "England First".

There is to be another conference this year. No doubt, the Prime Minister, profiting by past experience and remembering his "flop" in England, will not be guilty of the same sin. This will be in the best interests of Canadians. No doubt, he will carry out the policy which has been followed up to the present by the Liberal party, and which gave such excellent results. In order to derive the best possible benefit from this conference, I think that the remarks of the Postmaster General should now find their application: "Should not the interests of the country, especially in the present crisis, have precedence over party interests?" The country needs markets to sell its surplus products; home markets are inadequate as an outlet for its products, and in order to engross such markets, we should avoid surrounding ourselves with a prohibitive high tariff, so as to prevent foreign products from reaching us. How do you expect to sell without purchasing from any one? That is, however, the exact policy followed by the present government, and it has been the cause of our export trade decreasing by nearly $94,000,000. Carry on, gentlemen, things are coming your way! In four years, our country will have lost its place of honour among the trading nations of the world to return to the rank of an inferior nation.

I hear it said by our friends on your right, sir, that since they are in power a great change has taken place in trade and industry. How wonderful they are! They have no fear of ridicule! But truth tells a different story.

Everything is tottering! Everywhere threats, brawls and revolutions appear. Only last Saturday, over 2,000 unemployed tried to enter the city hall at Montreal, to ask for work. They were prevented by the city police. Being unsuccessful, they marched to the Champ de Mars where speeches were made, begging the authorities to put an end to their hardships and privations by giving them work. The working classes are tired of waiting. Again last week, in Montreal, hundreds and hundreds of workers invaded the municipal work-yards. They were seeking work but could not secure any.

This is, sir, the situation as it exists to-day. Not only in Montreal but throughout the country. Is the government aware of this? How can they find an excuse for delaying repair work to the extent of $1,500,000—amount appropriated by the late government—repairs which were to be carried out to the wharf of the Pointe-du-Moulin-à-vent? Our unemployed would have been much relieved by such work during the cold winter days, bread and butter would have been thankfully received. The government cared not, the fate of the poor people seems indifferent to them. They preferred to delay this work because the lowest tenderer was not a favourite of theirs. The crisis which we are passing through matters little to them. The hardships of the unemployed matters little to them; what matters to the Tory government is protection to their friends. Let the country perish, providing that millions of dollars fill the pockets of their friends! The same old Conservative and Tory policy. People of Canada, my country, my cherished land, you must bear up, be patient. You are at the beginning of your hardships and troubles. Pray to God that He may enlighten the government in order that, at least, the evil done against our country be not irreparable.

Previous to resuming my seat, allow me, sir, to inform the hon. member for Jacques-Cartier (Mr. Laurin), and all those who think like him, that Quebec is not a Conservative province; it was so at one time, previous to 1896, when education had not spread among the people. To-day, thanks to the education received, Quebec knows better, it has become Liberal, and it will remain such.

Mr. DORION (Translation): That is why the Conservatives carried off 24 ridings.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): Your hopes are but wild dreams. You are in the opposition at Quebec and you will remain there for a long time, in order that justice and liberty may always reign in our province and the rights of minorities be respected. Harmony exists

among all the races which make up its population. May its example be followed by the other provinces of confederation.

The recent events which have taken place in Saskatchewan—among others the disallowance of French in public schools—are not of a nature to cement harmony and union which should exist among us, and such means will not help in making a great and prosperous people in this country. Let us resolve to cease our appeals to race and religious prejudices. Let us be fair and generous in everything and everywhere. We shall thus end by understanding and knowing one another better. It is by concerted action that our country will more quickly and easily reach its noble destinies.

Mr. MARTIAL RHEAUME (St. Johns-Iberville) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I owe it to my constituents to apprise you that I represent the finest riding of the province of Quebec and of Canada, because, since confederation, it has always remained loyal to the Liberal party—this is evidence of the foresight and enlightened patriotism on the part of the true Canadians of both sexes whom I am privileged to represent in the house.

My riding is both agricultural and industrial. The farmers carry on mixed farming and endeavour to improve their flocks. They have always been satisfied with the policy of the Liberal party and they understand that in a world-wide crisis the farming class may suffer like other classes in the community.

I listened closely to the speech delivered by my neighbour, the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) who contended that the trade conventions of Canada with Australia and New Zealand were detrimental to the Canadian farmer. The farmers of his riding like those of my own carry on mixed farming. They therefore meet with the same conditions.

Last September, sir, we were called to attend an emergency session in order to vote $20,000,000 and thus settle the question of unemployment; that is, to fulfil pledges made by our opponents during the election. In answer to my hon. friend, the member for Missisquoi, who stated the other day, in the house that the city of Farnham, which is located in his riding, had recently made great progress, I have a letter here which reads as follows:

Farnham, Que., March 21, 1931.

Mr. Martial Rhéaume, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:—

With reference to our conversation by telephone, this afternoon, I wish to inform you that two new factories were established here, in 1929, about the month of March: one the Collins & Aikman Company Limited, manufacturers of plush, etc., and the other the Dewey & Almy Company Limited, manufacturers of chemical products. In 1930, as I had recently the opportunity to inform you Barry & Staines Linoleum (of Canada) Limited, established themselves here, also about the month of March, 1930.

J. E. Lefèbvre,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Town of Farnham, Que.

No other factory has since been established. I must point out, sir, if the town of Farnham has progressed, if these factories were established there, it is due to the Liberal policy. I may add, if my hon. friend the member for Missisquoi is among us to-night, he owes his mandate to the pledges he gave during the last election. This gentleman with his friends went from door to door telling every farmer who had lost cattle as a result of the tuberculine test, that he was authorized by his leader, Mr. Bennett, to promise $20 for each animal killed within the last three years. I know farmers in that riding that have lost as many as 30 head. It was certainly an alluring offer.

As to the question of unemployment, I wish to state that in St. John we have an industry which employed, in 1929 and 1930, 1,400 people. Since September 2, 1930, to January, 1931, this factory worked 32 hours per week, and since then 24 hours per week; in the week ending March 21, 1931, 42 persons were dismissed. There only remains at present about 900 people working at this factory. I ask my friends the Conservatives where is to be found their success in relieving unemployment? The hon. member for Jacques-Cartier (Mr. Laurin) stated the other day that the government had fulfilled all their pledges; that he himself had obtained the construction of two tunnels; I do not intend to further discuss this subject because my hon. friend the member for St. Denis (Mr. Denis) discussed it at length.

I do not wish, sir, to miss the opportunity of answering a remark made a short while ago by the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion); he stated that the Conservatives had carried off 24 ridings in Quebec. I think, sir, that the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency—I do not know what pledges he made to his constituents—must have taken his cue from the other Conservative candidates of Quebec. I cannot resume my seat without answering a remark made by the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé), member for Laval-Two Mountains, who in his speech on Thursday last, rebuked the Liberals for not having made any suggestion. I think, sir, if the hon. Postmaster General had remained in his seat from the very outset of this debate on the address, he would certainly have heard

suggestions made by members on this side. He was conspicuous by his absence. I well remember that last year he taunted the ex-member for Laval-Two Mountains for having been indifferent to the debates in this house. The hon. Postmaster General at present seems to exhibit the same failing. I think that this indifference at times applies to him.

I also recall the pledges of the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) the member for Chambly-Verchères—my neighbour—during the last election. I realize that his success in the election was somewhat of a surprise, like that of many Conservative members from Quebec. I know that the hon. Minister of Marine made numerous pledges, especially to some of my personal friends whom he persuaded to vote for him because of the advantages and favours that he would grant them. Since parliament was convened I know of no bill introduced aiming at fulfilling the pledges that the Minister of Marine gave. He also promised an indemnity to the farmers who had lost cattle, owing to the tuberculine test; he promised that they would be paid at the rate of $2.50 per hundredweight; that their butter would sell at 45 cents per pound, and that the bridge between Longeuil and Montreal would be exempt of tolls. Conservative candidates throughout the country made numerous pledges to the electorate, however, if to-day new elections were held the result might perhaps not be the same.

I do not wish to delay the house any further; I only wanted to take this opportunity of expressing my views. In the course of this debate on the return of prosperity in this country, the hon. members on your right, sir, censured us and at times these gentlemen told us: "Do give us a chance." A few days ago I had the privilege of listening to the speech of the hon. Postmaster General. I am not aware that he has prepared any program, he who always proclaimed himself, when in Quebec, the champion of the farming class. I think that he will take his cue from his leader whose policy is rather to favour manufacturers and industrialists.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver South): I should like to say a few words in connection with the question raised by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps). Probably like many other members representing an urban constituency, I have received during the last few days many letters and resolutions from various organizations in reference to unemployment in the part of the country from which I come. Sharing a room in this building with my hon. friend from North Winnipeg I took these resolutions to him in the hope that out of his wealth of experience he could tell me what should be done. He told me that he would move the adjournment of the house to bring the question before it. I asked him what support he expected to get. "Well," he said, "last year we had the whole Conservative party with us." "That looks very good," I said, "because there are a whole lot more of them in the house this year, so we ought to make quite a showing." But to my painful surprise, when the question was raised this afternoon it met with the active opposition of the Conservative party, who were so sympathetic when the same question came up last year, and that notwithstanding the fact that the situation at the present moment is worse than it was on the 31st of March last year. In my innocence I could not understand what had caused such a change. Is it possible that to move from one side of the house to the other can change men's minds so radically, although the outward circumstances have not changed in the slightest, in any event not for the better? When the house is not sitting I intend to sit for a few moments on the other side just to note the psychological effect.

Mr. EDWARDS: That is the only way you will ever get here.

Mr. MacINNIS: Perhaps, but you may get over here.

In discussing this question, Mr. Speaker, I shall not approach it in a critical spirit. It should be dealt with, I think, from at least four points of view. We should consider, first of all, the extent and the seriousness of the present conditions; secondly, what steps should be taken to meet the present pressing situation; thirdly, desirability of a full investigation of the causes of unemployment and of the economic depression; and lastly, what permanent steps may be taken to meet the situation generally and provide against these ever-recurring periods of depression.

Touching first on the seriousness of the situation, I am continuously in touch with my own city of Vancouver. Although perhaps there are not so many unemployed there now as a month ago, the number is very much greater than it was a year ago. Not only that, but the city's resources to meet the situation are not nearly so great as they were a year ago. A deputation from the city of Vancouver met the cabinet of the local government at Victoria on the 23rd of March last. The chairman of the relief commitee pointed out to the government at that time that the city could not meet any funds that the government might have left

over from the appropriation voted last September, and therefore the making of provision for the unemployed at Vancouver was up to the provincial government. On the same day a deputation waited on the city council to arrange for the reinstatement of 1,500 single men who had been cut off from relief under the act. On March 18, just a few days ago, 6,064 married men were securing unemployment relief. In view of a situation of that kind I think it rather strange that we have not heard a word from the government side of the house as to their intentions in connection with unemployment.

My hon. friend from North Winnipeg pointed out at the beginning of his remarks to-day that he had referred to this question about a year ago. May I quote a few words from Hansard of April 2, credited to the present Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) He said:

> Mr. Speaker, I agree with the hon. member who introduced this resolution that it is the most important problem facing our country to-day.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the subject of unemployment was an important problem facing our country in the year 1930, when the situation was not as bad as it is to-day, when the financial resources of the municipalities were not depleted to the extent they are to-day, and when the financial resources of the people themselves were not depleted to such an extent, how much more serious must that problem be now? Yet we do not hear a word from the Minister of Railways and Canals.

Mr. SPOTTON: He does not get a chance to say anything.

Mr. MacINNIS: He may speak when I sit down.

> I do not think any one in this great land of promise—
>
> And it is mostly promise.
>
> —can realize that in the cold, cold northern winters of Canada there are times—and this applies particularly to the present—when men and women and innocent little children are suffering from the lack of food which is necessary to keep their bodies and souls together, without feeling a very deep and abiding sympathy for the cause which has been advocated by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps).

We have the same conditions to-day in this "cold, dreary, northern clime" which we had in 1930, except that they are worse. Then the hon. gentleman makes some further remarks, and I am wondering whether he holds the same point of view to-night that he held at that time. I quote the following from Hansard:

> I listened with respect and attention to the theories for a permanent solution of this problem proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) as well as by the hon. member for North Winnipeg, . . .

To-day the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) spoke very feelingly on the resolution. I have no doubt that his remarks on this occasion were very much along the same lines as those he made a year ago. I would like to ask my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals if he is as much interested to-day and if he listened with as much respect and attention this year as he did a year ago. The hon. minister goes on to say:

> . . . . but while I agree that some day a permanent solution must be found, I would point out that at the moment the fact is that we have a very severe unemployment, and temporary measures of some kind should have been brought forward long ago by this government in order properly to deal with this problem.

That is what we are asking for at the moment; there should be temporary measures to meet a situation which is beyond the control of municipalities. It is the bounden duty of this government to make such temporary provision as under the circumstances may be required.

I will quote a few more lines from the remarks of the Minister of Railways and Canals:

> I submit to the Prime Minister that the people of this country are anxious for frank and candid statements from the government at present on all matters of public policy.

The other day I drew the attention of hon. members to the fact that we were entitled to a little more frankness than we were receiving. If the hon. Minister of Railways has any influence with the leader of the government of which he is a member he might suggest that a little more frankness would be appreciated on this side of the house. The hon. gentleman said further:

> They are tired of political humbug; they are weary of the political shell games played with the idea of catching votes in the various parts of the country.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary that I should draw to the attention of this house the promises which were made to the people of this country during the campaign last year. I know that the Prime Minister, like myself, is not in the habit of making rash promises, and possibly if he had consulted me he would not have made the promise last year to end unemployment. However he has made the promise and I do not think under the circumstances we should try to make him keep it. There are certain things he could do, however, even if he cannot fulfil his promise. He could

help to relieve the unemployment situation by utilizing the resources of this Dominion. The labour members in this house, and I think many other hon. members, take the position that a serious situation exists in Canada, an economic condition which affects so profoundly a great many of our people that we consider it as a national emergency. To meet a national emergency extraordinary measures should be taken.

May I invite the attention of hon. members in this house to exactly what the situation is. I think we are agreed that as a conservative estimate there are about 300,000 unemployed in this Dominion. Estimating that in respect of each of these 300,000 there are two dependants, there would be a total of 900,000 people suffering because of unemployment. That constitutes an emergency. At least so far as 900,000 people are concerned there is an emergency. If the Dominion were engaged in a war of destruction, probably in a war about which we knew very little, all the resources at the disposal of the Dominion would be used. The men who are to-day going without food, poorly clad, walking the streets with the soles worn off their shoes, would be clothed and fed and equipped with ammunition to cause destruction. Yet they cannot be put to work to provide for themselves or to add to the wealth of the Dominion. That is the situation and this government cannot very well get away from it.

Arising out of the election last year a special session of parliament was held and the government at that time made an appropriation of $20,000,000. May I say that we in this corner of the house appreciated that measure; we felt that the government was making a generous gesture in order to relieve a condition arising out of unemployment. Not only that, but by the same policy I believe that they have shut out from Canada all, or practically all, immigration. We thank them for that also; we appreciate it. But the point I wish to make is this. If they think that this $20,000,000 is going to do for all time, when conditions are steadily getting worse, they are badly mistaken. As a matter of fact, unless that $20,000,000 is followed by constructive effort towards reducing unemployment, it is so much money wasted. It is just the same as giving a meal to a man we meet on the street. What the people want is not that kind of help, but to be put in such a position that they will be able to help themselves; and anything that has not that end in view will not permanently help the unemployment situation. I know that this relief was extended as a palliative. But palliatives have a tendency to create the conditions they are supposed to relieve. I would respectfully invite the attention of the Prime Minister to that fact.

I gave a few figures—I had not time to give more—when I spoke on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I should like to give a few more to show that there is no indication at the present time that the conditions through which we are passing will very shortly be improved. The general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Mr. F. H. Logan, at the general meeting of the bank on January 13 of this year, said that in the year 1930, when they made a survey of industrial projects which were likely to be carried through in the current year they found there was available some $500,000,000, and he stated that nearly all the work represented by this sum had been done; but this year, 1931, upon a similar survey having been made, they could find only about $325,000,000. That is to say, construction and development in sight from 1930 to 1931 had decreased by about a little less than two-fifths.

I find, according to the Financial Post, which gets its figures from the Labour Gazette, that:

> Employment statistics as of February 1, 1931 show a continuation of the decline that began in July, 1930. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index, based upon the 1926 average at 100.7, is stated at 107 as against 101.7 in the preceding month. In the past the employment situation has generally improved during January, and the decline in employment during January, 1931, as reflected in the index is the first in many years for this period on February 1, 1930. The index for Canada was 111.6.

This, I submit, would indicate that conditions are not improving; they are really getting worse. But we can give a few more indications still. Under the heading "Business Conditions in Canada," in the same issue of March 5, we find conditions stated thus:

> Commodity prices: textiles show strength; building materials lowest since 1916. Iron and steel: construction contracts awarded presage improved demand for structural steel. Foreign trade: remains slack. Wheat shipments are sole factor of strength. Car loadings: normal season of gain is absent; no change in total for six weeks. Employment: no sign of improvement as industrial activity lags.

With a situation such as this, how can we account for the silence of the government on this particular question?

> Stock markets: Period of profit taking causes indefinite trend. Credit: demand slightly stronger. Bank debits reflect greater activity.

Now we turn to what the Financial Post calls the best indicator of improving conditions or otherwise. This is in connection with car loadings.

Car loadings are another indicator which would seem to prove beyond question the lack of an ordinary seasonal upswing in Canadian business. For the first time in a great many years, the charted record of weekly loadings up to and including the week ending February 21, reveals a uniformly flat picture in contrast with sharply upward curve which is usual at this time of the year. Total loadings are running 17 per cent behind the corresponding 1930 record.

I contend that there is nothing there that would indicate that we can expect an early improvement, or that there is any prospect of an early recovery in our economic conditions.

Let me for a moment look at the other side of the picture. This is a point we should keep in mind; it is a point we should try to harmonize with the conditions which we are discussing to-day. I believe we are agreed that never in the history of this Dominion has the wealth of Canada—that is, wealth in usable form—been more abundant than it is at the present time. Not only that, but there need be no disputing the point that the machinery of production which we have at our disposal for the production if necessary of more wealth is greater to-day than ever before. Going further, we can rest assured, and we have every evidence of it, that we have the advantage of a more scientific understanding of things, a greater technical knowledge, increased man power, and greater ability on the part of labour, if need be, to put this machinery into operation than ever before in our history. Yet, in spite of all that, we have a condition of unemployment and of distress not only in the city but in the country as well, such as we have never heretofore experienced. And in face of this my hon. friends opposite sit silent, having not a word to say as to what they are going to do, and no suggestion to offer with regard to meeting the situation.

In this connection I should like to quote briefly from the Commerce of the Nation, the official organ of the Canadian chamber of commerce. This article appeared in the October 1930 edition and was written by the late Angus MacLean, who at the time was president of the organization. He said:

> Previous to last fall we had for a number of years enjoyed a period of unusual expansion and prosperity. Many of our people came to the conclusion that so long as we could continue this production from our farms, forests, mines and fisheries, this expansion and activity would continue.

I think that was a logical conclusion to come to; He goes on:

> Conditions existing to-day show quite clearly that this opinion was wrong. Our farms from the Atlantic to the Pacific have produced an excellent crop. Our elevators are full of grain, our barns and warehouses are bursting with plenty. Our mines are as productive as ever. Our pulp and paper mills are turning out more than they ever did, and to-day are the greatest in the world, and our catch of fish is unusually large.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, the picture is not overdrawn. With the wealth of Canada, as it is pictured here by the late president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, what excuse can we offer for this condition to men walking the streets without shoes, to men going without bread and men sleeping in box cars and under bridges at night? This wealth is not confined to this Dominion; other countries have had equal wealth during the last few years. May I quote once more from the Glasgow Evening Citizen, which is a very respectable Tory paper which I am sure hon. gentlemen opposite will say is worthy of being cited. It says:

> Yet in this same world the valleys stand so thick with corn that they laugh and sing—the granaries are overflowing with grain, the factories are capable of turning out colossal supplies of every sort of commodity, and the waters teem with food that can be had for the taking. The abundance of the earth and sea and sky is incalculable; the bounty of nature is without limit. The world is our cocoanut, and yet we starve!

That is rather peculiar; it seems the more cocoanuts we have the more hungry we become.

An hon. MEMBER: We are not as wise as the monkeys.

Mr. MacINNIS: I quite agree that we are not as wise as the monkeys, in this particular at any rate. I suppose we think we have progressed very considerably since our savage ancestors roamed the forests, but if it were possible to bring one of those ancestors back to the world now, where he could see the hungry, cold, unemployed, with all this wealth at our disposal, he would rightly think we have not progressed so far after all. I continue quoting from this newspaper:

> Instead of cooperating men separate themselves into groups. They build walls round these groups and sometimes one group will go mad and begin to throw stones at another. They have not yet learned to regard the earth as belonging to their whole race in common; they have not discovered how to organize themselves—their nations, their classes, their sects are not less quarrelsome and hardly less foolish than the gulls or the tomtits, which are very foolish little birds!

I think that is along the lines of cooperation which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has been advocating in this house for many years, and surely it is time we began to have that cooperation in view

of the fact that our efforts along other lines of endeavour have failed to assure the great majority of people in this country any decent share of the wealth which we are producing in abundance.

What is the reason for all this? The hon. member for Queens (Mr. Myers)—and I refer to this partly because Prince Edward Island happens to be my native land—stated the other day that no one seemed to know what was the cause of unemployment. I have been wondering whether no one does know, or whether possibly some people do know and do not like to state the cause for fear of hurting somebody's feelings. I believe I know the cause, and in order that my hon. friend from Queens may go away from this house a little wiser than he came I am going to tell him, whether he believes me or not. The cause of unemployment is private ownership of the means of production. That is the one and only cause. Hon. gentlemen may ask for the proof of that statement, and I will give it. Let us suppose all the people in the world were gathered together in this room. I admit that it would be quite a dreary place in which to live, but for the sake of argument let us suppose all the people in the world were gathered together here and that we owned everything in common. Could you imagine one of us going cold or hungry while we had all this wealth at our command? But supposing Mr. Speaker or someone else owned all the wealth, and the rest of us could have access to it only whenever he wished to let us do so whenever we paid tribute to him for doing so. You could well imagine our going hungry and cold in circumstances of that kind. That is the only cause of unemployment, and it will not be remedied until the machinery for wealth production is socialized and put in the hands of the people to be used for the common good.

Hon. members may think this is a wild statement to make, but we are not alone in that opinion. I hold in my hand a resolution which was passed at the regular session of the Alberta conference of the United Church of Canada, held in McDougall United Church, Edmonton. According to the Parliamentary Guide this is the church to which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister belongs, and for that reason if for no other he should give some consideration to the resolution, which states:

> Whilst we endorse and approve the Remit, in that it states certain items of advancement and improvements in reference to industrial conditions, and the increasing recognition of human rights, yet we are convinced that such a statement is inadequate for the present time, and that the church should express itself in terms other than those which simply endorse principles that have for some years been gererally appreciated, even though the principles involved have not thus far become fully operative;
>
> We believe that, in harmony with the teachings of Jesus, we should proceed as rapidly as may be possible to the creation of an order based on cooperation and service, which would displace the present competitive, acquisitive social order.

That is not my statement; it is the statement of the Alberta conference of the United Church. The resolution continues:

> In the centre of the thinking of Jesus was man and his need, as a contrast up to the present the essential feature of the economic system is profit.

That is what we have been contending for years; that is what the hon. member for North Winnipeg and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre have been telling this house for several sessions. The resolution continues:

> The present system has now been under trial for a sufficient period of time to lend itself to fair criticism, and the present unhappy condition of over-production, under consumption, unemployment, and attendant uncertainties, is its condemnation.

We certainly never used words any harsher than those in connection with the system under which we live.

> We are convinced that in the Father's world there is a sufficient abundance of necessary commodities to meet the needs of His children. The demand of the day is to bring these commodities under Christian control and distribution, a result which finance under private control as the connecting link between production and consumption has failed to secure.
>
> In the meantime, we advocate such methods as unemployment insurance, contributory old age pensions, along with a program looking forward to social control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

We have never advocated more than that; we have never asked anything more than recognition of the fact that under the present system the more we produce the less secure is the position of the individual. All we are asking is that means be taken to change the system as quickly as possible to one that will give us a standard of living according to our ability and wilingness to work and produce. Just imagine the amount of wealth that could be produced with modern machinery by the 300,000 unemployed who are walking the streets of this Dominion to-day, if they could only have access to the means of life. Just imagine it, and tell me what it would mean. Why cannot we have access to these means of life? As I said before, the reason is

because these means are in private hands and we cannot get to them without paying tribute to some private person. There may be half a dozen or probably less than a hundred people in this Dominion who exact tribute from all the rest of the people for everything they eat or wear and for every move they make. The resolution continues:

> We believe that society should regard enforced unemployment as an intolerable menace, producing an unemployable class with slum conditions, wastage of human energy and personality, and threatening war or revolution. We believe that governments should grapple with the problem with energy similar to what would be used in a national emergency.

I do not believe that the members of the government are alive to the present situation. We have similar conditions in every city, town and country district in the Dominion. The following is a portion of a letter I received from a gentleman residing near Saskatoon:

> There is no money wherewith to pay taxes, store bills, interest on loans, etc., and the people in the north, while having produce from gardens, etc., to live on have not any money wherewith to buy clothing. One school teacher has asked for clothing for 57 children; another for 40; another for 34 and another for 16. Children cannot attend school because they have nothing but last summer's cotton underwear and canvas shoes to wear.

I think the suggestion made this afternoon by the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine) would help us considerably. Much more could be said as to why we are faced with these conditions and why we cannot expect any improvement in the near future. I have here some statistics given by Sir John Aird at the annual meeting of the bank of Commerce held in Montreal, as follows:

> From the period between 1926 and 1928 the population increased by two per cent, food production increased by 8 per cent and the production of raw materials by 11 per cent.

The people are much worse off in 1929 and 1930 than they were in 1928, although there was an increase of eight per cent in the production of food and 11 per cent in the production of raw materials as against an increase of two per cent in population. We should have some explanation from hon. gentlemen who pretend to run the government of this country.

In conclusion, I beg leave to move—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MacINNIS: I beg leave to move that all the words after—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member's time has expired.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Mr. MacINNIS: I was just about to move an amendment.

An hon. MEMBER: You are too late.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has spoken for forty minutes.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Might I point out that under standing order 37—

An hon. MEMBER: Wasting the time of the house.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, I am not wasting the time of the house; I am within my rights in speaking on a point of order. Standing order No. 37 reads:

> No member, except the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition, or a minister moving a government order and the member speaking in reply immediately after such minister, or a member making a motion of "no confidence" in the government, and a minister replying thereto, shall speak for more than forty minutes at a time in any debate.

My colleague was about to make a motion and he is therefore entitled to speak for more than forty minutes.

An hon. MEMBER: He did not do it in time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member gave no intimation that he was about to make such a motion. He completed his speech when he spoke for the forty minutes.

Mr. MacINNIS: I move—

Mr. SPEAKER: I call the hon. member to order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If Your Honour rules that we are to be tied down to the forty minute rule when an hon. member was in the act of reading a motion, I must appeal against that ruling.

An hon. MEMBER: Go to it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member had forty minutes in which to make his motion; he did not do so and he cannot exceed his time limit. Shall the motion carry?

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

MINES AND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mines branch—for maintenance of the peat plant at Alfred, Ontario—further amount required, $1,450.

Mr. REID: Is this vote a supplementary amount, or is it the full amount to be voted for the entire year?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): As the former Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) will be able to tell the committee, this matter has engaged the attention of successive governments. It has been the hope to establish a supply of fuel at this point. The plant is practically closed down and is in charge of a caretaker, and this amount is required to pay him up until to-day.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Annuities Act—further amount required, $30,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The right hon. the Prime Minister was to give the house some information as to what this amount is required for.

Mr. BENNETT: So far as the Annuities Act is concerned, this amount is required to liquidate liabilities already incurred for the advertising of annuities and the payment to representatives and postmasters of commissions and allowances earned in getting business for which the appropriation in the main estimates was inadequate. A question was asked as to the change in advertising. The present administration continued until January of this year, the plan which had been carried out by the former administration. At the end of that month the contract with McConnell & Fergusson Limited was terminated. The real fact is that a deficit was carried over from the preceding year with respect to advertising and it became necessary to secure a larger sum to liquidate up to to-day the accounts that have been rendered for the service carried on in accordance with plans created by the former Minister of Labour as indicated in the memorandum which he left with the department, which memorandum I will not take the time to read, but which I will send over to my right hon. friend in order that he may see it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Who are McConnell and Fergusson?

Mr. BENNETT: They are a firm of advertising agents who do business at London, Ontario, and contract for advertising throughout Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The information for which I asked specially was the amount of advertising that had been given since the present administration came into office, with the names of the firms to which the advertising was given, and the amounts paid.

Mr. BENNETT: The conditions that existed at the time the present government came into power were continued till January, when the advertising was discontinued, and so far as I have been advised by the department—and I have inquired—no plans for advertising on a large scale have been made.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That does not answer my question. As I understand the matter, the Department of Labour, through an advertising agency, has contracted for advertising in connection with the annuities branch, with certain firms in Canada, certain newspapers and journals. I should like to have a list of the papers to which this advertising was given, and the amount of money that has been paid to each of them.

Mr. BENNETT: As regards the present estimates, there are no such accounts that I know of beyond those contained in the statement which I made a moment ago. In the main estimates of last year the expenditure under this classification was $75,000. The estimate now submitted is for $30,000 more, making a total of $105,000. The details are as follows:

Salaries, $4,952.51.
Travelling expenses, $1,331.16.
Sundries, $2,665.86.
Telephones and telegrams, $1,055.33.
Printing and stationery, $11,309.65.
Advertising, $18,049.37.
Commissions and allowances to agents, $52,671.13.
Total expenditures up to date, $92,035.01.

Between the twenty-seventh and the end of this month there are outstanding accounts to be taken care of amounting to $12,000 more, making the total of $105,000, including temporary salaries, $240, annuities advertising, $9,338.75, and commissions to agents, $3,386.24, the commission to agents being, as the right hon. gentleman will observe, $55,000 of the whole. That is the position so far as I know. I have not a list of the newspapers in which the advertising occurs, but I have one showing the number of contracts that have been made for annuities. I have a statement giving the amounts of money received and a list of the representatives in the various provinces, with the amount of money received from them. That is all the information I have upon the point.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Last night, before the house adjourned, I said, as my hon. friend will see on looking at page 501 of unrevised Hansard:

I understand that the Department of Labour gives advertising through an advertising agency. If so, I should like my hon. friend to give

us to-morrow a statement of the papers which have received advertising or printing in connection with the annuities branch of the Department of Labour since the present administration came into office.

I asked that question last night so that we would have the information before this item was passed, and I should like to have it.

Mr. BENNETT: Very good. No new contract has been made. The old contract runs out because it has been terminated. The papers that received advertising not from this government but from the former administration, acting through McConnell and Fergusson, are as follows:

Halifax—Chronicle and Star.
Halifax—Herald and Mail.
Charlottetown—Guardian.
Charlottetown—Patriot.
Saint John—Telegraph and Times.
Fredericton—Gleaner.
Fredericton—Mail.
Montreal—Star.
Montreal—La Presse.
Quebec—Le Soleil.
Quebec—Chronicle Telegraph.
Quebec—L'Action Catholique.
Ottawa—Citizen.
Ottawa—Journal.
Ottawa—Le Droit.
Toronto—Globe.
Toronto—Mail and Empire.
Toronto—Telegram.
Toronto—Star.
Brantford—Expositor.
Kingston—Whig Standard.
Hamilton—Herald.
Hamilton—Spectator.
St. Catharines—Standard.
London—Advertiser.
London—Free Press.
Kitchener—Record.
Stratford—Beacon Herald.
Peterborough—Examiner.
Oshawa—Times.
St. Thomas—Times Journal.
Windsor—Border City Star.
Winnipeg—Free Press.
Winnipeg—Tribune.
Regina—Leader Post.
Regina—Star.
Moose Jaw—Herald Times.
Calgary—Herald.
Calgary—Albertan.
Edmonton—Journal.
Edmonton—Bulletin.
Vancouver—Province.
Victoria—Colonist.
Victoria—Times.
New Westminster—British Columbian.
Vancouver—Star.
St. Mary's—Journal Argus.

Then I have the rates, and in addition to that the magazines. Does my hon. friend desire me to read the names of all those magazines?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. BENNETT: I shall be glad to do so, although it has never been done before in this house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What nonsense! I take exception to my right hon. friend's statement.

Mr. BENNETT: It has never been done before in this house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It will be done now.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. I am glad indeed to commend this desire for information on the part of my right hon. friend. The list of magazines is as follows:

Montreal—La Broderie Gorci.
Toronto—Canadian Magazine.
Toronto—Canadian Home Journal.
Toronto—MacLeans Magazine.
Winnipeg—Western Home Monthly.
Toronto—Canadian Jewish Review.

The week-end papers are as follows:

Montreal Standard.
Saturday Night.

They carried 500 lines for $205. The weekly papers are as follows:

Cornwall—Freeholder.
Cornwall—Standard.
Perth—Courier.
Toronto—Wilson's List.
Ailsa Craig—Banner.
Alexandria—Times.
Alvinston—Free Press.
Arichat—Record.
Arthur—Enterprise.
Athens—Reporter.
Ayr—News.
Bancroft—Times.
Beamsville—Express.
Beaverton—Express.
Beeton—World.
Belmont—Enterprise.
Birtle, Man.—Eye Witness.
Blind River—Leader.
Blenheim—News-Tribune.
Blyth—Standard.
Bolton—Enterprise.
Bothwell—Times.
Bobcaygeon—Independent.
Bracebridge—Herald.
Bradford—Witness.
Brighton—Ensign.
Bruce Mines—Spectator.
Buckingham—Post.
Burford—Advance.
Caledonia—Sachem.
Campbellford—Herald.
Cannington—Echo.
Carp—Review.
Cayuga—Advocate.
Clinton—News Record.
Cobden—Sun.
Colborne—Express.
Comber—Herald.
Cookstown—Advocate.
Creemore—Star.
Desoronto—Post.
Dovercourt—News.

Dresden—Times.
Dundalk—Herald.
Dunnville—Gazette.
Durham—Review.
Dutton—Advance.
East Toronto—Smiles.
Elmvale—Lance.
Elora—Express.
Embro—Courier.
Englehart—Times.
Erin—Advocate.
Fenelon Falls—Gazette.
Flesherton—Advance.
Fordwich—Record.
Frankford—Sun.
Glencoe—Transcript.
Gore Bay—Recorder.
Grand Valley—Vidette and Star.
Gravenhurst—Banner.
Hagersville—News.
Harriston—Review.
Hastings—Star.
Havelock—Standard.
Hawkesbury—Echo.
Hensall—Advertiser.
Hespeler—Herald.
Highgate—Monitor.
Iroquois—Post.
Jarvis—Record.
Kincardine—News.
Kingsville—Reporter.
Kingston Rd.—Herald.
Lachute—Watchman.
Lakefield—News.
Lakeside—Leader.
Lanark—Era.
Lansing—Enterprise.
Little Current—Expositor.
Lucan—News.
Lucknow—Sentinel.
Mara Tp.—Monitor.
Marmora—Herald.
Markdale—Standard.
Markham—Economist.
Madoc—Review.
Magog—Enterprise.
Merlin—Standard.
Midland—Argus.
Millbrook—Mirror.
Mildmay—Gazette.
Milton—Reformer.
Milverton—Sun.
Minden—Echo.
Moncton—Times.
Morrisburg—Leader.
Mt. Pleasant—News.
New Hamburg—Independent.
Niagara-on-Lake—Advance.
North Toronto—News.
Norwood—Register.
Oakville—Star.
Oakville—News.
Orangeville—Sun.
Ormstown—Bulletin.
Orono—News.
Paisley—Advocate.
Palmerston—Spectator.
Parkhill—Gazette-Review.
Parry Sound—Canadian.
Penetanguishene—Herald.
Pickering—News.
Port Elgin—Times.
Port Dover—Maple Leaf.
Port Perry—Star.
Port Rowan—News.
Powassan—News.
Prescott—Journal.
Rainy River—Record.
Rich's Landing—Herald.
Ridgetown—Dominion.
Ripley—Express.
Riverdale—News.
Rodney—Mercury.
Russell—Leader.
Smithville—Review.
Seaforth—News.
Shawville—Equity.
Shelburne—Economist.
Southampton—Beacon.
South Mountain—Herald.
St. Claire—Gazette.
Stayner—Sun.
Stouffville—Tribune.
Streetsville—Review.
Tara—Leader.
Tavistock—Gazette.
Teeswater—News.
Thorold—Post.
Thamesville—Herald.
Thessalon—Advocate.
Thornbury—Herald Review.
Tilbury—Times.
Toronto—Chronicle.
Toronto—Intelligencer.
Toronto—Record.
Toronto—Truth.
Tottenham—Sentinel.
Trenton—Quinte Sun.
Tweed—News.
Uxbridge—Times-Journal.
Vankleek Hill—Review.
Waterdown—Review.
West Lorne—Sun.
Westport—Mirror.
Wheatley—Journal.
Winchester—Press.
Woodville—Advocate.
Yonge—Gazette.
Zurich—Herald.
Winnipeg—Union List.
Abbotsford—Sumas and Matsqui News.
Aberdeen—Times.
Acme—Sentinel.
Alameda—Dispatch.
Alix—Free Press.
Alliance—Times.
Alsask—News.
Amisk—Advocate.
Aneroid—Magnet.
Arcola—Moose Mountain Star.
Asquith—Record.
Assiniboia—Reporter.
Athabasca—Echo.
Balcarres—Free Lance.
Baldur—Gazette.
Barrhead—News.
Bashaw—Star.
Bassano—Mail.
Battleford—Herald.
Battleford—Press.
Belmont—News.
Biggar—Independent.
Big Valley—Journal.
Binscarth—Express.
Birch Hills—Gazette.
Blaine Lake—Echo.
Blairmore—Enterprise.
Broadview—Express.
Brooks—Bulletin.
Brownlee—Herald.
Bruno—Leader.
Burns Lake—Observer.

Cabri—Times.
Cadillac—Journal.
Canora—Courier.
Canwood—Times.
Carberry—News-Express.
Carbon—Chronicle.
Carievale—News.
Carmangy—Sun.
Carnduff—Gazette.
Carstairs—News.
Cartwright—Review.
Castor—Advance.
Central Butte—Herald.
Cereal—Recorder.
Champion—Advance.
Chinook—Advance.
Climax—Climax.
Coleman—Journal.
Conquest—Enterprise.
Consort—Enterprise.
Consul—Messenger.
Coronach—Courier.
Coronation—Review.
Craik—Weekly News.
Creelman—Gazette.
Creston—Review.
Crossfield—Chronicle.
Crystal City—Courier.
Cupar—Herald.
Cut Knife—Grinder.
Czar—Clipper.
Dauphin—Herald.
Davidson—Leader.
Daysland—Commercial.
Delia—Times.
Delisle—Advocate.
Didsbury—Pioneer.
Dinsmore—Enterprise.
Dominion City—Star.
Drumheller—Review.
Dundurn—Enterprise.
Eastend—Enterprise.
Edson-Jasper—Signal.
Elkhorn—Mercury.
Elnora—Advance.
Elrose—Review.
Emerson—Journal.
Empress—Express.
Enderby—Commoner.
Esterhazy—Observer.
Eston—Press.
Eyebrow—Herald.
Fairview—Northern Review.
Fleming—Review.
Foam Lake—W. Review.
Forestburg—Herald.
Fort Saskatchewan—Record.
Foxwarren—News.
Gainsboro—Post.
Gleichen—Call.
Glenboro—Gazette.
Glidden—Broadcaster.
Golden—Star.
Govan—Prairie News.
Gravelbourg—L'Etoile.
Grenfell—Sun.
Guernsey—Standard.
Gull Lake—Advance.
Hamiota—Echo.
Hanley—Herald.
Hardisty—World.
Harris—Herald.
Hawarden—Pioneer.
Herbert—Herald.
Hodgeville—Standard.
Holden—Herald.
Holland—News.
Hughenden—Record.
Humboldt—Journal.
Imperial—Review.
Indian Head—News.
Irma—Times.
Kaslo—Kotenian.
Kellihar—Monitor.
Kelvington—Radio.
Kincaid—Star.
Kinistino—Representative.
La Fleche—Press.
Lamont—Tribune.
Lampman—Chronicle.
Landis—Record.
Langham—Weekly News.
Lanigan—News.
Lashburn—Comet.
Leader—Enterprise.
Leduc—Representative.
Lemberg—Star.
Liberty—Press.
Lloydminster—Times.
Lockwood—News.
Loreburn—Herald.
Lougheed—Journal.
Loverna—Borderline Budget.
Lucky Lake—Broadcast.
Lamsden—News Record.
Luseland—Despatch.
MacGregor—Herald.
Macklin—Times.
Macrorie—News.
Maidstone—Mirror.
Manitou—West Canadian.
Manor—Advocate.
Maple Creek—News.
Maryfield—News.
McCreary—Times.
Melville—Canadian.
Meyronne—Independent.
Miami—Herald.
Milestone—Mail.
Miniota—Herald.
Moosomin—World Spectator.
Morris—Herald.
Mossbank—Star.
Naicam—Progress.
Nanton—News.
New Denver—Leaser.
Nipawin—Herald.
Nokomis—Times.
Norquay—North Star.
Oak Lake—News.
Oak River—Post.
Olds—Gazette.
Outlook—Outlook.
Oxbow—Herald.
Oyen—News.
Pense—Herald.
Perdus—Record.
Pincher Creek—Echo.
Plumas—Standard.
Ponoka—Herald.
Preeceville—Enterprise.
Punnichy—News.
Qu'Appelle—Progress.
Radisson—News.
Rapid City—Reporter.
Redcliff—Review.
Rivers—Gazette.
Riverhurst—Courier.
Roblin—Review.
Rocanbille—Record.
Rockglen—Review.
Rocky Mountain House—Mountaineer.

Roland—News.
Rolla—Peace River News.
Rosthern—Valley News.
Rouleau—Enterprise.
Saltcoats—Herald.
Saskatoon—Community News.
Sedgewick—Com. Press.
Selkirk—Herald.
Semans—Gazette.
Shellbrook—Chronicle.
Shoal Lake—Star.
Simpson—Lance.
Sintaluta—Times.
Somerset—News.
Stavely—Advertiser.
Star City—Echo.
St. James—Leader.
Stonewall—Argus.
Stony Plain—Sun.
Stoughton—Times.
Strasbourg—Mountaineer.
Taber—Times.
Three Hills—Capital.
Tisdale—Carrot River Recorder.
Tofield—Mercury.
Tompkins—Progress.
Trochu—Tribune.
Tugaska—Globe.
Turner—Valley Observer.
Turtleford—Sun.
Vanderhoof—Chronicle.
Vanguard—Times.
Vermilion—Standard.
Viking—News.
Viscount—Sun.
Wakaw—Recorder.
Wapella—Post.
Watrous—Signal.
Watson—Witness.
Wawanesa—Independent.
Weldon—Weekly Star.
Welwyn—Herald.
Westlock—Witness.
Wetaskiwin—Free Press.
Weyburn—Herald.
Whitewood—Herald.
Wilkie—Press.
Windthorst—Independent.
Wolselay—News.
Wynyard—Advance.
Yellow Grass—Herald.
Young—Journal.
Zealandia—News.
Ste. Marie de Beauce—Guide.
Quebec—Le Journal.
St. Marys—Journal Argus.
Montreal—Le Miroir.
Montreal—Le Petit Journal.

Farm Papers

Sussex—Maritime Farmer.
Quebec—Le Bulletin la Ferme.
Montreal—Journal of Agriculture.
Montreal—Family Herald and Weekly Star (Dominion edition).
Toronto—Canadian Countryman.
Toronto—Ontario Farmer.
London—Farmer's Advocate.
Winnipeg—Nor'West Farmer.
Winnipeg—Country Guide.
Calgary—Farm and Ranch Review.
Regina—Saskatchewan Farmer.
Ottawa—Farm Journal.

Labour and Special Papers

Ottawa—Can. Congress Journal.
Montreal—Knight News.
Quebec—La Nouvelle Revue.
Quebec—Les Affaires.
Toronto—Journal of Medicine and Surgery.
Toronto—New Outlook.
Toronto—Canadian Baptist.
Toronto—Catholic Register.
Toronto—Free Mason.
Toronto—Orange Sentinel.
Montreal—The Commerce of the Nation.
London—Catholic Record.
Winnipeg—Western Catholic.
Estevan—Canadian Postmaster.
Toronto—Labour Leader.
Montreal—Federated Railwaymen.

That exhausts the list.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will my right hon. friend tell us how much was paid in advertising to the last six journals he mentioned?

Mr. BENNETT: The last six journals seem to have received sums as follows:

Montreal Federated Railwaymen, 300 lines (100 lines each in January, February and March), $75.
Toronto Labour Leader, 400 lines, $57.
Estevan Canadian Postmaster, ½ page, $20.
Winnipeg Western Catholic, 100 lines, $12.
London Catholic Record, 1,650 lines, $198.
Montreal Commerce of the Nation, 100 lines, $25.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will my right hon. friend advise me whether or not special consideration was promised to any of these publications by the Minister of Labour through advertising from the annuities branch?

Mr. BENNETT: Since July?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Not so far as I know.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Could my right hon. friend state, as a matter of fact, that special consideration was not promised certain of these publications in the matter of advertising?

Mr. BENNETT: I have read the list, which is very long. Perhaps the right hon. gentleman would say to what ones he refers, and I will get the information.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I prefer to put the question as I have put it, as to whether any publications were promised by the Minister of Labour special consideration in the matter of advertising under the annuities branch.

Mr. BENNETT: Not so far as I know. But what does the right hon. gentleman mean by special consideration? Special prices for their services?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am using the words I am using advisedly. Perhaps I shall let my right hon. friend know why a little later.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know what the right hon. gentleman means.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I know. Will the right hon. gentleman say for the Minister of Labour that no special consideration was promised any publication in the matter of advertising by the annuities branch?

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman will have to be much more specific than that. I have never heard of it, and my colleague (Mr. Gordon) tells me that he has never heard of it. It would be very desirable for the right hon. gentleman to explain what he means by special consideration, so that we may inquire.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I might explain that a form of special consideration would be that a publication might receive an extra amount of advertising from the annuities branch and would receive it because it was that particular publication that was getting it.

Mr. BENNETT: My information from the minister is that no such promise was given. It is very important that there should be no misunderstanding. Perhaps my right hon. friend would say just what he means by those words, "special consideration." If he means that a promise was given of additional advertising, certainly there is no evidence of that that I know of; I have never heard of it. If he means that they were to get a higher price for the services rendered, I think that also could not possibly arise because the advertising is in the hands of an agency which makes the rates.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would ask my hon. friend to ascertain from the Minister of Labour whether he gave to any publication or to anybody on behalf of any one of these publications an assurance that it would receive special consideration. I am using the words that the minister is supposed to have used; that is the reason why I have used the expression "special consideration." I should like to have a definite reply.

Mr. BENNETT: If those are the words the minister is supposed to have used I certainly will make inquiries and advise the right hon. gentleman to-morrow.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Combines Investigation Act—further amount required, $15,000.

Mr. REID: What portion, if any, of the $15,000 was spent in the recent investigation into the prices of bread, and does this amount include the whole cost of the investigation? What does the $15,000 include?

Mr. BENNETT: There was appropriated in the main estimates the sum of $30,000; by governor general's warrant $50,000 was provided, and this estimate provides for an additional sum to make a total of $95,000 in all. The total expenditures up to March 27 amounted to $77,938. There was the Amalgamated Builders Council prosecution, which absorbed $25,784. There was the motion picture inquiry, which absorbed about $20,000; the bread inquiry; and sundry items to be made up by this estimate. There were the expenses incurred in connection with the payment of counsel for the case which went to the privy council determining the validity of the Combines Act. The bread inquiry accounted for $1,728.15. The total includes a sum not contemplated last year when the estimates were passed, necessitating a further sum being obtained for the purposes mentioned.

Mr. HEENAN: The other day I asked the Prime Minister a question. Probably the fact that I did not give notice of my question resulted in the Prime Minister not doing himself justice in his answer. I referred to a combine which according to reports is to be consummated within a few days, involving about $690,000,000 invested in the pulp and paper industries of Canada. The report went on to say that if this combine took place high priced mills would be closed and low priced mills would be kept open. As my right hon. friend knows, the Combines Investigation Act is more often used to prevent injury to the public than to remedy a grievance after the occasion for it has arisen. I was wondering if the Prime Minister would think it advisable to make some kind of inquiry to learn whether or not this combine is likely to injure the public interest. I am sure my right hon. friend will realize that if this combine is allowed to take place and results in high priced mills being closed down and low priced mills being allowed to operate, the effect will be detrimental to the towns and villages which have been established in the vicinity of these so-called high priced mills. If the combine is likely to injure the public generally, and especially the people in Quebec and northern Ontario, there should be some interference by the government.

Mr. BENNETT: I did endeavour to explain to the house, as I do now to the committee, that the question of the jurisdiction of this parliament in the matter would certainly be a controversial one. The authority of parliament concerning the application of the Combines Investigation Act in such a case could not be antecedently determined; whether or not a combine exists is a matter to be determined after the combine forms. At the present moment no such combine as that described by my hon. friend exists. If a company were incorporated in which these enterprises to which my hon. friend refers were merged, I hold grave doubt as to whether the Combines Investigation Act would apply to such a company. That certainly has not been determined. So far as the court decisions go, such a condition would not amount to a combine within the statutes. So far as property and civil rights are concerned, the closing of mills and dealing with property and questions of that sort can be determined by the provinces in which the crown lands are situate and from which the timber is taken. If it be private timber the same observation applies, except in the case of the province of Manitoba where crown lands were leased to private enterprises. If such lands have been transferred to the crown in the right of the province of Manitoba they are subject to the laws of that province rather than the laws of the Dominion. I repeat that the question whether or not a combine exists is a matter which can be determined only from the facts of the case as they arise, and not antecedently. I assume no company would be created which would contravene the laws of the Dominion.

Item agreed to.

Pensions and National Health—unemployment relief—further amount required, $90,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I asked the minister whether he had had any correspondence with soldier organizations or any persons with respect to the matter here referred to, and, if so, to have the correspondence tabled, or to advise us what it is.

Mr. BENNETT: I have copies of the communications and telegrams furnished by the minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will the Prime Minister indicate whom they are from?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. The first letter on this file is the one from J. W. McKee, assistant deputy minister, addressed to Major-General Ketchen, instructing him, in reply to a telegram received with respect to the reduction, that the relief would be continued at the old rate. That telegram to which that is a reply is one from Major-General Ketchen to the minister. Then there is a reply to Mr. Sharpe, of the Earl Haig Memorial Branch at Toronto, in the same sense, answering a telegram sent by him; a communication to Mr. Nash, of the district command, in reply to a telegram from him, and a letter in reply to a telegram from Mr. Morris, who is secretary of the legion. Also a letter from Mr. Meehan, of Toronto, acknowledging receipt of a letter sent by the minister with regard to the matter. These are the communications.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will my right hon. friend place them on the table?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. I was going to give them to my right hon. friend.

Mr. GRAY: I rise not to object to item 51 but rather to ask the Minister of Pensions and National Health—if he may be allowed to answer, because he has borne the brunt of the attack in connection with this matter—for an explanation as to why this relief to pensioned soldiers, from an emergency relief fund granted by this parliament, was cut off without a word of warning, and restored only when such a strong protest of public opinion swept the country, the pressure of which not even this government could withstand. Why were the soldier organizations throughout the country not consulted before this step was taken? It has been stated—and I should like an explanation as to this—that the cut was made in order to effect economy in the administration.

We have heard a good deal to-day with respect to the unemployment question. We know that for the ordinary unemployed the emergency relief measure did not expire until to-day, and it does seem to be due to the returned men of the country, and to the people of Canada as a whole, that some explanation should be given as to why, without a word of warning, the pensions of these men, whose very existence was dependent upon this relief, were cut by the Minister of Pensions and National Health.

I would also ask the returned veterans in the cabinet to give an explanation, because there are some veterans here in the cabinet before me. The hon. the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sutherland), the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion), and the Minister of Pensions and National Health

(Mr. MacLaren) are all returned veterans. I have here a statement given out to the press by the Mail and Empire as follows:

> In justice to the other war veterans in the cabinet it can be said they were not aware of Dr. MacLaren's proposal and it is doubtful if any of the other ministers were consulted.

I am going to ask the Minister of Agriculture whether he was consulted in this matter. Did he consent to the pensions of these returned men being cut? If he was consulted what did he do in the matter? I pause now for an answer. His silence apparently would imply that he was consulted and is not going to say what he said. I will ask the Minister of National Defence: was he consulted by the Minister of Pensions and National Health, and if so, what did he say with respect to the cutting off of these pensions to returned men? Is he not going to be allowed to answer either? I would ask the Minister of Railways, who apparently is the only one in the cabinet who has been allowed so far to speak: was he consulted by the Minister of Pensions in the matter of having these pensions cut at the time they were? Was he consulted? If so, what opinion did he give in that regard? All I can say, then, is that it does seem strange to me that parliament should be witnessing the spectacle of members of this government, three or four of them returned veterans, remaining in their places and not offering any explanation to the house with respect to this matter. I have nothing but the kindliest feelings towards the Minister of Pensions and National Health. I believe he has the interest of the returned veterans at heart, and I believe it was his desire to do justice to them. I should like also to have an explanation as to why, although that minister bore the brunt of the attack, when it came to restoring the order, the right hon. the Prime Minister attempted to take all the glory, boldly announcing the pension would be restored. In fact there was no glory about it; he was merely performing a duty which should have rested upon the Minister of Pensions. I say, Mr. Chairman, that the country awaits some explanation—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. GRAY: This is not a laughing matter. For the benefit of some who may be ignorant of exactly what this pension meant, may I say that the relief allowance was granted only to pensioned soldiers. These soldiers whose pensions were not adequate to meet their needs were granted something extra in order to carry them through the winter. Single men were granted $30 per month and the allowance was graded from that amount up to some $67, but whatever pension they were receiving was deducted from that amount, so you will see that these men were receiving barely enough to allow them to exist. This is what the Minister of Pensions cut, and I want the country to know that that is exactly what was done by this cabinet in order to effect an economy. That is where they began.

Mr. BENNETT: May I inform the committee that the amount was never cut? Perhaps if the hon. gentleman had been a little more careful of his facts he would not have fallen into the error of making the statements he has made. He must have known that no pensioner ever received a lesser sum than the sum which is now being paid and which was paid at the time.

Mr. GRAY: I beg the right hon. gentleman's pardon; I never suggested it was cut or that a pensioner received anything less, but the order went through cutting these amounts from coast to coast.

Mr. BENNETT: No order went through; no order was made.

Mr. GRAY: Then why did the right hon. gentleman say he had restored it?

Mr. BENNETT: There was a misapprehension on the part of those who, like the hon. gentleman, conceived that what they saw in the press was an authentic statement of what had happened. It was not. What happened was very simple, and I should like to explain it to the hon. gentleman. This is not something out of which political capital can be made. In 1928-29 there was an appropriation of $250,000, and there was $378,987.86 expended. Last year $550,000 was voted and only $517,000, in round figures, was spent. This year we originally voted $250,000, and in November of last year $275,000 in addition was obtained by governor general's warrant. I assume it is known to hon. gentlemen in this committee that to obtain a governor general's warrant there must be urgent necessity. The minister obtained the $275,000 in November, and in February of this year $225,000 further was sought. It was represented that the urgency was not sufficient to warrant the payment of the sums that had been paid and it was suggested that a smaller sum would meet the necessities of the case.

The provisions with respect to relief are as follows: Relief may only be granted to a pensioner provided the amount of pension which he receives on his own behalf and that of his dependents, combined with earnings or other family income, is not in excess of the maximum rate issuable in his particular

category. Where the need of assistance has been established the combined income may be augmented by the issue of relief orders to the maximum rates set out. They are as follows: Single men, $30 per month; man and wife, $45 per month; man, wife and one child, $57 per month; man, wife and two or more children, $67 per month. It was believed by officers in the department concerned that the payment of the smaller sum would meet the situation at that season of the year, and for some reason it was represented in the press that an order had been made accordingly.

As the hon. gentleman knows, no such order was ever made, nor were any payments at the reduced rate ever provided by the department. The minister obtained a further governor general's warrant for the $225,000, and on March 6 of this year an additional governor general's warrant was obtained for $75,000, making a total of $825,000. To maintain the payments up to date will require an additional sum of $90,000. Up to the date of the meeting of parliament on March 12 of this year, expenditures had been authorized which would amount to approximately $901,000 in all, and the additional sum required will carry it on until midnight to-night, as I have said. I may say further, for the information of the committee, that the number receiving aid increased very considerably this year over last year, hence the anxiety of the minister to be certain that there was the urgency for the warrant which I have mentioned. During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1929, the number of times relief was issued was 36,002; the number of men who received relief was 4,647; those eligible for disability pension numbered 50,620. For the year ending March 31 last the number of men eligible for disability pension had increased to 57,044, and at the present moment the number stands at 65,332. The number of men who received relief increased, up to March 31 of last year, to 5,548, and this year to 8,222, and the number of times relief was issued increased to 51,000 for the year ending March 31, 1930, and to 79,380 for this year.

It was under those circumstances the relief was granted, and the reason the statement was made by myself rather than by the minister was because a delegation waited upon me, and they asked that the statement be made in the terms in which it was made, because there had been no change nor had the minister contemplated a change unless the circumstances warranted its being made.

Mr. POWER: I am not quite sure that the right hon. gentleman has stated the facts as they became known to the public through the press.

Mr. BENNETT: That is another thing.

Mr. POWER: Perhaps the right hon. gentleman would permit me to discuss the matter for a moment. My recollection is that a statement was given out by the officers of the department to the various branches throughout the country, to the effect that after a certain date the payments under the unemployment relief provision would be reduced. No sooner was that statement issued than telegrams began to pour into Ottawa. I am quite sure the right hon. gentleman will not say these telegrams were based on nothing, or on vague rumours. They came from such important men as the president of the Canadian Legion at Winnipeg, or perhaps it would be the president of the Army and Navy Veterans' Association. He stated:

> Winnipeg branch, Canadian Legion, in general meeting, protest very strongly action of Department of Pensions in reducing allowances to pensioners at this season of year.

He had been advised by someone in the department—

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend should not add those words "in the department", because I received just such a telegram as that and at once sent back a reply that no such action, so far as I knew, had been taken by the department, and I am informed that no such action was taken.

Mr. POWER: I am quite willing to admit that the statement of my right hon. friend is quite correct, but it so happened that I came to Ottawa at just about that time and a statement was issued either by the department or by the minister himself to the effect that there were no longer any funds available. That appears to be borne out by the fact that the governor general's warrant was issued about that time.

Mr. BENNETT: That is right.

Mr. POWER: The statement was that there were no longer any moneys available and consequently a reduction would have to be made. I have not before me the statement made by the minister but I can easily obtain it by sending to the library for copies of the press of that day. I do not think the Minister of Pensions and National Health will deny that he made such a statement to the press in which he said there were no longer any moneys available and that the matter would be discussed by the cabinet. Am I right in making that statement? The right hon. gentleman apparently nods, so I take it he nods in acquiescence.

Mr. BENNETT: I read it in the paper.

Mr. POWER: Do I take it that the right hon. gentleman says he read a statement purporting to emanate from the Minister of Pensions and National Health?

Mr. BENNETT: I read in the morning press, I think it was in both papers, the statement to which the hon. member has referred and I was advised by the minister that it did not interpret correctly the remarks he had made.

Mr. POWER: I find now that the hon. minister, who apparently cannot speak in this house for himself, can speak to the newspapers and be misinterpreted. Apparently this is becoming a habit of the government, and it is one which should be corrected. I suggest that the schoolmaster upon all occasions when his ministers speak—they will not speak in this house—be given a copy of their statements in order that he may correct them, cross all the t's and dot the i's. Otherwise similar mistakes will occur.

The right hon. gentleman admits that a statement purporting to emanate from the Minister of Pensions and National Health was issued to the press. He claims that the press misinterpreted that statement, but surely the minister himself could have contradicted it. However, one or two days went by and then the Prime Minister said: These moneys will continue to be paid. Would it not have been possible during that time for the minister to have made a statement to the people of this country, to the ex-soldiers, that he had no idea of refusing payment, and that his statement had been misunderstood? I feel sure that if the minister had felt that his statement had been misinterpreted or that an incorrect version had been given of it, he would have been the first to tell the newspaper men of their mistake. He is a man possessing broad sympathetic views, he has a kindly heart and is particularly well disposed toward the soldiers of this country, and he should have been the last to permit himself to be misinterpreted in this way. I think if I ask him now to tell the country and this committee whether or not he issued a statement which could be understood to mean that the relief to pensioners was to be reduced in some degree, he will answer. If he does I promise to take his word for it and I will not check him up even by reference to the newspapers.

Mr. BENNETT: The money had been exhausted.

Mr. POWER: I will take the hon. minister's statement and I will not press the matter further.

[Mr. Power.]

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman—

An hon. MEMBER: Let the minister answer.

Mr. GRAY: I would like to follow up the statements made by the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power) by reading the statement issued to the press by the minister and asking him whether or not it correctly interprets what he intended to say. The following appeared in the Mail and Empire of February 18, 1931, under the name of a very reputable member of the press gallery, Mr. Blacklock:

To-day Dr. MacLaren said the reduction "is regarded as a somewhat temporary measure and it is hoped an improvement in the rates will be effected before long." The text of his statement reads:

"The issue of relief by the department of Pensions and National Health was always regarded as an emergency measure. It was never intended that it should constitute a permanent addition to pensions. The relief issue through this department is restricted entirely to pensioners."

"This year the demands have greatly exceeded the appropriation passed by parliament and much more. The number of applications for relief have more than doubled as compared with previous years. At January 31 last, the amount expended was something more than double the amount expended during a similar period last year."

"Complaints have been made as regards the distribution of this relief, and the relief has been placed on the minimum scale pending investigation. Consequently, the administrative officers of the department were informed that, pending further instructions, a reduction would be made in the amounts issued. This reduction is regarded as a somewhat temporary measure, and it is hoped that an improvement in these rates will be effecter before long."

"In no case will hardship result, for there will be such readjustment as will meet the circumstances."

I now ask the minister whether or not that correctly interprets the statement given to the press, and I plead with the Prime Minister to permit the minister to answer for himself.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, one would think it was more important that justice should be done by voting this money which will enable payments to be made, rather than to make political capital out of the need for the payments. Those of us who have listened to the speech of the hon. member for West Lambton (Mr. Gray) must be struck with the fact that it was a palpable effort to make political capital.

Mr. GRAY: Mr. Chairman, I take serious objection—

Mr. BENNETT: No one can have any doubt as to that. It was couched in language which left no doubt as to its purpose. A

statement was read in connection with which I stated a moment ago the minister could claim a wrong interpretation. The minister had no money and a governor general's warrant had not been issued. The law is that governor general's warrants are to be issued only in urgent cases and that the money is to be treated as a trust fund. The language of the statute leaves no doubt as to its meaning, that at least a matter of necessity must arise. It is not a case of simply issuing a warrant when one feels like it, there must be occasion for it. The exact language with respect to governor general's warrants, must, I fancy, be known to every hon. gentleman here who has had anything to do with the administration of affairs in this country. The money having been exhausted, it became necessary to issue a new warrant, and complaints were made that there had been abuse of the moneys that had been paid. The minister made that perfectly clear, and said that pending an investigation he proposed to carry them at a lower rate. This was construed as meaning that actual payments were to be made at a lower rate. I do not say that the statement was not open to that construction, but no such payments were ever made. The payments were continued because it was apparent from the statements received by the minister from every part of the country that a lower payment would not in any sense meet the demands of the situation. Therefore a governor general's warrant was at once issued and another one has been issued since. With the house in session, no warrant can now be issued, and if this sum is not voted, the payment cannot be made.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): We are not opposing it; we are only asking for information.

Mr. VENIOT: We are not opposing the voting of this sum. We have a right to the information.

Mr. BENNETT: I am endeavouring to supply all the information asked for. Before a governor general's warrant is issued, the minister must first satisfy himself that there is not the ordinary, casual necessity for it, but the real necessity that warrants the substitution of the executive for parliament, beause that is what a governor general's warrant means. In the exercise of that power the minister made inquiries and I think as the hon. member for Quebec South has said, very few days had elapsed. It may well be, as the hon. member for West Lambton has said, that the matter was hurried by reason of the manifestations of disapproval. No one doubts that, but the minister was seeking to ascertain exactly what the situation was, not to create a prolonged carry-forward of the reduction of the amount to be paid, but to determine whether or not there was any warrant for the statements that had caused the investigation to be made, and whether or not the conditions were such as to entitle him to ask a further warrant as he did. He obtained it and payments were made as I have indicated.

Perhaps it is not quite fair to the house to suggest that members are not allowed to speak. I have undertaken the carriage of these estimates through the house and I shall endeavour to discharge that duty. When it is suggested that hon. members are not permitted to speak, of course that is entirely erroneous. No such relations exist between my colleagues and myself. We had an understanding, believing these estimates would be treated as estimates of this character for the period ending the current fiscal year would be treated. We believed the course followed in the past would probably be followed in this instance, and that they would be through in a few hours. We were disappointed in that regard; but having undertaken this duty, and having been supplied with the necessary information, I am endeavouring to carry it out in my capacity as Minister of Finance in charge of the supply bill. I am not complaining, but I do not think it is creditable to hon. gentlemen to suggest that any member of the administration is not permitted to speak. Any member of the house may freely express his opinion; but having undertaken to deal with these estimates, I shall continue to deal with them as long as the house permits me.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As regards the concluding remarks of my right hon. friend, I may say that he can scarcely wonder that we on this side have the impression that members of the ministry have been forbidden to speak, since it has not been possible, with one exception, to secure a reply from a single minister of the crown with respect to any matter affecting his department. The Prime Minister may arrogate to himself the right to handle all the estimates, but to do so is not following British parliamentary procedure. It is not treating the House of Commons as it ought to be treated. It is not fair to his cabinet, and it is not fair to the country. He may say that his ministers are free to speak, but the impression the country is getting of the ministry is that it is composed of a number of nonentities.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: The right hon. gentleman was a nonentity last summer.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am expressing the view that the country has of the ministers, in the light of what has taken place in the course of the discussion on these estimates. I do not say that hon. gentlemen are nonentities. I know some of the ministers very well and I know they are perfectly well able to take care of themselves in discussion. Moreover, I know many of them have a very wide parliamentary experience and might not only have contributed valuable information in the course of the discussions but have done much towards the proceedings of this house in having them conducted in the manner in which hon. members generally would have liked to see them conducted. I submit it is not treating the House of Commons as it should be treated, for the Prime Minister to take upon himself the work of the entire ministry in the House of Commons in connection with the explanation of matters affecting different departments. The Department of Pensions and National Health is one of the most important departments in the government. The war veterans throughout the country wish to hear what the minister in charge of that department has to say with respect to a matter which vitally affects them and their families, and they have a right to hear him. When the Prime Minister begins to lecture the opposition for assuming a certain attitude toward himself, he is entitled to know what the opposition thinks and what the country thinks. What we have been witnessing here looks more like procedure in a kindergarten than what is to be expected of the government of Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: Of course I do not intend to reply to language such as that. If the right hon. gentleman thinks that in so expressing himself an ex-prime minister is adding to the dignity of the House of Commons, I am content. This I will say: when he undertakes to speak for the country he seems to think he is still in power; he is not in power.

Mr. POULIOT: The Prime Minister seems to be very easily offended to-night, and I shall have to bring back again his wonderful smile. I am much surprised that the Prime Minister takes exception to the word "kindergarten." It will be remembered that a former prime minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Borden, who is still alive and is a distinguished man, at a lecture given in Ottawa said that the League of Nations, which is an international institution, was just at the kindergarten stage, and no one was insulted.

Item agreed to.

Post Office—outside service—miscellaneous—for printing and stationery—further amount required, $375,623.18.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This amounts to over one-third of a million dollars. Perhaps the Postmaster General or the Prime Minister would advise the committee why this large amount is needed.

Mr. BENNETT: Neither the Postmaster General nor the Prime Minister will advise the committee, but the Minister of Finance has much pleasure in advising the committee that this sum represents the accumulated deficits from overdrafts commencing in that department in 1927-28. It is moneys owing to the king's printer. This sum will take care of those overdrafts and square the Post Office Department with the king's printer up to the 31st of March, 1931; that is, this day. The real fact is that additional stationery and supplies were required and an overdraft was created in 1927-28 and carried forward to the next year, and every time the Post Office Department was billed it had not the money to pay the additional sums. The Secretary of State requested that payments be made from the Post Office Department, and the accumulation, with what is necessary for this year, amounts to the figure stated in this vote which is inserted in the estimates.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask whether any printing has been given by the Post Office Department to any firms in London, Ontario, since this government has been in office, and if so, to what firms, and what amount has been paid or indebtedness incurred.

Mr. BENNETT: Not under this item, so far as I know.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That does not quite give me what I wish to ascertain. The Postmaster General knows, or ought to know, what the facts are in this matter. I would like to find out what moneys have been paid or are due by the Post Office Department to any firms in London, Ontario, for printing during the present fiscal year.

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot supply that information.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will my right hon. friend undertake to have it supplied to the house to-morrow?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: All right.

Mr. HEENAN: I would like to know from the Finance minister or the Postmaster General what has been the average cost of the commissions which have been appointed since this government took office to investigate charges of political partisanship against postmasters and postmistresses.

Mr. BENNETT: These commissions are appointed on the same terms as set forth in the order in council that was passed during the regime of Sir Robert Borden after a conference between him and the then leader of the opposition. If charges of political partisanship are preferred, commissions issue. My memory is that the sum paid is twenty dollars per day. The Postmaster General, of course, has nothing to do with the issue of these commissions. They are issued by the government as a whole. Should charges of political partisanship be made and sent forward to any minister, he submits them to council, and a commission is issued by council accordingly.

Mr. VENIOT: What provision is made for the payment of the commissioners holding these investigations up to the end of the present fiscal year? How are they being paid, and what provision is being made for that purpose?

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot answer that question.

Mr. VENIOT: Evidently there is no provision in the supplementary estimates.

Mr. BENNETT: No. I do not think any accounts have come in as yet.

Mr. VENIOT: It is an over-expenditure, and according to the principle laid down by the Prime Minister the other day, no over-expenditures should be chargeable to next year.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no over-expenditure in the department. This sum will take care of any expenditures of the department to the end of the present fiscal year.

Mr. VENIOT: I am well aware of that, but there must be an over-expenditure in the Post Office Department to meet the very numerous investigations that are going on now, and have been going on for the last couple of months at least. According to the principle laid down by the Prime Minister the other day, there should not be any over-expenditure in any department. But I cannot see that any provision is being made in the estimates either through the Justice department or the Post Office Department or any other department for that purpose.

Mr. BENNETT: I will ascertain and let the hon. gentleman know.

Mr. RALSTON: I wish to refer to a matter which I called to the attention of the Minister of Justice the other day, and concerning which I have had no further reply from him. At that time I called his attention to the fact that some of the departments —I mentioned particularly the Post Office Department—had been sending out circular letters to officials enclosing an affidavit and calling upon the official to sign the affidavit to the effect that he had not been guilty of any acts of political partisanship. The letter also went on to intimate that if the official did not sign and return the affidavit, his dismissal would be proceeded with. I asked the Minister of Justice if he would look into the matter, and, if these letters were being sent out, take steps to bring the matter to the attention of the various departments and see that the sending out of such letters was discontinued, for the obvious reason that it is directly contrary to the practice which has existed, and to which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister has referred. The principle has been clearly laid down that except where there is a certificate by a member of parliament cases of political partisanship shall be tried and investigated in the regular way, and that the ordinary principles shall apply that a man is presumed innocent until proved guilty, and is not called upon to make an extraordinary affidavit of this kind. The Minister of Justice promised the other day that he would look into the matter and bring it to the attention of the departments, but I have not had any further word about it.

Even at this late hour and so near the Easter recess I feel that this matter is of sufficient importance to bring to the attention of the committee because I am satisfied that a number of these letters have gone out. It seems to me that it is not fair to the civil servants to put them in any such position and they should know the true situation at once otherwise the whole service will feel that they are under suspicion by being called upon, as I said a moment ago, to prove themselves innocent instead of the usual procedure being followed of their being presumed innocent until found guilty. I want to put on record a copy of the letter which has been sent out. It is addressed to various postmasters, and reads:

Dear Sir,

Representations have been made to the department to the effect that during your term of office as postmaster you have been guilty of acts of political partisanship. It is provided in the Civil Service Act that any government employee who is guilty of political partisanship in connection with any federal or provincial election shall be dismissed from the service.

As this charge has been made against you the Postmaster General is desirous of giving you an opportunity to state your side of the case.

The Prime Minister will note that there is no suggestion as to who makes the charges, but the intimation is that somebody has made representations to the department and the only trial is to require the civil servant to make an affidavit without knowing who charges him or the particulars of the charges.

Mr. GOTT: That did not make any difference at all to the late government.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend cannot point to a single instance of a dismissal under the late government without an investigation and the regulations being carried out.

Mr. GOTT: I can point to one in the town of Leamington, Ontario. Let the ex-Postmaster General look it up.

Mr. JONES: And I can point to one in the town of Cambridge, New Brunswick.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend is talking about cases that are not under the Civil Service Act at all. The Prime Minister has already intimated that the government are pursuing the course which has been laid down, and which has been the practice for a number of years.

Mr. GOTT: This was a case under the Civil Service Act.

Mr. RALSTON: The letter continues:

If you have been guilty of acts of political partisanship it would be advisable for you to send in your resignation forthwith; otherwise the department will be compelled to take immediate steps looking to your dismissal.

That means: If you do not sign the affidavit declaring your innocence, though you do not know the charges or who makes them, you are going to be dismissed. The letter continues:

If, on the other hand, you are prepared to take an affidavit to the effect that you have not committed any act of political partisanship whatsoever in connection with any provincial or federal election since your term of office, you will find attached a form which is to be duly signed and properly witnessed.

Failure to sign this affidavit will be looked upon as an admission of political partisanship activites on your part, and the department in

that event will have no other alternative than to conclude that you were guilty of the charges made against you and proceed accordingly with your dismissal.

This letter and affidavit are being forwarded to you by registered mail, and unless you admit the charges made against you it is essential that you should return the completed form of affidavit by return mail.

Yours sincerely,

Deputy Postmaster General.

This is the affidavit:

Solemn Declaration made by virtue of the act respecting Extra-Judicial Oaths

I, the undersigned
Postmaster of
Do solemnly declare:

1. That I was appointed postmaster in the year.. .. ..

2. That since my appointment as postmaster I have taken no active part in federal or provincial elections. I have not canvassed or taken any voter to the polls, nor have I offered or given money or liquor, or represented any candidate at any polling division. I have not checked or verified any list of voters outside any polling station, neither did I take part in any committee of organization or address a meeting in favour of any candidate. I did not interrupt any public speaker during the course of any meeting, nor commit any other act which could be construed as an act of political partisanship.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

And I have signed

Declared before me
at.. .. ..
this.. .. .. .. day of .. ..

I have reason to express the hope that the paragraph which is contained in that letter and which intimates that the official is to be dismissed if he does not return the affidavit is not going to be acted upon by this government. I cannot bring myself to believe that they are going to violate the regulations which have already been made. What I am asking at this time is that my right hon. friend the Prime Minister assure us that the usual practice will be observed and that the official will not be dismissed without a fair investigation in which he will be presumed innocent until he is proved guilty.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, my attention was directed to the observations made the other day by the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) and to the reply made by the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie). I know that certain letters similar to that mentioned by the hon. gentleman were sent but they were sent only to those against whom charges of partisanship had been made. So far as I know in no case where they have declined to act upon

them, unless they have written a communication in which they have admitted their guilt, has dismissal followed. I am bound to say to my hon. friend that there was a suggestion that if they declined to answer their action should be taken as an acquiescence and that they should be dismissed. Needless to say that suggestion was not acted upon?

Mr. VENIOT: And will not be acted upon?

Mr. BENNETT: Was not and will not be acted upon. There are cases in which, to save the expense of having a commission with all the attendant troubles, and where it is well known that there has been partisanship on the part of the individuals charged, that communication has been sent. I think the form of that communication leaves much to be desired. I believe if a suspected person were advised that a charge had been made against him indicating that he had been guilty of partisanship and saying that it might be advisable for him to resign rather than put the country to the expense of an investigation, no objection could be taken. However, I wholly agree with what the hon. gentleman has said. Strangely enough in the Civil Service Act reference has been made to both provincial and federal elections. I never knew just why provincial elections were mentioned in the statute, but the statute as it reads makes the incumbent of an office appointed under the act guilty of partisanship if he takes part in either a provincial or a federal election. That is why the word "provincial" is put in the statue. I think hon. gentlemen opposite can rely upon there being not attempt to treat unfairly those who are charged with partisanship, and certainly no effort will be made to relieve them of their positions because by mere silence they are regarded as acquiescing in charges made against them.

Mr. RALSTON: I want to say to my right hon. friend that we appreciate the assurance he has given. One thing further I would like to say: I suggest that in a letter of this kind it is not quite fair for a superior to suggest to a subordinate that it is advisable for him to do so and so. That is to say, I think that the farthest one can go is to say that the charges have been made and if those charges are not admitted an investigation will be held.

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend would not consider it as at all improper to say, "If you regard these charges as being warranted, your resignation will be in order," or something to that effect?

Mr. RALSTON: I submit not. I think the official is entitled to be told what the procedure is and the principles which have been laid down here, and it would be left to him to decide the course he wished to take rather than being advised by a superior. I suggest to my right hon. friend that the word "advisable" be left out.

Mr. NEILL: In view of the procedure indicated I would like to take this opportunity of putting in an early plea for forgiveness of one particular postmaster. I never have been in favour of allowing a man's politics to interfere with his right of being a postmaster, and I would not like to see it happen in the future. The postmaster to whom I refer was the campaign manager for my opponent.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POWER: While we are on this matter perhaps it would save a great deal of trouble and time if the Prime Minister would make an authoritative statement with respect to complaints made by members of parliament asking that public officers be removed from office. He might give an outline of what these complaints must contain, and just how far such statements of members of parliament should be taken. I would ask the Prime Minister to go one step further than he has already gone when answering the question of my hon. friend from Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) and explain the custom in respect to the question I have asked.

Mr. BENNETT: Does the hon. gentleman think at this hour of the night it is desirable his question should be answered? If some of these estimates do not pass there will be no cheques for those requiring relief, and I would remind hon. members opposite that the hour is now within a few minutes of eleven o'clock. In the main estimates these matters will again be traversed at greater length and perhaps we might save a lot of trouble and expense if my hon. friend's question was allowed to stand.

Mr. RALSTON: The only reason for taking time with regard to this question is that when people get these letters they become panicky. They seem to think they are slated to be dismissed anyway, whether they are guilty or not, and therefore since they do not understand what their rights are they may do themselves an injustice which would be avoided if my right hon. friend would make a statement now. It would not take long for him to do so.

Mr. BENNETT: I have made a statement.

Mr. RALSTON: I would ask my right hon. friend to make a statement with regard to complaints by members of parliament.

Mr. McINTOSH: I know of an instance in the constituency of North Battleford where the procedure described by my hon. friend from Shelburne-Yarmouth was actually followed. The man resigned when he received this threatening letter.

An hon. MEMBER: He must have been guilty.

Mr. McINTOSH: He says he is not guilty, and personally I do not think he is. A petition has gone to the department asking that the man be restored to his position. In the event of the resignation of a man followed by a petition and an investigation to learn whether or not that man is guilty of partisanship, will an investigation be conducted and the man be restored to his position if it is proved that he is innocent?

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps the committee will recall that this matter was thoroughly threshed out last year in connection with a case in which the then Solicitor General had laid a charge of partisanship. The man was found not guilty of partisanship and it was determined by the Civil Service Commission that there was no power to restore the man to his position.

Mr. POWER: There was no question of the man having been found guilty or not guilty?

Mr. BENNETT: He was removed.

Mr. POWER: He was removed. But the right hon. gentleman said he was not found guilty of partisanship. There was no finding.

Mr. BENNETT: He was charged with partisanship.

Mr. POWER: And dismissed on the word of a member of parliament.

Mr. BENNETT: And the evidence indicated that there had been a mistake.

Mr. POWER: To whom did the evidence indicate that? To the minister, not to the House of Commons.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman judicially was satisfied.

Mr. POWER: I do not think any one was.

Mr. BENNETT: Then we will withdraw the question of his being satisfied. But it was determined by the Civil Service Commission that once a man resigns his position, even though he may not desire to do so, or once he is removed from his position, he cannot, though he vindicates himself thereafter, be restored to that position. That has been the finding in that regard. I tried to assert that it was an improper appreciation of the position, but they satisfied me that, as the law stands, they were right.

Mr. YOUNG: Is that the infallible justice of the crown?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, under the statute.

Mr. VENIOT: There is a misapprehension. Where an official is dismissed for cause he cannot re-enter the service, even if he qualifies under examination. But where an official resigns he has the right, a vacancy being created, to apply again and undergo the qualifying examination.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly.

Mr. VENIOT: But the right hon. gentleman's statement did not leave that impression.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. He has the right to apply, the same as any other citizen, but he starts all over again.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): He loses his standing.

Mr. SANDERSON: Mr. Chairman,—

An hon. MEMBER: Let us get through.

Mr. SANDERSON: I have a right to address the committee without back-benchers interfering. We do not hear much from the front benches but a good deal from the back. There is in my riding a case which comes within the discussion that has been going on for the last fifteen or twenty minutes. There is in a small village in my riding a postmaster who received one of these letters read by the hon. member sitting in front of me, and also the form of an affidavit, and I advised him neither to sign the affidavit nor to resign. I took the ground that until that postmaster was proven guilty he was innocent. I also took the matter up with the Postmaster General and received a letter in reply. I am sorry I have not that letter before me. It is in my room.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. It is now almost eleven o'clock, and if the committee desires to proceed beyond that hour it can do so only by unanimous consent.

Mr. BENNETT: I was going to ask, Mr. Chairman, that the ordinary rule of moving the Speaker back to the chair be dispensed with by unanimous consent, and that we sit another half hour.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the motion carried?

Mr. BENNETT: Is that acceptable?

Mr. POULIOT: I would be willing to agree to it if I got my statement. Otherwise no unanimous consent; I object.

Mr. SANDERSON: The letter, if I remember it—if I am wrong the Postmaster General, if he is permitted to answer me, will correct me—intimated that the fact that I had advised this postmaster not to resign or to sign the affidavit was really evidence of guilt.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. SANDERSON: "Hear, hear," my hon. friend says. Surely no hon. member in this house will say that because a postmaster refuses to resign, or refuses to sign an affidavit, he has been proven guilty. And mark you, in this particular case I tried to find out the names of the parties who laid the information, and apparently there has been no information laid at all. It is only a matter of rumour and hearsay.

Mr. BENNETT: Has he been dismissed?

Mr. SANDERSON: He has not been dismissed, and in his letter the Postmaster General stated that if the postmaster in question had made up his mind that he would not resign, or if he would not sign the affidavit, a commission would have to be appointed to take evidence. I do not object to that, but if this is done the names of those who laid the complaint must be made known and a full investigation instituted. But I claim that to ask this postmaster, or any other postmaster, to allow himself to be clubbed into a resignation, or clubbed into signing the affidavit before anything is proven, is at least not British justice.

Mr. HEENAN: Is the Postmaster General prepared to give the name of the informant, or the names of those who complained against the postmistress at Vermilion Bay, Ontario?

Mr. BENNETT: The case was investigated, I believe, at a public hearing and a report made.

Mr. HEENAN: I am asking whether the Postmaster General will give us the name of the person who laid the complaint in connection with the matter in the first instance.

Mr. BENNETT: That has been held to be unnecessary in cases that occurred under the late administration and the one previous to that, provided there is an investigation in which the accused makes his defence. Then the matter can be discussed in parliament in the light of the investigation and report.

Mr. POWER: Now that we have decided to sit an extra hour, surely the Prime Minister will give the explanation for which I asked and which he said he could not give by reason of the shortness of time. I am not endeavouring to stir up trouble, I am trying to get from him his interpretation of the rule which has always been followed—

Mr. BENNETT: Not always.

Mr. POWER:—that a public officer may be dismissed on the personal certificate of a member of parliament.

Mr. BENNETT: The matter was placed on Hansard last year by the Postmaster General, and I should not care to make a statement without looking up the strict terms of the order in council. My memory of it might be defective as to the exact words used. I might send for Hansard, or if my hon. friend would do so himself, he would find the statement to which I refer. I shall be glad at the proper time to accommodate the hon. gentleman in that regard.

Mr. POULIOT: I do not wish to interrupt anyone but I rise to a point of order. According to the rules, the house cannot sit after eleven o'clock except by unanimous consent. I am not going to make trouble or threaten the government, but I wish to have a satisfactory answer to my question regarding the building of the station at Rivière du Loup, and I have—

The CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

Mr. POULIOT: The point of order is that the house cannot sit after eleven o'clock except by unanimous consent.

The CHAIRMAN: I rule that the house is not sitting; it is the committee, and there was unanimous consent.

Mr. POULIOT: No, Mr. Chairman; you have not mine.

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. POULIOT: I said that a condition was to be fulfilled.

The CHAIRMAN: The point of order has been decided. If the hon. member is not satisfied he can appeal to the committee.

Mr. RALSTON: In view of the statement which the Prime Minister has made, and the concurrence he has given in the terms he has used regarding the letter I have read, I wish to ask him whether instructions will be given

to withdraw these letters and if desired to have amending letters written omitting the objectionable portions to which I have referred. He will agree that the letters are not such as should go to civil servants.

Mr. BENNETT: I think the Postmaster General has already directed that no further letters of that kind are to be sent out.

Mr. RALSTON: That is not quite enough.

Mr. BENNETT: He certainly is not writing further letters to the people to whom they have been sent, but that form of letter has been discontinued.

Mr. RALSTON: I express the opinion deferentially that that should be done, and I think my right hon. friend, who understands as well as anyone in this house, and perhaps better than most, the general principles which govern the investigation of charges, knows that is not a letter which ought to be allowed to stand as coming from a senior to a subordinate. I want to ask my right hon. friend if he will not have these letters withdrawn and cancelled, and such letters sent out if desired as are appropriate under the circumstances.

Mr. BENNETT: I shall be glad to look into the matter.

Mr. RALSTON: The other matter I had in mind was with regard to what my hon. friend from Quebec South said. Can we at least have this understanding, that dismissals will not be made on the so-called certificate of a member of parliament unless the member of parliament certifies that the acts of partisanship are to his personal knowledge?

Mr. BENNETT: As I said a moment ago, whatever has been the practice heretofore has been observed. The exact procedure I do not carry in mind at the moment, hence I do not care to make a statement without looking up the order in council to find the exact language.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I should like to ask the Prime Minister what attitude the various ministers will follow in cases where complaints are made by defeated candidates of acts of political partisanship.

Mr. BENNETT: They are not dismissed without an investigation.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister referred to an order in council a moment ago. Does he mean the order in council which was in force under the previous administration? That is satisfactory if that is what he meant.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what I mean.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Ralston.]

Relief of fire sufferers at Hebertville Station, Quebec—governor general's warrant of September 26, 1930, $5,000.

Mr. POWER: I should like to ask, purely out of curiosity, how it happens that the federal government has come to the relief of fire sufferers. Is this something new?

Mr. BENNETT: No, it is not something new. The province of Quebec made an appropriation and an application was made to the administration for assistance. It was found that in similar cases sums had been paid by previous administrations, and accordingly this amount of $5,000 was paid.

Mr. POWER: The circumstances must have been very unusual.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, the place was wiped out.

Mr. POWER: It seems very extraordinary that the federal government should pay sufferers from fire. Surely the circumstances would have to be very exceptional.

Mr. BENNETT: That is exactly the position I took.

Item agreed to.

Relief of pensioners — governor general's warrant of November 20, 1930, $275,000.

Mr. POWER: On this item I should like to say a word which I assure hon. members will not be of a controversial or political nature. In common with a great many others who are interested in returned soldiers and in pensions I am beginning to fear that the pension legislation of last session may not be as effective as those who took part in the preparation of it had anticipated. I do not propose for a moment to discuss what may have been the reasons which bring this legislation almost face to face with failure. It may be and probably is due to the fact that there were inherent defects in the legislation; it may be that the proper precautions were not taken to see that it was carried out in every particular.

That is not the question I wish to raise to-night, however. I wish to ask the Prime Minister to consult with his colleagues, with the members of these boards and with the officers of the department during the recess with a view to some attempt being made to modify or alter or if necessary to crap the legislation in order that we may be able to dispense that justice to the returned soldiers that those of us who served on the committee as well as the members of this house hoped we were dispensing throught the legislation of last year. I am not making this statement by way of criticism; I think the right hon. gentle-

man understands that, and I think those members of the house who were on the parliamentary committees of last year will understand the position I take. I make this suggestion in order that something may be done at the earliest possible moment to remedy any defects which may exist in the present system so that we shall not be face to face, in a short time, with an agitation throughout the country which might make it impossible for the members of this house and the government to deal with the situation without taking radical steps in the way of granting pensions in a wholesale fashion, which none of us desire.

I am asking the Prime Minister particularly to direct his attention to this very serious and urgent matter of national importance during the recess so that he may come to parliament after Easter with some solution for it. Personally I may say that whatever experience I have acquired during the past few years in dealing with this question is at the disposal of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Pensions and National Health. I do not propose now, any more than I did in the past, to deal with this matter in any political way whatever. I have already offered privately to cooperate with the minister. I make that offer again and I sincerely hope, in the interests of the country at large as well as in the interests of the government and of the opposition, that something may be done in the shortest possible time to deal with this matter.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I should like to say just a word in support of the hon. member who has just spoken. No one who has worked with the hon. member can help realizing that in dealing with this subject he has been indeed absolutely free from any taint of partisanship or politics. I have worked with the hon. member many years in connection with this matter and always, as chairman of our committee and as its representative here in the house, he has been absolutely fair.

I have placed a number of questions on the order paper, having that same situation in mind, because with many others who have been interested in the matter, I am impressed by its urgency. Possibly there are defects in the legislation, but certainly consequences have arisen already which are going to make for great difficulty in the very near future. I too would ask the Prime Minister and his colleagues to look into the question, and like the hon. member who has just spoken, if there is anything I can do I shall be only too glad to do it.

Mr. BENNETT: In answer to the hon. gentlemen who have just spoken I should say that the same considerations which have influenced their judgment and brought about the statements they have made have been apparent to the government for some time, and already the matter is being looked into. We shall be very glad indeed to avail ourselves of their mature advice and generous assistance.

Item agreed to.

Removal, ordnance stores from Ross Rifle factory buildings, Quebec—(governor general's warrant of November 27, 1930), $26,000.

Mr. POWER: Mr. Chairman, if the Prime Minister will give me the undertaking that at some future time I shall be permitted to discuss this matter, I will be prepared to do so and shall be glad to point out to the house and to the country what I consider has been a serious defect in administration and what has been very nearly a scandal in the Department of National Defence. However, I have neither the time this evening nor the necessary information to carry on this discussion. If the right hon. gentleman and the Minister of National Defence are willing that the matter be discussed when the main estimates are being considered, I shall have no objection to this item being passed.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman will have that opportunity, but I would point out to him that this probably comes within the terms of the order in council passed on January 9, 1928.

Mr. POWER: No, it does not.

Mr. BENNETT: It is thought that the terms of that order are broad enough to cover this matter.

Mr. POWER: If the terms of that order passed in 1928 had been broad enough to cover this matter I do not think a governor general's warrant would have been necessary. Under the terms of that order in council an amount of $100,000 was placed in the estimates to cover the removal of the Ross rifle factory. I take it that the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) or the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) advised the right hon. gentleman that the terms of the order did not cover the removal of stores at this time and that therefore it was necessary to issue a governor general's warrant. However, that is a matter to be discussed at the proper time. There will not be an item in the main estimates covering the removal of these stores,

but there will be other items covering the demolition of the factory itself, and I take it that I shall be permitted to discuss the whole question at that time.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

Item agreed to.

Relief of pensioners (governor general's warrant of March 6, 1931), $75,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, with the permission of my right hon. friend I would like to comment upon certain of his remarks which appear on page 408 of Hansard, as follows:

This committee, being anxious to retain some semblance of integrity with respect to its dealings, is now legalizing the unwarranted acts of those who made certain expenditures because they say they were instructed to do so.

I hope that my right hon. friend did not mean to imply that the alleged unwarranted acts related to the previous administration. He must realize that many of the expenditures which he classes as unwarranted because they are included in these estimates to which his remarks refer, as for instance the Welland canal item of $2,000,000, were due to actions of his own administration with which the previous government had no connection whatever.

It is desirable at this time to make very clear the course which should be followed in order to secure effective parliamentary control over expenditures. In this connection I would say to my right hon. friend that what he has said with respect to civil servants is equally applicable to the ministry as a whole. The right hon. gentleman quoted from the report of the Auditor General as follows—the quotation will be found at page 409 of Hansard:

The over-expending of appropriations has the effect of lessening parliamentary control over expenditures and, although in very exceptional cases it may have to be permitted, the practice is to be deprecated and means should be taken to prevent it.

Most if not all of the items we have had under discussion cover matters of over-expenditure. My right hon. friend continued as follows:

The responsibility is, as the Auditor General says, with the accountants of the departments, and if parliamentary control of appropriations is to be maintained except under very exceptional conditions that may sometimes prevail, it follows that discipline must be applied, or the whole system will be wrecked for if accountants and deputy ministers under the control of ministers may make beyond parliament appropriations, expenditures amounting to $1,000,000, they can do it to the amount of $5,000,000 or $10,000,000.

[Mr. Power.]

At page 411 the right hon. gentleman continues:

The Auditor General directs attention to what must be painfully apparent to everyone. It means that you substitute the minister and an accountant for parliament, because the money has gone and there was no appropriation for it.

And again at the bottom of the page:

I think an effort should be made to make it possible for each department to live within its appropriation. If not, some men will lose their positions. That is all I have to say.

I agree with my right hon. friend's point of view as here presented. What I would suggest respectfully is that what is true as regards the permanent officials of the government in the matter of preventing over-expenditure and not going beyond appropriations is applicable in even greater measure, and applies with greater force to the ministry itself. There should not be occasion again to have to draw attention to the fact that a ministry of its own volition has exceeded an appropriation or has permitted expenditures to be incurred for which no appropriation by parliament has been made.

I wish to join with the Prime Minister in seeking effectual control by parliament over expenditure. I believe that to be one of the most important functions of parliament, effectively to control the expenditures of the country. This can be done only by restricting expenditures to such amounts as have been provided for by appropriations made by parliament in the regular way.

May I add this word in regard to governor general's warrants. I have stated frequently that the government might have obtained a governor general's warrant for the purpose of unemployment relief. I hope that my right hon. friend and members generally will appreciate that when I made that statement I had reference to the fact that an Imperial conference was to be held last year in London and that it was recognized by everyone that the Prime Minister and his colleagues would wish to attend and should attend that conference. Under the circumstances it was hardly possible to have parliament meet in time to pass the appropriations necessary for the year and a governor general's warrant would, I think, have served the purpose as regards what was necessary for unemployment relief. I would not like it to be thought for one moment that I favoured the issuing of such warrants except in circumstances which are most exceptional or where the deferring of the meeting of parliament can be justified only by circumstances which are apparent to everyone as reasonable.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, it is very seldom that the right hon. gentleman and myself agree, but this is a matter upon which we do agree and have agreed for many years. I do not agree wholly with his view with respect to governor general's warrants, for I do not believe that circumstances arising within an administration constitute a necessity for the issuance of such warrants. There is that difference between us. There are circumstances such as the destruction of a bridge, the burning of a building or the establishment and maintenance of the government itself where warrants should be issued, but there must be satisfactory evidence to warrant this action being taken. May I say this to the committee: These estimates have been introduced for the purpose of enabling the government to start with a clean sheet. That is, where over-payments have been made, and some of them attributable to the present administration, as the right hon. gentleman says, on the 31st day of this month, that is to-day, if these estimates pass, there will then be established a clean sheet and a new leaf will be turned on the book enabling the government to do what, I believe, should be done by all governments, namely, to maintain its expenditures within its appropriations. I am sorry to say to the committee that despite the efforts that I made personally, there is one item that has not been brought into the house. It is a small item, it is true, but it was overlooked by the minister in charge. This shows how difficult it is to follow these matters. As I say, it is not a large sum, but we could not insert it in the estimates without a new message which could not be secured. An effort will be made, commencing the new year on April 1, to keep expenditures within the appropriations and we shall ask the house and the country to judge us by our performance in the light of the statement of the principle which, I submit, should govern our actions.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am anxious that the clean sheet of the right hon. gentleman, when we see it next year, shall not have any spots upon it. For that reason I should like to draw his attention to what I believe caused the confusion last evening when we were discussing the unprovided items. They do not relate to the fiscal year in which the supplementary estimates are being presented; they relate to the year previous. As a consequence I say that despite my right hon. friend's good intentions, when we are discussing the estimates at this time next year, he will find he will be obliged to bring in further unprovided items for this very fiscal year 1930-31, that is to say, for the fiscal year which he now thinks he has cleaned off so completely. He will find that the Auditor General will present to him a report to the effect that several of the departments have not paid some outstanding accounts; that they have been overlooked by ministers or deputy ministers or accountants, and he will ask that an item be inserted in the estimates to cover those unprovided amounts. I hope with my right hon. friend that the amounts will be small, but I am afraid that despite his efforts and good intentions one corner of the sheet will have a spot upon it.

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman has had more experience than I, and I daresay his suggestion is sound; but the ministers, if they were permitted, would tell the committee that they have been asked and asked again as to any over-expenditures, and a very earnest effort has been made to cover every item up to the end of the present fiscal year. I hope—and I thank the right hon. gentleman for extending the information to the government—that such a condition as he suggests will not arise.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Has the Auditor General been asked not to over-spend in his own department?

Mr. BENNETT: I am bound to say that that step has been taken.

Item agreed to.

Railways, Canadian National Steamships and Maritime Freight Rates Act

Loans to Canadian National Railway Company

Amount not exceeding $11,410,400.85 to meet expenditures made or indebtedness incurred (where amounts available from net operating income or investments may be insufficient) by or on behalf of the Canadian National Railway Company, herein called "the company" or any company specified or referred to in chapter 172 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, and chapter 13 of the statutes of 1920, or any company formed by way of amalgamation or consolidation of any such companies, or now or hereafter comprised in the Canadian National Railways or by the company in respect of any railways, properties and works entrusted to it from time to time under the provisions of section 19 of chapter 172 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, or any one or more of such companies, on any or all of the following accounts, such expenditures or indebtedness being herein called authorized expenditures:

(a) Interest on securities, notes and other obligations: rentals for lease of lines and equipment;

(b) Equipment principal payments; sinking funds; miscellaneous maturing or matured notes and other obligations secured or unsecured;

(c) Operating income deficit, whenever incurred or ascertained;

(d) Construction and betterments, including coordinations; acquisition of real or personal property, and working capital;

(e) Acquisition of stock or securities of the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Company when duly issued under the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The stock or securities so acquired to be deposited with the Minister of Finance and Receiver General to be disposed of only when thereto authorized by the governor-in-council.

(f) Acquisition of stock or securities of the Central Vermont Railway, Inc. when duly issued under the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The stock or securities so acquired to be deposited with the Minister of Finance and Receiver General to be disposed of only when thereto authorized by the governor-in-council.

The amount herein authorized may be applied from time to time to meet authorized expenditures in the discretion of the governor-in-council.

(a) In respect of railways, properties and works entrusted to the company as aforesaid;

(b) In respect of railways, properties and works not so entrusted;

by way of loans in cash, or by way of guarantee, or partly one way and partly the other, subject, however, as follows:

If by way of loans from His Majesty, the amount or amounts advanced to any one or more of the said companies shall be repayable on demand, with interest payable half-yearly at the rate fixed from time to time by the governor-in-council, secured if and when directed by the governor-in-council by mortgage or mortgages upon such properties, in such form and containing such terms and conditions, not inconsistent herewith, as the governor-in-council may approve.

If by way of loans from persons other than His Majesty (without the guarantee of His Majesty) the amounts, terms and conditions of such loans shall be such as the governor-in-council may from time to time approve.

If by way of guarantee, any such guarantee may be either a general guarantee covering the total amount of the issue, or by a separate guarantee endorsed on each obligation, and may be of the principal, interest and sinking funds (if any) of the notes, obligations or securities of one or more of the said companies specified by the governor-in-council, which notes, obligations or securities the companies so specified are hereby authorized to make and issue from time to time, provided that the total principal amount thereof at any one time outstanding shall not, together with any part of the loans represented by cash, exceed the total amount mentioned in this vote,—namely $11,410,400.85, and any such guarantee may be signed by the Minister of Finance or such other person as the governor-in-council may authorize on behalf of His Majesty, in such form and on such terms and conditions as the governor-in-council may determine to be appropriate and applicable thereto. Any guarantee so signed shall be conclusive evidence for all purposes of the validity of the guarantee and that the provisions of this enactment have been complied with.

Should temporary loans be made or negotiated before the lapse of this appropriation either from His Majesty or other persons, guaranteed notes, obligations or securities may subsequently be issued under the provisions of the preceding paragraph of this enactment to renew, refund or adjust such loans, or any part thereof.

Each company herein mentioned or referred to is hereby authorized to aid and assist, in any manner any other or others of the said companies, which expression as used here and hereinafter shall include the Canadian Government Railways, entrusted as aforesaid, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may for its own requirements and also for the requirements of any or all of such other companies from time to time:

(a) Issue notes, obligations or other securities, joint or several, at discretion, for the purpose of any guarantee made or to be made under the provisions of this enactment;

(b) Apply the proceeds of any such guaranteed issue, or the amount of loans received by virtue of this enactment, in meeting authorized expenditures on its own account or on account of any or all of such other companies.

(c) Make advances for the purpose of meeting authorized expenditures to any or all of such other companies, upon or without any security, at discretion.

No purchaser of such guaranteed notes, securities or obligations shall be under any obligation to inquire into the application of the proceeds of any guaranteed issue.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, this appropriation shall not lapse before May 31, 1931.

Further amount required, in addition to the sum of $51,600,000 already appropriated, due to increase in the amount of deficit arising from operations in the year 1930, $11,410,400.85.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps I can make a short statement to the committee. The form of this estimate is one settled by eminent counsel who had to do with passing upon the validity of securities issued by the railways. Part of it is not relevant to this particular estimate, but the railway counsel desire that the form followed heretofore should be used in this particular instance. The amounts are made up as follows:

Net income and profit and loss requirements after interest charges, $28,327,463.50.

Cash discount and issue expenses paid during the year, $1,167,833.15.

Retirement of capital obligations, $4,667,120.

Sinking fund requirements, $2,957,280.06.

Acquisition of securities, $19,197.

Net financial requirements, $37,100,499.71.

Capital Requirements

General additions and betterments (less retirements), $19,679,172.24.

Equipment trust issue series "L" 25 per cent, $5,251,143.85.

Equipment trust discount and issue expense, $483,379.10.

Total cash requirements, $62,514,194.90.

Discount on securities—non cash, $496,205.95.

Total, $63,010,400.85.

Less authorized under vote 323, $51,600,000.

Supplementary vote required, $11,410,400.85.

It therefore requires $11,410,400.85, the amount mentioned in the estimate, to provide

for what was expected would be provided for by the $51,600,000 voted. In other words, the estimate was $11,410,400.85 less than the actual expenditures. It therefore becomes necessary to add to the $51,600,000 that I have just mentioned, the sum of $11,410,400.85 provided for in this estimate.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Before the right hon. gentleman sits down, will he explain the only new feature, that is the extension of time?

Mr. BENNETT: The ex-Minister of the Interior asks why under this estimate the moneys may be spent prior to the 31st day of May. In the accounting of the railways, the very difficulties that have been experienced in government have arisen, and the auditors desire that this sum which is now known to exist, but all of which has not been audited and settled in the ordinary course of transactions, should be made available for the purposes up to within a reasonable time. The principal reason is that they have no money with which to pay this now and that they may not get the money for some little time, because we have to provide it. It is rather a large sum of money, so they suggest that if the 31st May be fixed, this would enable them, without question, to treat the accounts in the manner I have indicated.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I suppose the right hon. gentleman realizes that the statement he has just given to the committee is rather extraordinary. This is the first time in my experience I have seen a supply bill used to amend the Audit Act. The matter is a serious one. The Audit Act is the root and basis of our financial structure and I do not believe it is proper to use it in this manner.

Mr. BENNETT: Why?

Sir EUGENE FISET: I will tell the right hon. gentleman why. I wonder that the Prime Minister who, I think, is more familiar than I am with the Audit Act, realizes that section 49 of that act not only enables the government to spend all moneys voted by parliament on the main or supplementary estimates, but also authorizes the government by order in council to extend the time of any such payment for exactly the period he is now asking parliament to extend the fiscal year, namely, from April 1 to May 31. This is provided under section 49 of the Audit Act, if there are any payments pending that have not been specifically and in exact amount provided for by this vote—though the vote as I said a minute ago is extremely explicit, though it is couched in precisely the same language as the main estimate for the capital expenditure of the Canadian National Railways. This is the first time these means have been used to modify, by a supply bill, an act of parliament. I think the Prime Minister has the power under section 49 of the Audit Act and strongly advise or request or beg him to strike out of the supply bill the words—

> Notwithstanding the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, this appropriation shall not lapse before May 31, 1931.

I think the right hon. gentleman has the power to do that under the Audit Act.

Mr. BENNETT: The question raised by the hon. member for Rimouski is one that has been considered by the government. Section 39 of the act provides the method whereby it may be done. It provides:

> When any sum of money has been granted to His Majesty by parliament to defray expenses for any specified public service, the governor general may, from time to time, under his sign manual, countersigned by a member of the treasury board, authorize and require the Minister of Finance to issue out of the moneys in his hands, appropriated for defraying the expenses of such service, the sums required, from time to time, to defray such expenses, not exceeding the amount of the sum so voted or granted.

This means that the Minister of Finance must send the recommendation to council; secondly, that it must be considered by council; thirdly, when adopted, the governor in council releases it; and fourthly, letters of credit are issued with respect to it.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Will the right hon. gentleman read the second paragraph of section 49?

Mr. BENNETT: I have it beside me, but I do not want to take up time in reading it. This is not our money for the purpose of expending it as we please. It is required to meet specific deficits in the operation of the railway; and their audit is made, not ours. All we do is to pass it out of our hands under the circumstances to which I have alluded. I desire, inasmuch as it may be difficult under present conditions to raise the sum of money required in a moment or two, that we and the railway company both should have an extension of time until the 31st of May in which to deal with the matter. It is unusual, I admit. It has been done only once before, but that was on an occasion somewhat similar to this. If the committee thinks that the public interest is not being as well served in this way as in some other, I am content; but it might result in the sum of money not being made available at all.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The usual practice is to borrow from the bank when you have authority.

Mr. BENNETT: Suppose the bank will not lend it; that is the trouble.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I did not think that the bank would refuse to lend money to the government.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I am not criticizing; I am simply calling the attention of the house to what is being done. I am firmly convinced that you have the power to exercise your rights under section 49 of the act. I would like the Prime Minister to consider for a moment the four modes provided for raising these loans; first, by direct loan; second, by loans from the public; third, by guarantees; fourth, by temporary borrowing. More than that, these four methods must be approved by the governor in council. So you have there all the necessary machinery to raise the money immediately, and in addition you can provide money by governor general's warrant. It has been the opinion of the committee in the past that the way in which we have allowed these loans to be floated by the Canadian National perhaps has not been the proper method, and I think that when the question of adjusting the general finances of the Canadian National comes up for consideration, there will be a considerable body of opinion that the present method is not the proper way of doing it. I certainly believe that you have all the necessary power under this appropriation and under the Audit Act, without creating this precedent. That is only my opinion, but I felt in duty bound to express it.

Mr. BENNETT: I should like to say to the committee that I am informed, and my own judgment is, that this is a simpler method of dealing with the situation. It only asks that this sum of money shall, notwithstanding the fact that it would ordinarily lapse by twelve o'clock to-night, be made available to the 31st. day of May.

Sir EUGENE FISET: With this special provision my right hon. friend must realize that it is immaterial whether the money is voted to-day or to-morrow, because you have until the 31st of May.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the date provided here, and those who are charged with the responsibility think it desirable that a provision of this sort should be inserted in the act. I am bound to say that in my judgment it is a sound provision in this particular instance.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): It is really the auditors of the company who are anxious.

Mr. BENNETT: But we also are concerned.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I cannot understand where your concern is.

Mr. BENNETT: I will tell you: We cannot find the money to-morrow or the next day.

Mr. RALSTON: The act provides that the credit shall lapse at twelve o'clock to-night, but the general act, without this special provision, provides that the government may extend the time of credit for a period of two months.

Mr. BENNETT: This is not the kind of case that is meant by that at all.

Mr. RALSTON: This is a vote made by parliament for a particular purpose. The money may eventually go to the Canadian National Railway, but for the present it goes to the government and is paid out by government cheque.

Mr. BENNETT: Surely my hon. friend does not mean that. This is a credit not for the government but for the railway, and so far as we are concerned this is the last time we propose to submit it in that form. I repeat, this is not a credit to the government; it is merely a credit to the railway company.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): My hon. friend will admit that the government can secure the money from parliament for that particular purpose as for any other purpose. There is really no difference. The government could not, of course, divert the money from the railway, but the government is responsible for raising the money for the railway and passing it on to them. I cannot understand why the government should require any extra time. There may be reasons why the railway may require extra time.

Mr. DUFF: Before we carry this item and the two items following, one for the Canadian Government Merchant Marine and the other for the Canadian National Steamships, is it understood that if these three items are passed to-night we can discuss, either in this committee or in the special committee on railways and shipping, everything in connection with these items when we are considering the general financial structure of the Canadian National Railways, the merchant marine and the Canadian National Steamships?

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly.

The CHAIRMAN: Carried.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: It is nearly twelve o'clock, and if the appropriation is to carry to-night—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Unless we can have the money appropriated in the regular way, I am afraid it will not be appropriated by twelve o'clock. When the Prime Minister spoke with respect to this matter in the house on the 27th of March last, he evidently had in mind that the course he is proposing here was not wholly regular and might be open to some exception.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: His words I took to imply that, because he said, at page 355 of Hansard:

> That has been done before, and the reason is that the obligations have been created. The bills are not all in and will not be in by Tuesday next, and therefore it is desired to have until May 31 to audit the accounts and make the payments. When the bill comes before the house, if the house thinks such a provision—which is purely a matter of bookkeeping to facilitate the operations of the company—should not be there, it can be dealt with later. The estimate does not bind the house.

I took those words to mean that the Prime Minister would defer to the wishes of a considerable body of opinion in the house if it expressed itself as being opposed to this particular course. May I say to my right hon. friend that our desire in this matter is to further what he a moment ago expressed himself so strongly as favouring, namely effectual parliamentary control over expenditures. The Audit Act relates to the payment of accounts. My right hon. friend drew attention, in a way that perhaps the house did not observe, to the fact that what is being asked is something more than permission to make payment of expenditures already made. What he is seeking, or perhaps I should say what the officers of the company appear to be seeking through this provision, is authority not only to have expenditures already made regularized, or payment made of services already performed, which is all that we should be asked to sanction, but that payment may be made of obligations incurred but which are not in the nature of services already performed and payment with respect to which as a consequence may be made only at some future time. That is a wrong principle for the house to sanction. The whole purpose of the Audit Act is to see that accounts, where services have been performed, are paid within a certain time. If we pass this item in the form here proposed we will be opening the door to an entirely new principle in government auditing which will mean that the government, despite an act of parliament passed in order to prevent anything of the kind, will be saying to a corporation that it may incur obligations to-day but that it need not fulfil the obligations within a given time, but may make payment of them within several months after the fiscal or financial year has elapsed. My right hon. friend used the following words:

> Perhaps my right hon. friend will observe that there is a provision making this estimate available until the end of May, although practically all sums have been expended already.

With respect to all sums already expended no objection is being taken, and without the clause to which exception has been taken all such sums will be paid. But my right hon. friend adds the following:

> . . . . or the liabilities have been incurred for which the money is required.

I do not think that we should be asked to repeal a part of the audit act so as to allow payment of liabilities which have been incurred to be made beyond a period of time never contemplated when parliament was surrounding the expenditure of public monies with the safeguard which the audit act places about it. On the following page my right hon. friend said:

> The amounts covered by these estimates have been spent, or the deficits have arisen, but all the bills have not come in as yet.

The purpose of an audit is to see that accounts are sent in within a certain time and that the audit will cover expenditures which have been made, but that it shall not be extended so as to permit commitments to be made to-day to be met several months after the termination of the financial year. When during the special session the government introduced the Unemployment Relief bill it was pointed out that it was desirable that the provisions of that act should expire with the fiscal year. However, my right hon. friend then adopted a new method of permitting payment of public moneys for a period beyond the fiscal year. I should like to read his words as they are found in Hansard, page 164:

> However, I would add by way of amendment that any moneys that have not been expended, or that are not liable to be paid under obligations already created, shall lapse on March 31, 1931.

Upon that occasion my right hon. friend was introducing an entirely new principle with respect to appropriations by this parliament. He was not appropriating moneys required to be expended simply within the year but he

was appropriating sums of money which might continue to be paid out long after the fiscal year had expired, running on possibly indefinitely into another fiscal year so long as the obligation might be said to have been incurred within the fiscal year in which the act was passed. That is a very serious departure and a departure which is being emphasized and repeated by what is being proposed at the present time. I would humbly suggest to my right hon. friend that he defer to the wishes of a very considerable number, if not a majority in this house, and adhere strictly to the provisions of the audit act with respect to all government financing and particularly financing with respect to the National Railways.

Possibly I may be permitted at this point to add a word which may help to regularize matters and at the same time help to avoid the embarrassment my right hon. friend fears. Undoubtedly he will be asking parliament for a percentage of the main estimates immediately following the Easter recess. If he finds that the railway company is going to be embarrassed through not having the amount of money that is needed to meet obligations which will be coming due in the new fiscal year, and some of which may be included in the amount which is set forth in the present estimate of $11,410,400.85 I think I can say to him on behalf of the opposition that we will offer no objection to an estimate applicable to the new fiscal year which he may present at the same time to make good that particular difference so that there will be no embarrassment occasioned the company. Under the circumstances I hope my right hon. friend will feel that he might properly ask the chairman to strike out the clause which if it remains would oblige us in connection with this estimate to all intents and purposes to repeal an important provision of the audit act and establish a precedent which I believe he would greatly regret immediately it had been established.

Mr. BENNETT: I certainly do not purpose to take up the time of this house in traversing the observations made by my right hon. friend. The hon. member for Rimouski (Sir Eugene Fiset) must have overlooked paragraph 4 of section 49 of the audit act.

> No such order shall be made or credit issued thereunder, if parliament shall in the meantime have granted an appropriation out of which such outstanding debts may properly be paid, or such outstanding obligations be properly met.

Sir EUGENE FISET: That is exactly the appropriation that is proposed to be made.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. BENNETT: The rights cannot be exercised for two months. The very minute it is passed it takes effect.

Mr. RALSTON: That means if there is a new appropriation the next year?

Mr. BENNETT: No; I shall read it again.

> No such order shall be made or credit issued thereunder, if parliament shall in the meantime have granted an appropriation. . . . .

Mr. RALSTON: After the order in council is made?

Mr. BENNETT: No,

> . . . . have granted an appropriation,—

—for these particular purposes. So far as I am concerned this is a matter of supreme indifference. As a Minister of Finance I am endeavouring to discharge my duties and to proceed in fairness to the corporation for which this money is voted. If hon. gentlemen opposite desire to take a different attitude they may do so. However, I have stated my position. I believe I am taking the position that any lawyer or any business man would take, namely: Can the public interest be adversely affected? Is some audit to be held? Is some supervision of accounts to be made? If the answer to these questions is in the affirmative there can be no possible harm done to the public interest; if otherwise, some harm might be done. When I hear hon. gentlemen opposite talk about departure from precedent I say, "Certainly, that is what laws are for." That is what parliaments are for—to make precedents when occasion arises. The fiscal year of this railway company ended December 31. We have now reached the end of March and they require $11,000,000 to meet the deficit in operations for the year ending December last. Through this estimate we are given the opportunity to provide money until May 31 under the same sanction, with the same provision and the same audit, and it is idle to talk of any other feasible means being provided to supervise this expenditure.

Now, if my right hon. friend thinks that in the public interest this item should be stricken out I am content; take it out. I am not at all concerned about it. I will say however that it will work a great injustice on the people concerned; it will cause needless hardship and needless delay, and parliament with its plenary power should see to it that as little inconvenience as possible is caused to businessmen in the discharge of their obligations.

Mr. POULIOT: Might I ask my right hon. friend a question? What amount has been spent on vote 323 of last year?

Mr. BENNETT: What is that?

Mr. POULIOT: What amount has been spent from vote 323 of last year?

Mr. BENNETT: The whole of it, $51,600,000.

Mr. POULIOT: No, I think my right hon. friend is not correct, because that amount included an expenditure for the station at Rivière du Loup which has not been spent. Does my right hon. friend mean that the Minister of Railways and Canals has just wired to the Canadian National Railway officials advising them that one of the tenders has been approved?

Mr. BENNETT: It means that the Canadian National Railways through their vice-chairman in charge of finance, as well as through direct supervision and inspection by representatives of the Department of Finance, have certified that the whole of the $51,600,000 has gone, and $11,000,000 with it. That is what it means.

Mr. POULIOT: Well, part of the station must have been stolen away. In order to finish the year well the Tory delegation came to Ottawa to ask the government for a favour, as the Minister of Railways has said. Some people must have blocked the action of that delegation because they did not get what they wanted. I ask no favour of this government; I do not need any favour from them. I claim justice for my people and that is why I stand up now and ask the Prime Minister to be kind enough to give me an answer.

Mr. BENNETT: May I suggest that every member of the committee hopes that the hon. member does not receive justice.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Mr. Chairman, I suggest that it would be doing this house a great favour were we to provide the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) with the necessary terminal facilities.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I heard the Prime Minister direct Mr. Chairman, that a particular paragraph should be struck out.

Mr. RHODES: I move that the paragraph at the top of page 3 be deleted.

Mr. POULIOT: Before it is adopted—

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. RHODES: The first three lines of the resolution on page 3.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the committee to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In view of the fact that all this money will not now be required, might not the minister wish to reduce the item?

Mr. BENNETT: It is already spent.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Some of it is incurred.

Mr. BENNETT: Incurred means spent.

Item as amended agreed to.

Resolutions reported, read the second time and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

SUPPLY BILL

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Mr. BENNETT moved:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the financial year ending 31st March, 1931, the sum of $19,842,664.22 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Bennett thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 17 for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending March 31, 1931.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

Mr. BENNETT moved the second reading of the bill.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We have no desire to delay the passage of the bill, but it is after midnight and I would ask my right hon. friend whether he has considered the possibility of adjourning over the recess when we get through to-night.

Mr. BENNETT: I think we shall have to meet to-morrow because the Senate is no longer sitting and it will be necessary now, in view of the fact that it is past the 31st of March, to make some provision, by means of a section added to this bill, that cheques may be issued against it for a certain number of days, four, five, six or whatever number may be agreed upon. Otherwise the appropriation lapses before it is made. That is what I was urging upon my hon. friends. We can go into committee now, but that will

not dispose of the matter, because I desire to look into the question of an amendment to provide that the fund voted may be made available in proper form. What I was going to propose was that:

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, the amounts appropriated by this act may be paid at any time on or before the 11th day of April, 1931, and such payments shall be deemed to have been made in and be chargeable to the fiscal year ending the 31st March, 1931, but this shall not be construed to affect the special provision relating to the lapse of the appropriation under vote No. 65 as set forth in schedule B to this act.

There is a regulation, which has not the force of law, by which cheques have been dated back to the 31st March.

Sir EUGENE FISET: With the approval of the Auditor General.

Mr. BENNETT: I am talking about that; that does not give it any sanction. Surely the hon. gentleman knows that. The statute which he has been reading to-night, and to which he attaches so much importance, should inform him of that. I believe that in departmental accounting they have followed the custom of most businesses and accounted as liabilities those that come in up to within the first fortnight. Cheques issued up to April 11 would be ample for the purpose. Under the circumstances, the house will adjourn until to-morrow, when we shall dispose of the amendment. The committee may have an opportunity to think about it in the meantime. I have not been able to get it printed, but it merely provides that cheques may be issued up to April 11, 1931, and chargeable against the year ending March 31, 1931. Without that this would be a needless expenditure of labour.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Is the motion to adjourn before the house?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, and we will finish this business to-morrow.

Mr. GARDINER: I understand we are still on the second reading of this bill.

Mr. BENNETT: No, the second reading was given.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not think it was carried. May I suggest, in view of the fact that it is now April 1st, that we might very well go into committee of the whole and finish this matter, and then the house could be adjourned until after the Easter recess. That would be preferable if the Prime Minister has the information available.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion is that this bill be now read a second time.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

Mr. BENNETT: Schedule B contains the words which were struck out in committee. They will have to be struck out in the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Schedule B is amended by striking out the words:

Notwthstanding the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, this appropriation shall not lapse before May 31, 1931.

Section as amended agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT: I desire to propose an amendment to section 4, but in view of the fact that the words in schedule B, to which reference has just been made, have been struck out, I should like to settle the terms of section 4 absolutely between now and to-morrow, so there may be no question as to their correctness. I think this is a better course to pursue in view of what has transpired here, so I now move that the committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again for the purpose of adding an amendment.

Progress reported.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, the house adjourned at 12.10 a.m., Wednesday.

Wednesday, April 1, 1931

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Bill No. 20, respecting a certain patent of A. R. Wilfley & Sons, Inc.—Mr. Anderson (Toronto-High Park).

Bill No. 21, respecting The Montreal and Atlantic Railway Company—Mr. Pickel.

Bill No. 22, respecting the construction and maintenance of a bridge over the river St. Lawrence at Caughnawaga—Mr. Dupuis.

Bill No. 23, respecting The Essex Terminal Railway Company—Mr. Robinson.

WORLD WHEAT CONFERENCE

ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL OF CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR MEETING IN LONDON

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have to advise the house that I have received from the High

Commissioner in London a telegram which is dated at Rome and which reads in part as follows:

After days of discussion I submitted resolutions providing for conference of all exporting countries. Motion unanimously endorsed and representatives export countries organized conference last night. As Canada's representative I was selected permanent chairman. Invited conference to Canada and pressed strongly for acceptance. All expressed desire for Canada but felt distance and time made it impossible. As next best I suggested London with Canada House meeting place. Unanimously approved and conference meets there May 18.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): Has Russia also been invited to this conference that is proposed to be held in London?

Mr. BENNETT: A Russian delegate was present at the selection of London as a meeting place and expressed his intention of being present at the conference.

Mr. POULIOT: Did he shake hands with Mr. Ferguson?

ROYAL GRAIN COMMISSION

EXPECTED ARRIVAL IN CANADA OF SIR JOSIAH STAMP

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): A few days ago I promised that before the Easter recess I would make a short statement regarding the proposed commission that is to be appointed to look into matters connected with the grain trade. For some years past there has been prevalent amongst the agricultural class, especially the grain producers in western Canada, the opinion that the sale of grain futures was detrimental to the producer. There is also a certain body of public opinion that holds the exactly opposite view. It is regarded by the government as important that the question should be authoritatively determined. The government has asked the three western provinces to agree on the naming of a representative of the agricultural interests and the grain exchanges to name another, and the government has requested Sir Josiah Stamp, who is the chief executive officer of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway and who is regarded as one of the most eminent living economists, to come to Canada as chairman of that commission. Sir Josiah Stamp has consented to undertake the work, although it will entail some considerable inconvenience to him. He will sail this week, and if nothing happens to the contrary he will arrive in Ottawa about the ninth day of April. He will proceed west and determine with his colleagues the simple, single question: Does the sale of grain futures operate to the detriment of the producer? It is hoped that the finding of that commission will lay at rest the difficulties that have so long been present in the minds of agriculturists of western Canada.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) the other day made an observation with respect to a "Canada first" policy. Owing to the fact that there has been a sharp difference of opinion on this continent with respect to the desirability of maintaining markets for the sale of futures, it is believed that the purpose which we have in mind will be best served by securing the services of a chairman entirely removed from the scene of those conflicts of opinion on the American continent. Accordingly, Sir Josiah Stamp has been asked to come, and he has accepted the task.

LAUZON DRY DOCK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. O. L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse): I would like to put this question to the Minister of Public Works: Is it true, as reported in the press, that the government is going to lease to a private company one of the government dry docks at Lauzon?

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): All I have to say is that an application for a lease has been made, and the matter is under consideration.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. H. STITT (Selkirk): I should like to ask a question based on a report which appears in the Ottawa Journal of this morning, and in order to place my question properly before the house I beg leave to read an excerpt from the statement which appears in the Journal. The statement is headed:

Federal relief to be continued. Minister of Labour issues statement that money is available.

The words which purport to be a quotation from a statement of the Minister of Labour are as follows:

The statement in part concluded: "No portion of the moneys appropriated for the carrying on of improvement works throughout Canada, amounting to $68,980,999, will lapse until June 1 next in Ontario, and July 1 in all other provinces, by which time it is

expected the public works authorized by municipal, provincial and federal authorities will have been carried to completion."

With reference to direct relief, the sum of $4,000,000 was specifically appropriated by order in council on September 26, 1930, to pay one-third of the expenditures of municipalities for direct relief where suitable work cannot be provided for the unemployed.

On March 8, 1931, another order in council set aside $4,000,000 for direct relief.

"The estimated expenditure for direct relief to March 31, 1931, is about one and one-half million dollars," continues the statement. "There, therefore, remains available from the federal government's contribution for direct relief, the sum of two and one-half million dollars, which, it is intended, shall be used for the purpose outlined so long as the municipalities and provinces who are under agreement with the federal authorities to each bear one-third of the total cost, consider conditions of relief measures necessary."

My question is: Does the representative of the Minister of Labour in the house know whether or not this statement was given to the press by the Minister of Labour, and is the statement correct?

Hon. W. A. GORDON (for the Minister of Labour): The statement given by the Minister of Labour to the press, and which has just been read by the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Stitt), is correct. I do not think that the hon. members for Winnipeg yesterday intended, in making the statements they did, to create any false impression, but apparently they were themselves labouring under a false impression when they stated that at midnight the moneys would lapse and there would be no further expenditures, or words to that effect. The expenditure will go on in accordance with the plan outlined by the Labour department; the works which have been initiated will be carried to their conclusion, and the services of those who have been employed on these works will be continued.

Mr. BOURASSA: To complete the minister's statement, would he explain why the extension is for one month less in the case of Ontario as compared with the other provinces?

Mr. GORDON: I can only state in reply that those arrangements were made with the provinces and with the municipalities, and I presume that it suited the purpose to have it so arranged.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I had been about to rise, Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege, to refer to the despatch which has just been quoted by my hon. friend from Selkirk. The statement as handed to the press by Senator Robertson also included a statement that the impression conveyed by our speeches yesterday was wholly misleading. After the words of the minister speaking for the Minister of Labour in this house (Mr. Gordon) there is perhaps no very great need for us to state that we did not intend to mislead the house in any way. We had had no statement before the one read to-day from any member of the government as to the real situation; and, let me add, in some of the provinces at least the date of the 31st of March was definitely fixed as the date beyond which relief would not be given. I am informed this morning by the department that that is an arrangement as between the provinces concerned and the municipalities. That may be so, but I had had communications from outside that the relief was being cut off on the 31st of March and that in a number of municipalities there were no funds with which to pay relief under the arrangement beyond the 31st of March. So I hope the house will accept my statement that we had no desire whatever to mislead the house with regard to the urgency of the situation.

KENORA-FORT FRANCES HIGHWAY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Might I ask if the Minister of Labour will not interest himself in a work up in my riding? Two highways have been under construction under the unemployment relief fund, but the work has been closed down, throwing hundreds of men out of employment. The province of Ontario states that there are no more funds available for the work. I would ask the Minister of Labour to take an interest in this question and see that the people in that part of the province of Ontario are not discriminated against.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (for the Minister of Labour): I do not think I need declare to my hon. friend from Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) my interest in the part of the country to which he has reference. I am very well acquainted with it and he need have no fear that my interest will not be sustained or that that part of the country will suffer through any lack of interest.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INQUIRY RESPECTING ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. W. D. EULER (North Waterloo): May I ask the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) when we may expect the annual financial report of the Canadian National Railways?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): I made the same inquiry myself of the management the other day, and they told me it would be ready about this time. It is not yet to hand, but I expect it here in a few days.

FRASER RIVER DREDGING

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I have a few questions to ask of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart), in view of a communication that I received this morning in connection with dredge No. 303. Can the minister give the house the reason for tying up this dredge and throwing men out of work when the dredge is required to operate before the freshet season commences on the Fraser river? I should also like to ask whether, when the dredge is again put into operation, the minister can give us the assurance that the same captain and crew will be re-engaged.

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): As the hon. gentleman did not advise me that he was going to ask this question, I have not the information with me. If he will put his question on the order paper, I shall be glad to answer it.

Mr. REID: As a new member I did not know that it was necessary to approach the minister first.

NEW WESTMINSTER PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): Can the Minister of Public Works advise the house why the laundry work of the Dominion buildings in New Westminster was taken away from New Westminster and placed with a Vancouver laundry?

Mr. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): I really do not know. I am not running the laundry out there.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following letter:

Sir,—

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Mr. Justice Newcombe, Acting Deputy Administrator, will proceed to the Senate chamber this day at 3.30 p.m. for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

James F. Crowdy,
Assistant Secretary.

SUPPLY BILL

The house in committee on Bill No. 17, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1931—Mr. Bennett—Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On section 4—Amounts chargeable to year ending March, 1931.

Mr. BENNETT: Since last evening I have arranged to have the amendment printed in the bill, and I suggest that the Chairman read it so that hon. members may know the exact terms in which it is worded.

The CHAIRMAN: The amended clause 4 reads as follows:

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act, the amounts appropriated by this act may be paid at any time on or before the 11th day of April, 1931, and such payments shall be deemed to have been made in and be chargeable to the fiscal year ending the 31st of March, 1931.

Section as amended agreed to.

On section 5—Account to be rendered in detail.

The CHAIRMAN: The new clause, No. 5 is as follows:

A detailed account of the sums expended under the authority of this act shall be laid before the House of Commons of Canada during the first fifteen days of the then next session of parliament.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Before the bill reaches a stage beyond that of the committee of the whole may I remind the right hon. the Prime Minister that I asked for some information last night. I asked him to ascertain from the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) whether he gave to any publication, or to anybody on behalf of any one of these publications, an assurance that it would receive special consideration. My question refers to certain papers and journals enumerated by my right hon. friend and he said he would give me the information to-day.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, I have explained to my right hon. friend that there are no such documents or communications, at least upon the public files. I was permitted to read a letter written by Senator Robertson to the Hon. Charles McCrea. It was a personal letter in answer to a personal and confidential communication. I cannot give to the house the information contained in that letter. As it makes no commitment so far as the government is concerned, and was a personal communication, obviously I cannot communicate its contents to the house.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My question was whether or not the minister had given an assurance to anybody, not merely a written communication, but an assurance that certain of these papers or any one of them would receive special consideration.

Mr. BENNETT: So far as I know the answer must be in the negative. As I intimated to my right hon. friend however that construction might be placed upon a personal communication. Obviously I was permitted to read the letter only as a personal communication between two gentlemen one of whom is not a member of this house and so far as I know is not connected with any newspaper.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend has referred to communications. I should like to know whether an assurance was given to anybody on behalf of a paper. Assurances can be given by a minister verbally as well as in writing.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure that he did not.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: All right. Then I asked for some information in regard to printing.

Mr. BENNETT: I have that information before me. Officials of the Post Office Department state the only printing that was done was done through the King's Printer and not otherwise, and the only direct contract for printing was made with the King's Printer. The King's Printer, referring to the inquiry made by the right hon. gentleman, states in a memorandum which I have before me that the only printing order for the Post Office Department placed by or for the King's Printer with a London firm during the fiscal year 1930-31 was an order made under date of July 9, 1930, to Lawson and Jones, Limited, London, Ontario, for 274,500 arrow stickers, in English and French, for the mail service branch. This was a lithographic job. The work was duly executed and the account for $137.25 was approved and paid by cheque No. 3551 under date of August 29, 1930. So far as the records show that is the only evidence of any printing done in London, Ontario, which found its way to the Post Office Department.

Section agreed to.

On the schedule.

Mr. BENNETT: The schedule has been amended, Mr. Chairman, by deleting certain words.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Schedule as amended agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BENNETT: At this moment I should like to avail myself of the opportunity of thanking hon. gentlemen opposite for having by consent permitted the passing of the supply bill. We were entirely in the hands of hon. gentlemen opposite and they have enabled us to proceed with as little difficulty as possible, having regard to the circumstances.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for his generous remarks and also wish him a pleasant Easter vacation.

ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Honour, the deputy of His Excellency the Administrator, desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate.

And having returned

Mr. SPEAKER informed the house that the deputy of His Excellency the Administrator had been pleased to give in His Majesty's name the royal assent to the following bill:

An act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1931.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 4.15 p.m.,

Monday, April 13, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

HON. NICHOLAS LONGWORTH

MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE FROM SPEAKER ON DEATH OF LATE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that during the Easter adjournment I sent the following telegram to the widow of the late Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States:

Ottawa, April 10, 1931.

Mrs. Nicholas Longworth,
Washington, D.C.

On behalf of the House of Commons of Canada I tender you sincere sympathy on the passing of your husband whose record in the public life of his country merited the admiration of all.

George Black,
Speaker.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR POLICE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I should like to ask the Minister of Marine whether he is aware that on the very day the house adjourned for the Easter recess many returned soldiers were dismissed from the Vancouver harbour board police force. If this is so, will he consider the reinstatement of these men?

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): I have no official knowledge of the fact referred to by my hon. friend. I will inquire and report.

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): May I ask the Acting Minister of Labour a question based on two statements that appear in the Ottawa Journal this morning? On page two of the Ottawa Journal of April 13, I find this:

> Montreal, April 12—Canadian Press dispatch. About one million people found employment under the joint federal, provincial, municipal relief fund last winter, declared Hon. Alfred Duranleau, K.C., Minister of Marine, addressing electors of Chambly-Vercheres county at a large sugaring party to-day.

Then I turn to page five of the same newspaper, and I read this:

> The passing by parliament of the twenty million dollar unemployment relief fund in September last has resulted in employment being given to 248,274 persons, according to a statement issued by the Department of Labour covering the period to the end of March.

May I ask the Acting Minister of Labour which of the two statements is correct?

Hon. W. A. GORDON: I trust I am not responsible for what appears in the press.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Does the Minister of Marine deny the statement or is it true?

CIVIL SERVICE

REPORTED RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

On the orders of the day:

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (West Edmonton): I should like to make this inquiry of the ministry through the Minister of the Interior:

First, is the newspaper report of Saturday true that there have been approximately one hundred positions of the Department of the Interior abolished?

Second, if so, is it the intention of the government to keep on the eligible list the civil servants formerly occupying these positions and at the first opportunity to transfer them to positions in other departments for which they can qualify?

Hon. T. G. MURPHY (Minister of the Interior): The answer to the first question is in the affirmative. As to the second question, I can only say that the department are working in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission, who are cognizant of what is being done. As to what will be done in the future, that of course will depend upon a further conference with the Civil Service Commission.

PRIVILEGE—MR. POWER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. G. POWER (Quebec South): I desire to draw the attention of Your Honour and of the house to a question of privilege. In an edition of a newspaper called Le Journal, published in Quebec city on the 4th April, there appears the following:

> Le docteur Duguay se signale par ses paroles opportunes.

That is to say:

> Doctor Duguay, the member for Lake St. John, makes very opportune observations.

It goes further and says that the Benjamin of the house paints a soul-stirring picture of the history of Canadian politics, and so on through four columns of what purports to be a report of the speech by the hon. member for Lake St. John.

In Le Petit Journal, published in Montreal on the 5th of April, 1931, the following appears under the title of the Hon. Mr. Dupré, Solicitor General:

> The speaker of the day on Thursday was the Hon. Maurice Dupré, minister of the district of Quebec. It was his parliamentary debut. He did very well. An eloquent speaker, a delicate littérateur, he examined the political situation and corrected the mistakes of the opposition.
>
> He was loudly applauded by the right.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Go on with the question of privilege.

Mr. POWER: I would suggest that my hon. friend do not talk too much or they will make a minister of him and keep him even quieter.

Referring to May's Parliamentary Practice, twelfth edition, page 75, I read:

> The publication of the debates of either house has been repeatedly declared to be a breach of privilege, and especially false and perverted reports of them; and no doubt can exist that if either house desires to withhold

the proceedings from the public, it is within the strictest limits of their jurisdiction to do so, and to punish any violation of their orders.

Going back as far as 1641, it was ordered by the commons of England:

That no member shall either give a copy or publish in print anything that he shall speak here, without leave of the house; and that all the members of the house are enjoined to deliver out no copy or notes of anything that is brought into the house or that is propounded or agitated in the house.

This question of the publication of the debates has been discussed at great length, and through succeeding parliaments since parliaments have begun in Great Britain. At page 75 of May I find that the commons have permitted the publication of debates:

So long as the debates are correctly and faithfully reported the privilege which prohibits their publication is waived: but when they are reported mala fide, the publishers of newspapers are liable to censure.

The point to which I wish to direct the attention of the house is this: I do not desire to make any reflection on the members who were inadvertently falsely reported, but I submit that the Speaker of the house, and particularly the Prime Minister in whose custody are the privileges of the house, should in some way call to the attention of these newspapers the breach of privilege which they have committed. I put the matter to the Prime Minister first because, as I have said, he is the guardian of the privileges of the House of Commons, and, secondly, because I suspect that he has perhaps given his blessing on more than one occasion to some of the newspapers. I also suggest very humbly that if the right hon. gentleman permitted his members to talk more often in the house they might not require to have recourse to publications in the newspapers. If it were the sense of the house I could make a motion that these articles be regarded as breaches of privilege. I am satisfied however, if the house has no objection, to leave the matter in your hands, sir, and in those of the right hon. the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid times have changed considerably since the year 1600 and to my knowledge within the past hundred years there have been thousands of such breaches of privilege. I do not condone them, but in this case I do not see that any particular harm has been done. I think the hon. member is wise to leave the matter as it is.

[Mr. Power.]

Mr. POWER: I am complaining not of the publication of speeches but of a false report made of the proceedings of this house. I consider that a very serious matter. No speech was made; the hon. member (Mr. Duguay) made no speech, and neither did the hon. the Solicitor General.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member suggest any harm has been done?

Mr. POWER: I suggest that to say something transpired in this house which as a matter of fact did not transpire constitutes a breach of privilege.

WORLD WHEAT CONFERENCE

REPRESENTATION OF CANADA AT MEETING IN LONDON

On the orders of the day.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): In view of the fact that the date has now been fixed for the wheat conference at London I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister. Is the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson to be the only Canadian representative at that conference and if not is the right hon. Prime Minister in a position to state what the representation will be?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, no report other than a cabled report has yet been received. The chief statistician of the Dominion who has been absent in Rome is returning to Canada. When he arrives and when we receive by mail a despatch from the High Commissioner at London I will be in a better position to inform the hon. member.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE TREATY

On the orders of the day.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): I would like to ask the Prime Minister who is acting for the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) whether a statement which appeared in this morning's paper is true. I have not the article before me but the effect of it was that shortly there would be introduced into this house a trade treaty with Australia. This is a very important matter and a rather unusual way to announce a government policy. No mention of such a treaty was made in the speech from the throne and such action by the government would greatly affect the province of British Columbia. I would like to ask if the statement as reported in the paper is true?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Once more perhaps the house realizes that statements of intended policies of happenings frequently appear in newspapers. The newspapers using their best judgment have conjectured that many things may happen. The hon. gentleman will have to attach to such a statement such weight as he thinks proper. At the present time the government has no intention of discussing the matter.

Mr. NEILL: I wanted to know what weight the government attached to it?

Mr. BENNETT: That will appear in season.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS

On the orders of the day.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I have in my hand a statement not of an intended happening but of an actual happening. It refers to a policy which may be intended but which up to the present is not an actual policy. Perhaps the Prime Minister would give the house some information with respect to the facts. The Ottawa Journal of this morning prints a despatch from Washington by Ken Clark, a Canadian Press staff writer. It is as follows:

> The United States government expects it will very soon receive a note from Ottawa favourably replying to the suggestion contained in Washington's note of last September that now is the time to go ahead with the St. Lawrence waterway.
>
> Hon. R. J. Manion, Canadian Minister of Railways and Canals, told Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson, Saturday, that it is understood that while he could not speak for the Ottawa government, it was his impression that a reply might be expected in the near future. Dr. Manion pointed out, it is said, that Premier Bennett had favourably mentioned the St. Lawrence in his campaign speeches.

I need not quote the remainder of the despatch, but I would like to learn from the Prime Minister whether or not the Minister of Railways and Canals was authorized in the absence of a minister plenipotentiary at Washington to call upon the hon. the Secretary of State of the United States and to discuss with him matters pertaining to this country. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister himself will give the house any assurance as to the hope expressed in this despatch that the St. Lawrence waterway project will be proceeded with very shortly.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I, too, saw the despatch to which the right hon. gentleman has referred. I was aware that my colleague the Minister of Railways and Canals had accepted an invitation of the Gridiron club to attend a dinner at Washington.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: But he never attended it.

Mr. BENNETT: I am coming to that; there was no dinner. The Minister of Railways and Canals travelled to Washington with the American minister to Canada. However, owing to the death of Mr. Speaker Longworth of the House of Representatives, the dinner was postponed. My colleague assures me that he was asked as a matter of courtesy to call upon the President of the United States and several of the public officers. In accordance with that invitation he called but no matters of public business were discussed. There is no doubt that the hon. gentleman had no authority to discuss these matters or any matters of public concern on his visit to Washington. It was purely a social and personal visit to attend a dinner which did not materialize. However the minister was enabled to enjoy a very pleasant ride to Washington by air and thus to realize the advances made in scientific travel during the last few years.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask the Prime Minister if, when the dinner is held, the Minister of Railways and Canals will be permitted to fly over again?

Mr. BENNETT: While I know my right hon. friend does not intend me to take that question seriously, I have no doubt that if an invitation were courteously extended to him by the American minister who accompanied him to Washington by air flight, the Minister of Railways and Canals with his usual courtesy would feel honoured to accept such an invitation.

Mr. POULIOT: There were contrary winds at the beginning of the flight.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, March 27, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Hon. MAURICE DUPRE (Solicitor General) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, with your kind permission, my first words spoken within these walls, filled with memories of the deeds of our great parliamentarians, will be in the French language. My first wish is to convey, in peace and harmony, to you, Mr. Speaker, to my distinguished leader (the right hon. Mr. Bennett), to the distinguished leader of the opposition (the right hon. Mr. Mackenzie King) and to all my colleagues on both sides of the house, the cordial and fraternal greetings of the province of Quebec. However, I wished to make my bow in the house, in the language of my forebears who have been, so to speak, rooted to this soil for more than ten generations, in the language of my father and mother, in the tongue spoken from childhood by my better-half and our children, before any other language. We cherish that language because it is part of our heritage, part of ourselves, and never shall we permit it to be threatened by whomsoever it may be, whether he be a constituent, a member or even a prime minister of a province.

May I here address a few words of thanks and gratitude to my constituents of Quebec West, who, after fifty-two years of allegiance to the Liberal party, have returned to the Conservative policy.

I equally extend my congratulations to my hon. friends from Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon), Regina (Mr. Turnbull), Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) and North Grey (Mr. Porteous) whose debut in the house this year and last year have been most promising.

May I at this time be permitted to continue in the other official language because the ideas I wish to express I have already dealt with in my own province. My first remarks apply to maiden speeches. Worse than the torture of the dark ages is the torture of the maiden speech. I submit such a practice should be abolished and that we should all make our debut with a second speech.

In passing may I congratulate all those who before me have gone through such an ordeal. Every one of them on both sides of the house has come out with flying colours; although at times some of the colours were a little too red for those sitting on your right, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to congratulate my distinguished friend the honourable ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) on his recovery. We are very happy to see him back in the house with his old fighting spirit. He likes to fight; so do we. And since my hon. friend told us in a very stern and tragical voice that he was going to continue his speech some time, somewhere, may I reply to him that we shall be very glad to answer him any time, anywhere. In his eloquent address he said:

> The government is the by-product of financial depression. My hon. friends opposite are its offspring.

These are nothing but witty remarks. If I wanted to follow my hon. friend on this ground I would recall the nine years of the Liberal regime, and, imitating him, I would say: Here are the idle talkers of Canada, here are the apostles of power at any price. And if I wanted to recall the prejudices and cries of war raised against the Conservatives in the elections of 1921, 1925, 1926 and the roorback of Friday 25th of July, 1930, I would say, always imitating my hon. friend; here are the by-products of war; here are the political and electoral war babies.

Mr. BOUCHARD: Will my hon. friend tell me if he was defeated on that account in 1925?

Mr. DUPRE: I am afraid so, and by the hon. gentleman himself. I could recall his story about the Germans and the Conservative party, which story was repeated in every address he delivered in the constituency of Kamouraska over a period of thirty days.

May I be permitted also, Mr. Speaker, to tell this honourable house of my first impression when I took charge of my department. I was amazed by the increasing number of prisoners in our penitentiaries and gaols This is not the proper time to decide on whose shoulders the responsibility lies, but I submit that the practice of importing a certain class of immigrants without proper and severe selection should be corrected. The restriction on immigration imposed last August must be welcomed not only because it relieves unemployment, but also because it will tend to curtail the importation of a few undesirable elements. But in making these remarks I want it very clearly understood that I realize the important contribution made to our Canadian life and culture by the great majority of those who have come from other countries to establish their homes here.

Now, I pass to the Imperial conference. May I congratulate the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) on his recent speech in this debate. I am sure the right hon. gentleman will long remain at the head of the opposition. He is not a constructive, but quite a literary critic. He is still working on lines of approach. He ought to write more books; and more books should be dedicated to him.

In his remarkable speech my right hon. friend sought at length to demonstrate that

the attitude of the right hon. Prime Minister at the Imperial conference was not well received in Great Britain, that the relations between our country and Great Britain are not of the most harmonious character; that the policy submitted by the Prime Minister was wrong, and that his methods were wrong. May I say to the right hon. leader of the opposition that while I believe he is quite sincere in his criticism, I am afraid that his contentions are a little at variance with reality. May I quote to the house a few expressions of opinion on the attitude of our Prime Minister at the Imperial conference.

The London Times, one of the world's great newspapers, said, and I think this will interest my right hon. friend:

> The country will insist that the proposals now made by Canada shall be thoroughly examined. It is tired of empty rhetoric about mutual help and understanding and is determined to give sympathetic consideration to a concrete plan for practical cooperation now that such a plan has been definitely put before it.

The Scotsman had this to say, very likely answering, in anticipation, the remarks of the hon. the ex-Minister of Justice:

> An offer was made to the mother country by representatives of the dominions, which, if accepted, would go far towards knitting the Empire together as an economic unity and so assuring its permanence and prosperity.

Now may I draw the attention of my hon. friend the brilliant ex-Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) to my next quotation; I am afraid my hon. friend was not very happy in referring us to the Manchester Guardian. This is important because I have been told that he had been designated as the probable successor to the right hon. leader of the opposition in case any political accident should happen to the latter. Of course, I hasten to add that I sincerely hope no such accident will ever occur. But my hon. friend in a moment of absent-mindedness seems to have forgotten the following statements which appeared in the Manchester Guardian. Harold Cox in the Manchester Guardian of October 10th recalled Sir Wilfrid Laurier's proposal in 1902 and commented:

> This is exactly what Mr. Bennett proposes to-day, and he states his attitude with commendable frankness.

The same issue of the Manchester Guardian contains a statement by the National Council of Industry and Commerce from which I quote the following passages:

> The dominions have given the mother country a great and a courageous lead by putting forth constructive proposals in clear and unmistakable terms. We are convinced that the great majority of the British people are with them. The dominions have made a frank offer in clear and business-like terms. The policy suggested spells union and prosperity for all parts of the empire. Have we the sane business sense to accept the offer or must we permit the real wishes of our nation to be smothered with the obsolete dogmas which for successive years have proved their utter uselessness to all except the unpractical theorist and doctrinaires.

Not only the newspapers of the largest centres commented favourably, but the Bristol Evening World of October 9 in its its leading article, which might well be read by those two friends of the Liberal party, Orestes and Pylades—the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) and the hon. member for Rimouski (Sir Eugène Fiset)—says:

> Business men will appreciate the practicality of Mr. R. B. Bennett, Prime Minister of Canada, who, at the Imperial conference, got down to brass tacks and made a definite proposition to Britain and the dominions.
>
> Theories that in the atmosphere of debate appear desirable may be exploded by such methods. The great value of Mr. Bennett's definiteness is that theorizing must now end, and action take its place.
>
> Mr. Bennett's problem is not a sentimental one. He wants to sell Canadian wheat in the British and empire markets. He wants to do this not for the good of Britain or the empire but for the good of Canada. He admits he places Canada first and he expects a similar attitude toward their own country on the part of other delegates.

The Bath Chronicle and Herald of October 9 states:

> Mr. Bennett, the Canadian Premier, has put to the conference a proposal which does indicate a way to the solution of the big empire problem.

The Evening Sentinel of Hanley, in its leading article of October 13, says:

> No truer phrase has been uttered than that of R. B. Bennett, the Prime Minister of Canada. The time for action has come.

The Nottingham Guardian, in its comment of October 9, says:

> It is to be hoped that the government will give their fullest attention to Mr. Bennett's remarkable proposal, for, in the earnest words with which he closed his speech, the time is now at hand when the doctrine of closer empire economic association must be embraced if we would not have it slip forever beyond our powers of recall.

The Bristol Times and Mirror, in its issue of October 10, 1930, says:

> Mr. Bennett, however, has cut into the extreme of compliments and vague aspirations with a practical proposition which he desires to be examined thoroughly by experts.

The Brixton Free Press comments in its issue of October 10, which might be interesting to my hon. friend from Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), as follows:

The dominions know what the empire needs, and now they have made a definite proposal to show how an all round betterment can be secured. There is no excuse for them now. The lead has been given by the Canadian Premier.

Just to please my hon. friends opposite perhaps I might quote one of the greatest journalists of the empire, Mr. J. L. Garvin, whose comment appears in the Observer of October 12, 1930. I might direct the attention of one of the great journalists and orators of the province of Quebec, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), to this quotation:

On Wednesday the conference assembled at the Foreign Office to get down to business. The overseas statesmen spoke with the unprecedented frankness required at this juncture. One and all, they explained the only policy that can be useful to them and us—extended preference for British manufactures in their markets and broad reciprocal preference for Dominion staples in ours. Other methods may be supplementary, but they must be subsidiary. Nothing but preference all round can establish a foundation for the closer economic cooperation of the empire. Mr. R. B. Bennett, for Canada, led the line. The vital thing now is acceptance or rejection of the principle. Mr. Scullin, for Australia, spoke with thoroughness and decision for the principle. Mr. Forbes, for New Zealand, Mr. Havenga, for South Africa, Mr. McGilligan, for the Irish Free State, and Sir Richard Squires, for Newfoundland, followed in the same sense. India is more reserved. But why? Because India means to be more and more protectionist. There is absolute unanimity outside the Mother Country that nothing can be done on free trade lines.

Now I should like to refer the house to a remarkable article appearing in the National Review for October, 1930, written by Right Hon. Mr. Amery, former Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, who says:

Great, however, as was the individual and cumulative effect of the other speeches, Mr. Bennett's speech was undoubtedly the outstanding feature of the discussion in its directness and in its insistence on a decision. If he had been dealing with some new proposal his attitude might have been open to criticism as too peremptory, but on a subject discussed at imperial conferences for over forty years, and an issue in British politics for nearly thirty, Mr. Bennett was fully justified in insisting that this country must now make up its mind one way or another without further delay.

During the last election campaign, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentlemen opposite were saying sometimes, somewhere, "Why vote for the Conservative party on the eve of the Imperial conference? If elected to power, who would the Conservatives send to the Imperial conference?"

Mr. POULIOT: I should like to ask a short question of the hon. gentleman. I should like him to be good enough to answer the article published by that good Tory paper, the

Montreal Gazette, on November 12 1930, in which it is said that the members of the Imperial conference have succeeded in doing nothing in particular and in doing it very well.

Mr. DUPRE: I admit, sir, that I was the weak member of the delegation, but I will say this: The Liberal party was very fortunate in having such a great statesman and high personality as Sir Wilfrid Laurier to represent Canada at several imperial conferences. However, while Canadians have every reason to be proud of all past Canadian delegations, whether Liberal or Conservative, the general opinion in London was that never did Canada send a stronger and more competent delegation than the one composed of the right hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Trade and Commerce. All Canadians abroad were very proud of the enthusiastic and hearty reception given our Prime Minister either at 10 Downing Street, the Foreign Office, the Guildhall or any other public meeting. This hearty and enthusiastic reception extended not only to the individual personality of our Prime Minister but also to the doctrines by him propounded. The point I wish to emphasize, however, is that public opinion in London favoured our chief doctrines, as did the industrial, financial and commercial institutions throughout the country.

Now would you like to know the explanation of the Liberal press as to this unanimity of opinion among the dominions? Here is a translation of an extract from Le Soleil, the paper of my hon. friend from Temiscouata, Mr. Pouliot) under date of Wednesday, March 18:

To these definite charges Mr. Bennett replies by two childish arguments. To begin with, he says that all the representatives of the other dominions approved of his attitude. Could they do otherwise? For the sake of solidarity, through ordinary courtesy, they could not raise any objections to the imperious, even dictatorial proposition which Mr. Bennett offered to England. The Prime Minister of Canada had taken the lead. He had charged bullheaded upon the English section of the conference. The others had to follow through esprit de corps.

The representatives of our sister dominions will surely be flattered at Le Soleil's conception of the motives which inspired their representations on behalf of their respective countries. The leading statesmen of the great British commonwealth of nations, or British Empire, call it whatever you like, are pictured as a bunch of cowering school boys, ready to do or say anything in order to cover a break made by the head boy.

I wish now to refer to a very unpleasant matter. Questions of race and religion must be debated with the greatest care, and I realize that I am treading on very delicate ground. But since this is my first appearance on this great scene of our parliamentary life, I feel it is my duty to say how much I regret the attitude taken recently, and even during the last eighteen months, by a coalition government in one of the western provinces. The laws enacted against the French language—one of the two official languages—by the government of Saskatchewan are an insult to the true Canadians established here for fourteen or fifteen generations. It was in the name of God, but in the French language, that the first cross was consecrated on Canadian soil. Against these laws I must protest, and I hope they will be repealed.

May I remind public men generally that in the long run the only school which will always triumph is the school of justice, fair play, tolerance and broadmindedness.

The Canadian of French descent is the most thorough Canadian of the land; his only home is Canada. In Canada he was born, and in Canada he desires to die, faithful to his king and proud of British institutions: "Pro rege, lege, grege." But he cannot stand being molested.

Just one word now about the Russian embargo. Let us assume that thereby Canada may lose a few dollars. I submit, sir, that this question should be envisaged from the point of view of Christian morality and civilization, and may I say that I am very much surprised at the attitude taken by such important and well-written Liberal papers as the Ottawa Citizen, the Manitoba Free Press and a few others.

I see also that the Liberal party, through one of its outstanding lieutenants, my hon. friend from Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie), has taken a stand in this matter. In his most able address my hon. friend said this:

> I wish to say a word or two in regard to the Russian situation which has been mentioned so frequently during the debate. Frankly I may say to the administration that possibly I appreciate very fully the motives which underlie the adoption of this policy. On the other hand, sir, in view of statements we have heard during the debate I think it is the most fatuous policy ever adopted by a supposedly sane and sensible administration.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. DUPRE: I notice the applause which greets this quotation from my hon. friend's speech.

But you see, on the other hand, the provincial Liberal party in Quebec declaring itself in favour of our policy. It means this: It is the old game of the Liberal party—for the embargo in Quebec, against it in Ottawa; free traders in the west, protectionists in the east; for and against conscription at the same time. On the contrary, sir, the Conservative party is unanimous in proclaiming the Russian embargo, at the present time and under the present circumstances, and on that question we are ready to stand or fall. Now we know where we are. Now you see, sitting at your left, Mr. Speaker, not the prophets, major or minor; they could not even see the unemployment crisis when it was under their very eyes. But there, at your left, sir, you see the protagonists of Russia's policy and the unconscious or conscious agents of soviet propaganda.

As already said, this is a business government for business men, for the working man and the farmer. At your right, Mr. Speaker, you see a party ready to act, to master problems, not to avoid them—a party who preach and practise one doctrine in which they believe. On the other hand, to your left, is another party which belongs to the old school of laissez faire—avoid issues.

Mr. POULIOT: No, we do not practise "laissez faire."

Mr. DUPRE: I think my hon. friend has talked enough since the beginning of the session. I contend—and the electors with us—that our policy is the best one. Time will tell.

May I thank both sides of the house for the patient and cordial hearing given me. My desire is to do something for this land, my country. To this task I shall consecrate my heart and soul. But to succeed I need, and I respectfully beg for, the cooperation of my hon. friends on both sides of the house.

The Quebec solid bloc, engendered by appeals to prejudice and—

Mr. ST-PERE: Is my hon. friend making a sweeping statement?

Mr. DUPRE: —maintained by—

Mr. ST-PERE: Is my hon. friend making a sweeping statement? If he is, he is wrong. I never appealed to prejudice in order to be elected in my riding.

Mr. POULIOT: Neither did I.

Mr. DUPRE: I am glad that there are at least two at your left, Mr. Speaker, who did not do so. I say, however, thank God,

that that bloc, engendered by appeals to prejudices and maintained and strengthened by detestable manoeuvres, is a thing of the past. And I say that a solid bloc, whether in Quebec or in Ontario, whether Conservative or Liberal, is a danger to unity and bonne entente in Canada. To my distinguished chief we now come, for the first time since 1917, a loyal Conservative contingent from French-speaking Quebec, and we come here to work with the great successor to Macdonald, Cartier, Thompson, Tupper, Borden and Meighen and, with him and my hon. colleagues of the cabinet, to serve the cause of prosperity.

The home has to be built. The materials are ready and the builder has been chosen by the electors. Let us work and build. If we start to discuss the rights and wrongs—and the country knows how much we, the Conservatives from Quebec, could say on the question of prejudices and cries of war raised against us—if we try to discover who have made more appeals to prejudices during the last campaign, or during the campaigns before, there will be no end to the discussion; and during such a harmful controversy the working men will be waiting for more work and the poor will be eager for additional relief.

Let us have less discussion and more action. The burden is heavy and the task formidable; but French-speaking Quebec which has known hardship and even persecutions will not shirk its duty.

Now that Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Bessborough are here, representing as they do the union of France and England, those two great nations which have played such an important part in the history of the world, let us join hands in a friendly clasp and try to solve the tremendous problems that confront us, solutions for which must be found.

Let us, the offspring of worthy sires from both sides of the channel, recall and apply to our own beloved Canada the words which Shakespeare, in Henry V, puts in the mouth of the King of France as he grants the hand of his daughter to the King of England:

> Take her, fair son; and from her blood raise up
> Issue to me; that the contending kingdoms
> Of France and England, whose very shores look pale
> With envy of each other's happiness,
> May cease their hatred; and this dear conjuction
> Plant neighbourhood and Christian-like accord
> In their sweet bosoms, that never war advance
> His bleeding sword 'twixt England and fair France.

[Mr. Dupré.]

Hon. W. R. MOTHERWELL (Melville): Mr. Speaker, this would seem to be an opportune time to give a short resume of the general characteristics and high lights of this interesting debate. I think I am within the facts in saying that the general tenor and character of the debate have been on a par with the average of similar debates during the last ten years, and have been characterized by such moderation as is consistent with the bringing out of the facts.

Hon. members supporting the government, especially the colleagues of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), have seemed to be in difficulty in defending their leader. During the first two weeks of the debate not one colleague of the Prime Minister rose in his place to defend either his leader's policies at home or his remarkable performance abroad. The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauve) made a very nice speech which we all liked, but he offered no defence of his leader. The hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupre) made a very excellent speech, but he quoted from newspapers which were many months old. If he would peruse the press of to-day he would find that the view taken is entirely different.

Another outstanding feature of the debate is the suddenness with which the Prime Minister makes a buck dart for the curtains and lobby the moment the debate commences. In these exits he is usually accompanied by the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) and it is anything but inspiring to have to speak to these two empty seats.

Only recently the ministerial press has been complaining that the opposition has offered no alternatives to the program presented by the government. I think that is the greatest tribute which could be made, in having the government appeal to us for an alternative policy. It is a striking admission, however, of shortcoming on the part of the government when they are forced to throw up their hands and admit a breakdown in their defences.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: My hon. friends laugh, but that is as I see it. No defence has been offered by any colleague of the Prime Minister while abroad, up to this, the fifth week of this debate.

In replying to the complaint which has been made that no alternative suggestions have been offered, I would refer to the most excellent, comprehensive, telling and impelling speech made by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). The right hon. gen-

tleman offered the suggestion that possibly the wheat exporting countries would get together to discuss the disposition of their surplus wheat, and pointed out that at such a conference we would be at a disadvantage because of the embargo which has been placed upon Russian goods; and now a conference has been called.

The hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) made some valuable suggestions. He asked for the production of the papers in connection with the disposition of our wheat surplus during 1917 and 1918. A large surplus was disposed of at that time, and the production of the correspondence between Mr. Whiteside and the then Minister of Trade and Commerce would show that some $80,000,000 went into the treasury of the Dominion of Canada. We want to know what became of that money. We want to know also what action is being taken in connection with the representations made by hon. members from the west and by the provincial premiers with regard to the pegging of wheat for the purpose of stabilizing prices. In 1917 and 1918 the government had no hesitation in pegging wheat prices in order to prevent their going too high, but this government seems to hesitate to peg prices when they would seem to be going too low. However, they have no hesitation in pegging the prices of eastern commodities. Scarcely a week passes but the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) pegs the prices of such commodities as gasoline, coal, and so on. This government has no hesitation in pegging prices for the eastern industries but will not take any action which would benefit the farmers of the west. What is sauce for the eastern goose should be sauce for the western gander, and the gander needs it pretty badly just now.

A number of other recommendations were made. The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) made a suggestion with respect to the establishment of an experimental packing plant in the west and another one in the east. This matter has been considered on many occasions, the last being last year when a conference was held in the department over which I presided at that time. The general feeling was that before any permanent policy was laid down there should be an investigation into the whole live stock industry. In the last supplementary estimates an item of $25,000 was included for the purpose of prosecuting such an inquiry, but the net result is that we have three different policies, a federal, a provincial and a Canadian Credit Association policy. Three different policies cannot be carried out concurrently without considerable conflict.

I would suggest that the Minister of Agriculture give more consideration to the establishment throughout Canada of additional cold storage plants. The producers of fruit and other perishable commodities, especially in British Columbia, all will testify to the value of these cold storage facilities.

In the various manifestos issued by my good friend, my successor in office, I see no reference to cooperative marketing. He should not be discouraged because there is at this time a great world wide depression adversly affecting all methods of marketing. This type of marketing will eventually offer one of the greatest hopes to the farmers of Canada. I have made a few suggestions and I hope some of them and also some of those made by other members will be found worthy of consideration. If need be, further suggestions may be made as regards desirable policies to follow.

If the Prime Minister were in his seat I should like to address some remarks to him. He has launched into the field of international affairs and diplomacy and his first experience has been quite a hectic one. Somebody has defined a diplomat to be one who could bring home the bacon without spilling the beans. If that were the correct definition I am afraid my right hon. friend would not qualify, because no other Canadian coming back from any conference has brought back less bacon and spilled more beans than my right hon. friend as he blundered abroad. I think my hon. friends opposite, by their silence, indicate their assent to that. As was pointed out by my leader in his excellent address, the mission for which they went overseas was foredoomed to failure because of the large increases in the British preferential rate. This conference, as they said, was to be a good will affair; it was to promote inter-empire trade by putting up a tariff wall. With their voice the government professed to be strongly attached to the principle of inter-empire trade, and then by their actions they banged up the tariff door against British goods as a starter. Having done that and foredoomed their case, they proceeded debonairly across the water to engage in a conference with the other members of the British commonwealth of nations.

We thought this was to be a conference, but apparently it was a speech-making proposition. One week after his arrival the leader of the government made a pronouncement, not to the conference only, but to the gallery of the entire world. I remember when this speech went over the wires and the radio to the west. We had never before heard anybody speak like this at a conference. This was, as the New York Times indicated, like an ultimatum. We wondered whether anything had gone

wrong with the Prime Minister, whether there was such a thing as political rabies, and whether he had contracted it while crossing the waters. We were astounded and then someone feeling a little charitable said that perhaps the newspaper was wrong and we had better wait until to-morrow. The newspapers seem to be always getting my right hon. friend wrong, and we accordingly waited until the following day When the following day arrived the confusion was still worse; nobody knew what this ten per cent was. But the clouds soon rolled away and Mr. Thomas was apparently right in describing the whole proposition as humbug. Let me quote the way in which the Prime Minister of Canada put his offer to the conference. The Solicitor General did not refer to this; he did not defend it; he quoted merely one or two of the least objectionable paragraphs of the flamboyant statement of the Prime Minister. This is what the Prime Minister said:

First, we must approve or reject the principle.

The principle has been approved and enforced for a long time by the British government in regard to some of our products and those of other dominions. He continued:

I put the question definitely to you, and definitely it should be answered. There is here no room for compromise and there is no possibility of avoiding the issue. This is a time for plain speaking, and I speak plainly when I say that the day is now at hand when the peoples of the empire must decide, once and for all—

One would think that was the last opportunity on earth. Something terrible was going to happen unless this was immediately considered and accepted.

—whether our welfare lies in closer economic union or whether it does not. Delay is hazardous, further discussion of the principle is surely unnecessary. The time for action has come.

I wonder whether this sounds the same to my right hon. friend's ears as it does to mine. I do not hear very well, but I hear this well enough to know that it is entirely out of place in a conference among kinsmen. It is flamboyant, belligerent, bellicose and pugnacious, and in fact, worse, if I could think of anything further to add. As bad as that is, it is not as bad as the next paragraph:

Projects other than the one I propose have been placed before you. They have been carefully canvassed by our delegation, and, while we would avoid anything which might savour of premature condemnation, we are constrained to state that none of them can be accepted by Canada as alternatives at all likely to achieve the purpose we have in mind.

The proposition was off then. They might as well have quit right there. Nothing but tariff proposals would suit the Prime Minister and all else he dismissed with an imperious wave of his lordly hand. According to him there was nothing doing, while everybody knows that the very essence, the soul of a conference, is compromise. The moment one participant takes a mulish stand like that, the proposition is off, because of the absence of give and take.

Just a word as to what will have to be done if anything is to come out of the adjourned conference to be held in Ottawa. Of course the adjournment came in handy to save the face of the government; it enabled them to go along for a little while longer. But if the Prime Minister will take a little different attitude from that which he took at the conference last September, there is no reason why some progress cannot be made. The British government and their friends are talking about the quota that my right hon. friend arbitrarily dismissed. If anything is to be done, he must back down. I know how hard it is for a man in the Prime Minister's position, when he makes a mistake, to admit it; but if he wants to obtain results he will have to assume a different tone and also be prepared to discuss other proposals that are laid before him. A quota will be better than nothing. There is no reason why we should not have a quota with the proper proportions to the dominions. It will need to be a good quota to come up to what we are now selling to the old country. For the last five years on the average we have been selling to Great Britain 170,000,000 bushels per annum. That is as much as the rest of the world buys from us, so that any quota that is adopted will need to be at least as good as that. If it is greater, so much the better, but there will need to be a tremendous transformation in the Prime Minister before he can get anywhere. There is no reason in the world why we cannot through the quota system make some progress towards solving the problem which is facing the dominions in regard to their wheat. As things stand now there is a cloud on the horizon in connection with the competition of Russian wheat and our embargo against Russia. What is going to happen in the west if the Russians decide to throw more wheat into British ports next fall at the same time that ours is ready to enter also? If they choose to do that in retaliation against our embargo, the competition that we had last fall will be as nothing, and it is high time that we got on to a safer road than the one on which we are travelling at the present time.

With regard to the conference, there were many interesting incidents at it and after it.

I recall that the first trip the Prime Minister took afterwards was to Paris. How often have we heard his voice ring in this chamber with statements as to how he was going to renounce the French treaty the first time he got his hands on it, and what an excellent salesman he was going to be! Having been chaperoned by the Solicitor General he got away from Paris without any casualties, but he did not sell as much wheat by half—9 millions to 19—to France as was sold the previous year. The Prime Minister got a promise that 9,000,000 bushels of wheat would be sold to France in the following year. The records showed however that in the previous year Canada had sold 19,000,000 bushels to France. There we have an actual sale of 19,000,000 as against a promise of 9,000,000 bushels. If the hon. gentleman continues in that way he will soon sell our wheat won't he? In the meantime Hon. Mr. Thomas had been acting up. The Labour government was under criticism by the opposition and Hon. Mr. Thomas was defending the government. An hon. member asked why he did not accept the offer of the Prime Minister of Canada and in reply he stated that such an offer was the greatest conceivable humbug. His statement set the whole newspaper world agog. My hon. friends have read many newspaper clippings but I think I will have to beg the indulgence of the house to read one or two newspaper observations. I have before me an extract from the Morning Express:

Very Simply Constituted

Mr. Bennett must be very simply constituted—

I do not think it means however that the right hon. gentleman is simple minded.

Mr. Bennett must be very simply constituted (says the News-Chronicle) if he imagines that any intelligent Englishman would be deluded by the proposal that we should tax our food in return for Canada's generosity in putting another tiny brick on her tariff wall against foreign imports and keeping the wall at the same effective height against British goods.

If that proposal is not humbug what is it? The Dominion premiers like to claim the right to "speak plainly" and like to exercise it. They should be able to keep a stiff upper lip when an English statesman for once in a way speaks plainly, too.

What kind of a stiff upper lip did my right hon. friend the leader of the government keep? I understand he got in touch by phone with the acting Prime Minister; if he did not he should have done so. It was his intention to learn what was to be done about the Thomas incident. If he did not get such advice he should have got it. Instead of stiffening his upper lip and taking a mild little swat like that, the Prime Minister squealed like a stuck porcine and was heard all over the realm. That is the kind of stiff upper lip kept by my right hon. friend when he was away from home. I will not follow this incident any further as my time is limited, but in that connection I would add that Hon. Mr. Thomas might have gone much further and been quite within the truth. This offer, so-called, was the finest exhibition of doubled dyed, twice distilled hypocrisy and humbug of which I have ever heard. No wonder they were disgusted with it overseas; no wonder the Prime Minister of Great Britain said that it could not be done. No wonder these newspapers which I might quote for an hour referred unfavourably to his proposal. In the meantime his colleagues had fled to Canada. At all events the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) returned. In connection with the Minister of Trade and Commerce I am pleased to note that he is returning to the house. Apparently they wanted as quickly as possible to place the Atlantic ocean between themselves and their rampaging Prime Minister.

Consequently when the right hon. gentleman journeyed to Belfast he was alone, with the exception of his personal retinue. He was invited to the city of Belfast, that great city of education and industry, where he was to receive a degree. The degree was well bestowed quite properly, I think, on a very distinguished gentleman. My remarks however will be confined to statements made by my right hon. friend after he had received the degree. In this country we have made a practice of tendering banquets or luncheons and the government of Northern Ireland followed that custom by giving a luncheon. The visit of the Prime Minister of Canada seemed to well warrant such procedure on their part. In the publication which I have in my hand there is the picture of the right hon. Prime Minister wearing his university robe. This picture and several comments which I intend to read are contained in the Northern Whig and Belfast Post. There are not now many whigs in Northern Ireland nor have there been for some time past. It is a Conservative paper; certainly it is not Liberal. Apparently it hates the Labour government like poison so that it must be Conservative. Its editorials clearly indicate the political leaning of the newspaper. On the front page I find our Canadian Prime Minister's reported words "Empire ties must be economic." The next paragraph in the newspaper to which I shall refer is as follows:

"I am satisfied," he said, speaking at the luncheon, "that if we do not avail ourselves of

the matchless opportunity that we have by reason of our far-flung empire, our fate will be the fate of other great empires of the past."

Here the Prime Minister seems to be speaking in the role of a prophet, and a most dismal one at that. Apparently it was the opinion of the right hon. gentleman that everything would be lost unless he had his way in economic and tariff matters as they affect the other units of the British commonwealth of nations. And to rub it in good and plenty the right hon. gentleman reminded his hearers at the banquet of the ill-fated Boston tea party which every British historian knows was not brought about by the fault of the American colonies but by just such that-day Toryism as my right hon. friend still represents. What excellent taste the right hon. gentleman showed when he so spoke to the people in Northern Ireland! I quote again the following from this paper:

When you are spoken to in terms of sentiment it is always well to remember that the greatest break that ever took place in our empire commenced not over sentiment—most of you will recall the tea that found lodgment in Boston harbour. It was more than sentiment—it was economics, it was business. It was the question of the entry of products and the taxation of products that went from these islands to the land now known as the United States. While sentiment, he asserted, must always blaze a pathway, the ties that bound peoples to one another at the present day must be ties of material strands of economic strength.

Everything in the mind of the right hon. gentleman seems to be reduced to mercenary and monetary terms; all the old ideals we were taught since childhood were discarded. Why did we send so many men to the war? Was it to sell wheat or was it because of kinship with other nations embroiled in that terrible struggle?

Probably I should not take the time of the house to read further from the paper, but for fear I might be accused of putting a wrong interpretation on the remarks of the right hon. gentleman I shall read from the editorial page. These observations appeared in the Northern Whig on the occasion of the visit to Northern Ireland by the Hon. Mr. Scullin and the Hon. Mr. Forbes, following Mr. Bennett. The remarks by my right hon. friend were delivered on November 19. It took the people in Northern Ireland apparently quite a while to recover from the shock they received following the visit of the Prime Minister of Canada. However after the visit of Mr. Scullin they became greatly heartened. I quote the following from the Northern Whig of December 3, 1930:

Mr. Bennett, who led the way, perhaps unconsciously interposed a discouraging note in

[Mr. Motherwell.]

suggesting that the old bonds of blood and kindship are broken, and that unless commercial ties are substituted the empire will be in danger. In all probability, however, the Canadian premier would confess to-day that in his anxiety to impress the vital importance of closer commercial ties he rather over-stated the case.

That observation of course is quite mild. Later on the editorial is as follows:

Mr. Scullin, who followed Mr. Bennett as a visitor made it abundantly evident that Australia does not support the idea of broken or even weakened bonds of blood and kinship. He declared that these bonds are the real strength of the empire, and that without them the most powerful commercial ties might prove powerless to hold its members together. Mr. Scullin's assurances dispelled the temporary cloud which Mr. Bennett's suggestion had brought up on our horizon.

Should not the two honourable ministers who struck for Canada have remained with their honourable leader? Apparently this malady of political rabies is not quarantinable. The hon. gentlemen returned to Canada leaving their leader behind. On November 28 I find the following in an editorial of the Northern Whig.

After the cold and didactic speeches in Belfast a few days ago of Mr. Bennett, the Canadian premier, who asserted that the old ties of blood and kinship between motherland and dominions were broken, and that if not replaced by commercial ties "the empire would share the fate of the great empires of the past,"—

I presume, Mr. Speaker, that that means the Roman empire, the Persian empire and the other empires of the past that dwindled and decayed. The right hon. gentleman conceived the British empire as dwindling and decaying if something did not happen along the lines that he was proposing at the conference. No wonder he spoke of the sands of time running out and was terrified at the prospect of even six months delay. Then the editor goes on:

—it was heartening to hear Mr. Scullin speak of those old ties as still existent and still strong. "The unity of the commonwealth of nations," he declared, "lies in the blood ties that exist between the various parts."

Then the paper said:

We would much rather take that hopeful view than the gloomy one of Mr. Bennett.

It is not surprising that our leader was wondering who the Tories were going to send to this conference. We are still wondering why they sent the ones they did send.

Well, how is the situation to be retrieved? The trip to Paris did not help any. The Belfast experience made things even worse. Now the Prime Minister had to come home. In the meantime the great and faithful of

the Conservative party in Toronto and Ottawa were preparing banquets to welcome the returning hero bedecked with laurels—or at least they thought so. But evidently wiser counsel prevailed—I do not know whether from here or from Toronto—because it was realized that if they banqueted their leader he would have to make a speech. And if he made a speech what was he going to tell them? Well, a bright idea occurred to somebody. Last summer the west had been pretty well stuffed with these bedtime and fairy stories of what the government was going to do to help the farmers out there. The bright idea occurred that the Prime Minister would pour down a second dose of promises and that the west would probably gulp it as some had gulped the first dose. The Prime Minister accordingly boarded the train for the west and at every divisional point a telegram would go forward to tell them that the great emancipator was on his way to the west to bring them hope and courage to hold on. We had no snow there and cars were run all the winter. Every farmer who could scrape together a dozen of eggs—I don't think a dozen would be sufficient—or a pound of butter, and buy a gallon of gasoline, cranked up his old Lizzie and headed for Regina. All roads led to Regina because a second Abraham Lincoln, a great deliverer, had come. They had a magnificent meeting, there is no question about that, and those who could not be present heard the address over the radio. The address was so well given that you could not tell it was read. My right hon. friend claims that the reporters sometimes do not get him right, and he took the precaution on this occasion to read his address. As I say, it was well read. It differed vastly from his speech of the previous summer; I suppose that was natural. The meeting was packed to suffocation; people were sitting on their toes rather than on the chairs, with expectancy. The meeting was opened by the premier of Saskatchewan and the address of welcome was seconded by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull)—I notice he is not listening with any great pleasure now—and everything was fine—everything but the goods; that was the trouble. Well, I will not attempt to tell you, sir, what a lot of the farmers said about the speech, but I will tell you what the farmers' union said about it. Here is the heading, "Premier Bennett Speeding West." The train could not move fast enough to get him there. Now, for fear I might not summarize the speech correctly, I had my Ottawa Journal forwarded to me. Here is the summary which appeared in its issue of January 1, 1931. No doubt the paper was supplied with a copy of the speech before the Prime Minister went west. The speech is divided under seven headings. The first three deal with emergency measures, one of them being to supply seed grain for needy farmers—something that has been done for the last forty years. The other four deal with Mr. Bennett's hopes for the west. Let me quote:

So far as the future is concerned, Mr. Bennett's hope for the west was summed up in the following:

These are hopes held out to the farmers of the west:

4. He has succeeded in securing better wheat marketing arrangements with France.

I have just told the house what those arrangements developed into—assuming his hope is fulfilled the promised market there will not be half as good as it was the year before. Now the next heading:

5. He has opened negotiations with the Chinese government for the marketing of wheat in China.

Oh, I remember that night. Right then the Prime Minister proudly said that the Hon. Herbert Marler was on his way to China to negotiate a tremendous transaction with the Chinese government for the sale of Canadian wheat. It was a wonderful story. It is not surprising that he had hope of the Hon Herbert Marler doing something when we recall how anxious the right hon. gentleman was to have him established there in the first place. How these rafters rang when the appointment was made! His faith was well-placed, but unfortunately something went astray and we are not likely to see any immediate transaction for the exportation of Canadian wheat to China. Then the next heading is No. 6:

6. He has several trade treaties under review with the object of securing better wheat markets with the countries concerned.

The Prime Minister did not say where these countries were, but when your back is up against the wall you will catch at anything. That was not very heartening for the farmers out west. But the best is kept for the last:

7. He promises that when grain rates are fixed on the Hudson Bay railway they will be on the basis of the Crowsnest pass rates.

That must be balm to the soul of those waiting farmers. Why, no other rates but the Crowsnest pass rates could apply. Think of any government daring to put up any other rates on their own railway after the decision of the Hon. Mr. McKeown and the Hon.

Frank Oliver in the Vancouver rate case, when they decided it would be unjust discrimination to Vancouver if the Crowsnest pass rates were not applied. And undoubtedly it would be rank discrimination against Churchill if the Crowsnest pass rates were not applied. That assurance of the Prime Minister is just so much more humbug and piffle, Mr. Speaker, take it from me. I wish parliamentary procedure would allow me to say what I feel with respect to this subject. Then think how ardently the Tory party all through the years worked for the reestablishment of Crowsnest pass rates! They the Conservatives suspended those rates in 1919, and when the King government restored them in 1922 hon. gentlemen opposite fought like wildcats against the restoration. Now they have the gall to talk about that as something they did themselves. And what of Churchill itself? The Hudson Bay Railway would terminate to-day at Nelson if hon. gentlemen opposite had had their way, and it would have been a blind alley and no good to any one. There is an untold story about that Nelson business, and I hope I shall live long enough to see it revealed. We all know that Churchill would not have been selected as the terminus for the railway if my hon. friends opposite had had their way. And yet my right hon. friend and his supporters talk about Crowsnest rates being applied on the Hudson Bay railway to Churchill and expect the farmers of the west to swallow that down without a wink!

Well, the United Farmers must have sat up nearly all night, because the meeting did not close until about ten o'clock and after that they drafted a reply which appeared in the morning issue of the Leader, together with the report of the Prime Minister's speech. Here is what it says:

"Stunned and amazed" was the description which George H. Williams—

Who I understand was a former Conservative but then was president of the farmers' union.

—president of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan section, applied to the audience which listened to the address delivered by Premier R. B. Bennett at the armouries, Tuesday night. Mr. Williams declared that the show of enthusiasm which had marked the opening of the meeting dwindled away towards the close to perfunctory applause.

Further on in the same article I find the following:

Disappointing Pronouncement

"Mr. Bennett's address was to my mind the most disappointing pronouncement that any prime minister has ever made in a time of crisis in western Canada, and this in the face of press forerunners which led people to believe that Mr. Bennett would offer some solid and substantial policy," Mr. Williams declared.

This is the statement of the head of the United Farmers of Saskatchewan, who recently was in Rome, presumably helping our High Commissioner to stir things up, We hope, however, this proposed new London conference eventually will turn out all right.

That was the Regina frost. You would think there could not be anything worse, but the Prime Minister returned to Ottawa and shortly afterwards we heard of the Russian embargo. I must admit that my first reaction to the Russian situation was a shrinking away. I do not like their form of government; I do not like their attitude towards religion, or at least I do not like what that attitude is said to be. I have, however, no evidence before me upon which I can intelligently consider Russia, either as to the form of government, the attitude towards their schools or the attitude towards religion. Let me appeal to your, Mr. Speaker; you feel keenly on this matter, as I do. You cannot, however, base business transactions on prejudice, and I will admit that my first feeling was prejudice. One must let his judgment have sway, if one has any, and my judgment told me that by Canada so acting we were simply cutting off our nose to spite our face and incurring a great risk. Surely if there is any use in having a British Empire, and I claim there is much use in it, we should have consulted the other parts of the empire before taking action ourselves. Surely this is a question big enough even to go before the League of Nations; but instead of following some such course of action, we madly slap Russia in the face and put on the embargo. If he is correctly reported, the Minister of National Revenue takes the ground that Canada would not stand for that kind of government. I have the report of his remarks here, but it is not worth reading. It is an offence to a great nation with which we have to live as neighbours.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Thank you, sir. Like my colleague to my right I will continue this in my next speech, possibly on the budget.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): Avoiding the morass of political partisan controversy, Mr. Speaker, which has already engulfed too much valuable time this session, I propose to lay before the government and the house a plain, businesslike statement, so far as I am capable, of the condition of the leading

industries in the district which I represent and throughout British Columbia generally, and if possible to suggest some constructive ideas to improve the conditions of those industries. That, I take it, is the primary purpose for which my constituents sent me here.

The major industries in my district are the basic ones of farming, fishing, lumbering, coal mining and the manufacture of pulp. If we are committed to a system of protection and higher protection, I submit that these basic industries demand that protection now, rather than that we should continue to give higher protection to the combines of wealthy manufacturers of the east, who already have more than is coming to them. As proof of this I might refer to a statement which already has been put on Hansard several times, showing that the prices of the basic products of the soil and the sea have fallen from five to eight times more than the prices of the manufactured products of the eastern factories.

Dealing first with farming, the dairy industry was materially helped when Hon. Charles Dunning cancelled the New Zealand agreement with respect to butter. The dairy industry will reap the benefit of that action more fully in the future, when the supply of butter which was rushed into Canada before the legislation became effective is exhausted. Credit must be given also to the present government for making a temporary arrangement with Australia under which butter from that country does not come into Canada except at a price of 31 or 32 cents per pound. This arrangement is temporary, however, and the dairymen are looking anxiously for the new treaty to discover what is going to be done about imports of butter, mutton, tallow, honey and so on. Four or five months ago we heard a great deal about this Australian treaty; to read the press at that time one would think the treaty was practically negotiated. But I find nothing whatever about it in the speech from the throne. Goodness knows there is not so very much in the speech but that it would have been strengthened by a statement as to the Australian treaty. I am quite ready to remember that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens), who was negotiating the treaty, has been ill. We all hope for his speedy return to the house, but reports as to this treaty appeared in the papers long before his illness overtook him, and in any case the government goes on as a whole and it should have been possible to make mention of such an important matter in the speech from the throne. From what the leader of the government said to-day, however, it would seem that we cannot look for any action in that regard this session.

The poultry industry, which is important in British Columbia was helped also by Mr. Dunning when he raised the duty on eggs coming from the United States to 10 cents per dozen, through the countervailing duties The present government, while repealing the countervailing duties, confirmed that rate of 10 cents a dozen and made it a permanent item in the tariff. That has been a great help to the poultry industry and has practically stopped the importation of American eggs. It might be easy for me to say now that the present low price of eggs has come about because of the tariff, but that is not the fact; it has come about in spite of the tariff. However that does show that the tariff is not a panacea for every ailment from which the body politic can suffer, especially when we run up against high production coupled with low consumption.

What can be done to help these two major branches of agriculture? I would suggest three things, not as cure-alls, but as proposals which, in my opinion, would substantially help the situation. The first is a material advance in cooperation. The late Minister of Agriculture introduced into his department the beginning of a branch having to do with cooperation, and secured a capable man to attend to it. That should be largely developed; farmers should be encouraged, informed and trained, so to speak, to go into cooperation much more extensively than is the case at the present time. They should be educated in cooperation in the selling of their products, which is more important perhaps, than cooperation in buying. They should be trained also in cooperation in buying and in the processing of their products, in order to get them to market more cheaply. Above all, they should be educated in cooperation in the distribution of their products, because that is where a great loss occurs. As one man said, we want to cut the costs from the land to the larder. Cooperation would do away with a great deal of our present trouble.

The second grievance under which we are suffering is an old question, but it is extremely important; I refer to freight rates. We pay $4.20 per ton more for bringing wheat from the prairies for consumption in British Columbia than is paid for wheat which is to be shipped to China or Great Britain. The high rate is put upon the low grade wheat for domestic use and the low rate upon the high grade, exportable wheat, making it doubly unfair. We used to hear about the railways putting on all that the traffic would stand, but in this case they are putting on more than the traffic will stand. This ques-

tion has been before the Board of Railway Commissioners, and has been carried to the Canadian privy council, which is the government. It was taken to the privy council nearly a year ago, or perhaps more than a year ago. The last government dallied with it and did not give a decision, and the present government seem to be doing the same thing. It is time they took some action. If they do not feel called upon to deal with the matter on their own initiative by order in council, then they can bring down legislation as was done in the case of the Crowsnest rates.

It has been asserted, whenever this question has come up, that it is customary to give a preference to exportable produce of any kind. Yes, that is so in many instances; but you will find it is nearly always so when there is an alternative water route to compete, and when it is necessary to make one route compete against the other. There is no water route betwen the prairies and British Columbia, and if anything else were needed to show the injustice of the thing it is this: Since the Hon. John Oliver took up the question twelve or fifteen years ago—he fought it at every stage of the game—twice in that period there have been reductions in the export rate, but he did not succeed in getting a corresponding reduction in the domestic rate.

We will say for the sake of argument, but only for argument, because I do not admit it, that the spread fifteen years ago between the export and the domestic rates, was a proper one; but by no reasoning or logic, or lack of logic, can it be argued that the spread is right and proper now, because the export rate has been reduced twice while the domestic rate has not been reduced at all in that period. We find nothing of this in the speech from the throne, and it is a subject of major importance and one which should find a place there. We can only suppose—I hope I am wrong—that it is not the intention of the government to deal with the matter in the immediate future.

These two things, the development of co-operation to a large extent, and the question of rates, would help the dairying and poultry industry very considerably. It would enable them to produce cheaper and to cut the cost in the world's market, at a time when the purchasing power of ordinary people has been much reduced.

There is another item I would suggest although it is perhaps more confined to British Columbia. It is this. A great deal of the coast country of British Columbia and Vancouver island, is or has been heavily timbered and before the land can be made available for agriculture it has to be cleared and stumped; and even under present scientific methods this is very expensive. It costs roughly, to clear it, five times what it is worth after it is cleared, because it is not first class land, although it is good second class land. Consequently it naturally holds back enormously the development of the country.

I discussed the matter with the late government last year and got from them some promise that they would try to induce the National Research Council to investigate whether some method could not be devised of providing a cheap chemical which would enable these stumps to be burned out. A chemical of that kind can be obtained now, but it is too costly, and some tentative promise was made that the matter would be investigated. But little has been done. They tell me that there are other projects showing more promise of achievement which they think should be given attention first. That may be; but I would urge the government to consider the question. It would be of enormous benefit. There are a large number of soldier settlers just on the verge of insolvency, under debt to the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and a chemical such as I suggest would help them to get out of their financial difficulties. Furthermore, the government owns areas of these reverted lands, and there is going to be a great loss on them. It would enable the government to sell these lands at a reasonable price and, moreover, it would be a very substantial contribution to the relief of unemployment, because it would furnish a great extent of fairly cheap land. One has no idea of the large area which is in that condition, logged-off lands with stumps in them, which could be immediately available for people to make a living on them. At the present time it is little better than a crime to invite people to go on that land, and ask them to clear it at a cost five or six times what the land is worth after it is cleared. If this land could be cleared as I suggest, it would materially help the agricultural situation.

I come now to another industry which is absolutely unprotected, that of coal. It is suffering from competition with fuel oil. It is suggested that we should have a duty on fuel oil. At one time that would have been immediately effective, but it is somewhat doubtful whether it would work at the present time. In days gone by, all fuel oil used in British Columbia was imported, and a duty on it would have restricted its use. Now it is nearly all—and it will apparently soon be all—manufactured in British Columbia. It is manufactured through the production of

gasoline out of crude oil. It is a by-product, and it is doubtful whether a duty would have the desired effect, because the manufacturers treat this oil as a by-product. They make their money on gasoline, and it might be that if a duty were placed on fuel oil they would sell it for whatever they could get for it and they would cut the price to the extent of the duty. That would mean that the government would get an income, but it would be of no benefit to the coal industry, which is what we want to help. That is a matter which the government experts might inquire into.

Now there is an immediate and certain remedy. I emphasize those words because it cannot be denied that it would have an effect the moment it was put into force, and I urge the necessitiy for immediate action inasmuch as the industry is in a desperate condition. What I suggest is this: that the government grant a bonus of $1.50 a ton on all coal mined in Vancouver island for export purposes other than to the United States. I leave out the east of British Columbia because they share in certain favourable rates granted Alberta. I leave out coal for domestic purposes in British Columbia and also coal for export to the United States, as there is a reciprocal condition there which would not benefit us. I am speaking merely of coal for other export. There is a precedent for it. Nova Scotia gets a railway rate to allow it to get into the markets of Ontario, and Alberta gets a rate which is sometimes quoted as $1.25, although it is $1.48, and it is apt to be more than that because it is on a sliding scale. That is what the country at large pays to make up the difference between the rate granted Alberta and eastern British Columbia coal and what it costs the railway company. The first period calculated, as I say, came to $1.48 a ton. And what is it for? To enable coal to be moved to the desired market in Ontario. Now, we suggest that a bonus of this description would enable us to export coal to the markets of South America—Peru, Chile, Valparaiso. It would not be a great drain on the treasury to begin with, and we believe it would develop more trade.

In this connection we also ask for some cooperation from the government, more particularly from the Department of Marine. I am sorry the minister is not present. A father can flog his child for lying to him, but unless he sets an example of personal rectitude he will not do much more than make the boy a hypocrite. And this is the situation here. There is a boat called The Lillooet, under the control of the Marine department. It has been operating on the Pacific ocean on a hydrographic survey. Some years ago the department proposed to turn it into a oil burner and I opposed this. With the help of the late Hon. Mr. Sloan, a member of the provincial government and a representative of a coal-mining district, we got the government to abandon the idea. Now this last fall the Department of Marine decided to build another hydrographic survey ship, and the moment I heard that tenders had been called for I wrote to the minister. I wrote at once, not after it was too late, and urged him to see that the boat should be a coal burner. I am sorry to say that I have not received a reply to my letter—of such are the children of Ammon! My appeal certainly fell on stony ground, because a notice appeared in the papers a few weeks ago to the effect that the ship would be an oil burner. Then Sir Henry Thornton, the president of the Canadian National Railways, informs us that he will not allow the hotel which is being built in Vancouver to use anything but oil. And worse than that, we find them building a great tank of a million gallons capacity at Port Mann, with a view to changing a good many of theiir engines on the Canadian National Railways from coal to oil, in startling contrast with the action of the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is not under government control. A meeting of the coal operators was held last fall, at which I was present, and the agent of the Canadian Pacific promised that their switching engines in Vancouver would be changed back from oil-burning to coal-burning. This means a coal consumption of something like 20,000 tons per year. The government should continue the experiments made by the late government in the use of pulverized coal. At a recent sitting of the provincial legislature, a member moved a resolution along these lines, but the government moved an amendment suggesting a survey.

If there is one thing we do not want in this connection, it is a survey. The Government in British Columbia have gone crazy over surveys. It does not matter what the trouble is, whether it is cut worms or currency, whether it is railway rates or rabbits, if you complain the government finally says: "We will give you a survey." The hon. members from British Columbia know what that means; it means a lot of fat jobs for political heelers and it means the postponement of action dearly beloved by the provincial government When we ask for anything during the sittin

of the legislature we are promised a survey to be made during the recess. Upon one occasion we endured such a survey and we came back at the next session and said: You have had your survey, give us action. What did they do? They ordered another, a second survey. We do not want stone, we want bread. I have argued this matter for ten years both in and out of this house, and now with desperate earnestness I say to the government: It is now or never for this industry. I have a local paper which announces that two large mines have been closed and other mines are operating on a part time basis of two and three days per week. That practice has been carried on all winter, which season is the harvest time for the coal miner. If they can only get two days work a week in winter what will be their condition in the summer? I tell the government that if no action is taken in this matter, 5,000 miners counting those dependent directly and indirectly upon them will have to be supported by relief measures. I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) will give us some action. He has never been accused, even by his worst enemies, of not being a man of action, and surely he will do something to relieve this desperate condition.

The next matter I would draw to the attention of the government is the lumber and pulp industry. This industry has reached a state where many operators are indifferent whether or not they run their camps. When the camps are run, the work is speeded up, sometimes through the efforts of the men themselves in an attempt to keep the camp going, and such overspeed means danger. The equipment is not being kept up and in many cases has reached a state where it might be called haywire. That class of equipment and speeded operations mean but one thing—increased danger, more accidents and, alas, more deaths, because in many instances the accidents prove to be fatal.

This industry sent a delegation to Australia some years ago and they received a promise of preference in the treaty soon to be negotiated. An Australian paper says that a preference on lumber as well as on fish has been given to us, and we are very anxious to see what is to become of that treaty. Up to the present, all that we can find is that nothing is to become of it. A very substantial preference was granted, something like $5 per thousand on lumber. Unfortunately, their currency has depreciated and this preference does not mean nearly as much as it would seem to. A mistake has been made in Australia, apparently through lack of information, in that while a preference has been given on Douglas fir, none has been given on hemlock and spruce, both equally important to the industry. I hope the government will keep this fact in mind in negotiating any treaty.

The government should continue the payment of a bonus to ships on the Australian route. Because of conditions in Australia, this trade has dropped considerably and the government should do everything to encourage it.

The Commercial Intelligence Journal contains a statement that the sale of Canadian lumber in Great Britain is being handicapped because other nations are selling their lumber as Canadian. The suggestion is made that it soon may be too late to make an effort to have Canadian lumber marked as such. One of the lumber associations in British Columbia has arranged to mark their product with a trade mark, but that is not what is wanted. We want government action which will guarantee that all lumber from Canada will be marked under government control with the word "Canada" or some similar word. An attempt should be made to get the British government to make it compulsory that other lumber be marked with its country of origin. Some publicity should be given to the superiority of our Douglas fir over other competing woods, which superiority is not generally understood. Perhaps the High Commissioner, after he has completed his self-imposed task of reforming the sentiments, morals and economics of the British people, will find time to advertise Canadian lumber.

Fisheries are very important to British Columbia. The market and prices have both almost disappeared, but we are living in the hope that world industrial conditions will improve and that we shall be able again to find a reasonably profitable market for our fish. Australia has recently given us a preference on salmon amounting to something like $2.50 per case. The government should take steps to implement this preference and see that it is included in the next trade treaty.

When assistance for the fishing industry in British Columbia is mentioned, one's thoughts naturally turn to the regulations, which are changed once or twice each year. If I may suggest to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes), we would like a holiday on regulations—leave us alone for a time. We are like the soldier who lay wounded in hospital. He was being fussed over by well-meaning society ladies until finally he put up this notice: " I am too sick to be nursed to-day." I think I speak for the great majority of the working fishermen when I say that there is

one exception to this rule; we do not want the minister to abandon the system which he inaugurated of either he or his deputy or both visiting British Columbia every fall. That is one of the finest things ever started by the department. In the old days the fishermen had no voice; the big interests formulated the policies in the minister's office. They could come to Ottawa, but the fisherman was never heard of. Some hon. member might make a protest from the floor of the house, but it was then too late. This holding of meetings of fishermen in Vancouver, Nanaimo and Prince Rupert has been of great benefit to both the industry and the department. The fishermen feel that their complaints are being listened to and that if they are reasonable, some relief will be given. I strongly recommend that these meetings be continued.

I wish to thank the minister on behalf of the industry for coming out last fall, and I desire to thank him for what he did not do on that occasion. In making this statement, I do not want it to be taken as cheap sarcasm. A small section of the industry made up their minds as to what he was going to do; every political, financial, economic and social influence was brought to bear. He was not to be allowed to take a bath without being accompanied by some of the elect. Banquets were held which only the elite were permitted to attend; he was to be supplied with food, flattery and fiction, and it was determined that he was to see only through their eyes. But what did they get? The minister turned out to be, in the vernacular of British Columbia, a wise guy, almost as wise as he looks. He sat and listened and drank it all in, and looked wise and the more he listened and the more he drank, the wiser he looked. That is about all they got out of him. A few days later he insisted on attending an open meeting of fishermen held in the same town, where there were no flourishes, no sycophancies, no banquets, no flowers, but he listened to the orderly presentation of the views of twenty thousand working fishermen. He listened attentively and courteously. He did not promise anything, we did not expect that; we wanted only a hearing. He went away. When the regulations came out, he had not given us much we asked for, but he had rejected the views put forward by the vested interests. There were three major proposals presented to him by them, and he was to be compelled to adopt them. He turned them down. I am prepared to say, without fear of contradiction, that if he had granted any one or all three of those things it would have spelled disaster and ruin to thousands of working fishermen. I must admit that the minister did fall from grace in one respect, or rather I will not say "fall", I will just say, "slipped". It was just a cog. He gave way in his regulations on two small points, unfortunately in the district which I represent. This will inure to the benefit of a gentleman who was the campaign manager of my opponent. While I chronicle that side slip, so to speak, I must admit that as regards the general industry as a whole, it was in two entirely minor matters.

If I have time there are two or three suggestions I should like to make. I have the backing of meetings of fishermen and boards of trade in asking that the minister should not give more power to the chief supervisor of fisheries in British Columbia. He has too much power already. We do not want any Mussolinis in British Columbia. Give power and authority to some officials and they rise to the occasion and become bigger and better men. Others merely—swell. Again I would say, as the minister values his reputation, let him refrain from having any part or lot with the Hon. Mr. Howe, Commissioner of Fisheries of British Columbia.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. NEILL: I see these words awake an echo amongst British Columbia members. He is a very nice gentleman, but his ignorance of fishery matters is appalling and his credulity is colossal. About a year ago the privy council in London gave the provincial government power to regulate the manufacture of fish after they were caught, not before. This gentleman was induced in his innocence to formulate a series of quibbling regulations by means of which he was going to wrest the power from the minister who sits opposite; he was going to take away our jurisdiction over the catching of fish. The result as regards the condition of the common fisherman would have very much resembled that in Russia. It certainly would have been economic slavery. The members of the local house, Liberals and Conservatives alike, united to fight the proposition in a committee of the local house. At last the Commissioner threw up his hands and admitted that the whole thing had been conceived by arrangement and born in ignorance. That was the end of that. A few weeks afterwards I read in one of his party papers—and I suppose it was correct—that he said his scheme was getting along nicely, but the member for Comox-Alberni had gone up and down the coast "sowing his poison" and he himself had

"reaped the whirlwind." I did not know that reaping the whirlwind was the repercussion of poison; I thought that the first reaction would be a tummy-ache. The gentleman's metaphor was very much mixed. It suggests that he has little knowledge of medicine, but I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that his knowledge of medicine is profound as compared with his knowledge, or lack of knowledge, of fishery matters. Defeated in that attempt, he has adopted another line of procedure, and is now trying to work up propaganda to get this government and parliament to hand over to him the whole of the rights over the fishing industry. All I say to that is: God forbid. We do not know very much about the minister at Ottawa, but what little we do know is rather to his credit, and I think we will take this position, that we would rather have the devil at Ottawa—he will excuse the term; it is used as one of endearment—of whom we know little, than the devil at Victoria of whom we know all too much.

I do not know whether I have time to say a word on the question of fishery guardians. They are temporary men appointed for from two to five months every year. They are not Civil Service Commission appointees, and therefore they are not entitled to the soldiers' preference by law, but surely the government will admit that they are entitled to the preference in so far as it comes under political patronage. That is to say, these men will be appointed by patronage in accordance with the custom but I hope they will give a preference to present employees and to the returned men. The system I followed in days gone by was that if a man had been employed for two years and there was no kick from the department as to his work he should be left on, no matter what his politics were. This gave the department good servants, efficient men, because they knew that it was not politics but attention to their duties that kept them in their positions. What is to be done to-day? I very much fear they are going to revert to a system of political appointment only. I know a man who has given six years' good service and who has been told that he will have to apply for the endorsation of the local Conservative Association. That means that some political appointee, and not even a returned man, will get the job. That is not going to make for good service. I should like to read part of a resolution passed by a soldiers' body, which, after reciting the facts outlined above, says:

> Therefore the Courtenay branch of the Canadian Legion beg to recommend,—
>
> First, that where men have held such positions for two or more years without complaint from their superior officers, they should be reappointed.
>
> Second, that when there are vacancies, the branches of the legion in the districts where the vacancies occur (or the nearest thereto) be asked to nominate returned men suitable for the position.

[Mr. Neill.]

I think two or three of these resolutions have been sent to the minister and I would suggest that he take the stand that those who have done good service, who have not taken any part in politics, and especially those who are returned men, should be left alone.

I have just time for a word more regarding the Imperial conference. I regret the failure of that conference. Criticism has been made of the methods of approach and also of the result. A great deal of it I fear was true. I fear that the wisest methods were not adopted, but behind and beyond those methods is there not this fundamental cause, so to speak, namely that Canada rejected the British preference? If she had not done that the result might have been different. At least it appeared to Great Britain that we rejected the British preference, although I do not think we did. The issue was so involved with other things that it was not possible to state the situation clearly. But Great Britain saw it in that light, and that was primarily the cause of the non-success of the conference. More diplomatic methods might have been applied. I believe in "vox populi, vox dei," in accepting the decision of the people. Nevertheless it is possible to say that I regret the decision if it was clearly against the British preference, because I think that was a mistake. Speaking from an entirely selfish, mercenary point of view and for the moment as one whose horizon is bounded by a Canadian aspect, I think it would have been better for us, better for Canada, if we had united ourselves along those close and intimate lines that trade produces, with our own kith and kin across the water rather than with the country to the south of us, who, however friendly for the moment, may at any time—and this has happened—cut all those bonds of trade and turn us loose with a disorganized trade condition on our hands from which we cannot recover for many years. Apart from any sentimental regard whatever, I think it would be better if we dealt with our own breed. I hope the day will come soon when we may secure a greater measure of British preference, which cannot but be to the mutual benefit of Canada, Great Britain and the British Empire itself.

Mr. L. DUGUAY (Lake St. John) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate

myself with previous speakers in congratulating the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I especially want to congratulate the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) for having stood up as the representative of the Acadian minority. With reference to the question of minorities, permit me to go back to March 20, 1931, when the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) stated in the house, "If Mr. Anderson is allowed to do to-day what he intends to do out west in Saskatchewan, where does the fault lie?" I answer that the fault rests not only on Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but also on the Liberal party as a whole. Last year, that party had the opportunity of proving its sincerity in connection with the rights of the minority, but instead of vindicating here in this House of Commons, the rights which it haughtily proclaims in the province of Quebec, it is content to take a different attitude as I shall show by referring to last year's Hansard, at page 1699:

I think the hon. member for Labelle and the house as a whole can trust the sense of justice and fairness of the people of Alberta and Saskatchewan and their respective governments to deal generously and fairly with every class of the community.

Mr. Lapointe: That is really what is being done.

Mr. Speakman: I quite appreciate that in the terms of the argument. I am applying my remarks rather to the argument of the member for Labelle.

Mr. Lapointe: That is really what is being done. It is a mark of our confidence in the two provinces instead of keeping this endowment fund here we are transferring it to them.

They then expressed their confidence in the Saskatchewan government which is the same one in power to-day. For instance, in the last general election, the Prime Minister of Quebec himself, according to the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Dorion), took advantage of these prejudices against the Conservative party in Quebec. Fortunately, many Quebec ridings gave little credence to them, and, to-day, more than twenty members from that province are here to straighten things out and tell the house that Conservatives deal with the French language with equity and are happy to proclaim that, under the present government the rights of minorities are as well safeguarded as they were under the previous administration. Moreover, sir, I may state that personally I am entirely opposed to Mr. Anderson's policy and that I would never sacrifice the rights of minorities for political gain, because to me principles are above party interests.

Some hon. members opposite shouted: "Shame, shame," when they were unmasked by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne). But what do they think, for instance, of Mr. Olivar Asselin, chief editor of the Canada, a Liberal newspaper of Montreal, who wrote in his pamphlet entitled: "Sir Wilfrid Laurier", at page 8:

The Dominion cabinet, in which were still to be found a few of the fathers of confederation, for decency's sake, hesitated to definitely break off with the traditions of Macdonald and Cartier, and became alarmed. They wished to gain time, consult the courts with reference to some terms which to all men of good will seemed quite clear. The courts having acknowledged the rights of Catholics, after years of delay, the government decided to act. The cabinet divided. Mr. Laurier might, by adhering to the right cause have assured its triumph, and thereby might have helped in guiding the federal authorities in the right path whence they had been drifting away for ever so long. However, the opportunity of being raised to power was too alluring, it was he on the contrary who, the first, declared war, siding with the government despoiler, shouting: "Hands off Manitoba!" He was the first in this crisis, and the first since 1867, with the exception of a few fanatics whom all parties had always kept at a distance, he laid down as a principle the absolute sovereignty of provinces in matters of education. All whose sentiments were anti-Catholic and anti-French, in Canada, grouped around him.

That is what the chief editor, himself, of this Liberal newspaper of Montreal wrote at the time. When a Conservative, not long ago, stated very similar views, they shouted: "shame", yet, the author of this article, is given high praise for his editorials in the Canada and they feel proud in handing over to him the management of this partisan newspaper.

If this is the way, sir, that the Liberals protect the rights of minorities, I am glad to see the Conservative party in power, because I am convinced that these rights are better safeguarded under Conservative than under Liberal rule.

Let us, sir, broach another subject. May I ask what in substance has been advised by our opponents since the outset of this session? They delivered many speeches. They especially proclaimed that the Conservatives had not fulfilled their pledges. May I, previous to indicating how the present government fulfilled their pledges, state what the Liberals did with theirs? At the opening of the first session of the Liberal government on March 9, 1922, the following words are put in the speech from the throne:

Whilst of the opinion that unemployment relief is fundamentally a municipal and provincial responsibility, my government has felt that as conditions have arisen in a measure out of the late war, they would be justified in continuing for the period of the winter months the expedient of supplementing by grants from

the federal treasury the relief or contributions of provinces and municipalities for the purpose of alleviating actual distress.

A little further in the same speech from the throne, we find:

The stream of immigration to the Dominion was much interrupted and restricted during the war. Now that the blessing of peace is with us, a renewal of efforts to bring in new settlers must be made. My government are fully alive to the importance of this question and will use every reasonable endeavour to attract to our country people of the most desirable class with particular regard to settlement on our undeveloped lands.

The Liberal government alleviated unemployment which existed in 1922 by bringing to our shores, in the space of 9 years, from 1921 to 1930, more than 1,150,000 immigrants who cost the country $20,000,000. Under the Liberal regime, the right hon. Mr. King absolutely stated that he had wiped out unemployment. Yet, a year ago, the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) requested the government to take immediate steps to relieve unemployment. What was the government's answer? I shall quote, for the benefit of members on the left who shouted: "No, no", when the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) told them that they had denied there was any unemployment, the baffling statements of their leader, on April 3, 1930, at page 1226 of Hansard:

. . . . we have no right to say that there is any national unemployment problem in this country.

He went further and stated:

. . . . that there is no way in which you can more effectively defeat the possibility of investment of capital in your country than to seek to create the impression in other lands, and throughout your own, that conditions are not prosperous, that they are bad and that there are within this country large numbers of unemployed.

Last year, mention of unemployment was not permitted, however, this year they are in the opposition and last year's scruples are set aside.

In 1922, the government wished to relieve unemployment by bringing immigrants to this country. What was the policy of the Conservative government in 1930? They admitted that unemployment existed and their first step was to stop immigration; secondly they called a conference of delegates from all the provinces; thirdly they convoked an emergency session—which was never to take place according to our opponents—and lastly they appropriated an amount of $20,000,000, thereby giving work to thousands of unemployed. Yet notwithstanding all this, we have done nothing according to our hon. friends, to alleviate the present crisis! Hon. members in the opposition, sir, in order to belittle the acts of the present administration, unceasingly lay stress on the pledges which we made. These pledges, neither the government nor the people will forget and they will be carried out for the greatest welfare of the country.

What is very interesting also is to remind the opposition of their 1921 pledges and find out what became of them. They were, first, to force people of means to pay the war expenditure in the shape of an income tax. This tax, in 1922, brought in a revenue of $78,000,000; in 1929 under the Liberal regime, it had already decreased to $69,000,000. Instead of increasing this tax they decreased it. This was in violation of their first pledge. Then, the war expenditure was to be paid by business profit taxes. In 1922, this brought in $23,000,000; in 1929, it gave but $450,000.

The sales tax was to be abolished to help the poor ratepayers. The tax amounted to 5 per cent in 1922. The Liberals increased it to 6 per cent, to reduce it later to 4, 3 and 2 per cent. But thanks to these increases, the Liberals drew from the people $180,000,000 more than the Conservative administrations.

The cost of living was also to be reduced. In 1922, the weekly family budget for five people was $21.52. After nine years of Liberal administration it fell to $20.21, that is a decrease of $1.21. Labour wages are considerably lower so that living conditions are harder to-day than they were at that time. One wonders what would have happened in Canada had the Liberals remained in power.

We have been listening to their complaints, since the opening of the session, that we are doing nothing to alleviate unemployment. But what suggestion to alleviate unemployment have they made to the government? Very seldom since confederation has a government, presenting its first speech from the throne been subjected to such an avalanche of criticisms. If they are truly desirous as they proclaimed during the elections, to promote the welfare of the people and remedy unemployment, why do they, to-day, oblige the government to listen to these lengthy speeches which are devoid of all suggestion tending to alleviate unemployment? It seems to me that the best way to prove their sincerity would be to curtail the number of their speeches and ask the government to act immediately.

I should like to make suggestions, but under the present circumstances, I shall desist seeing that I expect the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to enact measures which will be very helpful to farmers.

The Quebec farmers especially are suffering from the unemployment crisis. The majority of them had no crops last year, the consequence is they feel very depressed. I hope that the measures brought down by the hon. Minister of Agriculture will be a boon to all farmers. The Lake St. John county which I am privileged to represent is anxiously awaiting these measures.

In closing my remarks, sir, I wish to state that the government may depend on my entire support and that it rejoices me to think that some day prosperity will return again to this country under the standard of the Conservative party.

Mr. J. R. HURTUBISE (Nipissing) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, my first thought is to express a feeling of diffidence in the presence of hon. ministers of the crown and members of this house, who for the most part are my seniors in parliamentary experience. I therefore, sir, beg your indulgence. At the outset, allow me to make use of the French language, it being a privilege for which I am indebted to a large number of my constituents who were the pioneers of New Ontario; settlers, artisans, manufacturers and professional men. In spite of many adversities they succeeded in having their language, usages and customs respected, and in reaching an enviable place in the community. I shall thereafter speak in English; I owe it to my English-speaking friends who have been kindness itself towards my compatriots and with whom also we form a large family, working harmoniously together for the common weal. Ho! there are among us, like in Saskatchewan, extremists who preach hatred and discord, but their number is limited and sensible people pay no attention to them. It would have given me much pleasure to be one of those who congratulated you, Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of your election to the speakership of this house. I have full confidence that you will, sir, continue with all fairness, dignity and ability to direct the deliberations of the house. My congratulations extend also to the hon. members who moved and seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It was a credit to them and I wish them success in their future career. I also want to extend my congratulations to the leader of the opposition for his splendid speech which will be handed down to posterity as the most complete, up-to-date and to the point speech in the present crisis. It will be looked upon as a "vademecum" by the Liberal members and perhaps also by the members on the opposite side. Speeches both well thought out and instructive have been delivered since the opening of the session, however, I wish to mention particularly that of the hon. member for Prescott (Mr. Bertrand)—the riding in which I had the pleasure of polling my first Liberal vote. He vividly pictured the decline of agriculture, made worse by these few months of protection under the present administration, and he suggested the remedy for these ills. Then I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien), who gave us an outline of the situation on the western farms. I entirely agree with these hon. gentlemen and I trust the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) will not turn a deaf ear to those appeals and that he will soon acquaint us with the measures which, in his opinion, will remedy these conditions. We have already been waiting a few months. After all the pledges made during the last election, and especially the one with reference to the immediate relief of unemployment, what do we see? The $20,000,000 are spent; unemployment is very much in evidence everywhere the price of farm products is ever on the decrease; the elevators are still overflowing with grain, the granting of old age pensions is made conditional on the state of our finances; the highway from coast to coast which was to give work to hundreds of thousands of men has not been decided upon. To shelter themselves the Dominion government blame our provincial governments and vice versa; the deepening of the St. Lawrence channel is still under consideration and as things stand it will yet be for some years to come. The partial tariff revision enacted last session has been so unpopular that the government has been obliged to amend or cancel almost all their decisions. Every day, through correspondence, conversation and the press protests are lodged against the raising of the tariff and we are earnestly entreated not to allow the government to have their own way during the present session. Since July, 1930, sir, the Canadian people have been expecting a well-defined policy in all the various departments, yet the ministers of the crown travel about, deliver speeches and lectures, sometimes are even present to listen to the debates in the house, but remain dumb. When shall we expect the next sequence of pledges? The hon. ministers of the crown have the floor.

I should like, Mr. Speaker, to make a few remarks in English as I feel it is my duty to present the views of my constituency, which is composed of a considerable number of farmers and also a large number of labourers employed in the mining, lumber and railway industries.

I have listened with great interest to the speech of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), which I believe—although its length and content and

preparation did not suit the government—was the most comprehensive, detailed and elaborate that I have heard. I have also listened to the answer of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) who spoke more laboriously than during the last electoral campaign. Many other well-prepared and interesting speeches were made by hon. members on both sides of the house. The trend of those speeches has been along the line of the promises made by the government last summer, its legislation passed thereafter, and the benefits derived therefrom.

In my part of the country the people—although the majority had great confidence in the late government's policy, and did not let themselves be humbugged by the alluring promises made my opponents—have yet to see the fulfilment of most of the promises and to experience the benefits to be derived from the legislation passed by the government since its advent to power. The farmers, who have been toiling under great difficulties for several years on account of the lack of encouragement from the provincial government, had hoped to have some temporary assistance from the $20,000,000 voted last session; but the benefits received have been far from what was expected.

I congratulate the hon. member for Prescott (Mr. Bertrand) upon the very valuable information contained in his speech. He dealt with the question of farming as a man who knows something about the cost of farm production and farm revenues. I congratulate the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) on his splendid speech. I happen to know a little about the difficulties encountered by the western farmer as I have a brother in Alberta whom I visit regularly. I fully concur with the hon. member because I too believe that agriculture is the basic industry of the country, and unless something is done to check this state of marasmus—and it is not exaggerated as we were led to believe by the right hon. Prime Minister—general conditions, I submit, will continue to be more and more embarrassing for those that have the duty and the responsibility to guide the destinies of this country.

I cannot see how our farming industry can be helped otherwise than, first, by lowering the tariff and increasing the British preference, for the British market at present is the best outlet for Canadian trade since the United States and other countries have closed their doors by high tariffs; secondly, by lowering the freight rates which are such an item of cost in some parts of the country; third, by giving the farmers a low rate of interest on loans, not only to carry them over the crisis, but for an indefinite time until a change in rate is judged necessary; and, fourthly, by representation of agriculture on the Canadian National Railway board on account of the farmers being particularly concerned in transportation.

In northern Ontario the farmers are leaving their farms every year, not on account of extravagance in living, but on account of the high cost of production and of the high cost of living. They have to pay more and more every year for their farm implements, automobiles, trucks, household equipment, groceries and clothing. At the last election they were led to believe that good times were around the corner and that the only way not to miss the opportunity was to vote Conservative. Then they would be able to sell their farm products at almost any price that they might ask, and in their spare time they could work on that famous trans-Canada highway and participate in the large sums of money to be voted for that purpose. Some believed it, but the majority in my county did not. To-day the farmer can get hardly anything for his butter and eggs, and the trans-Canada highway has been undertaken only at points where a few men can get a few days work at a wage that is next to slavery, as was said by my hon. friend from Kenora (Mr. Heenan) Yes, since last fall I have received letters from some describing the conditions under which they were working, and from others asking me if it was reasonable to work at wages so low as 30 cents an hour—eight hours a day, $2.40, $14.40 a week. In other places the men were employed only three days a week, thus earning only $7.20. I know a man who is taking legal proceedings against the northern development branch for money earned and refused to him. I have proof of this under my hand.

Labour conditions in northern Ontario have been going from bad to worse. To-day I have received my home paper, the Sudbury Star, of April 8, which contains a long statement by the chairman of the local relief committee. Let me quote the following extract:

> An idea of the situation this winter may be had from the records of the relief committee. On the first of November there were 415 married men registered out of work. By December 31, this number had increased to 1,226 and on April 3 it was 1,693. On the first of November there were 498 single men registered, on December 31 there were 3,052 and on April 3, 3,438. Of this total registration there were, of course, a large number of men given part time work throughout the season.
>
> Since the soup kitchen opened in November there have been 90,329 meals given out at an approximate cost to the city of $5,419. The

kitchen is still in operation, serving an average of 425 meals a day, and the city is at present caring for 170 families.

This expense is not borne by the government, but by the local authorities. I submit this confirms my statement that labour conditions in northern Ontario have been going from bad to worse.

In 1919 there was an understanding between the Minister of Lands and Forests of Ontario and the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River, who was then member of the provincial legislature representing the Constituency of Kenora, that in northern Ontario the wages whould be 35 cents an hour, that is, $3.50 a day, or $21 a week for all government work. At the last session, there was a promise by the government, in answer to a question by the hon. member for Kenora, that the prevailing rate of wages would be adhered to. Although this was provided for in the Unemployment Relief Act, we find that those rates have been cut down. I say that the government is in duty bound to refund the difference to the employees. We have reports from papers of March 6, 1931, that labour conditions in northern Ontario are good. Those reports are not correct. Every day I receive letters, some are anonymous, because the writers do not dare sign their names for fear of losing their pitiful jobs—describing the favoritism practiced by the friends of the government and the hardship the writers have to endure. When the Minister of Labour reports that conditions in northern Ontario are good, either he is misrepresenting the facts personally or he is being misled by his friends. The Prime Minister says conditions are improving all over the country. While this may be so in a few isolated places, in the majority of cases they are going from bad to worse. During the last campaign the Conservatives said that the federal government, which then was Liberal, would not cooperate on a fifty per cent basis, but there is nothing in the sessional papers to show that a province ever asked for help.

When I consider the psychological effect created by the propaganda of our Conservative friends during the last campaign; the unrealizable promises which were made; the policies advocated which thereafter proved impracticable and even noxious to the consumer while beneficial only to the few, it is not surprising to see so much unrest in this country and to hear so much talk about communism. I do not want to refer to the matter of trade between this country and Russia, where at present communism is being tried out, because this trade proposition seems to be a debatable question. This is proved by the diverse expressions of opinion by financiers and leading men of Canada, and even by some hon. members of this house. Sudbury, through publicity, has the name of being a centre of communism. Probably that is so, but let me say that of the large number of immigrants who have come to our city representing many nations, a great many have been naturalized, have adopted the laws and the ways of living of the Canadian people and to-day rank among our best citizens. They are industrious and law-abiding citizens, to whom I owe this tribute of consideration.

If there is such a state of unrest and such an attraction to communistic ideas, it is due in great part to the lack of foresight in the province in not preventing part time work in many of our industries, such as the pulp industry. It is also due to the fact that, particularly in this present crisis, the people of Canada have been living on promises. When these promises have not been fulfilled or, having been fulfilled, have proved worthless and even injurious to the mass of the people and had to be changed or cancelled, we have been told to be patient. We have been waiting, waiting and waiting, but hope deferred maketh the heart sick.

Since the opening of the session some hon. members have referred to Canada, in the present crisis, as a very sick patient. As a doctor myself, I believe the patient is very sick. In this world-wide epidemic of markets crumbling, industries closing and people walking the streets waiting anxiously for the proper advice and treatment to save them from disaster, Doctor King said, "This is going to be a serious epidemic. Let us confer so as to not make a blunder. We shall see what germs are the cause of this disease, what are the reasons for these clinical symptoms and what treatment we will then apply." But Doctor Bennett came rushing in, saying, "This is no time to confer; this is a time to act. We shall use an empirical treatment. We shall first give the patient a good dose of some preparation of opium, such as 'a special session', immediate disappearance of unemployment', 'good markets for the western wheat', 'good markets for the farmers' eggs and butter', 'pensions for old age', 'the immediate construction of a trans-Canada highway which will give work to thousands and thousands of people,' 'a St. Lawrence waterway which will take care of our farm and manufactured products' and then we shall give him a good rubbing with the famous salve called 'protection', the great panacea which has been advocated for so many years."

The patient, eagerly looking for help in order to be spared from this great world-wide epidemic, believed in Doctor Bennett's marvellous cure and said, "I think I will have you treat me from now on." So Doctor Bennett began to apply his treatment. He went to the pharmacy, at the short session, and bought $20,000,000 worth of work for the unemployed but he found this, even mixed up with the provincial and municipal contributions, a very small amount to throw to the people, especially when we consider the voracity of some and the weakness of the great number. So the masses continued to walk the streets and that sedative, instead of putting the patient to sleep, made him scream more loudly than ever.

The next dose of dope he gave his patient was "a market for the western wheat." After a few months of treatment on promises the patient said, "Help us or we will starve," and to quiet his hunger the doctor gave him stones instead of bread. The farmer called more loudly for help; the doctor paid a special visit and told the farmer he was exaggerating his pain, and he recommended patience.

To the east he applies the plaster "things are a little better" and he tries to make his patient believe that he would have been much worse had he continued under Doctor King's care. In the north, where he was to give a bottle of that famous trans-Canada tonic, there was a misunderstanding. The doctor says he cannot send any of that tonic now because his manufacturer, the provincial government, is afraid it may hurt some part of the system. So the prescription or plan is still under discussion and the patient is gradually getting weaker.

The patient is asking whether he will be cared for when old age comes, and the doctor says, "I will look in my pharmacy, and if I have any dope left for that I will let you have some." Then the doctor wants to apply his famous panacea, protection, or tariff increase salve. The first time he tried to rub it in the patient screamed and said, "Take it off, you are killing me." The doctor is thinking of applying another dose, but he seems nervous as to the results of the first application. During all this time the patient is moaning, worrying, starving and becoming emaciated, and is wishing he could go back to his old family doctor, Doctor King. I hope Doctor Bennett will change his empirical treatment and stop and confer before he goes any further, because the patient is about to die.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that the people of Canada have been waiting anxiously since July 28, 1930, for a definite policy in the administration of the different departments. The cabinet ministers have been travelling about, making speeches at banquets, attending conferences and occasionally listening to the debates in this house, but as yet nothing constructive or definite has been offered to the people. I believe the only way to save our country from further disaster is for our Prime Minister to modify his empirical views before the Imperial conference is resumed next summer.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

[Mr. Hurtubise.]

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. J. H. STITT (Selkirk): In rising to make my first speech in this house I am perhaps in the mental state of Macbeth, as described by Master William Shakespeare when he said:

> My functions are smothered in surmise, and nothing is but what is not.

The House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, is a strange place to a new member, and although it is called parliament it is perhaps the last place in which a new member, even if he be a lawyer, desires to speak. I spoke to the hon. member for Mount Royal (Mr. White) before the house met this afternoon and he advised me that whatever I had to say perhaps I had better first try it out on the dog; but as I have no dog I am sorry to say that I shall have to try it out in the first instance and inflict it upon this parliament.

It is a very strange thing indeed for me to be here this evening. It is rather in the nature of a prophecy and also rather in the nature of the realization of a dream. Perhaps I shall discover it is a nightmare. But about sixteen years ago there was a young friend who, with myself, was preparing to go overseas. We came up to this hill one evening about 1915 when parliament was in memorable session. We stood overlooking the Ottawa river, and my friend, who is no longer here, turned to me and said: "You know, I have often dreamed that some day I shall be here in parliament. I don't know that I shall ever realize that dream, but if I am not here perhaps you will be." Mr. Speaker, it is one of the mysteries of mysteries that my friend, William George McIntyre, now lies asleep on Vimy Ridge, while I am here speaking in his place and, I hope, in the same spirit in which he spoke when he thus addressed me some sixteen years ago. I have wondered, especially since coming here, just what was in my friend's mind. I believe it was this: I believe he felt, as we all did

in those days, that the unity of our country was the great thing; not only the unity of our country but the unity of the world. It was that principle for which we fought, and it is that principle for which I trust I am here now.

Reflecting on that sentiment, I am prompted to make a protest. I desire here and now, as a young member, to protest against the kind of utterances that were made prior to the last election by certain hon. members then supporting the Liberal party. I refer by name to the Hon. Senator Lemieux, the Hon. Senator Casgrain and the Hon. Senator Dandurand. I say that I believe it becomes me to protest on this occasion against the utterances which were made by these gentlemen just prior to July 28 last when, in the frenzy of fear lest they be driven from power, they tried to divide Canada again, in spite of the principles of unity which they had advocated at other times and which they should have advocated then. I did intend, Mr. Speaker, to bring their words here before parliament, to register them here in the records of this house, and protest against this sort of language as the kind of thing that ought not to be in this country. But I do not believe they deserve that much notice. I think, it would be far better for us and all Canada to remember the words and the work of Thomas d'Arcy McGee, the great patriot orator and martyr of confederation. Perhaps I can indicate to the house better what I mean if I quote what Thomas d'Arcy McGee said in 1861:

> We Irishmen, Protestants and Catholics alike, born in a land of religious controversy, should never forget that we now live and act in a land of the fullest religious and civil liberty. All we have to do is each for himself, to keep down dissensions, which can only weaken, impoverish and keep back the country; each for himself to do all he can to increase its strength, its wealth and its reputation; each for himself, you and you gentlemen, and all of us, to welcome every talent, to take every invention, to cherish every gem of art, to foster every gleam of authorship, to honour every acquirement and every natural gift, to lift ourselves to the level of our destinies, to rise above all low limitations and narrow circumscriptions, to cultivate that true catholicity of spirit which embraces all creeds, all classes and all races, in order to make our boundless province, so rich in known and unknown resources, a great, new northern nation.

When I quote the words of Thomas d'Arcy McGee I cannot help reflecting and wondering why he who was once the hon. Speaker of this house should forget that spirit and should propagate in the province of Quebec words animated and conceived against that very spirit.

There is an incident which Mr. McGee quotes in his confederation addresses, where he speaks about the establishment of the first Protestant church in Montreal. He said that about the year 1790 the Presbyterians, both Canadian and American, organized themselves into a religious community in Montreal. They had no church, but they were given quarters by the Recollet Fathers there. Just imagine, Mr. Speaker, a situation like that, a situation where the disciples of John Knox were given by the Recollet Fathers in Montreal quarters wherein to carry out their religious observances. There was recorded in the minutes of that first Presbyterian organization their thanks to the Recollet Fathers, and it is recorded that they presented them with fifty-six pounds of wax tapers and one hogshead of wine as a thank offering for what they had done for the First Presbyterian communicn in Montreal. Thomas d'Arcy McGee in speaking of that said:

> Gentlemen, I think this is an incident which could not be recorded and is perhaps not recorded in the annals of any other country.

I stand here a supporter of the Conservative party in this house and I am pleased and gratified beyond expression that we have supporting this government so many hon. members from the old province of Quebec. I am unable to speak their beautiful language; but I say to them as a British Canadian that I am glad they are here; I am glad that the long night is over and that the harvest has come to those who have stood for Canadian unity and for a union of the two races. Not only am I pleased, but I know the country is pleased and I believe it is a great thing for Canada.

If Your Honour will permit me, I desire to comment on the remarks of the right hon. gentleman, the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). In the great oration which he delivered he seemed to have the fervour of Edmund Burke, but I believe he had also the satire of Sheridan. The right hon. gentleman spoke for four and a half hours, and it is remarkable to me, representing as I do the constituency of Selkirk, when I recall that the communist candidate in that riding also spoke for four and a half hours. I believe he was just about as successful as was the right hon. gentleman in his diatribe against the Prime Minister. I do not believe it to be incumbent upon me, nor should I deem it wise, to analyze too freely or too carelessly some of the utterances made by the right hon. gentleman, but there is one in particular to which I desire to make reference.

I believe he was quoting the words of Sheridan when he said:

"I think, father," said he, "that many men who are called great patriots in the House of Commons, are great humbugs."

Perhaps it would be invidious for me to analyze that statement or to ask this house if it believed that there is any hon. member here who is a humbug, or if it is quite sure who are the patriots.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): Patriotism always means sacrifice, and I make that statement in spite of the laughter of the hon. gentlemen from Manitoba. I repeat again, patriotism entails sacrifice, but I do not know that the right hon. gentleman who used that term has made that sacrifice usually coupled with patriotism.

The implication contained in the remarks of the right hon. gentleman were nothing more than this: that the Prime Minister and leader of this house made proposals at the recent Imperial conference which were humbug.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): If my wits do not leave me altogether, I believe before I have finished that I will be able to prove that that term has boomeranged back to the leader of the opposition. I believe it will be made plain to everybody that the man who introduced that word in this house was himself the humbug.

With Your Honour's permission I would like to quote from an article by Mr. John L. Garvin, which appeared in the London Observer of October 12, 1930. Speaking of the Imperial conference, Mr. Garvin said:

On Wednesday the conference assembled at the foreign office to get down to business. The overseas statesmen spoke with the unprecedented frankness required at this juncture. One and all they explained the only policy that can be useful to them and to us—extended preference for British manufacturers in their markets and broad reciprocal preference for dominion staples in ours. Other methods may be supplementary but they must be subsidiary. Nothing but preference all round can establish a foundation for the closer economic cooperation of the empire.

Will hon. members please note these words:

Mr. R. B. Bennett for Canada led the line.

Then all the other prime ministers of the self-governing dominions were behind him. I would much rather take the word of Mr. John L. Garvin, the greatest living journalist, than I would the word of the right hon. gentleman opposite. In the issue of the Observer of the following week, Mr. Garvin says:

[Mr. J. H. Stitt.]

The Daily Herald's proclamation does not mean the cabinet's no to Canada, it means the government's no to all the dominions. It is the dead hand of the old doctrinaire Liberalism laid upon the life of the empire and upon all that is fresh and growing and creative in the life of labour. Mr. Bennett of Canada is a Conservative appealing for change; Mr. Scullin, the Australian premier, is as good a labour man as any of them. Every child knew that reciprocal preference for Dominion staples in the mother country and for British manufacturers overseas, would be the fundamental proposition of the conference.

Will hon. gentlemen opposite please note the words:

The Daily Herald's proclamation does not mean the cabinet's no to Canada, it means the government's no to all the dominions.

There was a time in the history of this country when Canadians led the line. As one of those Canadians who had a humble task in the line, I am happy to state that I followed the right hon. the Prime Minister and he certainly led the line and showed that Canada was the foremost of the overseas self-governing dominions.

Who was it used the word "humbug" in the first instance? If he will listen to me, I will direct my remarks to the right hon. the leader of the opposition. I believe it was Mr. Thomas, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, who used this word, and I would ask to be permitted to quote from pages 30 and 31 of the Journal of the Parliaments of the Empire. The following are in part the words of Mr. Thomas:

You do not render them a service by running away from the facts. They—

Speaking of the dominion prime ministers—

—are prepared as we are prepared, to face them. They value these things and say so, but they much prefer to face the facts. We do not discuss these matters with them as partisans. Mr. Bennett did not come here as a Tory leader. Mr. Forbes did not come as a Liberal leader. Mr. Scullin did not come as a Labour leader. They all came as representatives of the dominions prepared to subordinate their particular party advantage and to examine the whole thing in the light of what is best for all.

Would you please note these words, which are those of Mr. Thomas:

The idea that they went away bitterly disappointed only exists in the minds of those who know nothing about the matter.

I believe that is almost sufficient criticism of the diatribe that was offered against the Prime Minister. Mr. Thomas continues:

It is not true, and I still say that whenever it opens, the Ottawa conference will have the benefit of the examination of a hundred and one matters which will be to the advantage of all concerned. We have said that we will go there free to examine every proposal on its

merits and not blindly say we accept it before we know what it is. That is not the way to run a government.

The best evidence that we have is that of Mr. Thomas himself who compliments the overseas prime ministers upon the manner in which they presented their case. If the attitude of the Prime Minister and his supporters at the Imperial conference was one really inimical to the welfare of the empire, and if hon. gentlemen opposite are real patriots, if they really have at heart the welfare of the empire, would they stand there hour after hour and day after day trying to engender in the minds of the people of Canada and possibly in the minds of the statesmen overseas the idea that the action of our representatives there was inimical to the welfare of the empire? Is that conceivable? It is not logical. The Prime Minister's admirable defence has been heard by all in this house. May I refer again to the words of Mr. Jebb, the historian of the Imperial conference, who said that the policy of the present Prime Minister was practically the same as that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I notice that hon. gentlemen opposite took umbrage at that statement. The ex-Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) devoted almost his entire speech to an effort to explain to the house that the policy of the present Prime Minister was not that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but I refer the house particularly to the words of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). I believe he knows something about imperial affairs. What were his words? As reported at page 87 of this year's Hansard, the hon. member for Labelle said that the Prime Minister was right when he said that he practically imitated the policy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Does that not reduce the whole argument of hon. gentlemen opposite to an absurdity? If what the Prime Minister proposed was humbug, then if Mr. Scullin and the other prime ministers stood behind our leader they were all humbugs, and if, as the hon. member for Labelle says, the Prime Minister's policy was practically an imitation of that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, we have this unwitting comment of the present leader of the Liberal party in this house, that Sir Wilfrid Laurier's proposals were humbug. That is analyzing logically the attitude of the right hon. the leader of the opposition.

When one considers the argument presented by the leader of the opposition, it is best described by a story told by Mr. Peter McArthur some years ago in Toronto. When I heard this lengthy speech of the ex-Prime Minister I said to myself: It must be a phenomenon; it is absolutely phenomenal, with the country in the state in which it is, that a man charged with the responsibility of leading His Majesty's loyal opposition should stand up for four and a half hours in the house and criticize, criticize, criticize, the policy of the Prime Minister, and notwithstanding the extremity in which we find ourselves, offer practically no remedy for the solution of our ills. Let me give the house the story of Peter McArthur. He was a good Liberal, and he was relating the story of a coloured preacher who was fond of using the word "phenomenon." After he had preached a rather lengthy discourse, he was proceeding home with one of his parishioners, and he said to his parishioner, "Did you notice the use of the word phenomenon?" The parishioner replied, "I sure did, but I do not know what it means." The preacher said, "I will tell you what it means." He put his hand into his pocket, and took out a nickel, saying, "That nickel is not a phenomenon." He pointed to a cow in the field and he said, "That cow is not a phenomenon." He also pointed to a thistle and he said, "That thistle is not a phenomenon. Do you hear that lark singing? That is not a phenomenon. But if that cow should try to chew the cud on that nickel and sit down on that thistle and then try to sing like a lark, it would be a phenomenon." It occurs to me that that definition of the word "phenomenon" accurately describes the attitude of the leader of the opposition towards the Prime Minister in his work at the Imperial conference.

I heard the words of the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) when he almost shed tears over the British Empire. I believe he said in effect that the British Empire was a soul, a spirit, and he practically wept tears over it. I could not help thinking that if the right hon. gentleman's leader had been in his true preelection frame of mind he would have stood up, taken his pocket handkerchief from his coat-tail, wiped the tears from his face and said, "Me, too, I stand first for the British Empire." Then, perhaps, in order that the right hon. gentleman and the ex-Minister of Justice might be consoled, I thought in imagination possibly the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) would rise in his best sepulchral manner, hold his hands over the two distressed hon. gentlemen weeping for the British Empire, and say, "Hush ye, hush ye, little pet ye, or the Black Douglas, he will get ye."

It seems to me that some of the addresses which have been presented to the house are very much like the bushel of chaff that contained a couple of grains of wheat which, after you searched for them through the bushel of chaff and found them, were not

worth the finding; they were full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Perhaps one of the most remarkable spectacles that we have had in the house was the leader of the opposition working up his eloquence in his apostrophe to freedom in support of his friend the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) who, I believe, is now famous in the house for his pair of white socks. Sometimes it occurs to me that I can express myself a little better in rhyme than in prose. I thought that the right hon. gentleman and the hon. member for Weyburn were on a rocky shore with tall cat-tails growing round and the evening falling about them. These would probably be the appropriate words of the right hon. gentleman in his apostrophe to freedom—and hon. members must realize of course that the hon. member for Weyburn would be there acting as flag boy with the right hon. gentleman:

O Freedom, sweet Freedom, we weep dear for thee,
We're driven, marooned on the Loyalist rocks,
We fly in high heaven our flag dear for thee,
How bravely it floats—'tis a white pair of socks.

I think, Mr. Speaker, as the black mantle of night fell over the hon. gentlemen in their rocky island that the frogs in the adjoining waters would take up the call, and probably a very large old bull frog as he jumped into the water would say, "Hoom-bug! hoom-bug! hoom-bug!"

Mr. VALLANCE: I wonder how Hansard will take that down?

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): It appears to me, Mr. Speaker, that much of the speaking in this house is of no avail.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): Representing as I do the great constituency of Selkirk I wish to make some small contribution towards a solution of the problems which beset this country. In my constituency of Selkirk there is being worked out the problems of the new Canadian nation by representatives of almost every race we have in this country. We are all poor people. During the election campaign and since I have been in this house, by word, letter, telegram I have heard nothing other than the still, sad music of humanity. These people work with their hands. I want to thank, if I may, the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) who said some years ago that there was a great deal said in parliament which to her mind did not touch the real points at issue. It seemed to her that we should be here honestly and sincerely trying to solve the problems of the country and trying to represent those people who worked with their hands. There are no millionaires in my constituency, not a single one. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, as a Conservative—

An hon. MEMBER: Make it a Tory.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): All right, a Tory if my hon. friend wishes. I want to thank the right hon. gentleman who leads this government and to thank the government for the magnificent, direct and quick way in which they tried to grapple with the serious problem of unemployment.

An hon. MEMBER: "Tried" is right.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): A courageous effort was made, Mr. Speaker, and made by a gentleman whom many people have called a millionaire, a man who in the minds of many people in my constituency would not be able to grapple with the problems of the poor. I say this government is here to-day and that we hon. members on this side of the house are supporting the administration because there was a courageous and heroic presentation made before the electorate, and because there was a man who would make a promise and at least endeavour to carry it out.

There has been a lot of talk about a one man government. Well, I am pleased to support this government even if it is called a one man government, rather than a government which might adequately be described as a no man government. The great difference, Mr. Speaker, between the right hon. gentleman who leads this house to-day and the right hon. gentleman who led the house in the last parliament is the difference between five cents and twenty million dollars. I make this statement in dead earnest.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): My hon. friends on the other side of the house may laugh. I want to say however that the poor in this country were crying for bread. In my constituency during the last winter there would have been many cases of starvation and privation had it not been for the courageous attitude of this government and the vote of $20,000,000. When I appeared before my constituents asking for a brief I said that I believed in the principle that a lawyer should never ask for a brief. On that occasion however I did ask for a brief, the greatest brief a lawyer ever had, the brief to represent and plead the case of the

poor in the temple of the people. The case of the poor has been heard and I hope will continue to be heard by this government. Look at the position of agriculture in western Canada.

An hon. MEMBER: Yes, look at it.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): Yes, what would it have been if hon. gentlemen opposite had been sitting on this side of the house? My hon. friends talk about losing the market for wheat. During the last parliament a member named Mr. Fansher rose in the house and said to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, "What about our wheat?"

An hon. MEMBER: Well, what about it?

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): What about it? The answer at that time was, "It can look after itself." My hon. friend however got the answer of the Canadian electorate at the last election. What were the economics of the ex-Minister of Finance and the economics of Mr. Crerar? They said, "These are world conditions; we cannot do anything about them. All we need is another 500,000,000 bushels of wheat." That is a sample of the economics preached on the opposite side of the house. Those are the economics hon. members preached to the people of this country, and they received their answer. The answer is that there is a government in power pledged to deal with these problems directly and in a practical way.

I notice that some of the hon. ex-ministers opposite are laughing. As I have listened to this debate I have realized, that particularly by the ex-ministers, the problems of this country are not taken seriously. They are treated as a joke. Our problems were so treated before the last election and that is one of the reasons why the hon. gentlemen are out of power to-day. I wonder how the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, had he been in this house to-day, would have described the four and one-half hour speech of the right hon. the leader of the opposition. I think he would have described it something like this, that it was the distressed and dismal diatribe of a disappointed and dispossessed demagogue. I have listened to speeches by the United Farmer members in this house and in my opinion they have made a real contribution to the debate. Following the long speech of the right hon. gentleman I looked at that honest corner of the chamber and there was not a smile on the face of any hon. member there. That is how the speech of the right hon. leader of the opposition was received.

A few days ago I visited my old home at Smith's Falls. I went to the gentleman who gave me my first shave, and may I say that that is quite a few years ago. He said to me, "Jim, are you in parliament?" I said to him, "Yes, I am." He said "Do you listen to all those speeches?" I said, "Yes, I do." He said, "And did you listen to that four and a half hour speech?" I said, "I did, every word of it." What was his answer? He said, "It is no good for the country; it is not human; it is not human." I do not know whether my time has expired or not—

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, go ahead.

Mr. STITT (Selkirk): I want to say that I am here to support the government. I am pleased to be in a position to support it and to be a follower of a man of the calibre and character of the right hon. gentleman who went over to England and led the line. In the words of General Jan Smuts, "Humanity has struck its tents and it is on the march." If we are to solve the problems of this country, if we are not to have to scrap all our forms of democracy, call them Liberalism or Progressivism, or whatever you like; if we are to overcome our difficulties we must realize that humanity has struck its tents and that we are on the march. I say, Mr. Speaker, that it is impossible for me to answer the letters of my constituents clamouring for work. In the course of his speech, the right hon. leader of the opposition, pointed his finger at the Prime Minister and said: "Remember how we handled the affairs of the country, remember how we balanced all our budgets out of taxation. Don't you dare do anything else, don't you try to solve the problem now confronting the Dominion by means of a capital loan." I say to the right hon. leader of the opposition that that is the dead hand of laissez-faire Liberalism, and if the Prime Minister of this country is to be guided by it I do not believe that our problems will be solved. I speak as an honest man. I hoped if I had time, to plead the cause of agriculture and labour as reflected in my constituency.

Mr. PAUL MERCIER (St. Henri): Mr. Speaker, last July, in the middle of a year of commercial and financial distress and of world-wide political upheaval, the King government appealed to the people. It was of course defeated. The Conservative party won success by insisting that its chief, now the Prime

Minister, had a cure for unemployment, that he had a stimulant for the restoration of industry, and that his agricultural policy would enrich the wheat producers and the farmers to the extent of making them millionaires.

Eight months have gone by. Has unemployment been cured, or has it reached its maximum? No. In Canada, as in the countries of Europe, the year 1931 presses forward with its train of financial and political difficulties, and harassed by storms. Everywhere the number of unemployed is increasing; in Great Britain, in Germany, in Italy, in Belgium, in Holland, in Czechoslovakia, in Poland, in the United States, in Australia; and even in Canada, under a Conservative government that promised so much, our unemployed still represent about 25 per cent of the membership of the labour unions. Is it not true that agriculture is in a precarious condition, and that manufacturing industry also is endangered by the fall of prices? At this very moment the Canadian farmer is obliged to sacrifice his commodities at prices ridiculously low, so low as not to meet the cost of production. What will become of him? Where do the Bennett government and its supporters stand with their promises to help agriculture, to bring it back to a degree of prosperity even greater than that which it enjoyed under the Liberal government from 1922 until the sad hours of the worldwide economic crisis of 1930? What is the farmer going to do next summer to meet his farming expenses? He finds it hard to get the kind of labour necessary to carry on his farm, and by that time, without foreign markets in prospect in which to sell his crops, and with his local market crowded, he will be in an even more desperate condition than he is at the present time.

And what about our manufacturing industries? Is not the manufacturer to-day sacrificing his surplus stocks on the home market, stocks which he has been holding in his warehouse for a better price? For the past two months he has been throwing his goods on the domestic market at a constantly receding price. Everything is being sold at a sacrifice. As a consequence our industrial plants are not working full time. The budget soon to be brought down will enable us to judge whether the government will be able to give to Canada that era of prosperity promised by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and his supporters during the recent campaign. We very much doubt if that promise will be redeemed. Certainly within the next month we shall be given the opportunity of discussing our friend's budget innovation, called high protection. I am one of those who believe that Canada, from a moral, social and commercial point of view, should be part of the whole civilized world; our country should follow the wide road travelled by humanity, and not isolate itself; we should cooperate with the nations of the world in a spirit of good will; we should obtain commercial exchange of products in order to revive our export trade which shows a constant decrease. As proof of this may I quote the latest official figures of the National Revenue department. These figures constitute a barometer of our commercial condition:

(a) Net decrease in customs and excise revenue for October, 1930, $11,168,474.04.
(b) Net decrease for November, 1930, $7,756,012.61.
(c) Net decrease for December, 1930, $7,570,034.71.
(d) Net decrease for January, 1931, $4,590,119.12.
(e) Net decrease for February, 1931, $6,775,145.91.

What will be the net decrease for the past month? Our two railways and our maritime transport companies are looking for more business, which is absolutely needed. Our government railway and merchant marine showed a total deficit of $13,694,008.93 at the end of their last fiscal year.

Hon. gentlemen opposite contend that prosperity is coming back. I see it in their speeches, Mr. Speaker, but it is in no way an accomplished fact nor is there any likelihood of that statement becoming true for some time. Are not the incomes of our professional and business men decreasing? Have not the stock exchanges in Canada been visited by violent declines and real hurricanes which have taken away, piece by piece, the fortunes of the rich, the savings of the professional and business men and even the savings of the imprudent workingmen. The Prime Minister has announced through the press of this country that this year, under his administration, Canada will have a deficit of $100,000,000. With a policy of protection and isolation, Canada, an industrial and farming nation, now enters into a period of budget deficits, unfortunately, to replace the surpluses of the King government from 1924 to 1930. When the Liberal party relinquished power in 1930 the government showed a surplus over all expenditures of $44,506,000. During that period of Liberal administration there was also a reduction of the colossal debt contracted by the Conservative party from September, 1911, to December, 1921, so surely it is time to say: Is it not evident that, at times, false doctrines appear to be true?

On reading the newspapers, or European, Canadian and American reviews we see that the anxious world has turned its eyes towards

New York and that land of high protection, the United States. Even with the high tariff protection existing in that country, the condition of the United States has become worse Bankruptcies have increased by 46 per cent; iron production has decreased by 37 per cent; steel production has also decreased by 35 per cent; the consumption of cotton has declined by 37 per cent and salaries have been decreased by 28 per cent. These are the consequences to-day of that high United States tariff protection. What are we to think of the future of our Dominion now that we are to have a similar protective policy which will be applied by the present government, after the experience at the special session of last September? The Canadian people will have the opportunity to pronounce themselves again and will find the proper remedy. Then the Liberal party will receive the justice it deserves, and which it did not receive in 1930 because the people were deceived.

The people of Canada are now asking the Bennett government to end unemployment as the Prime Minister and his elected candidates promised to do, because unemployment is financially ruining Canada as a whole as well as the individual provinces and municipalities, which are obliged to help the unemployed. The Prime Minister, who is also Minister of Finance, has answered and will answer again with an increased tariff. He administers a non-patent medicine which is being used at this time by almost all countries. I refer to increased duties, the closure of our border lines to individuals and to merchandise, the laws against dumping and the artificial increase in prices, which is a temporary source of greater profits. These expedients are only attempts to cast off on someone else the weight of the evil which affects Canada as well as the other peoples of the world All the nations are using these expedients at the same time. They have not been useful to any nation, and the situation will be the same in Canada. Increased duties will be of no avail; at the most they will bring about an artificial prosperity which will last only for a few months. Time will soon tell.

Canada, with a higher tariff, inaugurated at the session last September, is isolating itself. We are witnessing the disappearance of the equilibrium between production and consumption. That can mean only failure. The Liberal party believes in the bringing together of Canada and the other nations of the world; a policy of cooperation must prevail. May I quote, in the French language, the appropriate words of a well known economist, Mr. Guglielmo Ferrero:

Il est évident qu'aucun peuple ne pourra à lui seul, en s'isolant, rétablir l'équilibre entre la production et la consommation. C'est encore un problème universel. Les cinq continents souffrent d'une maladie commune, et ils ne guériront qu'ensemble. Nous vivons dans une époque où la misère et la prospérité font avalanche. Le problème économique n'est pas d'ailleurs isolé; il est, lui aussi, lié étroitement à la paix.

Détruit violemment par la guerre, l'équilibre entre la production et la consommation ne pourra se rétablir sérieusement qu'à la suite d'une longue période de paix. Or la paix est aujourd'hui le plus universel des problèmes.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I leave to the right hon. Prime Minister for study and consideration some verses by Sully Prud'homme, a great French poet, which would seem to apply now. I will read them, as they were written, in the French language:

Viens! ne marche pas seul dans un jaloux sentier;
Mais suis les grands chemins que l'humanité foule;
Les hommes ne sont forts, bons, et justes qu'en foule.
Ils s'achèvent ensemble, aucun d'eux n'est entier.

Mr. J. H. HARRIS (Toronto-Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on your elevation to your new position as first commoner among us. For some nine years I have had the privilege of being associated with you, sir, and during that time, in common with other members of this house, I have learned to love and admire not only you but the good lady who is so much thought of by members on all sides of this house. Your legal attainments, your soldierly bearing and your friendliness in days gone by to those of us who were somewhat younger, will not be forgotten, and our fondest hope is that you may be spared for many years to serve us in your present capacity.

With regard to the mover and the seconder of the address my position is rather unique. For four years I had the pleasure of sitting in this chamber with the member for North Grey who represented that constituency before the election of the young man who now occupies that position. I learned a great deal about North Grey; I had the privilege of speaking there on several occasions and of mixing with the people, and I came to know the hon. member (Mr. Porteous) long before he entered parliament. I say, sir, that we are happy to have him with us, and as one year succeeds another he will prove to be a valuable acquisition to this chamber.

In like manner, for some years I had the pleasure of being a seatmate of Mr. Doucet, a man from the land of Evangeline, from

which we now have the present member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier). I learned at that time, sir, that what we had read of the great Canadians coming from that district was true, and I say to hon. members of this chamber and to you, Mr. Speaker, that what we have heard so far merely presages what we will hear in the future from the hon. member, whom I congratulate on the message which already he has left with us.

It would be nice to go on in this manner for some time, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I might congratulate the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) on the four and a half hour marathon speech which he delivered, and so on. But unfortunately the rules of the house restrict us to forty minutes, and if I might make a suggestion to the government in this regard it would be that on the clerk's table there might be a clock, divided into forty segments, so that those who have a peroration could time themselves and get it off their minds before the expiration of their time. I felt sorry the other day for the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart). He took over forty minutes and said little, and he found he did not have time for his peroration. We waited for it, and the probability is that in it he might have had something real to say.

One or two other members who have participated in the debate, are really the cause of my now saying a word or two. I would ask that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. Blair) be paged, because I am going to say something in reply to him, inasmuch as he made a reference to Toronto. The hon. member for Toronto West Centre (Mr. Factor) is not in the chamber; I should like to see him too. And the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) also had something to say about Toronto; I should be glad to have him paged. But while we are waiting for these hon. gentlemen I might say a word or two in reference to the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) and what he had to advance in the interests of the country in this debate.

A good deal has been said about the days of prosperity during the regime of the government he led; a good deal has been said by the leader of the opposition about deficits and so forth. Let me ask this house one question: On whose budget has this country been operating up to September of the fiscal year just closed? Was it the May day budget that laid down the system of taxation from which revenues were going to be derived—revenues which were to take care of the running expenses of the country? Whose is the responsibility in this regard? Taxation measures should have been in the May day budget. I say to the leader of the opposition that we have not had a real budget in this house since the days of the late Mr. Fielding. The budget we had on May day last year was purely and simply a political budget. There was in it no estimate of the proposed expenditures or the proposed revenues, and this country found itself operating under that budget and heading for a deficit from the very day it came down in this chamber. And no one knows that better than does the leader of the opposition. He gave us statistics, lots of statistics; and he ended up his period at a very convenient point for himself, namely, the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 1930. But he had in his possession the figures up to the end of February of this year. If he did not want to use them why was he not fair, not only to his own members but to Canada, and give the figures he had at least until the end of July? Why stop a year ago? The leader of the opposition said, as reported at page 18 of Hansard:

> In short, a condition exists in this country at the moment the like of which, fortunately, it has not witnessed at any time heretofore in her history.

He was asked when he first noticed it, and he replied:

> It has been noticed by everyone since this administration came into office.

He knows in his heart that this is not a fair statement. He knows that these conditions were brought about to a large degree by a world situation. If he does not, let me refer him to some of the statements of his own followers. The hon. member for Last Mountain (Mr. Butcher) says, as reported at page 236 of Hansard:

> I frankly and freely admit that the Conservative party in power to-day is not and cannot be held wholly responsible for the unhappy conditions that exist at the present time both in the matter of the lack of market for our farm products and in the matter of unemployment.

And the hon. member for Toronto West Centre had this to say:

> Whatever unemployment, whatever suffering exists in this country was due to world conditions. . . .

The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) also had something to say. We are glad to see him back in the chamber again, restored to his usual health and vigour. He is reported:

> I have been asked many a time, is it the fault of the present government. Well, Mr. Speaker, to be perfectly frank I will say, no, in the

main it is not. . . . They have been in power only a few months and they had neither the time nor the opportunity to go into the present situation in any large way.

These are the statements of hon. gentlemen surrounding the leader of the opposition, and he knew better than to make the statements he did make. World depression is with us; we all admit that. It is a cycle and seems to come after great world events. Go back to the days of a hundred and fifty years ago in the time of the Napoleonic wars and you will find the fact illustrated graphically in Goldman's Graphic Charts giving statistics with regard to world conditions. The year 1790 is used as the base in connection with wholesale commodity prices of all sorts of goods on the London auctions. The Napoleonic wars came on two years later, but using 1790 as the base, with the figure 100, we find that in 1800, after eight years of war, it had risen to 175. By 1809 it was 195 and by 1830, at the conclusion of the wars, it recedes again to 100, and lies along the base of 100 for some years until the advent of the Civil war, 1861-65, when it again moves from the figure 100 to as high as 215, receding again in 1875 to 100, and remaining pretty well on that base—a a little below at times, and occasionally a little above it—until 1912, when it moves to 110, and we find that with the advent of the great world war the wholesale commodity prices again reach the figure 215. And now they are receding.

These charts show that the same state of affairs has prevailed in each of these three periods, with this difference, that to-day we have the advantage of more than 100 years of modern civilization. We must be guided very carefully in getting back to pre-war conditions, and it is the duty of the government to see to it that they are so guided. We have a condition of cartels in the eastern hemisphere of Europe and Great Britain, in the lines of nearly all manufactured goods, these countries dumping their surplus on communities such as this. We have a condition of trusts in that gigantic nation to the south of us, which have a tendency to hold up the prices of nationally advertised goods and to control them. These conditions make it difficult for us to recede to the position to which we shall have to get back, which is something similar to pre-war conditions. Our people themselves, we find, are accustomed to the new luxuries they have had and will be slow to give them up. But little by little we shall have to get back to that pre-war state.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) a few days ago gave us a chart showing that products had receded in the agricultural line much faster than in other lines. It is true that agriculture is one of the first industries to suffer in our economic system; and when it does, the effect seems to permeate the whole country, bringing distress with it. But fortunately in this country the people of strongest fibre are to be found among the agriculturists, and you will find them to-day getting ready to put in their crops once more as they have done in years gone by. And with the fortitude and courage characteristic of them, assured that this country is guided by a strong government such as we have to-day, Canada, as no other country can, will come through this depression. Throughout my entire remarks, if I cannot do anything else, I wish to leave this one impression, that this Canada of ours is a grand and glorious place to live in, and I am very optimistic with regard to the future.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, in the chart to which I have referred, showed that western grain prices had receded 59 per cent while the price of farm products had gone down 34 per cent. The right hon. leader of the opposition gave us figures with regard to our export trade and he would lead this country to believe that all our export trade is demoralized. Mr. Speaker, export trade is not always measured in dollars and cents; there is volume, there is the pounds, the barrels, the bushels and so on. Might I bring to the attention of this house the fact that Canada is still doing a very large volume of export trade and will continue to do so. I would like to put on record a few figures which I have obtained from the latest publications. These figures reveal that for the twelve months ended February, 1930, 1,679,740 barrels of apples were exported, while the total exports for the same period of this year amounted to 1,928,659 barrels. The total exports of fruits for last year amounted to $8,807,844 while this year they amounted to $9,506,360.

Mr. YOUNG: Is that the value?

Mr. HARRIS: Yes, that is the value. My wheat growing friend has asked a question and he will be interested to hear that for the twelve months ended February, 1930, the exports of wheat amounted to 186,621,084 bushels while for the twelve months ended February, 1931, they amounted to 215,939,942 bushels, a really substantial increase.

Mr. YOUNG: Would my hon. friend give us the price received?

Mr. HARRIS: The same increase applies to newsprint, lead, silver ore, silver bullion, zinc ores, nickel and so on.

My hon. friend from Winnipeg mentioned the reduction in the wholesale commodity prices, but when the factor of tonnage is considered I have no hesitation in making the assertion that in spite of the present world depression and the barriers which are being erected against our natural products, Canada's export trade for this year will equal in volume that of all other years. Our products are finding a place on the markets of the world and will continue to do so.

I am sorry the hon. member for Toronto West Centre is not in his seat because I believe a reply should be made to the statements he gave to this house. He complained about the unemployment situation and stated that it had not been relieved to the degree to which he would like to see it relieved. On page 309 of Hansard he says:

> In the latest official information furnished the press on March 11 we find that 228,351 individuals have been given employment and 3,975,355 man-days have been afforded to them from the commencement of operations under the Unemployment Relief Act up to February 28, 1931.

The hon. member stated that unemployment was just as acute as it ever has been, if not in fact worse. The hon. member who has just taken his seat made a similar statement and said that it was still down 25 per cent, or some such figure. My answer to the hon. members who sit behind the leader of the opposition is this: where would this country have been, how much more acute would have been the situation, had the people through a mistake put into power last july the "not a nickel" government? We know that the people realized that what was needed in Canada at that time was a man at the head of our democracy who would give action instead of platitudes, who would give work instead of statistics and who would give real leadership instead of imbecility and non-leadership.

The right hon. leader of the opposition had something to say in this regard, and in reply I would say that I was reminded of his stand while trying to put the children to bed after church on Sunday evening. We were singing that little nursery rhyme, "Ding Dong Bell, Pussy's in the Well," but I would like to change that to:

> Ding dong bell, Canada's in the well
> Who put her in? Little Willie King.

We might go a little further and say:

> Who'll pull her out? R. B. Bennett, no doubt.

The right hon. gentleman complains bitterly that we are not making haste. He wants to know where is the national highway, or what progress is being made with the St. Lawrence development. He did not think so much about that during the nine years he was in power. He asked: Where is the aid to agriculture, technical education, old age pensions and so on? Little by little these things are coming.

The hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) made an interesting contribution to this debate the other day. He mentioned the city of Toronto and said he regretted that one hundred mechanics, carpenters, bricklayers, technicians and contractors had been guaranteed employment in soviet Russia. Arrangements for their sailing had been made, this party being composed of Russians, Canadians, Frenchmen, Finlanders and others—one hundred men out of a population of 600,000. It might be just as well for Canada if a few more people possessing the idea that civilization would be best benefited by the ideals worked into the fabric of the present Russian constitution would take a trip abroad and stay there. Perhaps we could suggest a few hon. members from the other side who might go along. I hesitate to suggest that the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) might even go as a chaperone. Then, in order to make sure that he would be right with his own constituency, the hon. member said: Most of us in the province of Quebec felt as proud as did the Prime Minister when he heard that he was breaking off trade negotiations with Russia. Consistency, thou art a virtue, but where is the virtue in that statement of the hon. member? Then the same hon. gentleman—I do not seem to be able to get his attention—said: We ought to have some real economy in this government, we should get rid of some of these departments, the Department of the Interior, for instance. He did not think of that when the natural resources were being turned back while his old administration was in power. He did not think of that when the charwomen were drawing their last pay envelopes. The hon. member—he still will not give me any attention—went on to say that we were going to have a new tariff board.

An hon. MEMBER: He cannot hear you.

An hon. MEMBER: Louder.

Mr. HARRIS: He said that he was afraid there might be some partisanship in the formation of that board. He did not think of that when the late administration chose as chairman of its tariff advisory board the present partisan incumbent for Ontario (Mr. Moore). Consistency, thou art a virtue, but I would like to know where the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay keeps his consistency.

We have his attention now. We have also the attention of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). Among other things the right hon. gentleman had something to say about old age pensions. I was sorry to see a man of his calibre stoop to this method of insinuating in the way he did when, as is reported on page 21 of this year's Hansard, he made this statement in regard to old age pensions:

> Every old man and old woman who had a vote was made to believe that he and she were going to get full pensions as soon as this parliament met, but now they are told that they will get it as soon as the current economic situation warrants.

Let me couple with him on that occasion the hon. member for North Wellington, who seems to know a good deal about old age pensions. In this regard I want to be kind to the honourable, ethical doctor. I am referring now to the speech he made away back last September. If he thought he was wrong, he had plenty of opportunity to square himself with the public. I waited, listened to another speech by him in the house, and still he did not correct himself. Therefore to-night I shall have something to say on the subject of his ideas on old age pensions. As reported at page 134 of Hansard of September, 1930, he said:

> I do not think any persons in my district received an old age pension without being distinctly led to understand that they would lose it if they voted the wrong way.

This was playing on the feelings of those of our citizens who have given of their best to further the interests of Canada, many of them during the pioneer days in different parts of the country. This sort of appeal does not in my opinion find a response on the part of the real Canadian people. He was a new member, he used the privileges of the house and he had a score or more of editorials in his local press brought to his attention, giving him an opportunity to retract statements he had made. As reported on page 133 of Hansard of last session, he said:

> The widows' and orphans' fund was interfered with. I do not believe such statements were true, yet the influence came, as it were, from Toronto; that idea seemed to permeate the riding and it was very hard to offset it.

He said that when they wanted to get votes in North Wellington, they had to go out like Nicodemus in the dark, and try to secure them. Then he goes on to speak about the condition of the farmers. He also said:

> In the district which I represent are a great many comparatively poor farmers. Many farms are being sold for tax purposes. The farmers are in extreme need.

The hon. gentleman, when he made these representations, was from one end of his constituency to the other the subject of editorials. The Palmerston Spectator had this to say to him:

> Doctor Blair, member of parliament for North Wellington, was telling the members of the House of Commons that intimidation was practised in this riding during the recent election. Citizens of all political shades will oppose those practices. It is not common knowledge that such conditions as stated by Doctor Blair exist in this riding and they will await with interest full particulars regarding the charges which he has made.
>
> We believe the electors of this riding have a right to a full knowledge of conditions as they actually exist and we believe it is up to Doctor Blair to fully explain his remarks in the house.

In the Fergus News-Record they say:

> These charges are serious.

And so on. I have not time to read all these editorials, but I have them under my hand. In the face of this accusation the old age pension board for the county of Wellington makes this reply:

> That in view of the alleged serious charges made by Doctor J. K. Blair, member of parliament for North Wellington, on the floor of the house during the recent emergency session, as reported in the public press of the county: "that he did not think that any persons in his district received an old age pension without being distinctly led to understand that they would lose the pension if they voted the wrong way," we the members of the old age pension board for the county of Wellington feel that the above allegations are a very grave reflection on the integrity or uprightness of the county representatives on the local board, and the secretary is hereby authorized at this our first meeting since these charges appeared, to request Doctor Blair to substantiate his statement or publicly apologize to the board.
>
> Old Age Pension Board for the County of Wellington.
> Udney Richardson, Chairman.
> R. J. Holtom.
> William Whitelaw.
> George W. Dodge.
> James Beattie, Secretary.

I say to the hon. member that he has privileges in the house, but those privileges are not here to be abused. He has the right when he makes reply to back up his statements with real facts. I rather thought he was going to do that a day or two ago when he again spoke in this chamber, but he followed the same line of attack as he had done before, offering no apology in the face of all these editorials. But something was forthcoming afterwards. It was a letter written to his constituents. I have a copy of it in my hand, and it is headed, "House of Commons, Ottawa, March 23, 1931," and addressed "Cheer up Henry." It reads:

Dear Sir:

We are having lovely weather here, and we sure are having a lively session. We are working real hard, and there is plenty of work to do, but I enjoy it very much.

I have a lot to learn. I have a considerable advantage over some because of my education. I do not require to have problems worked out for me that arise in mathematics, but in questions of opinions and logic the answer is not quite so plain as it is in arithmetic.

I spoke for 35 minutes the other day to the speech from the throne. I was requested to do so by the Hon. Mackenzie King, and after I had finished he came back and shook hands and congratulated me, remarking that I did real well, and that he saw in me some splendid timber for new debates, so that cheered up my drooping spirits, because I was not too well pleased with my own remarks. I tried to lay Mr. Bennett's promises before him regarding agriculture, and I appealed to him to help the farmers in whatever way he deemed best.

The room and crowd is so large here, it is not like speaking in Arthur, and it takes some nerve. Mr. Sinclair was here the fourth year before he gave his maiden speech. I am too impetuous to remain that long, especially as I think the people are not getting a fair deal.

I will drop a line again later. Hoping you are all well, I am,

Yours truly,

Jno. K. Blair, M.P.

I rather apologize for occupying the time of the house with this particular matter, but statements of this kind, which have no basis in fact, should not be made in the house. A member should not exercise his privilege in the house in that way. When the hon. member says that the former member did not speak in this chamber for four years, that is not a fact. The hon. member says that he is good at arithmetic, but his arithmetic is all wrong. The gentleman who formerly represented North Wellington took his seat on February 5, 1925, and he spoke on a budget debate on March 6, 1928. Is that four years? He raised a question in the house in 1927. Does twenty-five from twenty-seven leave four? He spoke in the committee on agriculture the first time he was on that committee. Is that four years? I say to the hon. member for North Wellington: Your arithmetic is wrong. You have got a very wrong conception of your duty in this house to your constituents. I say to the hon. member for North Wellington that he will learn before he is here very long that there is a time to speak and a time to bridle his tongue. You will learn that there is a time to give service to your constituents in committee as well as an opportunity to waste the time of this House of Commons. You will learn there are common decencies in vogue in this chamber; you will learn that your constituents expect nation-wide views as well as picayune local politics; you will learn we expect statements backed by facts; you will learn that it is undesirable to inspire or inculcate into the minds of your constituents a distrust in democratic forms of government. You will learn that there are some ethics in politics as well as in the medical profession. You will learn, sir, that your wonderful educational attainments which were of such great advantage to you over other hon. members in this chamber are outweighed many many times by the small picayune frame of mind in which you address yourself to the problems which come for attention in this chamber.

An hon. MEMBER: So will you.

Mr. HARRIS: My hon. friend from North Wellington will probably learn to accept congratulations in modesty from his leader. He will learn that perhaps the real timber is not all found in this chamber but that some is still in the maple bushes back in North Wellington. Concerning the hon. member who on a previous occasion occupied the seat of my hon. friend I doubt if there is one man who will rise in his place and say that that member was not the image of the best in Canada. Was he not the mirror of his own constituency? Was he not beloved by all members who sat on both sides of this house? To reflect on a former member is in my humble judgment a misdemeanor for which the hon. member at present, representing the constituency of North Wellington will have ample opportunity of making amends; or, as his own newspapers ask him to do, he should either substantiate his statements or apologize for making them.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, to have trespassed on the time of the house so long in this regard. Let me say that so far as Canada as a whole is concerned this government is making rapid progress with its great task. Canada is the only country in the empire, yea I believe in the civilized world, in which to-day industries have taken on new hands. Old factories are being renovated and enlarged; vacant buildings are being rehabilitated for new lines of production and enterprise. Our good farmers, even those in North Wellington who are so afraid of being sold for taxes, are planning to put in as big a crop as they have done before. I would say that sixty per cent are not worrying about this parliament and perhaps do not know that it is in session. They are plowing their furrows; they are hoeing their rows, and they have faith in the country which has done so much for them. There is in their breasts and in the breasts of all Canadians to a greater degree than in any other part of the civilized world

a hope and courage that in that final analysis will weigh heavily in the economic plans of world affairs. We see to-day processions of new industries coming not only from the United States but from the mother country. Employment has been extended to a quarter of a million of wage earners. Sixty-five American manufacturers are establishing branches in the Dominion and many other negotiations are in progress. Time and again the statement is made that these industries are located here on account of the policy of the present administration. Canadians are returning from the republic to the south and side by side with them are others coming to this land of opportunity. Since the beginning of the economic depression the development of Canada has far surpassed that of any other country. We are seeing the beginning of greater things. Step by step we are fast getting out of the present depression and side by side with the mother country and other parts of the empire we are making real, genuine, sound progress. So long as this party is in power we will not only see the empire retain its place in the sun but we will see our glorious empire go on from point to point, as she has done in the last thousand years, continuing to be the greatest agency for good that civilization has ever known.

Mr. L. DUBOIS (Nicolet) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have this opportunity of raising my voice in the midst of this imposing assembly, as one who speaks for the tillers of the soil. You will allow me to repeat, after one of our great men, that my first speech in this house will be made in the language of my forefathers; thus, in my turn, I acknowledge the principle of the official status of the French tongue, immortalized in the statutes of our Dominion and to which a fitting monument has been erected in the Baldwin-Lafontaine memorial which adorns the northern corner of Parliament Hill. This monument must guide us, like the polar star, in all matters of language and of race between the two important elements who go to make up the Canadian nation.

Like those who have preceded me I find it my pleasant duty to congratulate, in their excellent effort, the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

I trust it will not be held against me if I congratulate in a special way the mover of the address, my hon. friend from Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) for having delivered the first part of his speech in our mother-tongue. What deep pleasure he must have afforded his illustrious forebears; how they must have thrilled with joy on hearing within these portals the resonant syllables of the tongue they loved so well; what pride they must have felt, they who had strewn with shattered hopes the bitter road along which, with faltering steps, they straggled into exile. And the hon. member has not lost any of the typical characteristics of his ethnic group: listening to him I recognized the accents heard on the shores of the Madawaska, at Grand-Pré, at Pubnico and at Shédiac I have but one regret, that I cannot congratulate him on his political allegiance.

My next duty, before going on with the debate, is to offer my sincerest congratulations to our worthy Speaker in his efforts in the study of French, since the special session. Last fall, Mr. Speaker, we all considered you a distinguished gentleman; to-day we realize that the distinguished gentleman is, moreover, a broad-minded Canadian. You are deserving of the highest praise for undertaking the study of French at your age; and your study of our tongue will go much further towards the maintenance of national unity than the last speech of the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull).

It seems to me that our problems of domestic economy are sufficiently burdensome without launching into debates like that instigated by the hon. member, and without entering into disputes that may prove too forceful for both groups. I do not intend to dwell at any length on this question; without giving answer to the untruthful charges of fanaticism levelled at my party by the hon. member for Regina, I send this bugle call to my fellow French-Canadians in Saskatchewan: "My compatriots, 'way out there, fight on, with all your ardour and with all your courage. But let the fight be waged with loyalty. It is not only your right to struggle, it is your duty, for three centuries of Canadian history look down upon you. You owe it also to your persecutors who, sooner or later, will be forced to recognize the importance of French culture in the western provinces. You will meet with still other obstacles; but they will come from merely a few narrow-minded men without vision. Do not forget that beside this small group of meddlers there are, thank God, a very large number of Anglo-Canadians, and I say it to their credit, who not only admire you and like you, but are broad-minded enough, and patriotic enough, to help you in your struggle for the defence of your rights and your liberties."

The hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), on the floor of this house, used certain regrettable words concerning Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I owe it to the memory of our great

compatriot to accept that challenge to-day. The hon. member charged Sir Wilfrid with having betrayed the province of Quebec. Let us open the newspapers of 1905, Mr. Speaker, and we shall discover that impartial history throws on events a light that will astonish certain contemporaries of that time. While Sir Wilfrid waged his unrelenting fight for the cause of the minority in those parts, demanding separate schools for the new provinces, another man was denouncing this system, rational though it were.

During the bye-election of Mr. Hyman, in a speech delivered in London, Ontario, and reported in The Free Press of May 31st, 1905, Mr. Bennett said what follows,—I quote in English:

> The parliament of Canada has fastened on the northwest a separate school system. It had said they could do what they like: in many other things but they could not interfere with the rights of the minority to a separate school system.
>
> In 1891 and in 1901 the parliaments passed further school ordinances, but still they were given no right to say what school system they were to have. They might legislate as they might, but they could never free themselves from separate schools, even if they wanted to.

Let us continue—we are still quoting Mr. Bennett:

> If you turn down Mr. Hyman on the 13th of June, I think they will withdraw that clause. Never in the history of Canada have men had so great responsibility as is thrust upon you, electors of London. Once this act goes upon the statute book, it cannot be withdrawn. They say they will go to London and get an act endorsing it before we may do so. I tell you, the west will never stand that. There will be a revolution before the west will submit.

And, on June 5th, 1905, the Free Press carried this:

> Mr. Bennett said it was stated upon authority that Sir Alexander Mackenzie had not intended to place the provision for separate schools in the North West Territories Act. But a certain province that proposed now to control the educational policy of all the other provinces—this great province said to Sir Alexander Mackenzie: You just grant separate schools or go out. And it was the regret of Mackenzie to his dying day that he did not go out.
>
> I defy any man to say we are given any right to do other than to forever and forever maintain that baneful restriction that says we must have separate schools.
>
> Sir Wilfrid Laurier says that separate schools are the best thing for the state. I deny that. No Church or creed has a right to ask for special privileges. We must stand together. How otherwise may we work out our destiny?

Who betrayed the province of Quebec, Mr. Speaker? Who betrayed not only the province of Quebec, but common sense, harmony and the spirit of justice, if not the Prime Minister of to-day (Mr. Bennett)? And why hold Sir Wilfrid Laurier responsible for the present difficulties in Saskatchewan?

Our dear departed statesman must have been great indeed, since envy still strives to belittle him. Yes, he was truly great, whose personality traced a path of glowing splendour across the firmament of our history; he was truly great, whom a whole people still mourns; he was truly great, who followed in the footsteps of Disraeli and of Gladstone; he was so great that even those who deserted him at a certain turning in their careers and who found themselves unable to hold their ground, feel the need to-day of trying to cast a shadow on his glory, the better to excuse their betrayal. He was so great that whoever attacks his memory in the terms used by the hon. member for Montmagny, merely succeeds in proving his own smallness, his political insignificance.

Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne has many remarkable analogies with the election campaign of 1930. We find there the same muddled expression of the means to be employed for ridding us of the economic crisis, which is still with us, and going from bad to worse. The same uncertainty, the same vague, nebulous language which, even to the most practised eye, yields no tangible conclusion. But the speech differs somewhat from the campaign of last July inasmuch as the bell, which has passed into the government's hands, does not give out the same note to-day. In July, 1930, the battle began to the strains of the mournful chant: "The Liberal administration has ruined the country; Canada cannot escape bankruptcy."

In the speech from the throne, fourth paragraph, first line, the leader of the government has this to say of the economic crisis:

> The fact that in this period of universal distress Canada has been spared the same acute degree of hardship which many other nations have been called upon to bear.

Only eight months of administration and can we not already feel the magic power of the dictatorial wand?

"Put me at the head of the government," said the present Prime Minister in 1930, "and I will bring prosperity back to you. Put me in power and a new day will dawn for our Dominion." With disconcerting cocksureness he led the voters of this country to believe that he had fathomed the causes of the economic depression and found a remedy.

In 1931, in the speech from the throne, still the same fourth paragraph, the leader of the present government tells us that the obstacles which bar our way to prosperity are numerous

and important. In order to arrive at a satisfactory solution of these difficulties we must first of all understand them. So the right hon. gentleman did not understand them during the campaign of 1930?

Last July, our opponents promised to cure all our ills; to-day, face to face with the failure of these so-called remedies, our friends of the government no longer promise a cure; they have come back to earth and, like everybody else, they hope the situation will improve. It is not necessary to recall all the pledges made during the campaign to prove to the voters of Canada that the government has failed all along the line.

The right hon. Prime Minister knew very well that he could not rid us of the crisis Why did he promise to do so? He swindled the voters; but the voters have the right to demand that he fulfil the mandate given him in accordance with the terms and conditions under which he received it. Let him remember the words he uttered in Quebec city, and which were reproduced in the Ottawa Citizen of July 14th, 1930:

> I ask the candidates who are elected from the province of Ontario, and the other members of my party to throw me out of office if, after having been victorious at the polls, I fail to keep the promises made to the Canadian people. I will not climb into power over violated pledges.

The leader of the present government promised prosperity and the people will never forgive his failure to provide it.

What should we say of the Imperial conference? On this matter I do not speak with authority; nevertheless the government leader's attitude appears strange to me. He was evidently not taken seriously in London. He left Canada in a miniature whirlwind which had become a hurricane by the time he landed on Britain's shores. He believed himself a lion, but he could barely imitate the lion's roar. After several days of fruitless negotiations, like the fox in LaFontaine's fable he turned his face toward home and Canada; no doubt he swore, on the deep blue sea, but a little late, that he would not be caught again.

The ninth paragraph of the speech from the throne touches on a question of principle which I am proud to emphasize. Like all those who interest themselves in the welfare of humanity I believe that the doctrine upheld by soviet Russia is thoroughly opposed to the moral, intellectual, and even material progress of a people. You have only to read the contemporary history of Russia to become convinced that the present day leaders of this gifted people are making Russia into a pitiable outcast among the nations of Europe.

But I am in a hurry to come to the false attitude of the present prime minister as regards the agricultural industry. I note that this government has not given the farming community all the assistance they were fully entitled to expect after the fine phrases used by the prime minister on occasions like the following:

At Woodstock, N.B., on July 2nd, 1930, Mr. Bennett said:

> I declare here and now that if I am elected on July 28th my first duty will be to see to it that all the resources of Canada are used to uphold the agricultural industry. I would believe myself unworthy of presiding over this country's destiny if I did not do that.

This is what he told us on June 13th, 1930, at Calgary:

> We pledge ourselves to encourage agriculture, stock-raising and the dairy industry all of which the farmer has got so sadly neglected. We must train our young people in agricultural schools and, for this reason, I promise to continue the federal grant to the different provinces; for it is only from a rural population that is educated, in the broadest and best sense that we may expect the results we hope to attain.

At the special session of last September the right hon. Prime Minister insisted still further on the needs of agriculture and in unbelievably highfalutin' language set forth the capital importance of this basic industry. The result of all his fine words has been tariff meddling, and that carried out in such a way as to stabilize the price of all manufactured products and to increase the taxes borne by the farming class. Out of a total of 130 tariff items amended last fall, a mere 28 had to do with agriculture, despite the high-sounding phrases of the prime minister. Moreover, of these 28, only 14 were helpful to the farmer: the other 14 levied tribute on him. On close analysis of these tariff increases, we find that when the farmer, whose interests the prime minister has so much at heart, pockets $1 as a result of the first 14 items, the other 14 make him part with $1.50. And they call that protecting the agricultural industry.

What rural members sitting to your right, Mr. Speaker, have risen in this house to protest against such senseless and deplorable mistreatment of agriculture? Have any among them remembered their leader's own words: "I will not climb into power over violated pledges"?

The members for Marquette (Mr. Mullins) and Long Lake (Mr. Cowan) sought to excuse their leader by claiming that the

Liberal administration had never done anything for agriculture. But a glance at the records will show that the King government did more for the farmers than will probably ever be done by those now in power.

May I be allowed to give a short synopsis of what was accomplished along this line; hon. members can check up on my statements at the federal department of agriculture here in Ottawa.

The main features, from 1922 to 1929 were the following:

1. The establishing of a research laboratory at Winnipeg for the intensive study of cereal rust and the best means of combating it.

2. The promotion of tobacco-growing in south-east Ontario and in Quebec through the enlargement of the substations at Harrow, Ontario, and Farnham, Quebec, and their establishment as experimental stations specializing in tobacco culture; also the purchase and establishment of a new tobacco culture station at L'Assomption, Quebec.

3. The development of research facilities at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, relative to cultivation without irrigation.

4. The establishment of a demonstration farm at Manyberries, Alta., for the furtherance of the solution of the problem of feed conservation so vital to the rancher.

5. The establishment of the new demonstration farm for irrigation culture at Windermere, British Columbia.

6. The establishment of 133 demonstration stations throughout the country for the purpose of acquainting thousands of farmers, through practical object-lessons, with the value of the methods, varieties and practices followed and recommended by the experimental farms.

7. Cooperative experiments along the Hudson Bay Railway route.

8. Small demonstration linen-mills were established in Quebec and in the maritime provinces; thanks to which these districts are to-day in possession of a prosperous home-spun industry.

9. An inspection service was established for all export honey.

10. A new bacteriological branch was inaugurated at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for the study of agricultural problems which must be solved through the application of bacteriological methods.

11. The Elwood farm was purchased at St. Catharines, Ontario, so as to provide the laboratory of plant pathology with more complete facilities for the treatment of fruit diseases, particularly those which attack peaches, grapes, tomatoes and strawberries.

[Mr. Dubois.]

And the Liberal government did nothing?

The most effective method yet for combating tuberculosis among cattle is the slaughter of all animals that react positively to the tuberculin test, within certain well-defined zones, following the system established in 1924. Since that date more than 800,000 cattle have been tested in the nine zones and extension already established, or about to be; 45,000 positive subjects have been slaughtered. At the present time there is at least one of these certified zones in every province of the Dominion.

This system of certified zones has provided absolutely healthy districts for immune herds. It facilitates cattle-raising, reduces to a minimum the danger of reinfection, induces the farmer to provide more hygienic housing for his cattle, and creates a more active demand, at higher prices, for milch cows.

The erection of a modern and thoroughly equipped experimental and research station at Hull, Quebec, completed in 1927, is a most important step towards the establishment of facilities for research work on the diseases of animals.

Experiments and research work on swamp disease were conducted in the prairie provinces, at Saskatoon and at Lethbridge; and at the agricultural laboratory of the experimental farm at Agassiz studies were made of the incidence and cure of hematuria.

And the Liberal government did nothing?

The following developments may be noted as results of the Live Stock Act:

1. The remarkable improvement in the quality of Canadian hogs resulting in large measure from the application of modern systems of grading which guarantee to the producer himself the premium paid on high quality animals. This system has brought about a very great improvement in the quality of our bacon which to-day is almost on a par with Danish bacon on the British market, except in the matter of quantity; the Canadian consumer can now buy much better bacon and other pork products than was formerly possible.

2. A registry system for thoroughbred hogs was inaugurated early in 1929; already twenty-three herds have been registered.

3. In 1922 were adopted the rules governing the inspection and grading of all eggs imported into Canada. All eggs exported from Canada are graded; since this grading system was adopted there is a big demand for Canadian eggs in Great Britain.

4. The department insisted that all commission houses having to do with our Canadian stockyards keep a shippers' guarantee

account so that the producer who sold his animals through commission merchants should run no risk of losing the product of his sales.

5. Since the department organized calf breeders' clubs in 1923 great progress has been made in the growth of clubs among young breeders of cows, sheep and hogs. The encouragement thus given to the younger generation and the lively interest the young folks have taken in these clubs have borne fruit in the general and far-reaching improvement to be noted in all breeding activities wherever these clubs have been organized.

6. The animal husbandry branch inaugurated recently a system of approved incubators, which provides for the farmer a trustworthy source of baby chicks. The poultry pens which furnish hatching eggs and the incubators themselves are inspected. The incubators which come up to standard are authorized to sell certified chicks.

One of the main objects of the Seeds branch of the department is to promote the use and the production of better quality seeds and with this end in view the department, in 1929, increased by $3,000 its grant to The Canadian Association of Seed Growers.

In 1921 there were only some 40,000 bushels of registered seeds on the market. In 1929 the quantity had risen to 952,215 bushels. And the Liberal government did nothing?

The following are among the chief efforts made by the Entomological branch in recent years to assist agriculture through the destruction of insect pests.

After exhaustive experiments and research work for the purpose of effectively combating the European maize borer, work undertaken and accomplished in co-operation with the Ontario Department of Agriculture, the branch Ontario department of agriculture, the branch made certain recommendations which were enacted into law by the provincial legislature; there is no doubt that as a consequence of these accomplishments the extinction of this pest in the most infested regions is assured and the growing of seed-corn in Ontario will once more come into its own.

Measures instituted as a result of co-operative research work undertaken by the federal and provincial branches of entomology enabled us to repeal the invasions of the black beetle in the yellow pine forests of British Columbia.

In 1924 the agents of the entomological branch discovered in Quebec province a certain number of masses of nits laid by the dangerous sponge-worm. Since then the invasion has been repelled, thanks to the co-operation of the Department of Lands and Forests in Quebec.

The main accomplishments of the dairy branch since 1922 have been the grading of dairy products and experimental work concerning dairy produce.

The grading of dairy products has brought about a very great improvement in the quality of these products and the publicity given to quality through the grade certificates has been responsible for a new attitude on the part of both producers and manufacturers. Grading has been very beneficial to the dairy industry. Thanks to this system our Canadian dairy produce is more sought after on the markets of the world. If our Canadian cheese is quoted a little higher than others on the British market it is chiefly due to this system of grading. The improvement in the quality of our butter and of our cheese was most marked, and I speak now not only of the export market but of the home market also: to-day the Canadian housewife buys dairy produce with much more confidence than formerly.

Co-operative sales, etc., etc., etc., etc.

The Liberal government was going to keep up the good work.

And this government of dreamers and idealists did nothing for agriculture?

What has the Conservative government done for the farmers during the past eight months? What are they going to do this year? If we read the speech from the throne, paragraph 12, we find that this government, with a view to protecting agriculture, which it rightly calls the basic industry of this country, has inserted in its program only three words: "Aid to agriculture." As though the farming community were a class of beggars to whom one throws a meagre pittance when one has the time. As if our farmers, who go to make up some 52 per cent of the entire population of Canada, were a negligible quantity!

Far be it from me to incite my own class against the other classes of the community. I know that it is only through harmony and concord that lasting things are accomplished; but I have faith in my profession and representing, as I do, a constituency which is 95 per cent agricultural, I owe it to my electors to demand for them all the consideration and all the protection they are entitled to. Tireless and peaceful workers, they contribute more than any other class to the development and to the maintenance of our country's prosperity.

For the past eight months the present government has striven in vain to cope with the economic depression and with the unemployment crisis. Why do they not try rather to encourage the farmer, to find profit-

able markets for our farm products, to favour agriculture as much as possible, to make the farmer feel contented with his lot, become attached to the soil which feeds him, and thus become an apostle of the Back to the Land movement. Is it not a fact that if this Back to the Land movement were to succeed, our cities would be relieved of a number of the jobless who swarm into them? I believe that if the government were to act in this way they would do much more for the people of Canada than in dallying, in theory and in practice, with an excessive protective policy which favours only a very small group of capitalists.

May I be allowed to quote the opinion of M. R. Levrault, French economist, on this matter of protection that is made so much of by our friends opposite:

> People do not know what protectionism has done to Europe. Everybody is aware that most of the ills that beset us are derived from that source: it is responsible for the high cost of living and for our staggering taxes.
>
> Protection begets higher and higher protection. When every country is protected none enjoy its advantages any longer. Then starts a race in the building of higher and higher tariff walls. Each country strives to be the first to profit, be it only for a few years, even a few months, by tariff increases.

You are looking for ways and means to cope with the unemployment problem. Would you permit a young man who has spent thirty-seven years of his life on our Canadian land to suggest to you what he believes to be a good way to discover the real cure for our present economic ills? Every democracy must beware of one danger: the sovereignty of wealth. Capitalists of every description, capitalists forever insatiate, follow the lead of certain capitalists in my riding: come down from your pedestals, come out of your ivory towers! If you really wish our people well, rub shoulders with our workers, in the city and in the country; their contact will teach you more than all the shallow generalizations of arm-chair sociologists.

Mr. Speaker, I end with these words: At the special session allusion was made on the floor of this house to the Unknown Soldier. Like all good patriots I bow, and deeply, before him who sheds his blood for his country. But there is another unknown soldier: his work is less in the limelight, but it is none the less deserving. This unknown soldier is the settler in the northern parts of Ontario, the settler in the northern regions of my own province. This unknown soldier is the farmer in the western provinces, the farmer in the maritime provinces, the Ontario farmer, the Quebec farmer, the farmer in my county. We bow low before the soldier armed with the sword. What must we not do in the presence of the soldier who guides the plough? Before him, as before the other, we should bow. But one thing must be borne in mind: this soldier does not live on fine words alone; he must have acts, he must have substance.

Mr. E. E. PERLEY (Qu'Appelle): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate I should like first to congratulate the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne on their splendid efforts. They did credit not only to themselves but to the constituencies which they have the honour to represent. I had been given to understand that a new member was generally granted considerable indulgence by the older members when making his maiden speech, but after listening to the gibes and jeers that have been hurled across the floor during this debate I find that that is not always the case. However, on this occasion I would ask indulgence for myself. It has been very interesting to me to listen to the many excellent speeches that have been delivered during the course of the debate, and if I had time I should like to make some observations on those speeches and to state how they have impressed me as a new member. I will mention briefly one or two.

I think the speech of the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) was worthy of note. He apparently has a style all his own and speaks with considerable force. I may say to him that while he chooses to devote the greater part of his time to reading speeches of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) he will always have a careful hearing and considerable applause from this side of the house. I might reply at length to some other speeches from across the way, but time does not permit. The clear cut and business-like statement by the right hon. Prime Minister is in my opinion the outstanding speech yet delivered in this debate. I wish also to refer briefly to the very careful and thoughtful speech delivered by my deskmate the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Beynon); also to the speeches delivered by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull); the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan); and the hon. member for Rosetown (Mr. Loucks). I imagine it must be very pleasant to our friends from Ontario, Quebec and the maritimes after many long years to hear the Conservative voice from Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it might be well for me to state a few particulars with respect to

the constituency of Qu'Appelle which I have the honour to represent. It is situated in the central and easterly part of Saskatchewan. The foundation of its fine citizenship is the stock of the pioneers from old Ontario, Quebec and the maritimes, although of late years we have had a cosmopolitan addition from foreign countries. I wish to bring to the attention of the house four things which I think are a great credit to my constituency. First, we have there the third prize winner in the competition organized last year by the Canadian National Railways, known as the foreign community progress competition. I refer to the Hungarian colony south of the town of Kipling. It is a fine colony of foreign citizens, and they are doing wonderful work. They have fine houses, schools, churches and public buildings and would be a credit to any part of western Canada.

Then I want to refer briefly to the fact that in my own constituency I have one of the master farmers of Saskatchewan, selected through the master farmer movement inaugurated by the Northwest Farmer, an agricultural journal. I refer to George Stutt, of Vandura, who was selected as one of the three master farmers of our province. I might state briefly to the way the points were scored. The inspection had to do with five branches of farm life: First was the operation and organization of the farm; second was the general appearance and upkeep of the farm; third was the business methods, fourth the home life, and fifth the citizenship of the farmer. Any man who could secure a sufficiently high percentage to be classed as one of the three master farmers under those conditions is a credit to any constituency.

I wish to mention also the fact that on the border line between the constituencies of Qu'Appelle and Assiniboia is a farmer whose name is George Avery and who, at the last international grain show, secured the grand championship for durum wheat. That is a point worthy of mention, and I would like also to place on the records of this house the fact that at the annual live stock association meeting in the capital city of Regina the boys' judging team from the agricultural society of Fairmede secured first place, both collectively and individually. Those are four facts I should like to place before hon. members of this house.

While we have in my constituency these four distinguished examples, Mr. Speaker, yet we are feeling the depression which is being felt all over the west as a result of conditions for which the farmers are not altogether responsible. Last winter I attended many meetings held by farmers, at which they discussed their problems and passed certain resolutions which were forwarded to the government, yet in spite of present conditions I did not hear a single word at any one of those meetings with regard to secession. During this debate we have listened to many speeches dealing with conditions as they are to-day in western Canada. I agree with a great deal of what has been said, and some of the hon. gentlemen in the far corner of the house, particularly the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman), have shown a very clear grasp of the situation and have made clear and careful statements of the facts. I understand the hon. member succeeded the late Doctor Clark as member for Red Deer. Doctor Clark was one of the outstanding orators of this house, but I think the constituency of Red Deer will be equally well looked after by its present representative.

I have outlined as carefully and as concisely as possible what I consider to be the exact condition of affairs in western Canada, and my conclusions are these: A very large percentage of the western farmers are heavily in debt. I believe that is generally admitted. Their ability to pay is a very serious consideration, and not one in a hundred, in fact not one in five hundred of the western farmers is deliberately or willingly trying to evade the payment of his indebtedness. Under existing conditions, however, the debt is growing out of all proportion to his ability to pay, and the mental and moral effect of this situation is exerting a tremendous influence on the farmers of the west. Under existing world conditions not more than the cost of production can be realized from the 1931 crop.

That is the condition as I see it, but I would like to ask if there is one member of this house in his right senses who thinks that this condition has arisen in the west during the last six months. It took years to bring it about, and while I would not care to charge the late government with the responsibility for all our ills and troubles, yet I think when we compare the situation as they found it when they came into office in 1921 with the conditions which existed when the present government came into power on August 7 last, you cannot help but charge the late government with a great deal of the responsibility. This point was very well covered by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) in his first speech, and I will not go into further details at the moment.

There are certain causes for the present condition, Mr. Speaker, and I have tried to group them in four classes. I believe the western farmers are anxious to be fair in considering the situation, and I may say that

now I am speaking as a farmer from western Canada. If you will pardon a personal reference, I have been farming in the west for thirty years on rather a large scale—too large, no doubt, under present conditions. I am not going to say to what extent I have been farming, but when I left home last Wednesday we had in our bins on the farm 6,000 bushels of clean grain waiting for the seeder, so you will see how I am involved in the farming game. I say the farmers are prepared to be fair, and they are responsible for a small part of the present situation. I come to that conclusion from the fact that it has been stated in this house that the greatest purchasing power in Canada is the western wheat crop, and during the last ten years we in the west have produced and marketed six billion dollars worth of grain. Some hon. members from the east might ask where all that cash has gone, and my reply would be that one of the reasons is that the farmers have allowed themselves to be exploited. They have been easy prey for expert salesmen, particularly those handling American made machinery and other products. Farmers sitting in this house know they have been guilty of this; I have been guilty of it myself. The expert salesman comes into our yards and easily makes us believe that the old binders, seeders or tractors, only half worn out, should be replaced by new, up-to-date and more expensive machines. That is what has been happening.

Another minor cause is the banking system and the way the banks have been dealing with the farmers of the west. Much has been said with regard to the banks. I am not going to add a great deal to that, only to say that I believe hon. gentlemen who have spoken on that point are correct in nearly every particular. As I see it to-day, the great effect of the banks is that they are taking away the morale of the people of the west. A year or so ago a farmer would go to the bank and ask for $200 or $300 of a loan. The banker would say, "Mr. Smith, you do not want $200; you should have $300 or $400." The farmer would take the money on a straight note, without security. Now these men go in and find their credit gone and their securities of no value. The morale of these men who have been farming in the west for thirty or forty years is being wrecked.

There is a third reason. Our method of marketing grain for the last six years has been such that it has demoralized the whole grain trading system, not only in Canada but throughout the world. I do not find fault with the pool or with cooperative marketing; far from it. Any man would be crazy to do such a thing. But their sales agency made a mistake, and when they did so I claim it was the business of the Department of Trade and Commerce of the late government to know that that mistake was being made. If I understand it, the Department of Trade and Commerce should know what is going on in the game of international trading. The department exists for that purpose, and when the markets were slipping they should have known the reason and taken steps to meet the situation. They should have advised the great marketing agency in western Canada of the mistakes they were making. That was the duty of the department. However, we have a situation there; it is on our hands, and the very uncertainty at the present time as to the whole marketing of the next crop is affecting the price very materially.

Fourthly, and this is the major count: The fiscal policy of Canada, the whole of Canada, for the last ten years—yes, for the last twenty-five years—has been wrong; and I think we can charge that to the late government more or less. For instance, take agriculture in western Canada. We have been developing one line of industry, that of agriculture and that alone. An industry which employs peak labour for only two months of the year—and this is the case in this industry, as farmers all know—cannot satisfactorily build up a great country. We must develop other lines of industry.

I have tried briefly to set out one or two of the causes of the present condition, and I consider it my duty to offer one or two constructive suggestions. We have had some from both sides of the house, but I do not think anyone has gone far enough to meet the emergency. One suggestion has been made from this corner of the house, that the 1930 crop be subsidized, and another suggestion is the amortization of capital debt. I am going to make my suggestions under two heads—a long-range policy and a policy which will have immediate effect. I believe the Department of Agriculture will do much towards improving the present situation. We have a new Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) from the province of Saskatchewan, and we are very proud of him. He is an expert agriculturist, a man who is sincere in purpose, and who I know will do much to inaugurate a new agricultural policy for the whole of Canada. Much can be done along that line. The Department of Trade and Commerce can do much in the way of merchandising, or assisting in merchandising the crop. Canadian wheat is recognized in the markets of the world as the best wheat pro-

duced anywhere. It has been used primarily for mixing purposes, and it has been proven conclusively by experiments that Canadian wheat will do more for a loaf of bread than any other wheat grown. That is to say, 15 or 20 per cent blended with other grains will do more than 15 or 20 per cent of any other wheat similarly blended. So that we have something special to merchandise. If any factory or company or organization producing a certain article or line of goods discovered that they had the best product in that particular line they would immediately go out and sell it. Now we have the best wheat in the world, and it is up to the Department of Trade and Commerce to assist in selling it; the department should make a greater effort in this direction than has been made heretofore.

Secondly, I think we should have some scheme put into practice—and I believe the Minister of Agriculture will see that this is done—to take advantage of the expert advice which is available to our farmers. I believe that one of the greatest wastes which we have seen in western Canada in the last fifteen or twenty years has been the failure to benefit from such expert advice. There is no district in the west wherein you will not find an expert farmer, an outstanding agriculturist who has made a success of his particular line of agriculture; while you will find his neighbours, for miles around him, failures or partial failures, notwithstanding that they operate under the same climatic conditions and in the same soil. We find one expert, outstanding man and the rest largely failures. Now I suggest that we should adopt some system whereby each district might make use of the advice and experience of such experts. That is something that could be worked out—a campaign of education and educational leadership.

Next I would suggest a rigid enforcement of the Bank Act. I will not enlarge upon that question or go into details just now: sufficient has already been said in that regard. I will, however, say this: that the implement concerns in the west have been allowed in many cases to sell their goods on notes bearing 8 or 9 per cent, and 10 per cent interest after due date, something which should not be permitted.

Then again I would suggest a duty on corn imported for feed purposes. The hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis) made a clear case in favour of western coarse grains. I will not discuss that matter because the figures are in Hansard and, as I say, the hon. member made an able case in support of coarse grains. There should also be a development of our great natural resources, the vast potential wealth of the western country—mines, forests and lakes.

These suggestions which I have outlined constitute what I might call a long-range policy; that is to say, there is nothing in them which can have an immediate effect, although their development will be fruitful in the future. But what the farmer of the west needs to-day—and having just returned from Saskatchewan I know what they need—is something in the nature of direct relief. The present government has done much; it has seen to it that no farmer in the west will be without seed. It has seen to it that gasoline will be made available to the farmer to enable him to put in his crop. But this is not even meeting the situation, because there are many farmers who, if they had a little direct assistance, would employ one or two more men. If you will pardon me for speaking personally again, I have five tenants, and I know that if they had some assistance they might each employ another man. And I venture to say that if assistance were forthcoming from the banks, if the banks would loosen up and give credit in the west where credit is needed and should be given, fifty per cent of the farmers of western Canada would employ an extra man. What would that not do towards solving the unemployment problem?

As I say, these are long-range policies. I will now offer a suggestion by way of affording direct assistance. It has already been stated by one hon. member that capital investment by loan companies amounted to $215,000,000, while interest due and in arrear is in the neighbourhood of $20,000,000. I suggest that if we want to save agriculture, if we want to show the farmer that we are all interested in keeping him on his land—and that is the important thing for us to consider at the present time—there must be no change of tenancy in the farms of western Canada. To keep the farmer on the land is the important thing to-day; and if the loan companies pursue the policy which they have followed promiscuously, of foreclosing on farms, the tenancy of a great many farms in the west will be changed. I would suggest that the government call a conference of the loan companies and make the proposal that should the loan companies write off forty or fifty per cent of the interest in arrears, the government will pay them the balance and thus place the loans upon the basis they were when first placed upon the farms. This would re-establish the confidence of the farmer and he would realize that no interest in Canada was working to put him off the land. I do not suggest that as a hand-out

by the government to the farmer, but it could be considered on an amortization of some kind extending over a period of from ten to fifteen years.

My next suggestion may be considered a little drastic, but I offer it by way of immediate relief. I think a suggestion that the 1930 crop be subsidized has been made by one hon. member on this side of the house. I do not intend to go that far, but I think the 1930 crop should be subsidized to the extent of the government paying the freight on all grain sold since the price dropped below 70 cents per bushel. That subsidization would involve only about 50 per cent of the crop, as considerable of the crop was shipped during last September, October and November before the price got below 70 cents per bushel. This would not involve the expenditure entailed in pegging the price at 70 cents per bushel, which has been requested generally by the farmers of western Canada. Certain opposition may be offered, and there might be considerable detail in the working out of this system, but I believe it would be equal and fair to all concerned. Perhaps the railway companies might be asked to bear some part of this burden.

I now come to the last and most important of my suggestions, and that is that we have a complete policy of protection such as has been inaugurated by this government. During the campaign of last summer the people accepted the proposition outlined by the Prime Minister. One policy was offered from one end of Canada to the other. The voice in Halifax was heard in Vancouver, and the voice in Vancouver was heard in Halifax. The people accepted that policy because they wanted to know what the policy of Canada was to be. The hon. member for Southeast Grey made a statement the other day with which I agreed; she said that she wanted to know what was the right tariff policy for Canada. Canada wants to know, but if this country will give this government the support it deserves, then Canada will know.

I do not think that any reasonable person ever expected that the critical condition of affairs and the depression and unemployment found in August last when the present government took office would be corrected in six short months. If this government is allowed to put its policies into force conditions in Canada will improve and the east and the west can join hands in making Canada the great industrial dominion she should be.

Considerable has been said about the Imperial conference and I would not endeavour to answer the many speeches we have heard from the opposition in criticism of the attitude taken by the Prime Minister. To do that would take more time than I have at my disposal. The right hon. leader of the opposition seemed to be very much concerned about this matter, and he objected to the method of approach adopted by the Prime Minister. The hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine) proceeded very reasonably when he asked the hon. leader of the opposition to indicate why he thought a different approach to the British people would have resulted in their paying better prices for Canadian wheat. The answer made by the right hon. gentleman was not very definite, he seemed to be satisfied with mentioning a conciliatory method of approach and making reference to the Dunning budget.

The very mention of the Dunning budget gives me pleasant memories and recollections, for it was in my constituency in the province of Saskatchewan that the Hon. Charles Dunning made his first pronouncement in the last campaign. I had the pleasure—it was a pleasure because I think every time he spoke he assisted me—of having him speak at three meetings in my constituency out of seven or eight in Saskatchewan. I had the pleasure also of having the former Minister of Railways, Mr. Crerar, speak at two meetings. At Broadview, at the Liberal nomination, speaking before eight or nine hundred people, Mr. Dunning stated that his May day budget had been framed for the purpose of selling Canadian wheat. He said: We asked no preference but we gave a preference, and he suggested that the British people would feel it to be a duty and responsibility to buy our wheat in greater quantity. What was the preference given? It was a preference in our markets for their cattle and horses, and a preference in our markets for their carts and perambulators, cut flowers and cast iron pipes.

Since coming to Ottawa I have been asked why the Hon. Charles Dunning was defeated. Perhaps the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) is better able to answer that question, but I think the principal reason was this: We had known Mr. Dunning in the provincial legislature when he was a private member, we had known him when he was a member of the cabinet and when he was the premier; we knew that at every session of the provincial legislature he had spoken in favour of the resolution which was always introduced asking for free trade. On many occasions he had stated that he was an avowed free trader, but when the people of western Canada examined his May day budget they said: Our Charlie has betrayed us, and they voted accordingly. They thought the May day budget was humbug. The hon. leader of

the opposition took about twenty minutes during his speech in the early part of this session to explain the meaning of the word "humbug", but I think that every definition given to that word by the right hon. gentleman could be applied to the Dunning budget.

The hon. leader of the opposition seems to be very much concerned about this being a one man government. I prefer to follow a one man government, if you like to call it such, when the policies announced by our leader are those I have been looking for for the last fifteen or twenty years. The Prime Minister proved to the people of Canada that he was a man of courage and conviction. He announced a policy which he would enforce if given the opportunity. On July 28 the people said: Canada wants to know, and Canada will know.

The right hon. leader of the opposition stated in his speech that the greatest purchasing power that we had in Canada was the western wheat crop. Does he hold the present Prime Minister responsible for the loss of that purchasing power? What did they do about the matter? I think the hon. member for Regina referred to that in his speech. When the ex-Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) last year was asked about wheat, they said that the wheat would take care of itself. We know they did not do very much about it.

The hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. McPhee) spoke about false fiscal policies. I should like to ask him what they did during the last nine or ten years that they held office. I think we are all agreed that this is not the time for idle talk; that it is the time for action. The people of Canada have decided to give the Prime Minister and his government an opportunity, and I think it is the duty of every good Canadian citizen who realizes the meaning of the term "citizenship" to give at least reasonable support to the present government to inaugurate policies of protection and other policies, to develop our industries and to make trade agreements that will help us to sell our natural products. Canada has an opportunity to go forward. It is up to us to be ready, a united, prosperous and contented Canada under the leadership of the greatest prime minister that Canada has had since the time of Sir John A. Macdonald.

On motion of Mr. McIntosh the debate was adjourned.

MAIN ESTIMATES, 1931-32

A message from His Excellency the Governor General transmitting estimates for the financial year ending March 31, 1932, was presented by Right Hon. R. B. Bennett (Minister of Finance), read by Mr. Speaker to the house, and referred to the committee of supply.

On motion of Mr. Bennett the house adjourned at 10.55 p.m

Tuesday, April 14, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

AUTHENTIC TEXT OF DRAFT CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table of the house the authentic text of the draft conventions and recommendations which have been adopted by the tenth, eleventh, twelfth and fourteenth sessions respectively of the International Labour conference in accordance with the provisions of article 405 of the treaty of Versailles and the corresponding provisions of the other treaties of peace. Also the text of certain orders in council which have been adopted dealing with the competence of parliament and of the provincial legislatures respectively with regard to the subject matters of these draft conventions and recommendations. The text of the draft conventions and recommendations and the orders in council which have been mentioned have been transmitted to the lieutenant-governors of the various provinces.

CANADIAN NATIONALS ACT

PROVISION FOR LOSS OR RENUNCIATION OF CANADIAN NATIONALITY

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 24, to define Canadian nationals and to provide for loss or renunciation of Canadian nationality.

An hon. MEMBER: Explain.

Mr. CAHAN: This bill is to revise chapter 21 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, which is entitled an act to define Canadian nationals and to provide for loss or renunciation of Canadian nationality. Upon assuming the duties of Secretary of State I found that investigations had been made with re-

spect to the application of the existing statute by the permanent officials of the State department and the permanent officials of the Department of External Affairs. I found also that during the regime of the previous government the then Prime Minister, the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) had procured from Professor W. P. M. Kennedy of Toronto university a very lengthy study of the essentials of Canadian nationality. With the assistance of the permanent officials of the State department and of the Department of External Affairs I have drafted this bill in order to express in appropriate terms for legislative enactment what I believe to be the essential qualifications for Canadian nationality. For instance in dealing with the claims for reparations under the treaty of Versailles some hundreds of claimants are compelled in the first place to prove that they are Canadian nationals. Many of these claimants have found themselves in extreme difficulties when they were asked to determine whether or not they were Canadian nationals within the scope and the meaning of the treaty of Versailles. Since the treaty of Versailles was ratified the government of Canada with the approval of parliament has entered into a series of international treaties and conventions, and with respect to the administration for Canada of those treaties and conventions it is necessary in many, many cases arising in my department daily and weekly to determine whether certain residents in Canada are Canadian nationals within the meaning of these treaties and conventions. Then, in respect to the administration of certain acts, such as the Copyright Act, and to a lesser degree the Patent Act, it becomes necessary daily to determine whether or not the applicant is a Canadian national. The two primary qualifications of course are first that the applicant is a British subject and second that he has a domicile in Canada. There are, however, certain variations which must be determined. This bill is an attempt, with the aid of such expert assistance as is available in the various departments and the assistance of the reports of experts which were received by the previous government, to determine and to express in simple language who are Canadian nationals within the meaning of our statutes and of the conventions and treaties above mentioned. I think it is absolutely necessary for the proper administration of the affairs of the State department that Canadian nationals should be clearly defined so as to avoid the difficulties which from day to day are arising in the administration of that department. I have not introduced this bill as a partisan measure. In the Department of State we are really attempting to carry into effect the result of investigations and reports made to the previous government which have been amplified somewhat since the present government took office. I desire to have the bill read in order that it may be distributed to members of the house, and I ask from hon. members on both sides of the house serious consideration of the elements of this bill. Such a measure should not be passed for partisan purposes or as a party measure. It is a measure which if it is to be enacted should receive the approval of a majority of members on both sides of this house.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

REPARATIONS COMMISSION

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF COMMISSIONER CONCERNING PRISONERS OF WAR

On the orders of the day.

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): May I ask the hon. the Secretary of State if, during the present session of parliament, he expects to be in a position to present to the house a supplementary report of the reparations commissioner dealing with the cases of soldiers who were prisoners of war?

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): That will depend entirely upon the progress which the commissioner makes. I have already presented a report of the decisions up to the date of the report. If it is possible to secure hearings and decisions in other cases which are before the commissioner I shall endeavour to comply with the suggestion of the hon. gentleman.

SALMON FISHERIES REGULATIONS

COMPLAINTS RESPECTING EFFECTS OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

On the orders of the day.

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): May I be permitted to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) to a situation which has arisen in the maritime provinces and especially the province of New Brunswick in connection with salmon net fishing. Recently regulations were passed which if put into effect immediately, it is argued, would cause a grave injustice to the salmon net fishermen of the province of New Brunswick. Especially would the injustice be felt where net fishing is carried on along the shore of the open bays. I do not wish

to argue the merits of the regulations but I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Fisheries concerning them. I have no doubt he has received some protests and I would like to know if having received those protests he will thoroughly investigate the complaints before the regulations are put into effect. Will the minister have his officials report upon the advisability of postponing for one year the operation of these new regulations to give time fully to investigate all phases of the situation, in case such investigation cannot be made before the opening of the season this year?

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Fisheries): In reply to the question of my hon. friend from Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) I may say that the regulations in question were proposed following a conference which was held at Ottawa in February. That conference was attended by upwards of thirty persons representative of every phase of the fishing industry, and the conclusions reached are substantially those embodied in the regulations. It has transpired that objections have been raised since the regulations have been announced due I think chiefly to objections arising with respect to the date of the opening of the fishing season. The question has become more acute by reason of the fact that this year promises to be an earlier year with respect to fishing than has any year within the last fifty. In view of objections which have been raised the deputy minister has been instructed to proceed immediately to the province of New Brunswick for the purpose of a further conference with those representing the industry. If it appears after such further inquiry that any hardships will result to the fishermen and to the industry, the question of modification or of postponing the application of the regulations as proposed will be favourably considered.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): Will these regulations apply to the province of Quebec as well as to the province of New Brunswick? Was the province of Quebec represented at the conference?

Mr. RHODES: The province of Quebec was represented at the conference by F. M. Gibaut, Superintendent of Maritime Fisheries, Department of Colonization, Game and Fisheries of Quebec. The regulations were made in conformity with his view as to their acceptability to the province of Quebec.

CIVIL SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO INVESTIGATION OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ARISING OUT OF TRIAL OF EMPLOYEES

On the orders of the day.

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): In view of the stigma attached to the administration of the Civil Service Commission as a result of evidence brought down in the recent trial of two civil service employees does the government intend to investigate the commission?

Mr. POWER: Abolish it.

Mr. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): As I presume to represent in this house the Civil Service Commission I would suggest that until the evidence in that case is thoroughly digested by the government it would be impossible to give a definite answer to the inquiry of the hon. gentleman.

REPORTED RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

On the orders of the day:

Hon. CHARLES STEWART West Edmonton): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I directed a question to the Minister of the Interior with respect to the abolition of positions in the Department of the Interior. In this morning's issue of the Ottawa Citizen I notice that a change is to be made in the arrangement concerning motor cars which were formerly supplied to ministers, and they are now to be granted $2,000 in lieu of motor cars. But what I am particularly interested in—if the information is correct— is the fact that those chauffeurs who have been employed for more than three years are guaranteed positions in the civil service. In reply to my question yesterday, the hon. Minister of the Interior stated that those civil servants whose positions had been abolished in the Department of the Interior were being given consideration for transfer or otherwise, and that the matter was under discussion with the Civil Service Commission. I was somewhat astonished last night—I hope it is not true—to read in the Evening Journal a statement, purporting to be made by Dr. Roche, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, in which he said that the matter had not been referred to the commission. I say at once, Mr. Speaker, that I am prepared to accept the statement of the minister. I hope that the same consideration which is being granted to the chauffeurs will be extended to those civil servants who find themselves without positions in the Department of the Interior.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Why did'nt you take care of them?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I did, and I shall be very glad to discuss the matter with the hon. member to-morrow when the estimates are under consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I have directed a question to the Minister of the Interior, and I think I should be given the courtesy of an answer.

Hon. T. G. MURPHY (Minister of the Interior): I did not hear the question.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I expressed the hope that the minister would be able to assure me that the same treatment would be meted out to the officers of the Department of the Interior who found themselves out of positions as was being given to the chauffeurs in the employ of the government.

Mr. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior put his question. He made a statement. Then he expressed the hope that the same consideration or treatment would be given to the employees who might lose their positions in the Department of the Interior as was being granted to chauffeurs who might be dismissed. The statement, I think he said, appeared in the Journal.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes, the Ottawa Journal.

Mr. MURPHY: The statement was that this treatment was being accorded the chauffeurs—

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I beg the hon. minister's pardon. I did not say that. It was so reported in the Citizen.

Mr. MURPHY: I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that I am not responsible for what newspapers may state as to the policy of the government in that regard.

AIR MAIL SERVICE

POLICY OF GOVERNMENT RESPECTING ROUTES IN WESTERN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): Mr. Speaker, I desired to ask a question of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) but since he is not in his seat, I think—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

Mr. McINTOSH: It may be all right; I understand it is impossible for him to be in the house at the moment.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Put it on the order paper.

Mr. McINTOSH: I will put the hon. member on the order paper before long.

Mr. GOTT: Where will this take place?

Mr. McINTOSH: I thought, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sutherland) or the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) might answer my question since the right hon. Prime Minister is not present.

Mr. GOTT: You are all excited.

Mr. McINTOSH: Not the slightest. It is a perfectly legitimate question, Mr. Speaker; I just want some information.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go ahead.

Mr. McINTOSH: All I want to know is this. There have been reports in the daily and weekly press that a substantial reduction would be made in the appropriation for civil aviation, and we find in the main estimates tabled yesterday that that reduction amounts to two and a third million dollars. My question is in regard to the air mail lines of western Canada. Many of our western centres, cities large and small, are gravely concerned as to what is the policy of the government with respect to this service. What is the government's policy in this regard; are they going to continue or discontinue the existing air mail lines in western Canada? If they are going to continue them, are they going to develop and make them air mail lines that will be really effective in the building up of real air mail facilities in western Canada?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member ought to know that a question so put is not in order.

PRIVILEGE—MR. DURANLEAU

On the orders of the day:

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege in order to correct a statement made in the house yesterday. On that occasion the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) read a Canadian Press despatch to a local paper stating that I had said at a public meeting that last winter about 1,000,000 people found employment under the joint federal-provincial-municipal relief fund. I wish to declare, sir, that the statement is not correct. I never stated any such thing. I desire to repeat the substance of what I said, namely, that in round figures 250,000 people, men and women, had found employment under the Un-

employment Relief Act of last session, and that owing to the fact that the greater number of the men so employed were the heads of families, we might infer that about 1,000,000 people had received food, lodging and so forth under that legislation. I think my statement was quite in accord with the facts.

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I accept the hon. minister's statement. I read the despatch from the newspaper in good faith, and I did so because I thought the public should know the facts.

Mr. POULIOT: Unborn children were included in the statement.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, April 13, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few remarks in this debate may I say that last night I listened with a great deal of interest to the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley), when he presented what he considered to be some of the causes for the present commercial and industrial depression. He made a statement to the effect that the farmers were being exploited. As I listened to him I was wondering just when the farmers were not exploited under our present fiscal system, and I was surprised that he did not realize that the policy for which he and his party stand, the policy of raising the protective wall higher and still higher, will result in our farmers being exploited more and more as the years go by. He dealt also with the banking system and said it was not perfect. Of course we know it is not perfect. I understand the Bank Act will be revised in the session of 1932, and then we shall see just how far the hon. member for Qu'Appelle and his party will go in so revising the statute that our farmers will no longer be exploited nor the national prosperity menaced. My hon. friend also dealt with the wheat situation. He said he did not want to blame the pools, but he stressed the fact that the sales agency was to blame for the abnormal carry-over of wheat. So far as the pools are concerned, I believe that those in western Canada who are standing for a 100 per cent marketing proposition and those who are in favour of a voluntary organization will decide the issue among themselves and decide it correctly. Apparently the hon. gentleman also accepted the fact that the fiscal system under which we are labouring in Canada is perfect; he believes that all we have to do is to apply it more equitably to all Canada, and he is quite certain that agriculturally and industrially by means of it we are going to have a great dominion built up, with a complete organization of industries all across Canada, and that everything will be fine.

The hon. gentleman also said he would make certain suggestions which might remove these causes and improve conditions commercially and industrially, and among his suggestions was one that the Department of Trade and Commerce should be more active. He tried to throw the blame for the present industrial crisis in Canada on that department under the Liberal government. I think the Department of Trade and Commerce was quite active from 1922 to 1930; in fact it was more active during those years than it ever had been in the history of Canada. The trade returns prove that statement. In 1922 the aggregate trade of Canada was $1,502,000,000, or a per capita aggregate trade of approximately $1,500. What was the situation in 1929, seven years later? Our aggregate trade amounted to $2,655,000,000, or a per capita aggregate trade of $2,655, almost double that of 1922. These figures prove, I believe, that the department was active, and it does away with the argument that under the previous government the Department of Trade and Commerce was responsible for present conditions. It was not.

Then the hon. member said that the way to build up our agricultural life was to build it up around expert farmers in western Canada. That has been the policy of the Department of Agriculture almost from time immemorial, so far as I can see—at least since confederation. We have been building up experimental and demonstration farms to show the way in scientific farming; we have been carrying on this program from coast to coast, so there is nothing new in that argument. Then the hon. gentleman said a duty should be imposed on corn for feeding purposes. I would suggest that he and other Conservative members from western Canada who agree with that argument should get together with government members from central Ontario and Quebec and present a solid front. When they do this the rest of us might be able to meet them.

In Canada, Mr. Speaker, we may expect to have our ups and downs industrially and agriculturally. We may naturally expect to have to meet major problems arising out of our national, our imperial and our international

existence. We may expect that through these problems governments will rise and fall. Under these conditions parliament has assembled again this year, and I take it for granted that our objective is to evolve a legislative program for Canada that will benefit this country from coast to coast. We listened to the speech from the throne, and I was pleased to hear the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) move the address in reply. I have known the hon. member for several years; I first became acquainted with him seven years ago, when we were crossing the north Atlantic in order to visit the British Isles and the battlefields of the empire on the continent. On that occasion the bilingual ability of the hon. gentleman saved the party of which he was a member a great deal of trouble and inconvenience, and through his proficiency he was able to do away with a great deal of red tape which otherwise might have interfered with the enjoyment of our visit to continental Europe. Now I might suggest to the hon. gentleman that, having proved himself so helpful seven years ago on the continent of Europe, he should prove as helpful now on the continent of America, right here in Canada, by restraining his leader and those who are supporting him in the House of Commons from enacting any extreme legislation that may have the effect of dismembering Canada in time to come, that may have the effect not of building up a prosperous dominion but rather of developing a sectionalism that will not do any good at all. May I therefore ask him to use all the influence he has in this very helpful direction. It is greatly needed.

The hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Porteous), who seconded the address, represents in this house the county and constituency in which I was born, and I compliment him upon the observations which he made during the course of his speech. I was interested in the gesture he made to the French-Canadian members of this house and also the French-Canadian people throughout Canada, when he said we ought to have a national vision big enough, broad enough and deep enough to include the two major races in Canada, the British and the French. I would say we must have a national vision broad enough for that, of course, and we should have a national vision broad enough to include not only the two major races but also all the people from the continents of the world and the isles of the sea whom we have invited to come to Canada to help us build up a new nation on the northern portion of the North American continent. I would like to see the hon. member for North Grey get in touch with members of his own party from western Canada, so that those who do not follow that vision in that part of our country will be big enough, broad enough and tolerant enough to stand for such a vision throughout the west. During the last two or three years the leaders of the Conservative party in Saskatchewan have been standing for something which is anything but truly national or soundly imperial, something absolutely intolerant and impossible of acceptance.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer to the speech from the throne. On close examination I find it to be divided in a triangular way. It has three sides, which are very unequal; it has unequal angles, and everything about it is unequal, leading one to conclude that in framing it the right hon. Prime Minister looked at the big questions of Canada from a lop-sided point of view. Therefore I have not much hope that out of this speech from the throne will come a program of legislation that will unite all parties and all sections of this Dominion in order to build up a great, united nation. For instance, we know that a triangle is made up of lines and points. A line has length but no breadth, and the same definition might be applied to the speech from the throne. It has lots of length, lots of words and lots of lines and paragraphs, but when you come to examine its width, which it should have if we are to have breadth in our national vision, we find there is none. It does not apply as it should to the maritimes; we have heard hon. members on this side of the house find fault with it in that respect. It does not apply to central Canada as it should; it does not apply to the middle west or to the far west. Consequently, though it has length, which is the simplest measurement anything can have, it really has no breadth of thought or vision or determination, and not having breadth of thought there is no pronounced area to it. We must have more than length and breadth in Canada with regard to a national policy; we must get under the soil and go down deep. We must have volume. Any policy that is to be beneficial to Canada must scale the heights and plumb the depths of Canadian national aspirations. If it does not do that it will be a failure. I am afraid that the program of the last special session, coupled with the one we have based upon this speech from the throne, will in time prove a failure so far as successfully meeting the exigencies throughout the country is concerned.

In the first part of the speech from the throne we find the leader of the government (Mr. Bennett) trying to sell to the people of Canada what we might call an artificial Canadianism. I fancy this is an example of what

they call their Canada first policy. We have in Canada to-day canned foods, canned music and canned propaganda, and we have in the speech from the throne an example of a canned or restricted Canadianism. And hon. gentlemen opposite are trying to sell to the people of Canada this canned Canadianism. That is to say, they tell us that if we tie up the national qualities of the Canadian people to the Tory program we shall have prosperity and happiness. Tie up the program of the government to the faith, the fortitude, the honesty and the industry of the Canadian people and it will not be long before we have Canada actually and ideally bridged when all will be well, and we shall never have to submit again to world depression. Now that is all nonsense; it is simply an impossible viewpoint. The Canadian people will judge for themselves what party and what policy they will support in the years to come, and I only hope the people of this country will do their best to become thoroughly posted on national problems—so thoroughly posted that when they go to the polls every four or five years they will make no mistake, but will decide squarely on the issues before them. If they do so I am satisfied that we shall not have the mistake repeated which was made last July, when a government that was progressive in every sense of the word was torpedoed and an opposition without much history behind it was returned to sit on the right of Mr. Speaker.

With regard to the second part of the speech from the throne, figuratively speaking, so far as the triangle I mentioned is concerned, we have the portions dealing with the special session of parliament, the Imperial conference, and one or two other things. At the special session of parliament we dealt with unemployment and the sum of $20,000,000 was brought down with the idea of wiping out unemployment. The Prime Minister and his cabinet ministers and all their followers in the election said, "If you just give us one chance we will wipe out unemployment; we will do away with it. We will not discuss it or consider it, but will absolutely eliminate it." And the people of Canada took them at their word. I do not believe that one unemployed person in Canada voted for the present opposition in the election. Practically every unemployed man and woman in Canada went to the polls and voted for our friends opposite. Those hon. gentlemen therefore are absolutely on trial, and unless they can fairly and squarely face this issue and remove it from the arena of party politics, standing true to their promises, I am afraid their political stock will go down considerably during the next few years.

What do we find with regard to unemployment? We find that in 1930, August 1, the employment figure was 118·8; on September 1, 116·6; October 1, 116·2; November 1, 112·9; December 1, 108·5; January 1, 101·7; and February 1, 100·7. That means that the employment index of Canadian industry has dropped from 118 to 100, a decline of 18 points in nine months; that is to say, 2 points per month. If that is not mathematical proof that hon. gentlemen opposite are not facing fairly the issue of employment and unemployment, I should like to know what they desire in the way of proof. Take again the unemployment situation. Unemployment on July 31 stood at 9·2; August 31, 9·3; September 30, 9·4; October 31, 10·8; November 30, 13·8—you will observe it is steadily increasing—December 31, 17; January 31, 16. In other words, the unemployment index has increased from 9·2 to 16, which is an increase of 7 points in practically nine months, or almost 1 point per month. That is another proof, so far as unemployment is concerned, that the situation has not improved. It is the duty of hon. gentlemen opposite to face the music and have this stigma removed from our national life, as they promised to do.

The other part of the speech from the throne deals with the present program of the government. We can neither analyze nor criticize it until it is brought down. When it is before us we shall study it. Now, face to face with the speech from the throne, with these three aspects of it, is the amendment moved by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). That amendment, I think, is very effectively arranged. The first part of it deals with the fact that the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite has not proven any remedy in the way of putting an end to unemployment; that agricultural conditions are worse than they were nine months ago; that industrial unemployment is worse than it was nine months ago; that our revenues are decreasing, and unless we do something Canada is in financial danger. The second part of the amendment deals with the fact that the Imperial conference was not a success; and that the policy propounded, the way in which it was presented, and what was done to defeat a freer trade budget in the election and, in its place, to erect high tariff walls in the House of Commons before the Prime Minister went to London, rendered the Imperial conference not only a farce but an imperial blunder. In this regard, then, the conclusion is reached that our trade relations with the motherland have been

adversely affected, and until something is done conditions are not going to improve. And the last part of the amendment expresses the hope that the Prime Minister and his party, when the conference re-convenes in Ottawa, will do better than the right hon. gentleman did in London; because the situation in Canada is serious and all Canadians are looking to hon. gentlemen opposite for guidance through the depressing conditions now prevailing.

May I now deal briefly with certain matters touching the riding I have the honour to represent in the House of Commons. Before leaving for Ottawa in March I thought it would be wise to have a certain number of public meetings in the constituency in order to find out just what the people were thinking about in the way of a national policy and the record of the government. To this end meetings were held at eleven or twelve different points. One meeting was held at Whitkow, and at that meeting the people went on record 100 per cent as being opposed to high protection and in favour of freer trade. At Turtleford there was only a small minority in favour of high protection; the meeting went by a large vote in favour of freer trade for Canada. At Edam the meeting voted in favour of three important resolutions. One of these resolutions was with regard to the Hudson Bay railway, the Hudson bay port, Churchill, and trade between Canada and the motherland via Churchill. The idea was expressed that the lower the rates we had across the north Atlantic, the better the port facilities, and the more the Crowsnest rates were applied to the Hudson Bay railway, the greater success that artery of traffic would be. Another resolution went in favour of a bonus to wheat farmers in order that they might get cost of production out of the 1930 crop. The third resolution was in favour of freer trade as opposed to high and higher protection in Canada. This was the sentiment by almost a straight 100 per cent.

The next day another meeting was held at Medstead which went on record as being opposed to the drastic action of putting tariffs higher and higher in Canada. At Borden also the meeting went on record as being in favour of freer trade as opposed to protection. At Maymont the same thing took place. At Speers there was the same result. At Krydor, where 350 people were present, the meeting went on record as being one hundred per cent in favour of freer trade as opposed to higher protection. At Hafford the following night the meeting went on record as being in favour of freer trade as opposed to higher protection.

At Glaslyn the meeting went on record as being in favour of a fiscal system along the line of freer trade as opposed to a fiscal system which afforded higher protection and which would in time divide Canada and ruin her export trade.

Previous to these meetings being held I had received resolutions from all sections of my riding, and I believe this to be the proper time to bring them to the attention of this house. This is the time when all hon. members should be given an idea of just what is taking place and the conditions which prevail in the different ridings of Canada. This is about the only way in which an hon. member can find out exactly what the conditions are industrially and commercially. The first resolution was received from Meota, a few miles out of North Battleford, and reads as follows:

1. That we advocate government supervision of the grain exchange.
2. That we ask the federal government to guarantee a minimum fixed price of seventy cents for the 1930 wheat crop.

The resolution received from Turtleford reads as follows:

Resolved that the Dominion government be requested to set a minimum price for wheat of seventy cents per bushel basis No. 1 northern, Fort William or Port Arthur.

The resolution received from Speers reads as follows:

In view of the very serious situation that has developed as a result of the collapse of the wheat market:—

We the members of the wheat pool—"Speers local" urgently request that the Dominion government guarantee a minimum price of seventy cents a bushel at Fort William for No. 1 northern wheat grown during the season of 1930.

These resolutions contain many suggestions including a fixed price for wheat. The resolution received from Rabbit Lake reads as follows:

Resolved: That this council demand that Dominion government take steps to stabilize the wheat market so that a minimum price of at least seventy cents be maintained.

From another point in the north, at Edam, the following was received:

1. That the Dominion government be strongly urged to set a price of seventy cents per bushel basis No. 1 at Fort William.
2. That the Dominion government are hereby requested to supervise the Canadian banks with regard to interest charges and have same reduced to a maximum of seven per cent.
3. That in the opinion of this meeting it has become necessary and expedient for the Dominion government in the interests of the farming community to declare a moratorium until such time as conditions affecting agriculture shall have sufficiently improved to warrant its removal.

4. That whereas the price to-day is approximately 56 cents Fort William for one bushel of No. 1 wheat, and whereas the price to-day is approximately $3.35 per 98 pound sack of flour. This meeting is of the opinion, and strongly urges the Dominion government that a price be set on all wheat used for consumption in Canada of one dollar and twenty-five cents per bushel. And further that the price of flour per 98 pound sack should also be set at a reasonable price, which should not exceed present prices.

5. That all freight rates be lowered twenty per cent.

These resolutions have been received from points in northern Saskatchewan and they give a resume of the conditions prevailing in western Canada. They were received from pool and U.F.C. locals, the members of which know what they are talking about. When they say that conditions are serious, they are serious. I would like to know what the government intends to do. Resolutions were also received from Spiritwood, about eighty miles north of North Battleford, reading as follows:

(a) That a moratorium be asked for embracing a period of one year at least, or for such time as is necessary to give facilities to the farmer to revert to his accustomed prosperity.

(b) That all interests and indemnities on taxes be cancelled until a fair measure of prosperity be restored.

(c) Failing a moratorium, the meeting asks that no pressure be brought to bear against those persons upon whom debts are pressing heavily.

(d) That all debts owing by farmers to banks, machine companies or any wealthy corporation be treated in the same manner as shown in resolution (b).

(e) That a set price be established on wheat and other agricultural products, and in the event of the selling price falling below this set price that the difference be met by general taxation.

(f) That all banks, natural resources, timber, mines, oil wells, and water-powers be nationalized.

(g) That the extension of credit should be through the banks alone, controlled by the government, with a suitable provision made for those in distress for whom the said credit was rendered necessary.

I notice the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) is not in his seat, but that is nothing uncommon. Throughout this present session the members of the cabinet seem to be always absent. They are the ones individually and collectively responsible to Canada, but they absent themselves when important discussions are taking place. I would suggest to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that although he and his department, as well as the right hon. the Prime Minister have been telling us during the last six months that mixed farming would be the saving grace of western Canada, such statements do not apply to the constituency of North Battleford nor to northern Saskatchewan. That part of Canada has been carrying on mixed farming for the last fifteen or twenty years. It has the best water and feed facilities for that class of farming and is also benefited through having more natural protection than have the prairies.

The people too possess the determination to go ahead, and they have gone ahead. They have worked by day and by night; they have toiled late and early; they have done their utmost; they have economized as best they could but they find their position to-day to be a precarious one. They find they are in financial difficulties; they find that their farms and the equities they have in them are slipping away from them, they find that they cannot pay their debts and that they owe the banks and the machine companies, and consequently something must be done. When a whole community or a whole industry finds itself in danger, naturally it looks in all directions for help. The farmers of northern Saskatchewan and of the North Battleford federal riding have been looking to the Agriculture department, to the Minister of Agriculture, to the Prime Minister and to his cabinet for many months past to see if any help was forthcoming. I read resolution after resolution which shows that the farmers think they ought to have a fixed price for their wheat. They think that because parliament met in special session in September and the government pegged the price of 170 articles which the farmers have to buy, the Prime Minister should in the name of justice come as well to the aid of agriculture. Although the system of pegging the price of wheat or any other product may not be a sound one economically, is there any reason in the world why a government which would go to the rescue of the manufacturers and the industrialists, should not come forward and extend equal help to the farmers? These men constitute the foundation of agriculture, the basic industry of Canada, they make the wealth upon which Canada prospers; they cultivate the soil upon which all secondary industries are based and unless they succeed our industrial fabric will fall to the ground. Is there any reason why this government should not do something? Is there? I understand that these resolutions were most carefully forwarded to the Prime Minister and his colleagues but not one cabinet minister has dared to bring a solitary one of them to the attention of the house. Not one has been read to the house, and that is the reason I am bringing them to light and asking this government to take immediate and constructive action upon them.

The Prime Minister came out to Regina and said that nothing would be done, but I tell

him this afternoon that that does not satisfy the western agriculturists; they are going to see that something will be done or something will be doing. They are going to carry on the fight and if they do not obtain redress, we all know what is going to take place when the next elections occur—there are not going to be as many votes cast in western Canada for Tory candidates.

An hon. MEMBER: We will take a chance.

Mr. McINTOSH: Well, it will be a chance, and a very slim one.

The Minister of Agriculture has been doing considerable advertising. I believe in advertising if you have a good thing to advertise, but it should be remembered that every time you advertise you have to make good or else you will fall behind. The hon. minister has been telling us what he is going to do, he has told us about the wonderful national agricultural policy which he is going to evolve. We have not seen it as yet. I would like to have him bring that down with the other resolutions that were spoken of. Let him bring it out of the closet even for half an hour. Let us examine the creature. The day has gone by for talking theoretically about mixed farming, for promises, discussions, mere conferences, announcements, commissions, theories, departmental propaganda, press despatches and statements of policy in magazines and weekly and daily newspapers across the country. The time for action has arrived. The time for fooling, twisting, backing up and turning, and doing nothing practical is over, and I should like to see the government sitting to the right of you, Mr. Speaker, do something. If something practical were done in the way of proving to Canada that agriculture and particularly wheat growing under present conditions and under the present extremely capitalistic fiscal policy, cannot prosper, that would at least be a constructive proceeding.

For instance, I would like to see the Minister of Agriculture, backed up by the government and their supporters in the house, start say two or three practical farms in Saskatchewan, in order to prove this. Let him pick out a farm in northern Saskatchewan, another in the centre and a third in the south. Let him make the farm whatever size he likes. Let him appoint a manager, select his working crew, and secure machinery. Let them start to cultivate the soil scientifically, with all the energy they have. Let the head men be selected by the Minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister of Canada, and let them go to work and try to demonstrate to the people of Saskatchewan, north, south, east and west, whether agriculture can prosper under the fiscal system of higher and higher tariff as we have it to-day in western Canada. I venture to say that such an experiment cannot succeed, but I would like to see a real business test made to find out just where agriculture stands.

A farm managed in that way would have a system of accounting and would be expected to pay operating expenses, wages of the help, interest on capital invested, depreciation, repairs and dividends. If it cannot pay these items as big business, industry and commerce pay them, then it will be amply demonstrated to all Canada that with the best of virgin soil, the best of management, the best of equipment and everything in its favour excepting a false fiscal system, agriculture is in the doldrums and cannot be gotten out without some help. It is in a slough of despond. Something practical and constructive ought to be brought forward to prove that under present conditions the problem of farming must be faced resolutely and courageously, with no more theories and mere discussions, and without any more promises made to the people. The time for correlated action has arrived, and the people of Canada are anxiously awaiting for the government to do something.

We have heard from time to time from hon. members opposite that the farmers of western Canada do not know their business; that they do not know how to cultivate the soil; that they are not practical.

Some hon. MEMBERS: That they are lazy.

Mr. McINTOSH: They tell us they are not thrifty enough. They tell us that they do not go at the problem of agriculture constructively as our railway authorities and commercial experts do in their particular lines.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) has accused them of being lazy.

Mr. McINTOSH: Yes. They tell us that the farmers of western Canada are lazy and that no matter what you do with those at present farming in western Canada, they cannot get anywhere. I resent that unfair imputation. Let the Prime Minister, who is a man of big business, and other hon. gentlemen who are men of genius, so we are told, get behind these practical farms. Let them give these farms their united support and let us see what they can prove to the people of

Canada with regard to the farming situation. If they can prove that such farms can be made a success, their political future is made. If they cannot do so, their political future is not made; it will be doomed to dire failure, and something constructive for agriculture will have to be undertaken from coast to coast.

May I give some figures just to illustrate the present serious agricultural situation? I have under my hand a trade chart, and I find that price trends are all against the agriculturist and in favour of the industrialist. The figures are as follows:

Price Trend

Declines in commodity price levels from November, 1929, to January, 1931

Iron and steel	5 per cent
Pipe	2.2 per cent
Scrap	19.4 per cent
Hardware	1.6 per cent
Wire	no change
Manufactured Products	14.5 per cent
Flour and milled products	39.5 per cent
Textiles and fibres	15.9 per cent
Raw cotton	41.3 per cent
Cotton fabrics	10.1 per cent
Raw wool	37.4 per cent
Wool cloth	14.0 per cent
Carpets	no change
Farm products across Canada	49.7 per cent
Field crops throughout the Dominion	54.6 per cent

The price of grain in western Canada has declined practically 60 per cent; in other words, wheat is worth now only 40 per cent of what it was a year ago, and the farmer is caught betwixt the upper and nether millstone, —between the price of the industrial products he has to buy, which has been pegged by the present government, and the price of the farm products he has to sell. Consequently, there should be no misunderstanding as to the reason for his present serious economic condition.

Mr. J. A. BARRETTE (Translation) (Berthier-Maskinonge): Mr. Speaker, I first wish to extend my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. In carrying out their task they made use of very appropriate language and their eloquence did them credit.

I wish also to refer to the sudden demise of two colleagues who were still with us at the emergency session in September last. I mean the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Rennie) whom I had not the privilege of knowing personally, but my recollection of him is that of an upright man, who has known but the path which leads to honour. As to the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Bettez), I knew him intimately and he frankly welcomed me to his friendship. The member for Three Rivers was truly one to emulate, he was a conscientious worker and the result at the polls on July 28, 1930, was ample proof of his popularity. Yet, the old Liberal guard was hostile to him. The leader of this faction was the hon. Senator Jacques Bureau, who openly opposed Mr. Bettez, and that surely was the cause of bitter feelings and heartburns in the ranks of the Liberal party, and I hope the effects will be apparent shortly; when the by-election takes place.

Mr. CARDIN (Translation): That remains to be seen!

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): It affords me much pleasure to welcome back my friend the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), following his illness; I knew him on the benches of our university. He is a fine specimen of our race and certainly does us credit.

May I state, sir, that following the elections of 1911, I had the privilege of visiting western Canada. In passing through Calgary I was the guest of honour of the member who then represented that riding, at Ottawa, the right hon. Mr. Bennett, and on that occasion I predicted that he would one day become Prime Minister of Canada. My prophecy has come true. I was a guest at dinner that night of the Prime Minister of to-day.

In 1911, I was elected as member for the riding of Berthier, and from 1911 to 1917 my contentions are that I conscientiously fulfilled my duties as the people's representative in this house. I honestly admit that, at times, it was a real hardship to detach myself from my party, especially on questions of the utmost importance. On imperial questions—those of a higher order—I almost invariably took issue with my party. I obeyed in this the voice of my conscience and justified the expectations of those who had done me the honour of electing me in 1911. I always stated openly what was in my mind and I shall continue to abide by the same rule.

In 1921, I was a candidate in the riding of Berthier. In 1925 and in 1926 I was a candidate in the riding of Berthier-Maskinonge—there was an increase in the family. In each of these elections, you must recall the fact, you gentlemen of the Liberal party, an appeal was made to fanaticism, to public passions, and it was stated that all the leaders of the Conservative party then and in the past, were dangerous imperialists. To be an imperialist meant to foster the interests of England in preference to those of Canada: all for England and nothing for Canada. You will recall, sir, that in all those elections, in the Liberal shops new wars were being turned

out. In 1921 it was in Japan. In 1925 and 1926 it was in Russia. In 1930 it was in India. The latter being a dangerous and a serious one. The following manoeuvres were concocted in Liberal clubs: we shall organize, we the good Liberals; once more shall we frighten the people, we shall wave the flag of conscription and with such phantoms we shall win the elections. They succeeded in 1921; again they did the trick in 1925 and 1926, but in 1930 they missed their shot. To prove to you how well their manoeuvres were planned, may I tell you that the Liberals organized an extraordinary press campaign, threats of conscription were resorted to by a leading newspaper of Montreal, three days previous to the 1930 elections:

Threats of Conscription

The English Imperialists rely on the Conservatives of Canada assuming power in order to submit at the next Imperial conference in London the question of the empire's defence and a project of military conscription extending to all dominions.

They made use of such an item to further their end, this newspaper was distributed in large numbers in the most remote places ot all French speaking counties in Quebec, and even in other provinces where French Canadian parishes existed. This means that absolutely nothing was neglected to influence public opinion, everything was permissible, even the waving of the flag of conscription, in order to secure a victory similar to those of 1921, 1925 and 1926.

To show you how little consistent were these prophets of calamities, may I ask what happened to the amendment of the member for Yamaska, which was moved on December 3, 1912, when the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne took place? Did those who were then members of this house, support this amendment worded as follows:

That this house is ready and willing to adopt, at any time, efficient measures for the defence of Canada, an autonomous colony under the British crown; but that this house is nevertheless of opinion that the Canadian parliament has no right to impose on the Canadian people responsibilities in regard to the general defence of the empire, as long as under the present statutes of constitutional relations between Canada and the United Empire of Great Britain and Ireland, the government of His Majesty responsible to the people of the United Empire alone, will reserve for itself the exclusive management and control of Imperial and international questions.

This amendment was opposed by the Prime Minister of that date. He stated that he could not accept such an amendment maintaining that its adoption would prevent Canada of even raising a finger in defence of the empire. I notice that, of all those who are in the house, I am the only one who supported that amendment. No one else here now gave it their support. As to the result of the vote, you may refer to the debates of 1912, page 590. The only members, at that time, who voted in favour of this amendment were Messrs. Achim, Barrette, Lamarche and Mondou.

In the course of the same session, Sir Robert Borden moved that an amount of $35,000,000 be appropriated to increase the empire's naval forces. I supported the leader of the opposition, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who opposed this measure which fortunately was rejected in the Senate.

On June 20, 1917, I had the privilege to move in the house a subamendment to Bill No. 75, known generally as the Conscription Act, and which is as follows:

That all the words after the word "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "this bill be not now read a second time, but it be read a second time this day six months."

The following were the views of the director of the Devoir, at that time. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), at a large meeting which he held on the following night, June 21, 1917, in the St. Henry Hall, stated:

A subamendment has just been moved by a member whom I cannot exactly place and whose intentions I do not wish to know, but which should oblige everybody to vote by a straight "yes" or "no."

It is the sub-amendment of Mr. Barrette, member for Berthier, who moved the six months hoist of the bill, in other words, its death without a murmur.

Mr. Georges Pelletier, one of the principal editors of the Devoir, wrote:

The proposal of Mr. Barrette, member for Berthier, to give the Borden bill a six months' hoist, is rational, from whatever quarter it may come. It will have the advantage to show to the people who is for and against conscription. Everybody will have to vote on the principle itself of the bill. This will seem somewhat embarrassing for many politicians, but one must bear in mind first that the interest of the country as a whole passes before those of private individuals. Those interested will come out from their hiding places—and that is what the electorate demands.

And the vote was taken. Nine members supported the subamendment.

The following were the views, at the time, of the editor of the newspaper La Province, and who, is to-day the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé):

The six months' hoist is nothing less than a motion to kill the bill. It is a parliamentary way of strongly opposing a bill. We regret

that Sir Wilfrid Laurier did not see fit to have his followers vote in favour of Mr. Barrette's subamendment. Would not this have been the means of proving his sincerity and firm determination of opposing conscription?

May I point out to the house that after voting for the subamendment, I gave my support to Sir Wilfrid Laurier's referendum. I also wish to point out that I voted later, against the conscription bill.

The Liberal party, in voting against my sub-amendment, accepted the principle of conscription, according to the evidence just quoted. The leaders of the Liberal party who had the privilege of travelling through France after the war had quite a different story to tell over there. They stated that here, in Canada, we were all of the same mind and that the Canadian people had made an extraordinary effort in the war.

Some with mezzo-soprano voices, but all with unusual glee proclaimed that we were ready to make any sacrifice for England, for the defence of the empire and to help France. Shortly after, we read in the press of this country that Messrs Dandurand, Lemieux, Taschereau, Béland had been awarded decorations by the French Republic for services rendered to France.

And, I do not wish to omit the provincial secretary, the Hon. Mr. Athanase David, who while in France had himself dubbed "Ministre des Beaux Arts." He also was given a little button-hole rosette for his devotion to the cause of the defence of the national policy. I could mention many others who were thus awarded decorations.

Once back on this side, these people still proclaimed: "We are still against all participation in the war, against any Canadian effort." They once more appeal to prejudice. And why? Did they intend thereby to prove their sincerity? Had France known of this deception would she still have awarded decorations to these gentlemen? I have my doubts.

I am not aware that the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), whose presence in the house I heartily welcome, has been awarded any decorations. If he has, he does not attach to them as much importance as ro his other hon. friends. If he has not, then I congratulate him, because it is well that France should know her true friends. After pointing out these facts, I wonder who will truly prove themselves to be real national heroes.

I shall add a word about that Senator prisoner. From 1914 to 1918, Senator Béland was a prisoner of war. The Conservative party did its utmost to come to his rescue. He was even paid his parliamentary indemnity during his entire absence from the house; he was paid the sum of $16,000. The hon. Minister of Justice of that day, Mr. Doherty, offered to exchange two German prisoners, known as Baron Von Polenz and Baron Mundheim in order to have our Canadian prisoner set free. On his return to this country, in his native village of Louiseville, the hon. Senator declared that the Canadian government had carried out their entire duty in the Great war. But when the elections were in full swing, he held public meetings and appealed to prejudice so as to rouse public opinion against the Conservative party which previously, according to his own words, had fulfilled their entire duty. Those were his thanks to his friends who had come to his rescue during the war.

At the last general elections, the leader of the Conservative party carried on a very remarkable campaign. He pledged himself to work out a national and truly Canadian policy, that of "Canada First." Tariff protection was to be given, for the first time, a place of honour in this country. The leaders of the Liberal party never were sincere in applying the policy of protection, and each time the Liberal party endeavoured to deal with this economic problem, the people always withdrew from them their confidence. Thus, in 1911, one of the principal factors of the Liberal party's defeat was—in addition to the naval question—the fiscal policy advocated by the hon. Mr. Fielding. In 1930, the Dunning budget was equally rejected by the popular vote. The results of the last election has wholly changed the appearance of this house. My eyes are resting on my friend the ex-Minister of Justice who sat on this side of the house, and because of his personal charm, I feel sorry to see him sitting on the opposition benches. All is different, "toto coelo differt." A great change has taken place. However, I trust that the change is for the best and in the interest of the Canadian people.

The Right Hon. Arthur Meighen stated one day:

> I have no fear of going before the Canadian electorate when an actual question of protection arises, because the Canadian people are protectionists.

The Prime Minister also promised, to the farmers and industrialists, the old age pensions, unemployment relief and cessation of immigration. Having assumed power on July 28, what did our government do? They first stopped the flow of immigration in order to protect the Canadian workers. They called an emergency session and appropriated $20,000,000 to help the unemployed. They then

appreciably increased the tariff on foreign products so as to help the farming and industrial classes.

The leader of the Liberal party, when in power, made the following statement:

> The government cannot be held responsible for this economic crisis: it is word-wide and unemployment exists mostly in our opponents' imagination.

Now that the Conservatives are in power if anything goes wrong, they say: The fault lies with the Tories. You may judge, sir, how rational these gentlemen are!

Truly, could we have done more? Since our party assumed power, we have had an emergency session, an Imperial conference and prepared the program of an important session in the course of which we shall enact measures with the view of bringing back prosperity to this country.

The Liberals contend that butter still sells at low prices. That may be. They filled our cold-storages with foreign butter from the very first year of their administration up to October of last year. We have butter to last a year. It is therefore not astonishing that butter sells cheap.

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): There is no more.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): To realize how popular protection was, even among the Liberals, ask the ex-ministers, those who wield the greatest influence in the Liberal ranks, such as the ex-minister of National Revenue (Mr. Euler), the ex-minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm), the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe). Did they interfere with the tariff affecting the principal industries existing in their ridings? I do not think so. Were tariff changes made on boots and shoes in the riding of Quebec East? Were tariff changes made affecting the industries which were operating in Huron and North Bruce? I am not aware of it.

The Liberal, moreover, contend that the Conservative policy tends to protect private interests. What is the nature of these private interests and whom do they affect? Are they referring to the Canadian Pacific Railway whose president, Mr. Beatty, is an intimate friend of the hon. leader of the opposition, the former having been appointed chairman of a royal commission to inquire into the salaries of the civil servants and make suggestions? Do they refer to the bank of Montreal, where the government make their deposits? Are they the textile companies? Are those industries too highly protected?

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Certainly.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): They are too highly protected?

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Yes.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): In what respect?

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): We shall prove it.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): Does the amendment moved by the hon. leader of the opposition suggest any remedies? No, sir. That amendment simply express regrets of not being any longer in power; that the present government has done nothing so far and has greatly increased the unemployment crisis. Again do I state that the amendment moved by the hon. leader of the opposition suggests absolutely nothing which can be of any help to the farming class or even to the unemployed.

What do we find in the speech from the throne? A pledge is given that special arrangements will be made with foreign countries and that a tariff board will be appointed.

I could enumerate many good results accruing from a protective tariff. In my own riding, in the town of Louiseville, the Associated Textiles is in operation since a year and employs 400 people, next autumn it will employ 800, and this is due to tariff protection as advocated by the right hon. Prime Minister. The following is an extract from the newspaper The Drapeau, dated March 24, 1931:

> Deeds Speak Louder Than Words
>
> As Le Drapeau announced last week, the Nash Company will establish an automobile factory in Canada.
>
> On his return to the United States, after having made here the necessary arrangements for the organization of a new company to be known as the Dominion Motors Limited, Mr. Nash made the following statement:
>
> 1. The aim of the Nash Motors Company, in this new enterprise, is to serve the best interests of Canadian distributors and salesmen of the Nash car pursuant to the new tariff regulations of Canada;
>
> 2. Owing to my long experience and my practical knowledge of leaders among Canadian business men, I must acknowledge my deep admiration for their manufacturing ability and their spirit of progress in industrial matters.

These are two instances which cannot be invoked in support of the old policy of Mackenzie King. The first company mentioned states that it is the Bennett tariff that put them under the necessity of establishing a factory in Canada.

This is a statement which further strengthens others of that nature and is a clear proof of the beneficial effects of the policy which Mr.

King persists in regarding as detrimental. The American workers who are employed in the manufacture of motor cars, which Mr. Nash sells later to Canadians, also find this policy disastrous, since it will deprive them of work which will hereafter be done by the artisans of this country.

Mr. Nash's statement has almost the same importance, for we must not forget that Mr. Bennett stated at the short session of September, 1930, that it was recognized that Canada possessed the natural resources and the technical business equipment to supply all its requirements in manufactured products. The American and English industrialists are acknowledging this fact. In less than eight months Mr. Bennett gave work to more than 200,000 people. Mr. King will have to make many speeches before this is forgotten.

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): I do not like to interrupt the hon. member who is speaking, but through an agreement by all parties I must call your attention to the fact, Mr. Speaker, that it is now six o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): When the house, sir, took recess at 4.30 o'clock this afternoon so that we might attend a lovely wedding, I was just going to discuss the Imperial conference. Our opponents were inquiring: who will represent Canada at the Imperial conference? They felt anxious about the fate of Canada. Yet, time has shown that our delegates did as much credit and lived up to the expectations of the Canadian people. Our Prime Minister played one of the leading parts at that conference. He proclaimed the policy "Canada first" in the presence of our King, George V, and the Prime Minister of England. This policy met with the approval of the dominions and also that of the leader of the Conservatives in England. I am pleased to quote in this connection the views of the director of the Devoir:

"In my opinion," he says, "and I state this after giving it full consideration, the Prime Minister took the right attitude at the opening of the conference."

The ex-Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) devoted the greatest part of his speech to the Imperial conference. He seems to attach much importance to the fate of the empire. How things have changed! To-day, our leader returns more Canadian and our good friends in the opposition find that the Prime Minister of this country is not sufficiently English. Quite the contrary to what had been contended that all the leaders of our nation were avowed Imperialists, to-day it is thought that they are not imperialist enough.

The leader of the Liberal party in his splendid speech on the address in reply to the speech from the throne stated:

I never thought the day would come in this parliament, Mr. Speaker, when it would fall to the lot of any member of this House of Commons to protest against an attempt on the part of a Canadian ministry, to force the hand of a British government but since that day has come there appears to be an element of poetic justice in the circumstance that I have the privilege of being the first to make that protest. I do make it very strongly indeed, that any ministry from Canada should seek, by means of coercion to influence the government of Great Britain with respect to any matter of policy which is entirely within its own rights.

Recently an order in council placing an embargo on Russian products was passed by the Canadian cabinet. For that act the Prime Minister received congratulations from the whole country. Among the high dignitaries in religious and civil life who approved of such action, I must especially quote an extract of an article by the Rev. Abbe Omer Valois, editor of the Action Populaire, dated March 5, 1931:

All will admit that Mr. Bennett's government has just made a decision which will have a great social bearing. By Order in Council, he has prohibited the entry of Russian products into Canada: lumber of all kind, paper-pulp, pulpwood, asbestos and furs. Our natural resources are unrivalled and as unemployment exists, this is not the time to import things which God has placed at our disposal. We must protect ourselves—as the United State have done by prohibiting the entry of Russian lumber in their country—against a nation which has virtually reduced the workers to the state of slavery.

May I now, sir, make a few comments on the wheat crisis. I lately cut out an article from the Action Catholique quoting the Oservatore Romano, which suggested a solution to the wheat crisis. If you will permit me, sir, I shall read this article, it is interesting:

"Store up the wheat in the years of abundance, by withdrawing from the markets its surplus so as to return to the market in lean years." This solution written in biblical style is suggested in the present wheat crisis, by the "Oservatore Romano" the Vatican organ, on the eve of the International wheat Congress which opens to-day in Rome.

"The newspaper adds:" thus the price of wheat could be controlled, and, to attain this end, a small proportion of the world's gold resources would suffice.

The present surplus of wheat is 420,000,000 bushels. If this wheat was bought at a fixed price of two shillings and nine pence per bushel, that would only call for 2½ per cent of the world's gold reserves.

This brings us back to the time of Pharaoh's regime, the latter had as his administrator Joseph who was sold by his brothers. I shall not refer to the wife of Potiphar. If you remember this narrative, Joseph had been appointed superintendent by Pharaoh; the former had accumulated in the granaries of the country the entire surplus of wheat accruing from years of abundance and the legend tells us that—

Mr. BOUCHARD (Translation): History.

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): History, not the legend.

Mr. BARRETTE (Translation): History tells us that in the lean years Joseph's policy rendered great service to humanity. I do not see why we should not adopt the same policy in this country.

One third, sir, of the population of Canada speaks the French language, and I think that proportionately to the total population, we are responsible for one third of the country's debts, we should, therefore, on the same basis, equally enjoy its privileges. I have always felt independent in parliament. The leader of the Conservative party stated, at the last elections, that Quebec would not be neglected and nothing would be too good for her. I heartily and joyfully endorsed such a statement. I am aware that the Prime Minister has been too busy to look into this matter and grant what we have a right to expect, however, I hope that the day is not far off when we shall receive all that we have a right to, when we shall hold the position to which we are entitled in this country. Under the late administration we were neglected; we must be better dealt with and I feel certain that the leader of the government will be lavish in his grants.

As long as I occupy a seat in this parliament, rest assured that I shall be the champion of our rights, race, language and creed.

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, seeing that the bird of time has but a little way to flutter and the bird is on the wing, I hope the hon. gentlemen who moved and seconded the address to His Excellency will take the amenities for granted.

The speech from the throne which is now being discussed by the house is, I think, characteristic of most of such speeches which it has been my privilege to hear. It of course claims a great deal more to have resulted from the actions of the government than the facts would warrant; in order to give much needed inspiration to the nation it indicates hopes of prosperity which really have no basis in economic reality; and it is as vague as to the scope and the nature of the legislation which is proposed as speeches of this kind usually are. With regard to the amendment, I think we may describe it as being cold cabbage from the table of the Liberal defeat which is no more acceptable after being warmed up than it was when first served.

I want first of all frankly to recognize the colossal task which confronts the administration. There were no doubt tremendous difficulties to be overcome at the time of Confederation; in 1914 when this country entered the Great war the government of the day was faced with great tasks; but perhaps no government in the history of Canada has ever been called upon to grapple with problems so pressing, so baffling in their nature, so complex in their ramifications, and so fraught with possibilities both grave and hopeful as has the present government. I shall in a few moments attempt to describe very briefly the economic crisis through which we are passing. But before doing so let me indicate that so far as I can be of any assistance as an individual member of this house I desire to offer to the administration that cooperation which is embodied in the principles of the movement I represent. It is essential to my mind that the government should be successful. I notice that the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) already has branded the government as a failure before it has fairly got its toes in the stirrups of power, but I am rather inclined to think that the wish is father to the thought. What will happen if the government is a failure? If this government is a failure it will be the failure of Canada, and the people of Canada will suffer accordingly. I would like to suggest to the opposition that it will show a greater fitness for power when it has indicated to the people of Canada that it has given assistance to the government in order to make it truly successful. Let it be said that the government has shown some action, as was stated by the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail). Whether that action meets with the approval of all members of this house or of the country at large remains to be seen, but at least the government has acted. It did relieve some of the distress caused by unemployment last winter; it did try to secure a market for

Canadian wheat at prices higher than those prevailing in the markets of the world; it has checked immigration; it did guarantee the wheat pool to the banks, and it has raised the tariff. I presume that the raising of the tariff was the real policy of the administration. That was the policy upon which the government based its hopes for the wiping out of unemployment; that was the policy by the introduction of which the government hoped it would bring prosperity to Canada. I have no hesitation in saying that I think the hopes of the government were much too sanguine in that respect, but that was its policy and let me say again that if the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in his nine years of power had reduced the tariff as much as the present government has raised it in eight months, his attack with respect to the keeping of promises would have had a great deal more force than I think we can attach to it.

Let me now for a moment glance at the economic situation. I would like to commend once more to the house the perusal of the speech made by the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer) and also the speech of the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman). These hon. gentlemen have not been accustomed to use hyperbole in their descriptions of the situation in western Canada. They know what they are talking about; they do not overdraw the picture. I shall not waste any of my time in giving more of the harrowing details to which this house has listened with respect to the conditions which exist at the present time in western Canada. Those hon. members who are in touch with public questions, as I am sure all members are, have noticed in the daily press that at meetings and conventions of farmers and before agricultural committees of the various legislative assemblies of the western provinces we have had voluminous evidences of an economic situation the like of which western Canada has never before experienced. This is not a criticism of the present administration; this is merely a statement of fact, and I shall indicate to you how it comes about.

The western farmers have not been put in a bad position just during the last year; the western farmers have been suffering from unjust burdens for generations. It is sometimes said that it is a strange thing that agriculture in the west could not stand one bad year, and it is a marvel to some people in the east that the west is in such a plight when only 1930 is regarded as being a bad year. The situation is not so difficult to understand if we examine it carefully. Up to 1930 the farmers had been working from hand to mouth, as the saying goes. They had been burdened with more than their share of taxation through the tariff; they were burdened with a higher rate of interest than is charged anywhere else in Canada; they were burdened with a heavy freight rate both coming and going on all the business which they had to do, and then, as now, they found themselves trying to sell wheat in a market that was really a dump market. They never had anything left over; they had no resources upon which they could fall back when a year like 1930 came along, and the result was that when it did come along they were in a very poor position to meet it.

I think it was the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) who remarked, in effect during the course of his speech, that while the world is passing through an economic crisis, if the Canadian government had applied proper policies during the last decade or so Canada might have escaped this crisis. I do not know to what extent it would have been possible for Canada to escape a condition which is world-wide, but I do know that certain things could have been done by previous governments which would have made a vast difference to the economic life of Canada at the present time. I will not forego this opportunity of laying at the door of the previous government one of the greatest crimes against Canada that ever has been committed by any government. I refer to the return to the gold standard which, either by their failure to understand or through their disregard of consequences, they deliberately perpetrated upon the people of Canada, more than doubling not only the national debt and the provincial and municipal debts, but all private debts contracted under the inflation which took place during the war, and by so doing they placed the farmers of the west in a position which is hopeless.

The government were well warned. I presume they did not think the warning was sufficiently backed by the intelligentsia because it happened to come from this corner, but the question of finance is not beyond the average intelligence, and in this corner of the house we have spent some time on it. We know it was wrong to go back to the gold basis; we warned the government not to do so. By so doing the government have defrauded the entire public of Canada in the interests of a few bondholders. By a proper policy on that one matter alone the previous government would have saved Canada from a great deal of what this country is suffering from at the present moment.

Added to the burdens which come from an overstocked wheat market and the burdens which come from a tariff which is borne more by the western farmers than by any other class in Canada; added to the excessive interest charges and the doubled war debt brought about by going back to the gold basis, is the world situation. Of course none of us blames either the present or the previous government for the world situation, but we must not allow that world situation to excuse us from getting rid of it, as far as Canada is concerned, as speedily as possible. The depression is world-wide, and I do not know that we would be wise in blaming any particular government, because in this world of ours we have a great many different kinds of governments. We have Labour governments, Socialist governments, Communist governments, Fascist governments, Conservative governments, Republican governments, Liberal governments and even U. F. A. governments, and yet no government has been able to avoid its share of this world crisis. As a matter of fact, in my view the plain truth is that no government in the world knows exactly what to do at the present time. The present situation demands a new type of statesmanship; a vision which partyism seldom breeds, and a courage that may not be conducive to large majorities.

I believe that we are witnessing to-day throughout the world the disintegration of our economic system. I believe that, however long a time it may take to accomplish the transformation, we are passing out of the capitalistic stage into what we sometimes call the cooperative commonwealth. I believe that the sooner governments appreciate that fact and, to the best of their ability, adjust themselves to the conditions as they exist, with that fact in view, the better it will be for every country concerned. I believe that nothing but disaster can come if we stand in the way of changes which are imminent, and try to carry on the old system in the old way. I believe, as I say, that we are witnessing a disintegration; and integration should certainly take place along with that disintegration if we wish to avoid greater difficulties.

Now let me turn for a few moments to a consideration of the government's policy in so far as it directly affects the agricultural class which I represent in this house. Protection for Canada is not a cure and never can be made a cure for any of our fundamental economic ills. Nevertheless it is in my opinion a necessity—a necessity in view of the laws of national existence, which are as rigorous in their demands upon nations as is the law of life upon the individual. Either adaptation or death is the law of life, and Canada must obey that law, just as the individuals composing her citizenship must obey it.

[Mr. Irvine.]

What then is the condition to which Canada must necessarily adapt herself in relation to tariffs? The position may be stated very briefly. Practically every country in the world has barred its doors against the importation of Canadian goods. They did not wait for us to raise our tariffs; they raised theirs. That is the first fact. They may have been stupid in doing so, and I think that subsequent history will show that they were. But we cannot speculate on what might have been or what ought to be. It is what is that we must face. And that is the fact: they have actually raised their tariffs against Canada, not only with respect to her manufactured products but also with respect to her raw products such as wheat and every other kind of farm produce.

It has been very truly said by hon. gentlemen to my right that if we do not buy from other countries we cannot sell to other countries. Very true. But it is surely equally true that if we do not sell to other countries we cannot buy from other countries. And other countries have already said, "You cannot sell to us because we will not allow you to do so." They have already put up their tariff walls. In this connection, let me quote a statement made at the Imperial conference. We have had a good many quotations from that memorable conference, and this is one of the memorable statements which we ought to notice. It is from a speech delivered at the conference by Mr. Thomas, the right hon gentleman whose famous phrase has been discussed at such length in this house. I quote Mr. Thomas:

> I therefore, sir, on behalf of the United Kingdom government, want this morning to look at the cold facts as recorded in our trade returns. In 1928 the volume of the world's trade was, roughly, 20 per cent greater than in the pre-war year, 1913. In 1928 the empire trade as a whole had also increased by just about that amount, so that we find ourselves in this position, that, taking the British empire as a whole, its share in the world's trade marches as it were equally with that of the rest of the world. But when we come to the United Kingdom's share of the world's trade for the same period, 1913-1928, the United Kingdom's share of that trade is less by 20 per cent. Now, sir, those are very remarkable figures, and they clearly indicate that, whilst the empire as a whole has shared in the general world development in that period, so far as the United Kingdom's portion is concerned, we have not only not held our own, but we have very much gone back.

In other words, while the protected world gained 20 per cent, while the protected members of the empire gained 20 per cent of trade in that given period, the only free trade country in the world lost 20 per cent, making a difference of 40 per cent between that country, the only example of free trade the world has, and the protected countries. I am not saying for a moment that this disparity was all due to the fact that she had free trade; there are ten thousand different things that enter into consideration. But the fact is that her free trade did not prevent her from dropping behind all the others in her trade returns. Hon. gentlemen to my right insist —when they are out of office of course—that it would be to the best advantage of Canada if we opened our door. Well, Britain opened her doors and lost 40 per cent more trade than the rest of the world. That is the fact; there is evidence from Mr. Thomas in support of it. Why was that so? Because, while Great Britain opened her doors to other countries, other countries would not open their doors to her; and since trade was made impossible by the refusal of one party to bargain, nothing else could result than what actually did ensue. That is what I mean by saying that, however stupid tariffs may be, however uneconomic, however much against the best interests of mankind, however much they may stand in the way of internationalism, the fact remains as I have indicated. And it is a fact with which we must square ourselves, and with which we must deal.

That is what I mean when I say that for Canada to exist in a protected world she must have protection. If you want any further proof of that, turn to my hon. friends to the right. For a while they sounded the death knell of protection on the hustings, though they never tolled any of its knells in legislation. Why? Was it because the manufacturers ruled that government? I know that some people say that, but I will not say it. Or was it because the Liberals deliberately set themselves to deceive the people of Canada? I know that some people say that, but I will not say it. I do not think the Liberals deceive the people any more than I do.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, oh.

Mr. IRVINE: I might tell my hon. friend that I am giving him perhaps a higher recommendation than I have a right to; but for the moment I am generous. I believe the reason really was that they discovered that, whether protection was a good policy or a bad policy, they could not interfere with it in Canada, but had to continue it. And they did continue it.

I am merely interested in this fact. I do not think protection is a good policy as a world policy; I would rather incline to world free trade if anyone were working at it. But there is no one working at it. The world is not interested in free trade, and the world is too far away just now. I am living in western Canada and I see the ravages of economic difficulties, which by the way are made worse by this tariff. Nevertheless I can see the eastern problem and the problem of Canada as a nation in relation to other countries, and I am here reluctantly admitting the fact as it actually is. We must therefore find other policies to deal with agriculture to recompense it for a tariff policy which is inevitable in our relations with other nations. Eastern Canada, then, by virtue of the history of the Liberal party, by virtue of our relationship with the world, must have a tariff. The industrial east insists upon it and is getting it. But just as far as the industrial east needs a tariff, to that extent a tariff is disastrous to western Canada as things now stand. That is the problem which confronts us, the problem of adjusting the rights of one class in the community to the rights of another class. The solving of this problem should engage the very best attention of parliament; it should be taken entirely out of politics. I have often said in this house, and I say now, that it is a disgrace that two historic parties such as we have in Canada should divide the nation on a question in respect to which they both follow the same policy, hopelessly alienating one section of the country from another in the hope of obtaining power. The time has come when we must deal with this question, not as an abstract one but as one of practical necessity for the internal wellbeing of the state. The west cannot go on with the tariffs as they are to-day, just as the east cannot go on without them.

Reference has been made in the past to the possibility of secession. Those references may have been made rather lightly but I want to say that I do not think they can be regarded too lightly. I happened to be at the United Farmers of Alberta convention last year when a resolution was moved to that effect. I spoke against it to the best of my ability, as I believed it would be a disastrous move to make. I do not think it would bring any benefits, but that is not the point. The point is that a distressed, discouraged people will try anything, and if we at this esssion of the house—not at the next session or the one after that—do not find some means of compensating agriculture for the extra burden

which the tariff has imposed upon it, we shall have to face the disintegration of our Dominion.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, no.

Mr. IRVINE: I hear protests from the other side, but I can protest just as loudly. I was careful to point out that I argued against this resolution to the best of my ability, and I would do the same thing again. However, such things have been argued against in other countries in times past, but it was of no avail. The economic pressure in western Canada to-day is of such a nature that it will drive the people to adopt similar action to that taken under similar conditions in the past. The western farmer cannot stand and will not stand another year like 1930. I want that point to be brought home to the parliamentarians in this house; the western farmer cannot stand this hopeless burden any longer.

An hon. MEMBER: Lots of other people are standing it.

Mr. IRVINE: Other people may have burdens to bear, but they are not the hopeless burdens of the farmer who has been carrying them all along.

Tariffs have presented a problem to Canada since confederation, or at least since the national policy of Sir John A. Macdonald was adopted. That problem has never been solved; it has been simply a political football during all these years. No serious attempt has been made to face it, although it threatens to divide the east from the west.

The farmer does not want everything his own way; he is not opposing the benefits which may accrue to the manufacturer from the tariff; all he asks is that he be not left to pay the whole bill himself. I hope the house will consider this point seriously and will do its best to bring about a more cooperative attitude between the manufacturer of the east and the farmer of the west. Methods of compensation present almost insurmountable barriers, but some way must be found or else we shall have to face something much worse than we face at present. It may be accomplished by means of export bonuses, by pegging the price of wheat, by giving a subsidy or by some other method; it may be that you can do something by adopting the suggestion of the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote), but it is imperative that something be done.

My next point is in regard to the grain trade, which brings into focus the much discussed Imperial conference. Perhaps I could find no better way to approach this matter than to give a few facts with respect to how other countries deal with their wheat. For instance, Germany imposes an import duty of $1.62 per bushel. France, in addition to an 84 cents import duty, enforces milling quotas of 90 per cent domestic wheat, and the customs collected on importations are used to pay premiums on French wheat which is exported. Greece imposes an import duty of 55 cents per bushel and compels her millers to purchase domestic wheat at a fixed price. Switzerland has a government monopoly of wheat with a maximum price of $2.32 per bushel and a minimum price of $2.11. Sweden has a fixed price with an import duty of 27 cents per bushel. Norway has a government monopoly which controls all grain, domestic or imported, requiring a budget of $32,000,000 annually to carry on the business. Poland pays a bounty of 18 cents per bushel on wheat exported and imposes an import duty of 53 cents per bushel. Spain prohibits the importation of wheat until the domestic wheat exceeds $1.75 per bushel, then imports are regulated by the government as it sees fit. Twenty-two out of twenty-six European countries have adopted one or all of the following measures:

Import duties.
Export bounties.
Price fixing.
Milling quotas.
Financial guarantees to marketing agencies.
Subsidies to growers.
Governmental monopoly of the trade.

Policies of the above nature, being followed so universally, have had the effect of increasing the output of wheat in the different European countries, thus reducing the amount required from the world's exportable surplus. In addition to that, the mechanization of agriculture has made it possible to increase the output of wheat throughout the world. These European countries having practically barred the importation of wheat, it leaves Great Britain as the only free market. When we consider how much Great Britain can take from us, it will bring us to the true problem of the Imperial conference. In 1930 the world's marketable surplus was 1,200,000,000 bushels, and the total of imports into Great Britain for that year amounted to 196,000,000 bushels, leaving over a thousand million bushels of wheat running around the world looking for consumers and unable to find them. The point is that Great Britain is simply a dumping market for wheat, and even if the Prime Minister had been successful in securing for Canada the entire market of Great Britain it would have been of little use to us. I will go so far as to say that it might have been harmful, because we would have had to sell our wheat in Great Britain, as we are doing to-day, at about 50 per cent of the cost.

We cannot afford to do that, neither for Great Britain or any other country. The Prime Minister tried to accomplish the one thing that would have been of any use to us, namely, to induce the British government to put an import duty on foreign wheat, thus increasing the price of empire wheat in the British market. He cleary saw that if we cannot get a little more for our Canadian wheat in the British market, there is not much use in getting that market. He has failed in that so far, but it is hinted that if he had gone overseas with a tie of the right colour or had filled his mouth with maple syrup and dipped his words in honey, the result might have been very different. But Great Britain does not buy goods for such reasons. We do not expect her to do so. We know that Great Britain, like every other country, will buy goods where she can get them the cheapest, and unless a quid pro quo of some sort can be offered, the whole thing is simply hopeless. Therefore what we have to face is the fact that at the present time there is no market for wheat on this planet. Hon. members talk about finding a market for wheat as if it were something they expected to discover under a little rock which they might turn over. There is not such a market anywhere, and therefore it is necessary for Canada to work out an entirely different policy in respect to her industries.

I noticed that the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) rather sneered at the idea of Canada becoming so far as possible a self-supporting economic unit. In fact he said that the Prime Minister had adopted that idea as a policy. I was not aware that he had done so, but personally I believe in that policy. Not that I am unaware of the economic organic unity of the world; not that I am unaware of the great possibilities of an ultimate federation of the world in the parliament of man. Those things I am looking forward to, and I hope to live to see them, but I hae ma doots about that. I agree that such things are very hopeful and desirable, but I hold to the view that the world being as it is, and since we are charged with the first responsibility of at least feeding, clothing and giving shelter to our own people, we must find a policy that will enable us to do that whether anybody else in any other country can do so or not. It is preposterous that in a country like Canada we cannot at least feed, clothe and shelter ten million people. I have referred before in the house to the comet which Huxley hoped would some day hit the world if it did not show a little more intelligence in human affairs. I want the house to imagine that comet has come, hit the world and left just Canada. Imagine the plight we would be in! No foreign markets anywhere! Do you think we would sit down and die? Do you not think we would get along fairly well? We might have to do without a few of the luxuries, and subsequently that might be all the better for our manhood, but we could get along very well. I am not suggesting that we try to alienate ourselves from the rest of the world; but I do want to point out that simply because we cannot sell wheat to Great Britain is no reason why people in Canada should starve; and simply because our manufacturers cannot ship boots to Great Britain or to Europe is no reason why our people should not have boots to wear. What we require more than anything else is a plan.

I was going to say something about the great challenge of Russia to the capitalistic system. I think there is a challenge. I think Russia presents a challenge, but the greatest challenge that is presented to Canada to-day, the challenge to the system of which this institution is an expression, is the challenge of our debt-burdened, distressed farmers, of our thousands of hungry unemployed, of our thousands of merchants who have upon their books millions in debts that they cannot collect. That is the challenge to capitalism in Canada, and I say to this institution which is an expression of that capitalistic system, that you will have to make it work or quit it. You may criticise Russia just as much as you please, but Russia stands first in the world in one thing, and that is that she has a plan. It may be a bad plan—I am not discussing the virtues of it—but it is a plan. Canada to-day is a planless country. We plan nothing; we drift, drift, drift, and nobody knows where we are going to land; the shoals are breaking to lee at the moment, and the lowering sky bespeaks a storm. We cannot longer drift like that. I ask that the house devise an intelligent plan to make Canada as far as possible a self-supporting economic unit. There is no time to lose; no time to dilly-dally about fighting for power.

In conclusion, I submit that it would be an excellent thing if the government would appoint a committee of the house to inquire into all these economic facts in Canada, and when these facts have been found, then to proceed with an intelligent plan and policy in relation to those facts, disregarding party-ism and many of those preconceived ideas which, falsely understood, are sometimes called principles.

Mr. R. W. GRAY (West Lambton): Mr. Speaker, it had not been my intention to take part in this debate, but having in mind that one-half of the constituency which I have the honour to represent is rural, and having in mind also the fact that Ontario produces 29 per cent of the agricultural wealth of the Dominion, I feel I would be remiss in my duty did I not rise in my place to protest against the silence and the apparent refusal of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to participate in the debate. His silence is the more surprising when he must realize that the whole country awaits some pronouncement on his part. Instead of that, what do we find? Silence in the House of Commons, and a so-called exclusive article on agriculture in MacLean's magazine.

I feel also that I would fail in my duty did I not protest as vigorously as possible against the fact that, although this government came into office on a promise to end unemployment, no statement on labour conditions or on the remedy proposed to relieve unemployment can be made by a responsible minister in the house. This is not fair, and it does not speak volumes for the opinion of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) of his elected followers, whose sole duty appears to be to applaud loudly his every move and action.

Some six months have passed since the special session of parliament, and as one sits on this side of the house he is struck by the changed appearance of the ministry opposite. They have now been guiding the destinies of the country for something over eight months. In September last we saw them smiling, happy, confident. Their modern Moses had led them into the promised land, and I think we could go one step further and say that they must have found it a land full of promises. To-day we see them silent and unsmiling, all except the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) whose smile lights up an otherwise drab picture of the cabinet as we see it from this side, and one might be pardoned for suspecting that that smile is in anticipation of the three thousand dollars extra salary which according to a resolution which appears on the order paper, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) has promised him.

I have referred to the silence of the Minister of Agriculture and to the absence from the house of the Minister of Labour. Where are our Ontario ministers in this debate? The Prime Minister has honoured my native province by appointing to his cabinet six men from that province. Not one of them has participated in this debate. What about the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion)? Here may I say to him we are grateful at least for the interest he has taken in this debate by listening with an attentive ear to practically every speech. But should we not have expected more from this red-blooded Canadian who is now clothed in all the might and strength of a cabinet minister? In view of his campaign utterances I would think he would have risen in his place and struck old man hard-times a blow in the jaw and with a few strokes of his mighty pen have restored prosperity. What about the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. Rowe)? The hon. gentleman went up and down the province of Ontario telling the farmers that their sole trouble could be attributed to the fact that there was a Liberal administration in power. Where is he in this debate? And what about the member for South Essex (Mr. Gott) who on July 8 last issued a manifesto consisting of three pages? On the first page there is a full page cut of the illustrious gentleman himself, and he is quoted as follows:

> None realized my position in the opposition better than I did as I fought for the farmers alone.

Is he doing that to-day? And a little further on he is quoted as follows:

> Canada is facing an economic crisis to-day, second only to the Great War. Under proper administration the unemployment problem that we are facing should be impossible in a country such as ours so rich in agricultural possibilities and undeveloped natural resources, the greatest in the world.

May we take it that from his point of view the proper administration is now in office? Yet the unemployment situation grows steadily worse. Then follow further modest statements by the hon. gentleman, and when we come to the third page we find this paragraph:

> People cannot live on budgets—no matter what they promise. Whoever lived on promises?

Well, Mr. Speaker, if there ever was a time when the hon. gentleman's question might be put to the test it is under the present administration. Speaking of promises, someone has dedicated a few lines of poetry to the right hon. the Prime Minister. The poem is called "I Promise You," and the text is as follows:

> I promise all things, great and small,
> East, west, north, south, to each and all—
> Or perish in the attempt.
>
> I promise proofs to make it plain
> That all old shibboleths are vain—
> I promise my full strength shall bend
> All unemployment quick to end—
> Or perish in the attempt.

I promise that a seaway wide
At once be built to ocean tide—
I promise quickly and engage
To pensions pay for all old age—
I promise that, without delay,
I'll build trans-Canada highway—
Or perish in the attempt.

I promise that each mill and loom
And factory will forthwith resume—
I promise that all ills endured
By farmers will at once be cured—
I promise, too, when overseas
To bring opponents to their knees—
I promise that I'll make the grade,
And blast a way for world-wide trade—
Or perish in the attempt.

I promise that I'll show the cause
Of Britain's failing trade and laws—
Or perish in the attempt.

I promise—but why specify?
Just mention what you want—and why;
For all you ask I will comply
(A superman indeed am I)—
Or perish in the attempt.

The hon. member for South Essex closed his remarkable manifesto with these words:

Thanking you for your forbearance in me and in my shortcomings.

To which I think this whole house might rise and say, "Amen." When the right hon. the Prime Minister is displeased about something we hear him making use of the expression "what a spectacle; what a spectacle." Mr. Speaker, I ask if there could be any greater spectacle than the sight of a cabinet unable to speak on the two great questions of agriculture and labour. I say that this statement applies equally to the two excellent speeches which we have already heard from cabinet ministers who have failed to touch on either of these great problems.

Various western members have already brought to the attention of parliament the very serious condition of agriculture in the western provinces. I feel sure they have succeeded in convincing those of us from the eastern constituencies that there must be complete cooperation between the east and the west if we are to find a way out of the difficulty. I have already referred to the fact that Ontario produces 29 per cent of the agricultural wealth of the Dominion. This fact must not be disregarded. Sometimes I feel that we Ontario members do not sufficiently emphasize that important fact. Farming conditions in Ontario, and I speak particularly of western Ontario, are not good. Farmers are in a serious plight to-day. Mortgages are being foreclosed not because of a failure to pay the principal but because the farmer has been unable to meet his interest payments. It is not simply a question of low prices; prices have been low in the past. To-day we find that the increased cost of production, increased taxes, increased interest rates both to chartered banks and to mortgage companies, make conditions such that unless something is done to relieve the situation there will this fall be more assignments in bankruptcy, more mortgages foreclosed against farmers, than ever before in the history of the province of Ontario. Take for instance the question of taxes alone. During the Easter recess I was told by one farmer that he had been through a similar period of depression when prices were about the same. While at that time it took only four pigs to pay his taxes, now it requires twelve. I cannot speak as a practical farmer, but I was born and raised on the farm and I think I know something of the problems of the farmer. I do not believe the suggestions I have read and which have purported to come from the lips of the Minister of Agriculture will solve the problem. Many of them are not new. For instance, the suggestion that the farmers should allow a more general introduction of high grade live stock is by no means new. It has been advocated for years. I say to hon. gentlemen opposite, however, that it would indeed require a brave man to accept the suggestion at this time without more encouragement than he has been receiving, realizing it would take four or five years before his stock could possibly be developed. What is required is immediate relief. We hear men say that prosperity is just around the corner, but may I say to them that when the manufacturers, the bankers, the railway corporations, the professional men—yes, in many cases even the wage earners themselves—are prepared to make the same relative sacrifice that the farmer is making to-day, we will have reached a basis upon which reconstruction can start. Then in truth will we be in a position where we may say prosperity is just around the corner.

I would like to say a few words in connection with the Canadian National Railways. During the past few months there have been rumours of political interference with the management of this railroad. If there is any way in which these rumours can be stopped, if by speeches of hon. members or by a statement from the hon. the Minister of Railways these rumours can be nailed, now is the time to do it. Coming as I do from a city where there is a large Canadian National terminal I may say that there is a feeling of uneasiness among employees that has not been noticed in many years past. During the years when the railway company was able to announce

surpluses everybody wished to be known as a supporter of the Canadian National system. As in the case of the removal of the embargo on cattle, there were many hon. gentlemen who tried to take credit for bringing into being the Canadian National Railway. Now with falling revenues in the railway as in other departments there are those who would seek to impede the progress of that railroad and even to bring discredit upon it. There is some evidence that politics have been allowed to obtain a foothold. We had the evidence given by the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) and we have what to my mind is most significant, the reference back to the Board of Railway Commissioners of the question of the Montreal terminals at the instigation of Camille Houde, leader of the Conservative party in the province of Quebec. Those who sat in previous parliaments and on the special committee on railways and shipping will remember that the matter was thoroughly discussed and that the president and his experts were convinced that their plan, as presented, was a proper one. We have already voted some fifty million dollars for that project. A statement of the reasons for referring this matter to a board, reorganized under this government, is certainly forthcoming from the Minister of Railways. Apart from this, however, I believe it is our duty at a time of falling revenues to reiterate our faith in Sir Henry Thornton's management of the Canadian National Railways and to say as emphatically as we can that this parliament will not brook any political interference with his management.

I do not propose to discuss in detail the ills we find ourselves subject to at this time, but to address myself in a broad general way to the attitude taken by the government, and in particular by the right hon. Prime Minister. The policy of the government may be summed up in one word—protection. The hon. ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), speaking in this debate some two weeks ago, said that we had been given a dose of the medicine, and instead of effecting a cure the disease had spread. I would say rather that we had been given an overdose of the medicine, and that paralysis had already set in. I propose to show how this paralysis is affecting our national revenue and trade. I have in my hand a statement of the net customs duties collected during the last five months, October, 1930 to February of this year, as compared with the same period for 1929-30. May I call this fact to the attention of the hon. member for Toronto-Scarborough (Mr. Harris), who complained that the figures we had quoted were only up to March 1930. The decreases in the customs duties from October 1930 to February 1931 as compared with the similar period for 1929-30 are in round figures as follows:

October	$6,920,000
November	3,936,000
December	3,425,000
January	1,833,000
February	4,574,000

These give a total decrease during those five months of $20,691,000. Now let me take our trade figures. Our imports during the same period have decreased $160,565,000; our exports have decreased $147,833,000. These figures startle and alarm us. But what can we expect when we find that the right hon. Prime Minister has ignored the wide tendencies which make for world progress and has ranged Canada on the side of those destructive tendencies which will operate to bar her progress? The world to-day is suffering from artificial barriers to trade which everywhere have been erected by nationalistic groups. Since the treaty of Versailles there has been an intensified fostering of a spirit of nationalism. Tariffs have been initiated and increased against international trade where heretofore no barriers existed. Every country has had visions that it could become great industrially. The result has been to put barriers in the way of international trade, to prevent the peoples of the world from trading with each other as freely as they did. And the greater the number of tariff walls and the higher they are built the more difficult it becomes for exchange to take place. We have ceased to realize that the world cannot be prosperous unless the nations will consent to trade with one another and help to build up such trade. It was the policy of the late Liberal government to extend the channels of trade through the seven seas, to encourage trade with those who would trade with us.

What the business world appears to need more than anything else is not any additional encouragement in this modern game of ardent nationalism, but the courage and leadership to combat it, to encourage the countries of the world in the vital necessity of increasing international trade. Signs are not lacking that this is gradually being brought about. The countries of Europe have been discussing the possibilities of an economic union and the lowering of internal tariff barriers. In the United States the present depression has caused the government and business leaders to discuss the advisability of some adjustment regarding their policies in respect to war debts and high tariffs with a view to facilitating instead of obstructing world trade.

This being the world situation, what did the right hon. Prime Minister announce as the policy of Canada? Not a policy of cooperation; not a policy which attempts to take some share in the curing of the world's financial ills. Instead, still another policy of ardent nationalism, of world sectionalism, of reactionary selfishness, which said to the empire and to all the world "Canada first", and at the same time "we will blast our way into the markets of the world." Do you realize, you men who hold the destiny of this country in your hands, the utter impossibility of doing this? Do you realize that international highways of exchange cannot be made into one-way streets? Compare the action of the right hon. Prime Minister in his attempt at salesmanship with that of the empire's premier salesman, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as he graciously opened the British Trade Exhibition in the Argentine on Saturday, March 14. He said, as reported in press despatches of the following Monday:

> Failure to recognize trade as interchange, obstacles placed in the way of reciprocal trade, are perhaps the main causes of the world's present troubles. If, as we all hope, the response of the Argentine purchasing public to the appeal of the exhibition leads in some measure to the revival of industrial prosperity in Great Britain, and consequently to diminution of industrial unemployment, a reciprocal result in British conumption of Argentine meat and Argentine cereals is certain.

At the Imperial conference, Canada, as a young and vigorous country, as a country which had withstood the onslaughts of world depression perhaps better than any other, as a nation which had resolutely refused to raise its tariff barriers against the world until the special session of parliament, could have been a leader in this work of promotion of world harmony, and in the promotion of cooperation among the units making up the British commonwealth of nations. The right hon. gentleman had a great opportunity to begin such work by making a generous and intelligent gesture at the Imperial conference. The eyes of the empire were on him and the ears of the people were listening for what he would have to say. What did they hear? Nothing but the reiteration at this late date of the same old cry of selfish nationalism which has already brought the nations of Europe and practically the world to the point where they must find a new way.

Then the Prime Minister returned to Canada, and one of his first acts was to appoint a new crusader to take up Canada's cause at the court of St. James. Although previous speakers have mentioned it, in view of the manner in which the right hon. Prime Minister has treated this gentleman's utterances, and his failure to give any explanation for them, I propose to deal for a few moments with the Hon. George Howard Ferguson in order that we may have a picture of the man whom the government has appointed to represent Canada's interests in the heart of the empire.

On the 28th of November, 1930, the Hon. George Howard Ferguson was appointed High Commissioner for Canada in London. On the 4th of December, at a banquet of the Technical Service Council of Canada, held at the Royal York hotel, Toronto, the ambassador, following the example set by the Prime Minister of this country at the special session of parliament, began to lay a foundation for his work in the old land. He said, as reported in the Mail and Empire of December 5th, 1930:

> I am not going over there to sell wheat particularly. I am going over there in the hope that I may do something to remould and revive the spirit of the British people. My observation—and it has been very brief and perhaps not entirely reliable—teaches me that the old patriotic fervour for British ascendancy and British development is, to a large extent, broken down.
>
> You know, and we all know, the pride the Britisher once took in his country's production, its exports, and its position in the world. Unfortunately, the fact that they have tens of thousands of grown men over there who have never done a day's work, the fact that they are paying what is called the dole to children of 15 years and up, is contributing to the destruction of the morale of the British people.
>
> I think that is what is wrong with Great Britain more than anything else. I assure you I would never have thought of leaving this happy hunting ground that I have been enjoying here, I never would have thought of leaving friendships of a lifetime, if I did not think there was a need of someone to try and revive that old spirit of pride and respect in the country, its outlook and its purpose. I don't know if I am the man. I don't think I am because my sphere has been puttering around with little things in the province of Ontario, and when you get over there you are in big international affairs. I am going to England to try to do something to revive that invaluable stimulus that for centuries has been the basis of British progress and British ascendancy.
>
> He referred to the recent British education bill by which parents were subsidized for keeping their children an extra year at school and continued: "That" he asserted, "is how far the drift of that extreme Socialist doctrine has gone in England to-day. It has continued until they are living out of their capital. Think of it, an income tax of four shillings and six pence on the pound. And the death dues are destructive of the greatest institutions England has, the great estates. It makes one's heart ache to see those great estates being cut up."

I ask hon. members of this house how Ottawa would have received Sir William Clark

if he had made such comment upon the Canadian industrial and political situation before sailing from England to assume his duties here as British High Commissioner.

How did the press view the speech of the High Commissioner? I quote but one comment which is typical of the majority. The Ottawa Citizen of December 9 described it as follows:

> The comical little man capped the performance by describing himself as an imperial missionary, sacrificing himself on the altar of patriotism. He is laying down the cares of state in Ontario to save the British Empire, and particularly to remould the spirit of the British people.

How did the right hon. Prime Minister handle the situation? The new Albany club was opened in Toronto on January 19, 1931. The great and near great of the Conservative party were present. The Mail and Empire, reporting the meeting in its issue of the following day, said:

> Bennett and Ferguson engaged in witty repartee as new Albany club is dedicated
>
> Premier provokes laughter with threat to recall new High Commissioner
>
> Reference by Mr. Bennett to some of ex-Premier Ferguson's recent speeches started the fun. Mr. Bennett jocularly reminded the new High Commissioner of the recall suffered by Sackville-West. Saskville-West was British ambassador at Washington from 1881 to 1888, in which year he retired after what history records as "an unfortunate interference in American domestic politics."

Sackville-West was recalled. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson never should have been allowed to start until he had been rebuked to a much greater extent by the leader of this government.

His arrival in England was marked by another outburst. Speaking before the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in London, England, Mr. Ferguson said:

> When I see in England such slogans as "Buy British goods made in England by British labour" it seems to me to be forgotten that goods of Canada and other parts of the empire are equally British. Imperial consolidation cannot be effected on the lines of discrimination.

Does he forget that the policy of the government he represents is "Buy Canadian goods made in Canada by Canadian labour?" Does he forget entirely the part played by the Empire Marketing Board, which costs thousands of pounds annually, which amount is largely paid by the British taxpayer, and which is used in advertising in that country and throughout the whole empire Canadian apples, Canadian cheese and other products? Why should he complain of a slogan of that kind when the policy of the government he represents is to bar from Canada British goods by the erection of high tariffs?

What are the results of the speeches which have been made by these two hon. gentlemen? Through the methods adopted by Hon. G. Howard Ferguson and by the right hon. Prime Minister, who made an offer to Britain supposedly based upon mutual advantage but which asked for much and gave nothing in return; by the tenor and method of that offer, I say they have weakened our position and placed a wholly unnecessary and unwarranted stigma on Canadians in the eyes of the British people.

In spite of all that has been said and done, however, I am firmly of the conviction that if the Prime Minister of Canada will approach the conference which is to be held in Ottawa in a different spirit, much good will result. I do not mean the spirit in which he proceeded to the Imperial conference at London, where he said in effect, "Here is my plan. Make up your minds once and for all." I do not mean the spirit in which he rose to reply to the right hon. leader of the opposition, after his speech, in which he declared frankly that he had nothing to withdraw, " not a word, not a syllable, not a line," but rather in the spirit in which he announced the policy of Canada, speaking at Regina on December 30 last. I wish to read from the report which appeared in the Manitoba Free Press of the following day:

> On the day after the session of parliament ended, I sailed for England to attend the Imperial conference. I left Canada determined to do my best to foster and support a plan for greater empire trade based on mutual advantages. With that purpose in mind I made a proposal to the conference for closer empire economic association based on mutually advantageous tariff preferences. I frankly stated my position. I said that the motive which governed my proposal was the interest of Canada first, and I said our primary concern at that time was to secure a more stable market in the United Kingdom for our wheat. How that market is to be secured to us as against the foreigner is naturally a matter to be determined by the government of the United Kingdom. For my part I expressed my entire willingness, having regard particularly to the Russian menace, to accept in lieu of a price preference a quantity preference, called the quota, which would guarantee us a minimum export of wheat to the United Kingdom. To say that this offer has been definitely declined is to unjustifiably anticipate the outcome of the continuing deliberations of the government of the United Kingdom.

Does that speech indicate a change of heart? Is the Prime Minister now willing to approach the conference which is to be held in Ottawa prepared to give to Great Britain something which will be really of mutual ad-

vantage, whether it is decided that the best plan is a quota, an import board or bulk purchases? There are those on the opposite side of the house who ask, "Why do you not suggest something? Why do you not cooperate? Has the Prime Minister, through his actions in this debate, shown any desire to cooperate? Even though he has not done so, I say to him now that if he will assure this house that he meant what he said in Regina; if he is prepared to retreat from his "once and for all' attitude and trade with the mother country on some basis of mutual advantage; if he will realize when he uses the word preference that the greatest preference we can have for the mother of the empire is the preference which we hold in our hearts, then I for one am willing to do my share in cooperating to bring about the success of that conference, and thus restore in some part at least that measure of prosperity which the Canadian people so richly deserve.

Mr. W. A. HALL (South Bruce): Mr. Speaker, at this late stage in the debate may I be pardoned if I forego the oft repeated and well deserved congratulations that have prefaced almost every speech and proceed at once with what I have to say?

The speech from the throne, though like its author in many respects, is lacking in that brutal frankness and explicitness in which the Prime Minister prides himself. As is the custom, the speech foreshadows a number of measures which the government proposes to present to parliament, but it does more; it insinuates that the late administration had no eyes with which to peer into the future and that as a consequence no measures were advanced which would have relieved the present distress. In effect the speech from the throne says that if there had been adequate protection in past years the present depression would have been prevented, yet strange to say the speech also admits that Canada is better off than most countries. If that means anything it means that Canada, without a high tariff wall, is much better off than those countries which have built up high protection, such as Australia, the United States and other high tariff countries. That being the case, why raise the tariff wall?

The reference in that speech to agriculture is not very encouraging, especially to the western farmer, as it is a wait-and-see policy, leaving conditions pretty much alone and watching developments.

This reminds me, Mr. Speaker, of a case of acute blood poisoning to which I was called in consultation. On asking the attending physician his treatment, the answer was, "I am leaving her pretty much alone and watching developments"—effective and heroic treatment, indeed. But the critical depression of the west ought to be a challenge to this government to do something. But what it has done by increasing the cost of production and by losing their markets, has added greatly to the distress of the west, besides destroying the morale of the people.

According to the speech from the throne, Mr. Speaker, the country is every day in every way getting better and better since the first dose of the Tory patent medicine at the special session in September, and all that is required now to bring about complete recovery is a larger does of the same medicine. This high tariff medicine is rather nauseating and languishing to some of us, especially to the agriculturists, but wonderfully delicious and invigorating to many others, particularly to the manufacturers and some deluded farmers. As a proof of this improvement the Tory press is printing stories of factories humming that were closed or languishing during the late administration but now have long payrolls instead of bread lines as before.

But what are the facts? According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the industrial production of Canada in 1930 fell by 14 per cent as compared with 1929. The fall was chiefly after July 28. The corresponding decline in Britain was only 10 per cent. In Canada from 1924 to 1929 inclusive, there was an annual increase in production of 10 per cent. What a striking contrast in the volume of output during the administrations of the low and of the high tariff medicine men.

Doubtless, Mr. Speaker, there are some industries that have been revived by the Prime Minister's stimulant and are being nourished on the fiscal dole. Yet these gains are offset many times by other productions being slowed down. Manifestly this government realizes that the symptoms of depression have been growing worse, with a consequent increase of unemployment, notwithstanding what they say to the contrary; as a result they are preparing a strong and drastic dose of stimulant in the shape of higher and higher customs taxation. But the primary reason for this is to reward those money interests that had spent so much in the recent campaign to elect the present government. However, the first dose of medicine satisfied the capacity of only a few of the great multitude clamouring for reward. Doubtless these increased duties will impose additional burdens on the people for whom the depression of general business was otherwise bound to reduce the cost of living.

Apparently, Mr. Speaker, the chief task of this session is a general upward revision of the tariff. I need scarcely say that the main concern of the government will be the interests of the manufacturers. But there seems to be no one in this government to care for the consumer, although he is everybody. The staple argument just now is that the provision of work for our own people justifies all increases. Apparently no account is taken of the fact that there is no real market for what is produced, as exports are greatly reduced because imports are blocked. Besides that, the high cost of living reduces the power of buying and so lessens the home market. Also, in these days of less and less hand labour, it is the machine chiefly and not the man that finds more employment. But who controls the machine? It is he who gets the profits—the manufacturer.

Notwithstanding this condition of things, there are daily bulletins in the Tory press showing how business is humming as the result of the new duties which the people now have to pay to keep certain helpless industries alive. The speech from the throne also smacks of the same boast. It was part of the bargain that they should get going and expect further tariff increases during the present session. This looks bad for the farmers, especially for those in the prairie provinces. These men of the west, almost in despair because of unsold crops, or of low prices for what they do sell, or of excessive rates of interest, or of high rates of transportation, or of many other difficulties of which the rest of Canada has little conception, are compelled to buy much of what they need from the very interests that seek the higher taxation. This increase may force prices up or at least prevent their decline, while all other prices are being reduced. As a consequence, the manufacturer, without raising the price of his goods, is, by increased protection, making a much larger profit. Thus he is able to hide the real benefit that increased protection gives him behind the pledge that he will not raise his price but just increase his profit. It will be noticed that this pledge fixes the manufacturer's prices, at least indirectly. This is preposterous. What other classes have their prices fixed? The prices cannot go up and will not come down although everything else is down. What about the agriculturist?

I have always sympathized strongly with the farmer. No one is more resolutely opposed to tariff raising, such as was so recklessly practised at the first session of this parliament and such as seems likely to take place this session, according to the speech from the throne. May I say that secession talk is of little advantage as a threat, whether its origin is in the maritimes or in the west?

However, Mr. Speaker, I frankly confess that this government has a strong mandate from the people of Canada to do what they did at the emergency session as well as to carry out what is promised in the speech from the throne. But what is strange is the fact that this mandate came from many of the rural districts. Apparently the farmers of the Canadian west were hypnotized by the Prime Minister through his nostrum of duties against the other countries of the world as well as by the hope of getting local industries at their doors on account of protection. Besides, the Prime Minister assured them that this nostrum was a good old family medicine, tried and proved, and must be all right. Indeed, Sir, John A. Macdonald had dispensed the same kind of medicine fifty-three years ago, with wonderful results—yes, with wonderful results for the Tory party, but with disastrous results for the country. By the way, it was first compounded and dispensed on the American side.

The manufacturers at that time succeeded in getting trade barriers built to protect themselves in overcharging the Canadian consumer, as doubtless they will succeed at this time. Indeed, the present day tactics are very similar to those employed fifty-three years ago. They won the support of the press by revenue from advertising. They won the votes of the workers by promising fatter pay envelopes as part of their share in the general hold-up. They won the dairymen by a tariff of eight cents per pound on butter. They won the western fruit farmers by taxing the prairies for them. They won the prairie farmers by promising them local industries. But, Mr. Speaker, the real reason came from the feeling that things could hardly be worse than they were last summer and a change of any kind might be better. Besides, the Prime Minister was full of promises for an immediate deliverance from all their troubles. He pledged himself many times during the campaign to find a job for every Canadian or perish in the attempt. He said a young country like Canada had no right to have unemployment. Why, the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) claimed that the unemployment problem could be solved in three days by the return of a Tory government. Well, a Tory government was returned, and $20,000,000 was voted as temporary relief, with the result that unemployment has been almost doubled.

Has the Prime Minister delivered the people from all their troubles as he promised everywhere before the election? No; on the contrary, he has increased them many times. He even raised the tariff walls much higher against the mother country—Canada's one good customer, indeed her best; and after thus refusing to accept her commodities in payment for Canadian products, he bullied her for not preferring our wheat, with the consequent reaction against the Canadian wheat grower, leaving him without a market for his wheat.

The most absurd thing any country can do is to make that which the farmer has to purchase, including his hired help, as dear as possible by means of a tariff, simply for the sake of carrying on an unnatural business at a loss to the country. This is especially so in view of the present condition of the producing industry upon which all the artificial industries have been feeding and will continue to feed. No doubt this will blast or destroy the selling market by excluding all products sent in return, as well as increase the cost of transportation through having only one way cargoes.

Apparently the government has no misgiving in carrying out any atrocity it may desire to perpetrate, feeling as it does that it has a docile and unshakeable majority—a majority obtained, strange to say, with the assistance of one-third of the farmers of Canada. Apparently the government thinks that the jacking up of the tariff is the panacea for Canada's commercial ills as well as the only cure for unemployment. The Prime Minister seems to be bound hand and foot to the manufacturers. This was quite apparent at the farcical inquiry in connection with the proposed tariff changes, where he and some of his colleagues constituted themselves as special pleaders for the privileged interests. I need scarcely say that there was little pretence of openmindedness.

The greedy and privileged classes which were instrumental in putting the Prime Minister into power look upon him as being at their service. As a recognition of their legitimate claims he gave them a hurried but lavish luncheon with the special session of last September. This was to tide them over until dinner-time, which, according to the speech from the throne, is set for this session. It would seem that each claimant got just enough at the special session luncheon to whet his appetite. Why should those who put the caterer into power with a large majority not get what they want? They were promised it, and who should now object? Not the opposition at any rate, because the Prime Minister has the country's mandate although it may have been obtained by questionable means. Until the people express at the polls a change of mind, they have every right to get what they asked for at the last general elections, namely, high protection and riches for the manufacturers and bondage and poverty for the farmers.

Under such conditions what need is there for a tariff board? Retaining it would be humbug and needless expense, as its findings would be totally ignored; abolishing it would be but brutal frankness and economy under a one man ruler such as the Prime Minister. It is simply for the hungry ones to say how much they want, and who else can say that so well? It is for the caterer to fill the orders with a free hand. He does not have to pay, because that is added to the daily cost of our living. In gorging his masters he is carrying out with all haste the mandate he received from the country on July 28, 1930.

Some time ago the Prime Minister was considering the adjournment of the demands for further protection until the Imperial conference to be held in Ottawa next summer. Few if any of the promises made to gather in the votes have been fulfilled. About the only thing which has been realized is the payment of $20,000,000 for the promised temporary relief of unemployment. The Prime Minister seems to be endeavouring to find some way to cover his dire failure. The postponement of action would give him time to fill other orders on the program and allow him to distract the country's mind with such contentious matters as the St. Lawrence waterway. But apparently the privileged classes would agree to no adjournment of action on tariff matters. They saw that their chance was now or never. So once more the Prime Minister has to cater to his masters and we have the proposed increases in the tariff indicated in the speech from the throne. This will give the mother country another slap in the face in forestalling and frustrating the purpose of the coming conference at Ottawa, a similar result to that accomplished at the London conference by the Bennett ultimatum. It is another case of blasting.

It must be remembered that the Prime Minister has a docile majority to which he will be true as well as to himself. He will always be true to the outside privileged classes whom, though the heavens fall, he will feed on the blood of the nation. The alacrity with which the Prime Minister has acted in certain matters since gaining power has given rise to the cry: Give Bennett a chance, he does things.

Since assuming office he has had as free a chance as that given to Mussolini, but what has he done? Permit me to mention some of his achievements.

1. He raised the duties on imports from Great Britain to such an extent as to amount practically to an embargo—in the case of cheap tweeds the increase from 22½ per cent to 96 per cent.

2. He has almost doubled unemployment since taking office.

3. He has blocked our trade with New Zealand.

4. He has antagonized the buying public of Great Britain by his "blasting" speeches made in the old country.

5. He has blocked imports and so has decreased exports, reducing our trade to a pre-war level.

6. He has increased the cost of transportation by permitting only one-way cargoes.

7. He has lowered the price of farm products from 20 to 40 per cent, but has kept up the manufacturers' prices at former levels.

8. He has decreased the price of farm lands through reducing the price of farm products.

9. He has decreased the industrial production of Canada.

10. He has decreased the revenue of Canada.

11. He has lowered the moral tone of the country by promises that might be intended to bribe.

12. He has barred trade with Russia, thus depriving Canadian workmen of considerable employment.

While the Prime Minister has been adopting this course of action, the farmers in the west have been talking secession instead of protesting against the legislation which permits the manufacturer to plunder by not reducing prices commensurate with the prices received for farm products. Evidently the pledges given seem to have pegged the manufacturers' prices, so why not peg the farmers' prices, especially for wheat? If the government has secured profitable prices for the manufacturer at the expense of the people and primarily of the farmer, it is only right that it should secure also fair prices for the farmer. Any subsidy given would have to be paid out of the public treasury, and it must be admitted that that would be very unpalatable to the country, but the nation could take any amount of that sort of medicine if it were mixed up with its food and drink, that is, in the daily cost of living. The Prime Minister should treat all classes alike.

The Prime Minister has the support of a majority in this house in any action he elects to take, because hon. members opposite were elected for that purpose. The incident of the glass firm at Hamilton is a case in point. At the request of this firm parliament voted at the special session to increase the duty on window glass to such an extent as would double the cost of glass to the consumer. This would have cost the country over $1,500,000 in order to give work to about 150 men, or over $10,000 per workman. Fortunately for the country this factory did not reopen, the firm simply doubling the price on their imported glass. This brought forth such a protest that the minister, exercising his autocratic power, revoked the duty and down came the price. So the Bennett government was lauded by its political admirers for having shut down on this bonused firm because it had failed to perform the reopening trick. It must not be forgotten that this same government was willing to take over $1,500,000 from the country each year in order to keep this glass factory running and employing only 150 men.

As I said before, the first thing this government did was to reward its benefactors or those who had put it into power. This was done at the special session by the jacking up of the tariff on about 170 different articles out of a total of 1,188 items in the Canadian tariff schedule. Then followed an effort, through preferential trade agreements with the other members of the empire, to increase imperial trade and unity. This was undertaken at the Imperial conference at London when the Prime Minister presented his offer or "ultimatum." In effect he said: The time has come—and it will not brook delay—to decide between Britain sacrificing herself to the dominions or losing them. Such was the import of the Prime Minister's speech at the conference, supported, as the report shows, only in part by the representatives of the other dominions, and apparently by a sweeping election majority in Canada. But this issue was neither before the people of Canada nor before parliament. It had its origin and development in the Prime Minister's brain, of which it is quite characteristic, although it should have been decided by the people at the polls on election day and afterwards approved by parliament. Doubtless the Prime Minister considered these things as useless formalities when he, the Prime Minister, was Canada.

But as the demand was that Britain should tax her food, thus throttling her commerce and so reversing the policy that had made her famous and prosperous for almost a century, Britain's answer, through Mr. Thomas, to the representatives of the dominions, was that she was still a part of the

British Empire and might also be allowed an equal right to say "Britain first," just as the Prime Minister had claimed that his proposals were inspired by the principles of "Canada first"—or, more accurately expressed, the principle of "some Canadians first." I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that these "some" do not include the farmers for whom he professes that his heart is bleeding. His policy is high protection for the manufacturers, especially for the manufacturers of textiles, but the farmers are hurt instead of helped by the heavy duties on everything they have to buy, nor are they ensured any better price for their wheat in Great Britain by the Prime Minister's scheme, as the suggested preference is an increase of only 10 per cent of the duty. This scheme has few of the advantages of empire free trade.

As soon as Britain gives the dominions a worth-while preference, she imperils her food supply and increases the cost of the raw materials for her industries. But more important is the fact that the Prime Minister's proposed scheme would most likely provoke endless jealousy and friction within the empire as well as increase hostility without the empire. Moreover, it is a one-man scheme, the Prime Minister's, endorsed by neither the people nor the parliament of Canada. Consequently, let all lovers of the empire, by whatever names they are known, oppose this scheme with might and main both in and out of parliament, in season and out of season, and thus maintain unity and concord among all parts of the empire as well as the goodwill of all the nations. May all such selfish schemes as this be aborted or perish at birth. As the Prime Minister himself would say: I will cause the abortion or death of any such scheme or perish in the attempt. Indeed, many times during the recent election campaign he made a number of such declarations or promises, but as yet he has refused or at least has failed to carry them out or even to perish. As, however, he is a man of action as well as of many words, it makes one wonder whether these promises were intended only to bribe or to deceive. Let the Prime Minister answer.

Mr. JULES DESROCHERS (Portneuf) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, all my thoughts apparently have already been expressed by previous speakers in this debate on the address. I therefore have the easy task of repeating what others have said. Whether it be as regards form or substance, all is exhausted and I even think the whole musical gamut has been put to use.

After the splendid speeches of our older parliamentarians, I did not wish to miss the opportunity, perhaps unique, of joining the ranks of the younger members.

I associate myself with those who have praised your remarkable impartiality, sir, and I bear witness to that kind yet firm nature of yours which is in strict keeping with your dignified bearing.

Should I congratulate the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) for having changed his attitude, so energetic and triumphant of the first days—when he was so sure of solving the economic problems which were responsible for his assuming office—into a stoicism which hardly allows him to appear in the house and, to-day, only draws from him the statement that he is convinced of having done his duty as an excellent servant of this country. He was to conquer or perish at the task. I simply congratulate him on having survived.

I congratulate my leader on the great skill with which he handled the hot iron over and within the sores inflicted by the new administration which acknowledged the powerlessness to relieve a single one of the ills that already exist: unemployment and economic depression, the fruits, it was said, of a poor Liberal administration.

Our good friends living in the riding of Portneuf who, at the elections, polled their votes in favour of your political program are always and more than ever proud of being Liberals.

On their behalf and that of the entire riding I offer you the tribute of 49 consecutive years of loyal support to the great party of which you are the so distinguished leader.

Before proceeding further, sir, permit me, as a newcomer to this house, to express my amazement and to strongly protest against the tactics employed by our opponents at the last election, tactics again resorted to in this honoured chamber. Such tactics as shouting and interrupting are so in contrast with your dignified example and British fair play that we trust they will soon be things of the past.

What shall I say now with reference to unemployment, the tariff and the Imperial conference, if not that all these measures enacted to improve our lot were rather detrimental to the country and that we shall soon find the proof of this in the budget speech.

Unemployment—a spectre much exploited in the last election—became a reality by dint of talking about it, and our friends on the government side seem to have lost much of their enthusiasm in this respect. We stated that it was world-wide, they considered it as local. We contended that it was beyond the control of the ordinary economic laws, they

insisted that it was due especially to the deficiency of government methods. The government has since changed and they are now forced to admit that it is world-wide, that all countries suffer somewhat more than we do, and that time only will find a remedy. Did the special session and remedies administered have any other results than to definitely graft it upon us? That is what we have reason to fear. There are unemployed people who are paid at a fixed rate of 30 cents per hour, when in my district the genuine unemployed are willing to accept 20 cents and would have preferred to work for a longer time and complete the work left unfinished. Is this not encouraging idleness? Is it not wasting private and public money to oblige municipalities to undertake work—very strictly specified in the regulations referring to unemployment—such as digging up frozen earth or breaking the ice so as to lay foundations of wharves and bridges which in certain localities are already crumbling, work which cost double because of climatic conditions.

Mr. DORION (Translation): In what localities are bridges falling down?

Mr. DESROCHERS (Translation): There are wharfs in my own riding which are already giving way in many places. It is not necessary to go any further than St. Raymond.

Is it not, to a certain degree, an attempt against our provincial and municipal autonomy to make it imperative to pass unusual by-laws in order to participate in a small federal grant? I agree with a newspaper whose sympathies are with our friends opposite, the Evenement of Quebec, dated February 20, 1931:

> If we can judge, says the Evenement, by the meagre results obtained from the assistance given to the unemployed in Quebec, it would be wise for the Prime Minister to assure us that he will no longer have recourse to this system of aid.
>
> It will have cost more than what it is worth it would therefore be better not to recur to it again.
>
> On that score the opposition could render a public service by obtaining the publication of all the good and bad features in connection with the Unemployment Relief Act, and, by also inviting the Prime Minister to state that the comparative uselessness of this policy is officially acknowledged.

I could not better express myself than this newspaper which is in sympathy with our friends opposite.

Would not the policy advocated by my leader, during the last elections, have been fairer and more expedient? Grant, to a certain extent, the requests for help, provincial or municipal, without burdensome restrictions.

Permit me, sir, to extend all our sympathy to the western farmers and especially to those who specialized in growing wheat. Let me tell them that we suffer with them, for them and like them. Our banks, with the 68 or 70 million dollars which they have hoarded out there have become commonplace saving banks. Our farmers are not granted any credit. Our manufacturers and merchants can no more depend on any margin of credit. They are helpless owing to prevailing conditions.

I do not wish to enter into details and figures as regards the tariff question, because our leader discussed it as a practical business man and not as an idealist or partisan of a sect or class. I will take the liberty of quoting in this respect the words of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, who, although as amicable as he may seem, is not without representing the views of the crown and British government, when he travels abroad as representative of his country. I quote a despatch of the Associated Press at the opening of the Buenos Aires exhibition.

Mr. LAVERGNE (Translation): It is more respectable than the Evenement.

Mr DESROCHERS (Translation): No doubt. Both speak well and do not follow your example.

> The Prince gives as his opinion that mutual trade exchanges have been responsible for the success of that country, and that the word-wide depression is due in a great measure, if not entirely, to a lack of a friendly business intercourse.

In brief, the economic crisis is the fruit of an economic war. Is this not a fatal consequence of high protection, a plank dear to our opponents, a policy which encloses us in a fortress where nothing enters and whence nothing comes out? On the summit of this fortress, the Prime Minister raised his standard with the motto: "Canada First."

Canada First! Sir, for over three centuries this sentiment or cry has been engraved in our hearts from birth, it grows in our soul with the years. But must we as a conqueror cross the seas and fling it with closed fists at our mother country? Canada First! with the plea that we have followers—Australia and New Zealand. "It is up to you to accept or refuse; there is no need of arguing over it," those are the words of Mr. Bennett.

The answer to an extremist in a sad plight; who has no regard for the sad lot of others, was soon forthcoming: "We cannot!"

Often have we seen our representatives go overseas to attend Imperial conferences and always return with substantial concessions, in keeping with the development and progress of our country. Never in our history have we suffered such rebuke!

Never, sir, have Liberal principles and doctrine been to such extremes, and we are ready to fight as long as our voice can be heard in this house, conscious that we are working in the best interest of our country and fellow-citizens.

The Liberal doctrine, thank Heaven, can adapt itself to all circumstances—to depression as well as prosperity—to all provinces, all nationalities and all creeds. It respects itself and respects others. That is our way of shouting: "Canada First"!

Before resuming my seat permit me, Sir, to extend my congratulations to my old friend and University fellow student, the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe), on his complete recovery from his illness, I also wish to express the pleasure we feel in finding him as bright and active as we have ever known him. His eloquence finds admirers on both sides of the House.

I want to sympathize with my friend the hon. member for Berthier (Mr. Barrette). He complained of his colleagues of both sides of the house. He did not receive a fair deal. Monuments were raised to the unknown soldier.

Perhaps the time has come to present a medal to this gentleman who should be better appreciated. He has all my sympathies.

As to my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne), after the debate in which he figured prominently and his great oratorical effort for which I cannot congratulate him, since he attacked our great Liberal leader.

Mr. LAVERGNE (Translation): That was awful!

Mr. DESROCHERS (Translation): It was dreadful. His speech reminded me of a passage in my old classic books. A Greek author has said somewhere: "One day, the handsome Alcibiades, in quest of fame, had the tail of his dog cut. It was a great event in Athens". The embargo against Russia gave my hon. friend the opportunity of covering himself with fame and to again embrace the Conservative party. He was once more found among the extremists, where we have always thought he belonged. I think that by the brilliancy of his intellect and the subtlety of his wit my hon. member was really born a poet—"nascuntur poetae—and that he should never have become an orator.

Mr. J. A. VERVILLE (Lotbinière). (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry I was not here for the hon. Solicitor General's (Mr. Dupré) speech yesterday afternoon. He honours me with his personal friendship—

Mr. DORION. Hear, hear.

Mr. VERVILLE: I read the report of his speech in the papers this morning. I was very much impressed with the fact that he had spoken, that he had given expression to ideas and thoughts,—by the way, they are not mine. At least one minister of the crown has had the courage to speak out on the floor of the house! Which adds one more quality to those my hon. friend already had. A minister who dares to speak up when he is under the thumb of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett)!

Mr. Speaker, Lotbinière county, which I have the honour to represent here, is a rural county where conditions are perhaps no worse than elsewhere throughout the country but where, nevertheless, a pronounced spirit of unrest has already gained a foothold. The people of the country are hard-working folks, labour is plentiful and the relations between the classes are of the very best. Naturally our people feel the effects of the present crisis; for the most part they are working twice as hard and making more sacrifices than ever in the hope that, thanks to their labour and their thrift, they will succeed in weathering the storm.

The election of last July brought to these folks, as it did to all the taxpayers of this country, a multitude of promises, each more appealing, more alluring than the other. If the majority of the voters in my riding did not yield to these promises I beg of you to believe that it was because their political virtue was strong enough to resist the temptations dangled before them by our conservative opponents. Allow me to add, Mr. Speaker, that since July 28th last our people have seen their condition go from bad to worse because our friends to your right, once they had won power, caused very deep, almost heartbreaking, disappointment. You remember, Mr. Speaker, that Voltaire was a reformer full of overweening pride. And you remember that he used to advise his followers thus: "Keep on lying, tell lie after lie: some of them are bound to stick." Far be it from me to draw any comparison between the right hon. Prime Minister of the day and Voltaire; but I must confess that, during the last campaign, I was not far from thinking that Mr. Bennett had given Voltaire's slogan to his followers. You know that the public, if they

hear the same thing often enough, and in the selfsame way, finally begin to believe that after all it might be true, despite all appearances to the contrary.

During the last campaign we witnessed a bewildering succession of promises. Our opponents never stopped saying: "This is not a world crisis; Canada alone is affected, owing to the maladministration of the King government. Drive them out of office, put me in their place and rest assured that the day after election you will find yourselves better off." And they added: "Farmers, your plight is scandalous, you are taxed on all sides—

Mr. DORION: Just like Mr. Taschereau.

Mr. VERVILLE: —you cannot sell your produce any more, except at famine prices. The policies of the Liberal government have made your lot an unhappy and difficult one. The friends of this government will tell you that at the last session the Hon. Mr. Dunning brought down a very good budget, well adapted to our present needs; but do not be misled now any more than you were taken in by the fake measures passed by this government during the last nine years."

The Dunning budget, Mr. Speaker, afforded the country reasonable protection, having regard to the needs of Canadian industry, without neglecting the interests of the other classes of our population: with its countervailing duties it kept the American market for us and it retained the European market for our natural products. On the other hand what has the present gouvernment done? What did Mr. Bennett do in London when he suggested to the British people that they tax their own food so as to buy our wheat? On the one hand you have the Dunning tariff: protection for Canada and for all Canada's citizens; on the other, Mr. Bennett, whose sole object is to protect a privileged group at the expense of the Candian people.

And our friends would go on: "It is true that the liberal administration has shown a surplus nearly every year; it is true also that they have paid off a goodly part of our national debt; it is true that they have considerably lightened the burden of taxation; but after all what good is all that to you if you cannot get a better price for your butter?"

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): The potatoes are rather small.

Mr. VERVILLE: I even heard one speaker say before an audience of several hundred people: "If it really is true that the government has these surpluses why don't they distribute them among the people instead of paying off the country's debts?" What a pitiable thing to hear from the lips of a man whose mission was most assuredly to pacify the people rather than incite in them feelings that are unworthy and that bear the closest resemblance to the Russian revolutionary attitude which we are striving to overcome. It would take much too long to even begin a recital of the things our opponents did and said in appealing to the worst instincts and prejudices of the people.

Unfortunately some of the public were taken in by these untruthful statements; but, like those who were wise enough to avoid the trap, they are still awaiting the fulfilment, I do not say of all, but at least of some, of the promises made them. But like Sister Anne,—to borrow the expression used the other day by my good friend from St. Hyacinthe-Rouville (Mr. Fontaine)—they strain their eyes in vain; they see nothing on the horizon.

That is why I said a moment ago that the plight of our farmers is getting worse instead of better; on top of all they have been sorely disappointed, particularly those who put some faith in the promises made by our opponents. You can imagine the look on the faces of those farmers who had come to believe, because it had been told them times without number, that after July 28th, if there were a change of government, butter would be selling at 40, 50, even at 75 cents a pound—

Mr. LAVERGNE: The "assiette au beurre" is changed.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): That is why there is nothing in it.

Mr. VERVILLE: —that eggs would bring 50, 60 and 75 cents in the month of February—

Mr. LAVERGNE: You control the hens.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): If we happen to need roosters we won't look for them over there.

Mr. VERVILLE: —and so on without end for all other manner of produce. Mr. Speaker, I ask you, and I ask my friends to your right—

Mr. DORION: Ask, and you shall receive.

Mr. VERVILLE: Very well, I am going to ask you a few questions. Is it the fault of King and of his government—

Mr. DORION: Yes.

Mr. VERVILLE: Wait. Don't answer the question before I have asked it. Is it King's

fault, is it his government's fault, if butter is being retailed to-day at 32 cents a pound in our country districts—

Mr. DORION: Yes.

Mr. VERVILLE: Yes? Wait.

—while at the same date last year butter was selling in the same places for 35 and 36 cents a pound? There has been a drop of 5 cents in the price.

Are King and his government to blame—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. VERVILLE: Wait. —if eggs are selling to-day for 15 cents, while last year at the same date they sold for 45 and even 50 cents throughout the countryside?

Mr. DORION: The Chinese eggs had not come in yet.

Mr. VERVILLE: We are not dealing with them: we are speaking of Canadian eggs, laid by Canadian hens. I am not speaking about Chinese eggs, it is you who go outside of Canada for your arguments. We stay at home.

Are King and his government to blame—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. VERVILLE: Will you wait? You always answer before I ask my question. That is because you always have the same answer ready. Interrupt me as much as you please. Four years from now you will no longer be there to interrupt.

Are King and his government to blame—

Several hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. VERVILLE: Your answer is so intelligent that it pleases me. Keep on repeating it throughout the session.

—if our farmers are obliged after eight months of an administration that was going to make them all rich—that is what you promised—to sell their produce for the lowest prices obtained since before 1914?

Mr. Speaker, in so far as the farmers are concerned, they cannot be satisfied with the present administration because this government promised to relieve them of all their ills and instead of that they have added the further pain of profound disappointment.

Mr. LAVERGNE: They are not angry; they went to war.

Mr. VERVILLE: What is that? Will you repeat your question?

Mr. LAVERGNE: The farmers are not angry; they fought in the war.

Mr. VERVILLE: Yes they are angry; all the farmers are angry against you who promised all sorts of things you were not able to give them.

Mr. DORION: It must be the farmers of Lotbinière who are angry at having re-elected the hon. member.

Mr. VERVILLE: No; the farmers of Lotbinière are much too decent for that. They are not so angry as the farmers of Montmorency who will put you where you belong the next time.

Other speakers have told us what took place during the last campaign. I wanted to emphasize what happened in my county in order to show that our opponents' tactics were the same all through the country, particularly in Quebec province. You made capital out of the unemployment issue in the cities and out of the butter issue in the country districts.

As far as my own electors are concerned I must say truthfully that unemployment was a side-issue with us. The main issue had to do with butter. Lord, Mr. Speaker, what quantities of butter we had to make during the few weeks that preceded the election! The quantity of butter we made was extraordinary!

Mr. LAVERGNE: The taste of the tub isn't noticeable.

Mr. VERVILLE: There were plenty of them.

Mr. DORION: And you are still well-buttered.

Mr. VERVILLE: You are covered with butter yourselves.

Long beforehand public opinion had been prepared, not to say poisoned for months and months, with all sorts of circulars, well got-up—I grant you that—well got-up, but deceitful; and well distributed. That is where I admire your organization.

An hon. MEMBER: The man was Moraud, from Lotbinière.

Mr. VERVILLE: A good fellow; he has had his reward.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): What did he get?

Mr. VERVILLE: Hasn't he been appointed to the railway board? You were against that.

We have the right to ask ourselves, Mr. Speaker, if a government that got itself elected to office by speculating on the sufferings of the people and on the hard times which the country was experiencing in common with the rest of the world, we have the right to ask ourselves if such a government is deserving of our confidence. Does such a government deserve the people's confidence which it won through lying and deceit, and after making promises which it cannot keep.

I ask the question and for my own part I reply that we have not the right to put any faith in the present government. I do not wish to be unjust towards the present prime minister, nor towards our opponents, several of whom are my very good friends; I am willing to give them whatever credit they deserve; I will go further: I will even allow them all the credit they give themselves. First of all I agree with the government that the unemployment question is settled.

An hon. MEMBER: Ah! Ah!

Mr. VERVILLE: You are laughing? But I tell you the unemployment question is settled.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): In what way?

Mr. VERVILLE: Last September the representatives of the people were called here to parliament and the prime minister declared: "Vote $20,000,000 and I'll solve this unemployment problem. I made the promise during the election campaign; and I intend to settle this question. Just vote the $20,000,000." We agreed to vote the twenty millions; we voted them. And there you are, the problem is solved!

Does Mr. Bennett give a thought to the people, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Bennett is busy acting the tyrant; like Mussolini in Italy he busies himself with reigning over all his subjects; his ministers are his vassals. The unemployment problem is solved! It is so far settled that we had a special session for that very purpose. That is what you call final! And if the government is willing to consider the unemployment question as settled, I agree.

We had proof the other day in this house that the unemployment problem is solved when an hon. member moved the adjournment of the house on a matter of urgent public importance so that we might settle the unemployment question all over again. That was the second time, but it was more urgent this time because we have reached the spring of the year. Last winter these people counted on unemployment relief, but now all that money is spent. Yes, certainly, I am willing to admit that the unemployment question is settled.

The government promised a special session. We held it. The government kept its promise: the special session took place. The government had $20,000,000 voted, and that settled the problem. What a farce, Mr. Speaker, what a farce, what a sinister farce!

To take $20,000,000 from the public treasury, to put our provincial legislatures and our municipalities under the obligation of spending three and four times that sum, for works that in many cases might very well have been postponed; to increase the country's indebtedness, to exhaust the credit facilities of our Canadian municipalities—after that, can anyone say that the unemployment problem is solved? No, Mr. Speaker. Jokes may be all right in their way; personally I have no objection to them. But I say that when the country's money is being spent its a poor sort of joke.

This question is not settled; I am even beginning to wonder, after what we heard in this house a short while ago, whether we will not be called upon again this year to vote more millions in an effort to solve the problem. If the government intends to settle all our problems by voting millions of dollars I would like to know if they are going to vote several millions for agriculture. In the speech from the throne I find only three words concerning this industry. Three words; that is good enough for the farmers. The farmers have as much right to the government's attention as has any other class of our community. All we find in the speech from the throne is "Aid to agriculture." I represent an agricultural county; that is why I ask the government just what assistance they intend giving this industry and if they will spend millions for the purpose. I ask the member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) to tell me if there are several millions for agriculture. Without doing any injustice to the rights and needs of the workers in our cities and in our country districts—for the country has its workers too—it seems to me that a government with any real sense of its duties and responsibilities, is bound to take an active, a serious interest in the farming class who form a very large part of our country's population, who are absolutely necessary to us, being the backbone of the country's wealth.

During the last campaign our opponents—most of them are our friends—made believe they knew nothing about what the King government had done for agriculture; they promised to do much better. The speech from the throne is not very reassuring on that score; there is very little substance to what it has to say about the agricultural industry.

I would not want to pass judgment on the ministry before knowing just what it intends to do. I shall merely make certain suggestions which arise out of the present situation in Quebec, and among my electors in particular. The government has at its disposal unlimited resources for assisting our farmers. They were not lacking during the campaign; they cannot be exhausted now. I ask the members of the government to make use of

some of these resources right now. I expect them to give us that promise, and to keep it. Let us hope that they will better the condition of this very numerous and very interesting part of our population. Give the farmers your attention, gentlemen; they are an interesting class. They may be helpful in keeping you in power.

During the last campaign our opponents tried to mix federal and provincial politics; and since Quebec has had a Liberal administration for the past thirty-three years, according to some papers—

Mr. DORION: This is the last year, though.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Do not be too sure about that.

Mr. VERVILLE: They are coming to life. Since, at the same time, a Liberal government was in office at Ottawa—unfortunately that has been changed; the people have been punished—they claimed that if the people were suffering it was because these two governments were overburdening the country with taxation. For a number of years the provincial government of Quebec province has made every possible effort to lighten taxes. Everybody is well aware of that, even the Conservative members in this house. Whether you admit it or not, the people know it for a fact; that is sufficient. Quite recently the Quebec government, with its customary generosity, gave the taxpayers of the province, the rural population especially, the benefit of $16,000,000 in taxes that had been levied to meet the indebtedness of the government and of the municipalities in the matter of road construction. I see the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) in his seat. That is one of the things you asked for. I hope you are pleased; the government has done what you asked. During the past nine years the federal government considerably reduced the taxpayers' burden. Even our opponents admitted that during the last campaign. I ask the present government to follow the same policy; and on this point may I be permitted to draw their attention—I mean the attention of the government, not of the ministers who come and go—may I draw the government's attention to the fact that if they wish to relieve our agricultural classes they can do so by reducing or abolishing certain taxes, particularly the contributions levied on municipalities for the organization of sanitary units. This system of sanitary units has been very successful in the province of Quebec for a number of years; so successful, in fact, that the provincial authorities of Ontario, and even the American authorities, have become interested—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman has exhausted his forty minutes.

Mr. L. E. PARENT (Terrebonne): In rising for the first time to address the house it affords me great pleasure to congratulate Your Honour on the ability, judgment and impartiality with which you discharge the important functions of your high office. It also affords me great pleasure as a Canadian of French descent to congratulate Your Honour on the progress which you have made in the French language since you have occupied the chair. May I be permitted to express the hope that this good example will be followed by your co-nationals on both sides of the house, for it would be a step to strengthen the spirit of cooperation and bonne entente between the two great races that compose the major part of our population. I desire to extend my congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne for the ability with which they have discharged their task, for it is recognized that it was a pretty hard task. Of course, I do not agree with all that they said.

In deference to my province and my constituency, and also in memory of my ancestor, who, for over half a century took a prominent part in all debates for the defence of French-Canadian rights, I will now continue my speech in my mother tongue.

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, the county of Terrebonne which I have the honour to represent, has its own political history, thanks to its spokesmen of the past, some of whom have left their names on the annals of our nation. Without taking up too much of the time of the house I would like to mention a few:

In 1930, long before the Union, the county of Terrebonne elected one of our great Canadians, Sir Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine, a stalwart champion of the rights of his race. Louis-Michel Viger and Norbert Morin were also in the forefront of the struggle for the rights of our fellow French-Canadians. Gédéon Melassippe Prévost, one of the pioneers of northern Quebec. Sir Adolphe Chapleau, who gave twenty-five years of his life to the service

of his country. Sir Louis-François Rodrigue Masson, who was appointed lieutenant-governor. But a man who played an important part in the public life of our country, a man whose name I am particularly happy to mention, is the Hon. Raymond Préfontaine, former minister of Marine in the Laurier cabinet: in 1900, rallying round him the Liberal youth of the time, he laid siege to the Conservative fortress that the county of Terrebonne had always been up till then; he forced it to capitulate, and since that day the Liberal banner floats over the Laurentide hills, in Terrebonne county.

All these men did a great deal for their province and for their country; it is fitting that their names should be recalled to the memory of the members of this house and of the Canadian people.

I find my inspiration, Mr. Speaker, in the Latin words: "Ex Alto Lumen." The public conduct of certain of these great departed is to me a source of patriotism which will light my way in the accomplishment of my duties as a public man, as a member of this house.

Experience has taught me, Mr. Speaker, that to be successful in business one must enjoy the trust and confidence of one's fellow-citizens. And this trust is won through honesty, fair-dealing, respect for one's given word and for one's fellow-man. What applies to the individual applies also to the group; what is true of the business-man is equally true of a political party and of all governments.

What confidence, or what measure of confidence can the Canadian people have in the present government after having elected it to office on July 28th? If the people grasp the contradiction between what was said, before and after the election, by the members of this government and notably by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett; if they analyse their pledges, fulfilled or disregarded; if they analyse what has been accomplished since, what a disappointing performance the Canadian people have witnessed since the 28th of July. The people certainly did not expect to see a ministry formed of such a large number of speechless men who refuse to discuss, each in turn, as parliamentary custom demands, the pregnant issues that confront the government. The people surely did not expect a one-man government; which offers us the spectacle of such a large number of Conservative representatives and ministers being treated as the "enfants terribles" of the big family to your right, Mr. Speaker; they must not open their mouths doubtless so as to avoid any risk of compromising or entangling their leader.

At yesterday's sitting the hon. member for Lake St. John (Mr. Duguay) confirmed what I have just said when he stated that since the opening of the session he has been awaiting the Minister of Agriculture's statement of policy so as to pass along the information to the voters of his riding. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are waiting and we are anxious to know how long we must wait for the government to tell us, in the interests of the country, how it proposes to solve the important problems before the house. Such is the spectacle the Conservative government has offered the Canadian people since its accession; it was the same during the special session of September; it is the same during the present session.

I mentioned contradictions, Mr. Speaker. I turn now to the speech from the throne, from which I quote the opening lines. His Excellency said:

> I welcome you to your duties at a time when the nations of the world are passing through a period of great economic depression. Canada has not escaped it.

These words spoken to the Canadian people, put into the mouth of His Excellency, give the lie direct to the campaign of falsehood indulged in by the Conservative candidates during the last election when, prompted by their leader, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), they told the voters from one end of Canada to the other that the Liberal administration was to blame for the crisis which had come upon the country.

I continue my quotation, Mr. Speaker:

> In prosperity they were united. In adversity that union is made still stronger by the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which is the surest bulwark of the nation's welfare and happiness.

I repeat: "In prosperity the Canadian people were united." Indeed, Mr. Speaker, nothing could be truer than these words addressed to the people of Canada by His Excellency. This union had its roots, in and owed its vigorous growth to the wise, considerate and enlightened policy of the Liberal administration.

But since the accession of the new Conservative regime there are mutterings of discontent; in certain parts of our country this spirit of unity appears to be seriously threatened.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Wednesday, April 15, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

IMMIGRATION ACT RETURNS

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Mr. Speaker, I desire to lay on the table a list of people admitted to Canada pursuant to P.C. 183 and 534, passed under the authority of the Immigration Act; also a list of people admitted to Canada pursuant to the resolution of the select standing committee of this house dated June 6, 1928.

INTERIM SUPPLY BILL

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That the Speaker do now leave the chair that the house may resolve itself into committee of supply.

By consent, of course.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Would not the appropriate time be after the orders of the day are reached?

Mr. BENNETT: This is not down as a special order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I rise, not to delay the proceedings, but rather to have it distinctly understood that in consenting to the grant of any interim supply, it is without prejudice to the rights of members to discuss fully any and every item of the main estimates now presented when they again come before the house; also that the passing of any item does not in any way commit us to the principle underlying any item. I should like to ask my right hon. friend that it might be also distinctly understood with respect to the portion of moneys now to be voted, that except such portion as may be necessary for salaries and other immediate purposes, those moneys do not become available for the purpose contemplated by the estimates until the full amount is appropriated by parliament in the regular manner.

Mr. BENNETT: I had intended when making the motion to indicate just what the right hon. leader of the opposition has said, but I thought it would come more appropriately from him than from me. It is the usual reservation made by the leader of the opposition when interim supply is being secured as is now proposed. I fully agree with the condition he has imposed upon consent being given to enable the civil service and other services of the country to be provided for. With respect to the last observation of the right hon. gentleman, I can assure him that we will follow the usual practice. I understand there are some difficulties in knowing just where the line is to be drawn in connection with many matters which will suggest themselves to him. I will make inquiries and whatever has been the practice will be observed, and I will report to the house later.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—RIVIERE DU LOUP STATION

Mr. JEAN-FRANCOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, before you leave the chair I desire to bring to the attention of the house a recent decision by the Board of Railway Commissioners with respect to the proposed location of the Canadian National Railways new station at Riviere du Loup. The order of the board, No. 46476, reads as follows:

Order No. 46476.

Friday, the 27th day of March, A.D. 1931.

The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada

S. J. McLean,
Asst. Chief Commissioner.
Hon. T. C. Norris,
Commissioner.
J. A. Stoneman,
Commissioner.

In the matter of the order of the board No. 45205, dated August 9th, 1930, approving proposed location and details of the Canadian National Railways' new station at Riviere du Loup, in the province of Quebec, as shown on plans numbered P-1-12-179-2, 17105-1, 17105-2, and 17105-3;

And in the matter of the application of the said railway company for approval of plan No. 17321-1, dated Moncton, March, 1931, showing proposed renovation of existing station at Riviere du Loup, on file with the board under file No. 36455:

Upon reading the submissions filed on behalf of the railway company, the board of trade of Riviere du Loup, the provincial hygiene service, and the city of Riviere du Loup; and upon the report and recommendation of the chief operating officer of the board—

It is ordered that the said plan showing proposed renovation of the Canadian National Railways' station at Riviere du Loup, in the province of Quebec, on file with the board under file No. 36455, be, and it is hereby, approved; and that order No. 45205, dated August 9th, 1930, be, and it is hereby, rescinded.

S. J. McLean,
Assistant Chief Commissioner,
Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada.

Now, order No. 45205. This is as follows:

Order No. 45205.

Saturday, the 9th day of August, A.D. 1930.

The Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada

Hon. H. A. McKeown, K.C.,
Chief Commissioner.

C. Lawrence,
Commissioner.

In the matter of the application of the Canadian National Railways, hereinafter called the "applicants," under section 188 of the Railway Act, for approval of proposed new station at Riviere du Loup, Quebec, as shown on plan numbered P-1-12-179-2, 17105-1, 17105-2, and 17105-3, dated respectively January 31st, 1930, July 15th, 1930, and June 12th, 1930, on file with the board under file No. 36455:

Upon the report and recommendation of the chief operating officer of the board, the city of Riviere du Loup offering no objection, although duly notified—

The board orders that the proposed location and details of the applicants' new station at Riviere du Loup, Quebec, as shown on the said plans on file with the board under file No. 36455, be, and they are hereby, approved.

H. A. McKeown,
Chief Commissioner,
Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada.

Order No. 46476 mentions submission filed by the city and the board of trade of Riviere du Loup. I propose to read the resolution which was passed by the board of trade.

At a meeting of the executive of the Rivière-du-Loup Chamber of Commerce, held on Wednesday, 19th April 1929, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

Whereas, on several occasions, representations have been made to the Chamber of Commerce concerning the unsanitary conditions in the railway station at Rivière-du-Loup and the exiguousness of same;

Whereas the present building no longer meets with the requirements of the travelling public and of the ever increasing tourist traffic.

Whereas the Chamber of Commerce has investigated the means of developing local tourist traffic by rail;

Whereas Rivière-du-Loup, including the surrounding district, is a large trade and summering centre;

Whereas the only remedy to the present situation lies in the erection of a new station;

Whereas the present building has been found unsanitary by the province of Quebec Board of Health, which body reported accordingly to the Board of Railway Commissioners, in Ottawa;

Resolved unanimously by the executive of this chamber that application be made to the management of the Canadian National Railways for the erection of a new station at Rivière-du-Loup and to replace the present station by an up-to-date building that would meet more efficiently with the traffic requirements;

and that copy of this resolution be sent to Sir Henry Thornton, K.B.E., president of the Canadian National Railways; to Mr. W. U. Appleton, general manager of the Atlantic division of the Canadian National Railways; to the secretary of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada; to Mr. Jean-François Pouliot, member for Témiscouata and to the city council of Rivière-du-Loup.

(Signed) L. P. Lizotte,
President.

(Signed) Louis S. Pommet,
Secretary.

There are also the resolutions passed by the city of Rivière-du-Loup to the same effect. One of these was passed on the 19th April, 1929, that is the same day as the resolutions passed by the Chamber of commerce, It reads:

At a meeting of the municipal council of Rivière-du-Loup, held in the city hall, Monday, 22nd April, 1929.

Were present:

His Worship mayor Chs. E. Dubé.
Aldermen, J. G. Parent, deputy mayor.
Ad. Marquis.
J. H. Mailloux.
V. Dionne.
L. P. Lizotte,

the above forming the quorum of the said council, with His Worship the mayor in the chair.

Whereas this council has received from the executive of the Rivière-du-Loup Chamber of Commerce a resolution, dated the 19th April, 1929, in connection with the Canadian National Railways station at Rivière-du-Loup;

Whereas the Rivière-du-Loup station has become too small for the requirements of the travelling public, the sanitary conditions of the building are poor and the taxpayers have cause to complain of the present state of affairs;

It is unanimously resolved by this council that it concurs in the application made by the Chamber of Commerce of Rivière-du-Loup for a reconstruction of the present station and the replacement thereof by an up-to-date building more suitable to the requirements of our city;

and that copy of this resolution be transmitted to Sir Henry Thornton, K.B.E., president of the Canadian National Railways, to Mr. W. U. Appleton, general manager of the Atlantic division of the Canadian National Railways, to the secretary of the Board of Railway Commissioners and to Mr. Jean-François Pouliot, K.C., member for Témiscouata.

(Signed) J. Lebel,
Secretary-Treasurer.

(Signed) Chs. E. Dubé,
Mayor.

I also have in hand another resolution to the same effect from the city of Rivière du Loup. Those are public papers which I am pleased to lay before this house. The latter resolution was passed on the 3rd November last.

Whereas on the 22nd April last the municipal council of Rivière-du-Loup passed the following resolution:

Whereas this council has received from the executive of the Rivière-du-Loup Chamber of

Commerce a resolution, dated the 19th April, 1929, in connection with the Canadian National Railways station at Rivière-du-Loup;

Whereas the Rivière du Loup station has become too small for the requirements of the travelling public, the sanitary conditions of the building are poor and the tax-payers have cause to complain of the present state of affairs;

It is unanimously resolved by this council that it concurs in the application made by the Chamber of Commerce of Rivière-du-Loup for the reconstruction of the present station and the replacement thereof by an up-to-date building more suitable to the requirements of our city;

Whereas, on the 21st December, 1928, the chief officer of the Provoincial Board of Health submitted to the Board of Railway Commissioners a report following an investigation of the sanitary conditions at the present station, which report concluded as follows: Without fear of being charged with going too far, we must say that the only proper thing to do would be the erection of a new building if the management of the Canadian National Railways really cares to improve this station in a manner satisfactory to the travelling public.

Whereas the letter from the chief officer of the Provincial Board of Health accompanying the report sent to the Board of Railway Commissioners, included the following paragraph: "The contents of this report shall inform you of the pitiable conditions in which the Rivière-du-Loup station is kept from a sanitary standpoint. This railway centre is the most important between Levis and Moncton and I am at a loss to see why that public place is neglected to that extent."

Whereas, upon representations having been made both by the Provincial Board of Health and the Board of Railway Commissioners, the Canadian National Railways have included in their estimates for the current year the amount required for the building at Rivière-du-Loup, of a new station such as would afford the travelling public the proper guarantees as to healthy conditions and comfort.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Louder.

Mr. POULIOT: I hear the hon. member for North Huron (Mr. Spotton) whispering.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must say to the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) that if he expects to get into Hansard the material which he is now reading he must read it audibly, because the rule that documents cannot be placed in Hansard en bloc cannot be evaded by reading them in an inaudible tone. It is a physical impossibility for the Hansard reporter to take down what the hon. member is now reading to the house. I say this for the benefit of the hon. member himself; if he wants this material to appear in Hansard he must read it audibly.

Mr. POULIOT: I have a point to make, Mr. Speaker, but before making it I must lay the foundation. That is my reason for reading these papers which I wish to appear in Hansard, because I do not believe it would be possible for me to hand them in by unanimous consent.

Mr. SPEAKER: It cannot go in Hansard unless the Hansard reporter can hear it.

Mr. POULIOT: What I wanted to say to my hon. friend from North Huron when he whispered was that this is the first time in my life I have seen a mountain in labour pains giving birth to a mouse.

Mr. SPOTTON: Bring on the mouse.

Mr. POULIOT: It is louder now; it is no longer a mouse but a big rat.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Louder.

Mr. POULIOT: The hon. gentlemen do not know how stubborn I am. The more they shout the longer I will stick to it.

Whereas the parliament has voted the estimates of the current year for the Canadian National Railways;

Whereas the Canadian National Railways have called for tenders in connection with the erection of a new station at Rivière-du-Loup;

Whereas the honourable Minister of Railways has withheld his approval of the said construction because of its cost;

Whereas, on the other hand, the Canadian National Railways have been empowered to undertake this year works that call for the expenditure of several millions of dollars and that are not more urgent or essential than the erection of a new station at Rivière-du-Loup;

Whereas at the present time unemployment prevails throughout the country the building of a new station at Rivière-du-Loup would help to remedy the conditions in this district;

There is, Mr. Chairman, another reason to the effect that the government should have taken from the unemployment fund a certain sum to cover the difference between the amount voted and the lowest tender.

It is moved by Mr. Lizette, and seconded by Mr. Marquis, and resolved that this council request the provincial Board of Health to make new representations to the Board of Railway Commissioners and to the honourable Minister of Railways asking the latter to reconsider his decision and approve the erection of a new station at Rivière-du-Loup so that work may be proceeded with without further delay, and that copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Alphonse Lessard, chief officer of the provincial Board of Health, to the secretary of the Board of Railway Commissioners and to the honourable the Minister of Railways.

I have produced official documents, resolutions passed by the board of trade and city council of Riviere du Loup on behalf of the people of that community recommending the construction of a new railway station at that point. The last order of the railway board mentions that submissions had been filed on behalf of the board of trade and the city council of Riviere du Loup, and these were

the submissions. The same order mentions submissions filed by the provincial hygiene service. The other day I read a letter from Doctor A. Lessard, superintendent of the board of health of Quebec, and also a report sent to the railway commission under date of December 15, 1928, signed by Doctor Alphonse Barabe, medical officer of health of the city of Riviere du Loup. This report is quite lengthy. There is also a letter from Doctor Lessard to Mr. Vien under date of December 21, 1928, which I will not read to-day because it was placed on Hansard previously. There is also an answer filed by the railway under date of February 11, 1929, and a second report by Doctor Barabe under date of March 13, 1929. If the house will give unanimous consent I will put those documents on Hansard, but since that consent does not appear to be forthcoming I will read them. The first is a letter dated December 15, 1928.

15th December, 1928.

Dr. Alphonse Lessard,
Chief Officer of Provincial Board of Health,
Government Buildings,
Quebec.

Dear Sir,—I beg to submit to you my report on the sanitary inspection of the Canadian National Railways station at Rivière-du-Loup. That inspection was made by me on the third instant, with the assistance of Dr. Chas. H. Dumais, divisional inspector in the district, and of Dr. E. C. Labelle, M.V., sanitary inspector of this unit.

I am, dear Sir,
Sincerely yours,
Alf. Barabé, M.D.

The station building points to the north and south in its larger dimension. The railway track runs parallel to the eastern side. The total length is of 128 feet and the mean width of 27.5 feet. The ground floor is entirely surrounded by an 8 feet wide veranda. The building is of red painted brick.

Starting at the northern end, we find the ladies' waiting room, marked room A on the sketch. This room measures 23 feet 6 inches by 23 feet 10 inches and by 11 feet 10 inches in height. The lighting is provided by seven large windows and a small one over the door leading to the station platform. Altogether there are sixteen glasses of 18·5 inches by 36 inches, two of 24.5 inches by 17.5 inches and six of 30 inches by 36 inches. The floor area of the room is 560.8 square feet, and its cubic contents of 6,627 cubic feet. The lighting surface is of 124.96 feet, with a ratio of 0.22.

The heating system is composed of three radiators of eight sections each. In the centre of the room, and around a central pillar stands a circular table the lower part of which is open. The floor is dirty and it could not be otherwise, every piece of flooring being out of joint and giving way under one's feet. The angles formed at the foot of the wall are rounded with accumulated dirt and the space behind the radiators filled with rubbish of all description. The walls, made of painted boards, are also out of joint.

[Mr. Pouliot.]

W.C.: next to room A is the ladies' toilet room. The following are the measurements of that room: 13·3 feet by 6 feet and the height . . . .

An hon. MEMBER: Translate.

Mr. POULIOT: The hon. member wishes me to translate it because he does not understand French. If he were clever enough to follow what I am reading he would find it interesting. Anyway, I am speaking of the place where he should be at present—and he would fill it too.

The area is 80 square feet, the cubic contents, 946·67 cubic feet, its lighting area 7·5 square feet, and the ratio 0·09. There are 3 water-closets which are separated by partitions reaching half way up, they are all of the same dimension, 3 feet by 3½ feet. The height of the partitions is 7 feet. There are three round wash basins sunk in a marble slab with each a cold water tap. The toilet basins are of the Richelieu type, "wash out." The radiator is in three sections. There is a small ventilator of 6 inches in diameter, not in good working order. The flooring is in a bad condition, the angles of the walls are filled with dirt, there is a rat hole above the wash basins. There are no towels, no soap, no hot water, only individual cups without receptacle to receive those which have already been used, the latter are to be found all over the room. One lamp suspended above the central water-closet provides light at night. The window is above the door communicating with room A, and measures 35 inches by 25 feet 5 inches.

Room B: This room, although without partition, includes the public waiting room and smoking room. The partition however between the ladies waiting room and room B consists of a large door continuously opened. Owing to its irregular shape and to facilitate the calculation of its dimensions, we have divided room B in five rectangulars. We shall in succession give the dimensions of each rectangular. R-1, 16 feet in length, 10 feet 9 inches in width, 11 feet 10 inches height. R-2, 24 feet 9 inches in length, 18 feet in width, 11 feet 10 inches in height. R-3, 11 feet 10 inches in length, 13 feet in width, 11 feet 10 inches in height. R-4, 24 feet 10 inches in length, 20 feet 8 inches in width and 11 feet 10 inches in height. R-5, 10 feet 8 inches in length, 5 feet 2 inches in width and 11 feet 10 inches in height. The total area of room B is 1,549 square feet and the total cubic contents is 18,325·85 cubic feet. Fifteen windows provide the light in this room, they contain in all 30 panes of glass of 30 inches by 25 inches, six of 14 inches by 13 inches and two of 20 inches by 30 inches. this includes the windows above the doors. The total lighting area is 247·47 square feet giving a ratio of 0·5. Here the flooring is worse and dirtier than in the previous room described. The flooring at the doors is so out of joint that the tongues and grooves do not join, also very worn out and gives way as one walks over it. The angles of the walls are filled with dirt and the space behind the radiators overflows with rubbish of all kind. The main door leading to the street is located opposite to the ticket office wicket. The protecting railings are 8 feet 8 inches distant from the door. In the northern portion of room B there are three night lights. The southern portion, known as

the smoking room is particularly dirty, the condition of the floor here is still worse than the other rooms, it is uneven and black with dirt. The boards close to the walls are very out of joint leaving, in many places, an open space between the tongues and grooves. There are benches along the walls capable of seating 49 people, that is for the whole room B. There are two night lights and 4 small spittoons in the smoking room. In the southern extremity of room B is located an opening for a ventilator measuring 14 inches in diameter and entirely closed by a tin cover. There is consequently no ventilation in the room. In the month of December, 1927, 3,753 tickets were sold in that room. There is on an average, $11,000 worth of tickets sold per month.

Water-closet 2: This is the public toilet room. This room measures 13 feet 3 inches in length by 9 feet 3 inches in width and 11 feet 10 inches in height. A window pane 30 inches by 26 inches provides the light. The area is 123·33 square feet, the cubic contents 1,453·07 cubic feet. The lighting area is 12·08 inches and the ratio 0·09. There are three water-closets each measuring 3 feet by 3 feet 10 inches in length, separated by partitions 7 feet in height. On the left of the entrance is located a large urinal, the water reservoir of which has been out of order for a long time. Opposite the urinal are the wash-basins. The marble slab in which they are placed had been cut out for two; one having disappeared the hole was covered with a piece of board, the other has only a cold water tap. The toilet basins are of the Richelieu type "Wash Out"...

An hon. MEMBER (Translation): Like the government.

Mr. POULIOT (Translation):

The seats of the three toilets are soiled. Apart from the sanitary cups, there is no soap, no towels and no receptacle for the used cups. The angles of the walls are rounded with dirt. The ventilation system consists of a ventilator of 6 inches in diameter located in the centre of the ceiling, and of an air-hole level with the ground and floor, measuring 12 inches by 6 inches. This toilet room reeks with the smell of ammonia and filth. A lamp suspended to the ceiling provides light at night. One of the toilet basins is broken at the top. Both walls and flooring are very out of joint.

W.-C. 3: This is the smoking room toilet. This room measures 13 feet 2 inches in length by 9 feet in width. The total height being decreased by the casing of the stairs, what remains has an average height of about 9 feet. Two panes of glass 17 inches by 36 inches provide light. The room area is 118·5 square feet and the cubic contents 1,066·5 cubic feet. The lighting area 8·5 square feet, the ratio 0·06. The ventilation system consists of a ventilator 14 inches in diameter and is vertical, it extends to the roof of the building, being located in the south western corner of the room. Another ventilator of 6 inches in diameter has its opening in the middle of the ceiling. The air-hole consists of a grate communicating directly with outside and level with the floor and ground. The grate measures 12 inches in length by 6 inches in height. This room contains two water-closets, an urinal and a wash-stand. The toilets are of the Richelieu type "Wash Out". Each water-closet measures 34 inches in width by 46 inches in depth. The water tank for the flushing of the urinal is completely dry and has not been in use for a long time. This means that the urinal is particularly filthy. The floor is black with dirt and very uneven. Here, like in the other rooms, the angles of the walls and the cracks in the floors are filled with dirt. There is a public cup, with parts of its enamel gone, attached to the wall by a chain. The sink is of granite and enclosed in a wooden box. There is but one cold water tap; there are no towels, no soap and no receptacles for rubbish.

Room C: In the centre of room B, facing the east side, is located the ticket office. This room measures 15 feet 6 inches in depth by 12 feet in width and 11 feet 10 inches in height. It contains a safe, a desk, two closets and a large chest. The area which can be utilized is 151 square feet, the total cubic contains 2,064 cubic feet. Light is provided by five windows having 4 panes of glass of 15 inches by 36 inches and 6 panes of glass of 30 inches by 36 inches, giving a lighting area of 60 square feet, the ratio being 0·32. Here the floor is clean as well as the walls, the boards like elsewhere are very out of joint. The radiator has six sections, no system of ventilation exists. Four lamps provide light at night.

Room D: This room is a hall giving access to the stairs leading to the upper story and to the cellar. It is a room of 8 feet in width by 5 feet in depth and 11 feet 10 inches in height. It is lighted by 4 panes of glass of 19 inches by 35·5 inches and 4 other panes of glass of 13 inches square. The area is 40 square feet and the cubic contents 446 cubic feet; the lighting area is 192 square feet, the ratio being 0·2. This room is in a very dirty condition. The dust and smell from the furnaces penetrate through the door and partition of the cellar. The flooring is in a bad condition and out of joint, the same may be said of the walls.

Room E: Operator's office. This room measures 16 feet in length by 11 feet in width and 11 feet 10 inches in height. The area is 176 square feet, the cubic contents 2009.33 cubic feet. Light is provided by 4 panes of glass of 17 inches by 36 inches giving a lighting area of 17 square feet The ratio being 0.09. The radiator has seven sections. Three lamps supply light, they must be kept continuously burning. The flooring and walls are in the same condition as the other rooms. No ventilation.

Room F: Conductors' room. The rooms E and F are divided by a glass partition. Room F measures 7 feet 4 inches in width by 16 feet in length and 11 feet 10 inches in height. Light is provided by two panes of glass 17 inches by 36 inches. The lighting area is 22.2 square feet. The area is 62.67 square feet and the cubic contents 1,248.44 cubic feet. The ratio being 0.4. The walls are in a bad state, the flooring very dirty and also in bad condition. No ventilation.

Room G: Yard office. This room measures 18 feet 10 inches in length, 10 feet 4 inches in width and 11 feet 10 inches in height. Light is provided by two windows with eight panes of glass of 36 inches by 17 inches and four panes of glass of 12 inches by 18 inches. The lighting area is 40 square feet. The area is 173.75 square feet, the cubic contents 2063.75 cubic feet. The ratio being 0·2.

Mr. IRVINE: Is the hon. gentleman saying his prayers, or just what is taking place?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. POULIOT: I am not saying prayers, but perhaps I should for the benefit of the hon. gentleman who does not understand the French language.

Mr. SPEAKER: I did not understand what the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine) said.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): It was not worth listening to.

Mr. IRVINE: I was asking for information; I asked if the hon. gentleman was saying his prayers or what he was doing. I could not understand him.

Mr. POULIOT: Both languages are official in this house. I do not pretend to speak good English but we French-speaking members pay a courtesy to the English-speaking members when we endeavour to speak in a language which they can understand.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. member should seek to take offense at what has been said; the remark of the hon. member for Wetaskiwin was more in the way of a compliment than anything else.

Mr. IRVINE: I did not know that the hon. member was speaking in French; he was mumbling so that it was impossible to hear.

Mr. POULIOT: After I have completed reading this report I will be glad to teach the A.B.C'S of the French language to my hon. friend. I might call the attention of the hon. member for Wetaskiwin to the fact that on Monday next he will find in Hansard a translation of my remarks. If he will take the trouble to read this report, which is very interesting, I will be thankful to him.

If the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) or the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) will assure me that an item will be included in the next budget of the Canadian National Railways for the building by the lowest tenderer of a station at Rivière du Loup, I will drop this matter. As there is no answer, I will continue to read:

There are constantly 6 employees in this room. The radiators have in all ten sections. No ventilation system. The flooring is dirty and worn. Four lamps provide lighting. The lamp desks are kept lighted all day.

Cellar. The cellar contains, in the centre of the building the furnaces, the coal-bunker and also the wet-battery room. These cover a space of about 40 feet in length by the whole width of the building. The remainder of the cellar is not excavated, the space between the floor and the ground level is about 2 feet on an average. First story. The floor of the first story—

The cellar is only one-quarter of the floor area, and there is a two-foot space between the ground level and the first floor level. It has been found that the sewers offer great danger from infection.

Mr. MANION: What condition was that cellar in during the five years of the Liberal regime when my hon. friend was sitting behind the cabinet? Why did not my hon. friend have things fixed up during that five years?

Mr. POULIOT: I am delighted to have this opportunity to give some information to my hon. friend. If he will be good enough to wait until I have finished reading this report, I will give him a full explanation. I asked the former Minister of Railways and Canals, Mr. Dunning, to modify the law in order to put the Canadian government railways, especially the Intercolonial railway, on the same footing as the branches of the Canadian National Railways, that is, under the jurisdiction of the railway board. Previously, they had been under the jurisdiction of the minister and I wanted them put under the jurisdiction of the board. After I have finished reading this report, I desire to show that my hon. friend not only has interfered with the general policy of the Canadian National Railways but is now interfering with the policy of the railway board.

Mr. MANION: I rise to a point of order; the hon. gentleman makes a statement which is not true. I have not interfered with the policies of the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Speaker, I accept the statement of my hon. friend. The report continues:

Premier étage. L'escalier du premier étage...

While reading his interesting report, Mr. Speaker, I revert to the interjection of the Minister of Railways and Canals who said that he did not interfere with the policy of the Canadian National Railways. In fact, I admit that it is not he who has refused to sanction the building of the station, and I give him credit for his absence from Ottawa on that date. The other day I asked him: Was the hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley) appointed Acting Minister of Railways and Canals; and I am glad to see the hon. member here now in good health after he has learned to box the compass on the Atlantic ocean. The Acting Minister of Railways and Canals, the hon. member for Argenteuil, refused to sanction a new station

at Riviere du Loup; he is responsible for that, and I am very much surprised that the Minister of Railways and Canals did not have him censured for so doing, as the other day he said that the hon. member for Argenteuil had certainly not been appointed acting minister to refuse to sanction the building of a station at Riviere du Loup. That being said, I continue.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Time.

Mr. POULIOT: There is no time limit in this case. I wish to show—

Mr. GUTHRIE: I rise to a point of order. The hon. member has spoken more than forty minutes, and he has not moved any motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: According to the rules of the house, the hon. member speaking immediately after a minister moving a government order is not limited as to time.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The hon. member did not speak immediately after the minister. The leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) spoke immediately after him.

Mr. SPEAKER: That being so, then the hon. member is limited to forty minutes.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The leader of the opposition was merely asking for information; he was not making a speech.

Mr. GUTHRIE: If he rises to his feet, he is making a speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: Notwithstanding the fact that the leader of the opposition may in his remarks have asked for information, he was addressing the house. He might, of course, being leader of the opposition, at any time have continued to speak without limit, that being provided for by the rules; but he having spoken, the hon. member for Temiscouata did not immediately follow the minister, and his forty minutes having expired, I rule that he is not in order in speaking now.

RUSSIAN COAL—STATEMENT OF HON. G. HOWARD FERGUSON

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I should like to draw the attention of this house and of the government to some statements made in London by the High Commissioner, the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, because I think they merit serious notice. As is admitted by practically all hon. members, we have had for the past number of months a serious unemployment problem which has culminated to-day in an appeal at the parliament buildings. I should like to know whether the statement made by the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson in London to the effect that there was no destitution in Canada, was based on information given to him by the present government.

The other point I should like to draw to the attention of the house is this: when we met at the beginning of the session we were told in the speech from the throne that an embargo had been placed against Russia because her interests were inimical to the social and economic welfare of this country. Mr. G. Howard Ferguson, speaking in London, has, at least according to my way of thinking, quite a different story to tell.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): What is the hon. member's authority for that?

Mr. REID: The magazine Canada, of London, March 21.

An hon. MEMBER: Read it.

Mr. REID: Referring to the Russian embargo with particular reference to its effect on Russian coal, he pointed out that 3,250,000 tons of anthracite coal were imported from Wales in 1930. I would point out that his figures are inaccurate, because Canada last year imported only 900,000 tons of coal, and I suggest that a copy of the report of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) be sent to him. This is what the High Commissioner said the other day regarding the Russian embargo:

> He found that the Russians were invading the market in Canada, so Canada did not hesitate to put an embargo on Russian coal. That action he described as a distinct practical gesture of an imperial character which was of advantage to Britain alone, and he asked the people of the mother country to take it as an instance of the attitude of the Canadian people towards them.

An hon. MEMBER: What is wrong with that?

Mr. REID: We were told that an embargo was placed against Russia for the distinct benefit of Canada and not of Great Britain.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee of supply, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Mr. BENNETT moved:

> Resolved that a sum not exceeding $40,199,447.43, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the several items to be voted as set forth in the main estimates for the financial year ending 31st March, 1932, laid before the house at the present session of parliament, be granted to His Majesty on account of the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1932.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Does this interim supply bill include any part of the Canadian National Railways estimates which were distributed the day before last?

Mr. BENNETT: I have much pleasure in informing the hon. member for Rimouski that a second resolution is about to be moved covering those items.

Mr. POULIOT: So it is not included in this resolution?

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. HEENAN: On perusing the book of estimates, I do not find anything pertaining to any provision towards the unemployment situation. I was wondering whether the Prime Minister could tell us now what he proposes to do in regard to the matter, because I understand the $20,000,000 that was voted at the special session of parliament has been exhausted and there is more unemployment at the present time than there was when the government took office. According to the government's own figures, the index of employment in Canada stood at 118 when the government took office last August, and according to the last report issued on March 1 by the government, the index stood at 100, or eighteen per cent less employed than in August.

Leaving aside altogether letters that I am receiving from all parts of the country, I find that in my own riding 400 men walked to the town hall of Fort Frances last week asking for some assistance. At that time they were anticipating that all the works that had been started at Fort Frances under the unemployment relief measure would be finished within a few weeks. The mayor of Kenora wrote a letter, I think to the Minister of Railways and Canals—he sent a copy to me—pointing out that in all probability there would be about 500 men unemployed all the year in Kenora. I see by the estimates that the Minister of Railways and Canals has secured a public building for Fort William. I congratulate him upon that, because it is needed. It will give employment to men around the head of the lakes. I can assure my hon. friend that I shall support that item and I shall be glad to support a few more items for public buildings or works in northern Ontario if he can get them. I think he might also use his influence to get a few thousand dollars spent in the town of Fort Frances where, for a number of years, the people have been urging that a dike be built to protect certain town property.

Mr. MANION: I might point out that a short time ago I had a letter from the town of Fort Frances. I have been working on this matter for some time, and I rather imagine that there is going to be some work done in Fort Frances shortly with the Dominion and provincial governments cooperating.

Mr. HEENAN: That is fine. Now that Fort Frances is being cared for I hope the Minister of Railways will be able to tell us something good about the town of Kenora. Furthermore, what is to be done for the rest of the unemployed throughout Canada? According to the government's own figures there is more unemployment to-day in the manufacturing industries in this country than there was when the government took office. Inasmuch as there is nothing in the estimates to indicate what the government proposes to do towards relieving that unemployment situation, I think the Prime Minister might very well inform the house at this time what his plans are.

Mr. BENNETT: I take it that the hon. ex-Minister of Labour is fully aware that there is a balance of the $20,000,000 that was appropriated still unexpended, and that the index figures to which he refers and which have been dealt with in this house on many occasions refer only to those businesses that report and not to casual employment, or unemployment, as the case may be. The figures from the index and the figures as a whole are not to be compared. You could compare index figures with index figures, but not with index and casual unemployment figures together. The hon. gentleman is comparing incomparable things.

The hon. gentleman properly observes that there is nothing in the estimates that deals with the matter he mentions. I take it, Mr. Chairman, that that is the reason why it should not be discussed at the moment. The hon. gentleman also was directing attention to the fact that his remarks were irrelevant, and I suppose that that is the reason why they were irrelevant. But as this is a supply bill I presume it is in order for any hon. gentleman to ask any question he may desire to have answered. I can only say to him, as I said at the beginning of my observations, that until the $20,000,000 has been exhausted the inquiry is premature. Such steps will be taken by the government as the necessity of the occasion demands. That is all that I can usefully say at the moment.

Mr. HEENAN: The answer of the Prime Minister furnishes a very good reason why the question should have been raised. While it is true that the seven thousand firms which have been reporting to the government for many years show less employment to-day than

when the government took office, the Prime Minister's remarks with respect to casual labour are correct. There is nothing to show the exact situation, but anyone can see for himself that there is greater unemployment even among casual labourers to-day than there was when the government took office. I think, Mr. Chairman, that this is a very appropriate question to raise when the labour estimates are before us. Even if there were no estimates before us, it would be still an appropriate question to raise because it is a national question. The Prime Minister himself made it a national one. It seems to me very pertinent therefore to ask, what is the government going to do with the many thousand of unemployed Canadian citizens? There is no question but that the $20,000,000 appropriation did provide a certain amout of work. But after all, we can hardly speak of it as work, for the report of the Labour department shows that in round figures, 228,000 men got over three million man days' work since the commencement of the Unemployment Relief Act. That averages about sixteen days' work during the winter since the commencement of the act. Will anyone tell me that that is fit work for Canadian citizens, many of whom received only 30 cents an hour, working eight hours a day, and three days a week, bringing in a maximum of $7.20 a week, out of which six dollars had to be paid per week for house rent, leaving only $1.20 to feed the man, his wife and family of four children, I do not agree that that can be really called work. If any one of those men were unfortunate enough to have a limb broken, necessitating removal to hospital, he would get a minimum of $12.50 a week under the Workmen's Compensation Act of Ontario. It takes more even to keep the prisoners in the jails of this province than the amount allotted under this Unemployment Relief Act. So I think, Mr. Chairman, that the question is a very proper one, and I do not think the Prime Minister is doing himself or his government justice in not dealing with it in a more serious vein.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Since this question has been raised, and I am glad that it has, I hope the Prime Minister will not attempt in any way to rule out of discussion the unemployment question simply because no unemployment relief item appears in the estimates. It seems to me that that is a very good reason why we have a right to discuss that question at this time when we are asked to pass estimates for other matters of far less importance. If it is important that salaries be paid to civil servants, as I presume we all agree it is, it is also important that men and women not in the public service, but at present without means of subsistence should be kept alive. I do not think the Prime Minister begins to appreciate the appalling situation that prevails among tens of thousands of our fellow Canadian citizens.

He referred just now to the fact that there is a small amount of the $20,000,000 still unexpended. If I understand the situation aright, there is a certain amount still to be expended on works which have already been undertaken. That may provide work for a very small number of people. Also, if I understand the situation aright from information received from the department, there may be between one and two million dollars still unexpended that was especially earmarked for direct relief. This money is being expended under a tripartite agreement between the federal, the provincial and the municipal authorities. But we find to-day that a great many of the municipalities are almost insolvent. They have nothing whatever to offer to the unemployed, so that even though there may be $1,500,000 or $2,000,000 theoretically still available for relief, it is not possible to use that amount under the existing agreements between the Dominion government, the provincial governments and the municipalities. In the meantime thousands and tens of thousands of people are walking up and down the streets not knowing what to do. My hon. friend from Acadia has just returned from the west and corroborated information I have received through correspondents about this very matter. He said that in certain towns he found the town policeman herding men on to box cars to ship them out of town, and a little bit farther down the line the company policeman putting them off the train because they should not be travelling in that way. Last summer I saw scores of men away up towards The Pas attempting to get work on the Hudson Bay line to Churchill, and they were allowed to ride free on and in the box cars simply because the officials of the company dared not put them off. They would have been mobbed and perhaps killed if they had attempted to do so. That was last summer, but the same thing is happening to-day. In a number of our municipalities men have been definitely told—and that is why we raised the question the other day—that relief would be cut off on the 15th of March. Now two weeks have gone by, and every hon. member knows that so far as the west is concerned there is practically no farm or bush work available this year. As a result these men are on the streets, and I was not going too far the other day when I said that there were going to be riots—

Mr. MANION: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, I am in order.

Mr. MANION: I do not think so. Mr. Chairman, I said "order" for the reason that I think that any member who repeatedly makes a statement on the floor of the house that there are going to be riots, as my hon. friend has, is consciously or unconsciously inciting to riots.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. member is out of order in stating there may be riots. He takes his responsibility. But he is entitled to express his opinion.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am expressing my opinion, Mr. Chairman, an opinion based on what I believe to be the existing factors in the situation. I think it is absurd that the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) should take the position he does in calling me to order for making a statement of that kind.

Mr. MANION: It is the opinion of many.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If there is danger of an explosion, and if there is a chance in some way of drawing off steam into innocuous channels, I say it is a good thing that that should be done, and the man who refuses to allow any outlet under the circumstances is himself bringing about trouble. I submit that the Minister of Railways who objects to my remarking that there is danger of riots, and other people who take that position, are the very ones who will be responsible for the riots when they come.

An hon. MEMBER: Just like the Winnipeg strike.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The Winnipeg strike! We have gotten a long way from that.

An hon. MEMBER: You have not got very far.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does anyone want to go into that? He had better not.

An hon. MEMBER: Bring it along.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not think I need to go into that to-day. The Winnipeg strike had a good deal to do with putting one government out of power, and if it is necessary to do it again it can be done again. I venture to say that there are no representatives from Manitoba or the other western provinces who dare say a great deal about the Winnipeg strike if they want to be re-

elected in Winnipeg to-day. I do not think it is necessary to go into that matter further. I am pleading for these men on the outside. Let me say, Mr. Chairman, that it seems to me a curious thing that members can come here representing interests other than labour and present the viewpoint of the banks and of the manufacturers' association, that they can come here and say the country is going to ruin unless they get higher tariffs, that they can come here and make all sorts of alarmist statements, but that when we who have been specially elected to represent the labour interests come here to try and state the viewpoint and needs of labour, immediately certain gentlemen are up in arms and would try to prevent us stating such viewpoint and needs.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am simply putting forward what ought to be known throughout this country, and it ought to be a matter of concern not merely to the labour people themselves, but to every self-respecting citizen in this Dominion. I suppose a good many members do not receive the type of correspondence that I do.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, you say, "hear, hear," I have hundreds of letters from poor people on the very verge of starvation.

An hon. MEMBER: Any from Russia?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, I have not any from Russia. How some people delight to bring up the Russian business. But there is no unemployment there, as my hon. friend from Bow River (Mr. Garland) reminds me. According to the press 200 people are leaving Toronto for Russia in order to get jobs. I suggest that if any man does not want to have conditions here as they are in Russia, the best thing he can do is to take some constructive action at this time to prevent the further development of unemployment. It was the carelessness, the callousness, the indifference of the people who were highly placed in Russia that brought about the Russian revolution. That is how revolutions have come about in the past. I am one of those—and I think members who have been in this house for the past decade will admit it—who hope that the great economic changes which are absolutely essential can be brought about in this country without the trouble they have had in Russia and some other countries. I have always pleaded for that—that is the reason I am in this house—that we may use the best means available—parliamentary means, publicity means, educational means—to bring about these changes that are due at

the present time. And yet when after ten years in this house I call attention to the exceedingly serious situation that prevails across this country from Cape Breton to Victoria there are those who would shout "Russia" and suggest that I was trying to incite to riots.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Miss MACPHAIL: That is all they have to say.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I submit, Mr. Chairman, that any man in this country has a right at least to obtain a decent sort of living, and I submit that any man may very well look to whatever government is in power so to arrange the affairs of this country that he has a chance to work so he can obtain a living. I am not one of those who advocate that men get big salaries or wages without working. What we are asking to-day is that every man be given an opportunity to secure work. If a government cannot provide that opportunity—yes, I will take the responsibility of saying it—that government thereby ceases to have any claim upon the loyalty or the obedience of the people. That is a more serious statement than the other—a good deal more serious. No. Men have a right to live, they have a right to work, and there are thousands of honest, decent, self-respecting citizens to-day throughout the Dominion who have no opportunity to work, and without that they have not an opportunity of living. I did not intend to blame the government for the present conditions; I do not think they are to blame to any great extent. I differ in some ways from my friends to the right because I do not think the tariff is as important as is sometimes made out; but I do believe that we face a world situation to-day, and a most serious situation. The capitalist system, as we understand it, the system under which there is free competition between rival individuals and rival groups—that system is acknowledged by every thoughtful man to-day to be absolutely on trial. It may possibly survive for a few years; there may be such modifications introduced that it may survive indefinitely; I cannot myself see that this is likely, but it may. I say it is on trial. And the capitalist system, producing as no other system ever did, the necessities of life, if this system fails over all this continent and all over Europe to provide for even the elementary necessities of life, then I say not only is it on trial, but it may not survive for very long. I am not talking of that system to-day; I am talking rather of the parliamentary system, which also is on trial.

We have a group of people out in front of this building to-day. I did not intend to say anything about those people. I am not responsible for their being here; as a matter of fact they have been brought here very largely by a group of communists, I believe, and the communists have no use for me or for my colleagues. They have fought us during the elections again and again; they have called us all the names they can think of, but I do not care who champions the cause of the poor people; I have respect for them if, in sincerity, they are trying to provide for the needs of the people. No matter by whom these men are led to-day, I say they represent a situation which we find in the city of Ottawa, for most of the people out here are Ottawa residents. They represent a situation found not only in Ottawa but in Montreal, in Toronto, down in the steel mills in Cape Breton, in Winnipeg, in Sudbury and in every town right through to the coast. I do not think we are justified, as a House of Commons, representing not one section of the community but all sections—theoretically at least—in passing over one of the biggest questions that has faced our country.

I think the Conservatives will do me the justice to agree that last year when my colleague and I brought up this matter on the floor of the house we spoke as strongly as we could, although our speaking was not at all to the liking of the Liberal party. I am inclined to think that had something to do with the difficulties which that party experienced during the election. The Liberal party had no program and we, as Labour members, felt called upon to bring the condition of the unemployed before the country. I said to the then government that I did not think they realized the situation which prevailed, and they did not. The Conservatives took advantage of that situation; they said they would cure this unemployment. I did not think they could do so, but that is what they said. They carried out their promises to a limited extent by doing what was never done before in the history of Canada, calling a special session of parliament to deal with the question of unemployment. I give them all credit for doing so. Whether or not it was done along lines of which I approved, it was a big step in advance, because it was an assumption by the government of the responsibility for dealing with this social problem.

What, however, do we find now! Months later we learn that although the preliminary amount of $20,000,000 for direct relief is

almost expended, under such arrangements that the unemployed could not really secure the direct advantage of it, nothing whatever is being done to meet the immediate needs of this present year. Last summer, when the election was going on, nearly three thousand people were being fed by the municipality of Winnipeg. Do you think any government could stand up against a situation of that kind? I do not know how many we are going to feed this summer. If I ventured to say we will have another three thousand, probably the Minister of Railways and Canals would get up and say I was trying to make paupers, but I want to predict that we are going to have a great many more unemployed this summer than we had last summer, and as my hon. friend from Labelle says, we will have more unemployed next winter than we have at present or had during the last winter.

We have to face this situation, and we shall need more than $20,000,000, in my judgment, in order to tide us over until next fall if we are going to prevent this trouble of which I spoke, if we are going to feed the people who are unemployed, to say nothing at all about the farmers who are in dire straits. I hope before long they will have a chance to tell something of the serious situation, approaching starvation, which prevails among the farmers at this time. I am speaking of industrial workers at the moment.

Then there is this further question, that even although we have provided for their immediate needs by a hand out, a dole if you like, what about the future? I think, Mr. Chairman, that early in this session we ought to have some declaration from the Prime Minister with regard to unemployment insurance or something equivalent.

Unemployment insurance is recognized as being essential in Great Britain, and all parties there say that although the so called dole has been abused, unemployment insurance in some form is absolutely necessary at the present time. What have we here? We are simply going along on this hand to mouth policy. Speaking a few days ago I said that I did not expect the government to come out with a full-fledged unemployment scheme because the contributory features cannot possibly be entered into at the present time. The people cannot lay up a reserve; they have not the money. So we will have to have a temporary scheme of some kind, and I want to see that we make a beginning. I do not hold up unemployment insurance as a cure for unemployment; what we need is work in order that the people can have in some way, an opportunity to provide for themselves. I do not want to go into the economic situation at the moment, beyond saying that what we need is not so much work as an equable distribution of the things already being produced, but the outstanding fact is that very large numbers of our people are up against it in a very serious way at the present time.

I did not intend to say more than a few words to-day, but I do urge the government to give us some indication as to how it proposes to meet the emergency which we will find coming upon us within the next few months and how it proposes to handle this unemployment situation during the next twelve months. I feel that since this question has been raised I cannot but make the strongest appeal of which I am capable in support of these men whom I know are suffering. I know very well that if the members of this house realized the situation they would back me up one hundred per cent, but unfortunately they do not realize it.

Mr. GOTT: No suggestions.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No suggestions? May I add just one word. I say there sits the government across the way, the government which promised to do this thing. They are the people who should make suggestions.

Mr. BOURASSA: Mr. Chairman, I just want to emphasize if possible the importance of one aspect of the situation which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) has pointed out. I want to do it as coolly as I can, with the benefit of the experience I gathered with some friends of mine in the midst of the city of Montreal last winter, when we went from house to house and found families of poor men, women and children who had been on the verge of starvation for the whole winter and who, at the present time, have hardly enough to eat. I can tell the Minister of Railways and Canals, for whom as he knows I have much personal esteem, that if he meant what he said a moment ago he utterly fails to realize what is the situation, not only in Montreal but in every large centre of Canada at the present time, and what it will be next winter.

Mr. MANION: As a matter of privilege, Mr. Chairman, and because I do not want and to not intend to be misquoted in this house, may I say that what I pointed out was this: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre made the statement not only to-day but also the other day, when he was speaking, that if we did not relieve all this unemployment—which we appreciate just as much as he does—we were going to have riots

in this country. He made that statement not once but many times, and I pointed out then—and I still feel as I did at the time—that the repeated statement that if we could not relieve all this unemployment we would have riots in this country was an incitement to riot. And when it comes to sympathy for the unemployed and for the hungry people in this country I take no back seat to either the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) or the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth). Nor does any other hon. member on this side of the house take a back seat to those hon. gentlemen.

Mr. BOURASSA: I will not follow the hon. gentleman in the tone and kind of argument he has been using; I wish to state facts to the house.

Mr. MANION: It would be something new.

Mr. BOURASSA: No. If the hon. member would keep his cool senses—perhaps he has some remorse because of old times—he would follow better what I have to say. However, that will not affect my sentiments towards him; I am too old now to be moved in that way. The hon. gentleman twenty years hence will have gained that advantage.

Now, what I wish to say first of all is this. Canadians, whether of French or of any other origin, are human beings, with the same nature as all other human beings on earth. And the history of mankind teaches us that revolutions or riots are caused generally by two things: first is the selfishness of the enjoying classes, whether their enjoyment is political or economic, whether they are kings, aristocrats or plutocrats; and, secondly, the blindness, wilful or unintentional, of weak governments who have no courage or strength of mind to face a situation as it is.

Heaven knows I do not wish for riots either in Montreal or anywhere else, but I know that last winter we had the beginning of riots among people whom the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) knows as well as I do—I point to him because he is nearest me—good French Canadian fathers of families, the most peaceful people you could imagine, but who saw their wives and children starving all winter and who nearly broke into riot when they saw some people who had come to this country in the last twenty years were getting work while they themselves could not. There was no more reason in them. They said, "We are sons of the soil. Our wives and children are starving, and we don't want these 'Polacks,' or Scotch, or Germans to take our place." Of course the feeling was wrong, but it was a natural one.

Now what is the situation to-day? I repeat, we have gained some experience from last winter. Not having anything to do with the fate of any party, not caring very much for the destiny of either the Liberal party or the Conservative party, in our small local sphere, the humble paper of which I have the honour to be director not only started an inquiry, but began to give help to various voluntary institutions organized in the city of Montreal to come to the rescue of poor people. One of the first things we did was to organize work for the relief of the foreigner, because we realized that the instinctive, may I say the animal, reaction of the French Canadian of Montreal against the foreigner would be such, under the circumstances, that it behooved us to do something in that regard. For years we have endeavoured to create some degree of national pride among our compatriots; therefore we felt that we should not allow them to go beyond the limit. We did our best to help some Polish and German and Hungarian families, and families of various other extractions starving in Montreal, who had not yet any charitable or parochial organizations such as were serving our people, or the Irish Catholic or Protestant communities in Montreal. We did some little good, and the little we did helped us to realize the depth of the abyss. And had it not been for that special work I should not be in a position to say what I am now saying; perhaps I should fail, as the Minister of Railways fails, to understand my hon. friend to my left, and conclude that he is simply provoking popular upheaval.

When one knows what the situation is, it is one's duty to speak the truth and endeavour to open the eyes of those who hold responsible positions. During the short session last year I did not take much part in the debates, and I do not think I can be accused of having thrown obstacles in the way of the government. Even my good friend here (Mr. Woodsworth) took me to task in a friendly way because he thought I was disarming in the hands of a victorious government, pretty much in the same way as the Liberal party has disarmed in England before either the Labour government or the Conservative party. I was not doing so; but I thought we should give ample liberty to the government, freshly elected, to try its hand. Like my friend here, I believe they have done something. I trust that everyone will believe me when I say that I do not wish to introduce into this unexpected debate any thought of party success or party advantage. This government could

not, any more than its predecessors, be in a position to solve the problem immediately. The greatest fault of hon. gentlemen opposite is that through their pre-election campaign and speeches, they created in the minds of the people hopes and expectations which cannot be realized. Of course we all know that. And far better would it be on their part to confess their impotence, far better would it be on the part of the Liberal party to offer a helping hand to the government in an endeavour to solve this problem, than it is for the party in office to stick to its small, ridiculous position of professing to be able to solve in six months a problem which is baffling the genius of the statesmen of all the most civilized countries on earth, and the findings and experience of the greatest economists and most practical business men. Far better also would it be, so far as the opposition is concerned, not to try to take a small, petty revenge at the expense of the men who defeated them at the polls. Let the ablest men on all sides endeavour rather to demonstrate to the people of Canada that, before looking to the success of one party or the other, we all care for the fate of the suffering masses of the nation.

Let me assure you, Mr. Speaker, that in what I am about to say there is no spirit of boasting; I am merely trying to show that personally I am doing the best I can. Since I have learned of the condition of the poor people in my own city I have told my children that we must spare money to help other people. I have ceased travelling in Pullman cars; I travel in the common cars either on the Canadian National or on the Canadian Pacific Railway. When the common people are talking I listen to what they have to say and at times I hear things without their knowing that a fairly well dressed bourgeois is overhearing them. And there I can realize the truth of what my neighbour said a moment ago—what ferments of hatred are growing in the hearts and minds of Canadians of all races. I am not going to discuss whether farmers or labourers are suffering more. Heaven knows I am rural. My hon. friend the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) knows it. Although I have been brought up and have lived most of my life in the city, I have always represented a rural constituency, because I have always believed and still believe that rural Canada is the mainstay of our polity and social organization. Nevertheless, when I visited my rural constituents last summer, I told them that although they might have to suffer somewhat, I did not intend to ask either the Liberal government or the Conservative government, if they should happen to be successful, to starve the people in the cities in order to help the farmers in getting better prices for their butter or meat. I told them that they at least had an inch of soil which they could call their own, they had a hovel or house above their heads, and they could obtain from their farm that with which to live, but the position of hundreds of thousands of labourers and their families in the cities was such that they did not know from day to day whether or not they had a home, or whether or not they would have something to eat and drink.

I remember reading some forty years ago the report of the commission which revealed to the British public the state of the slums in the great city of London. I can assure this house from personal experience and from that gathered by my associates during this last winter that the situation of the slum dweller in the city of London of sixty years ago was not any worse than is the situation of thousands of families to-day in the city of Montreal. Because of the blindness and carelessness of our municipal authorities, thousands of dwellings have been built, not fit to be inhabited by christian and civilized families. One room is built in the front, called the parlour, another room is built in the back, called the kitchen, and two other rooms are placed between containing no apertures whatever for light or air, other than the front and back doors. Up until the present year, one family occupied such a four-roomed apartment, but to-day thousands of these uninhabitable apartments are being used by as many as four families. In every parish of the city of Montreal, every charitable institute, every convent, every school for boys and girls, was distributing last winter hundreds of meals. The other day I was passing down Bleury street in what might be called the bourgeois and fashionable ward of the city of Montreal, and in front of St. Mary's college —I believe that is the college where the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) received his education; two of my boys are receiving their education there to-day—I saw two or three hundred labourers waiting at the door to receive free soup. Upon making inquiries I found that soup was being distributed twice a day at that college by the fathers. The same thing is being done at sixty or eighty institutions in the city. That provides just enough to keep alive those individuals who gather there, but the pregnant woman is unable to go there, the woman who has a suckling babe cannot go, the man crippled by rheumatism cannot go; they have to rely upon

charitable people, clerical or lay, who are willing to go to the homes and give food to the suffering people who are not capable of going to obtain their daily ration of soup.

I can assure the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals that a feeling is growing in the hearts and minds of these men and women similar to that which I heard expressed the other day on the train running between Montreal and Ottawa. Three good French-Canadians in expressing themselves said: "All right, we stood it last winter, we were able to keep the woman and the kids alive, but next winter if it does not improve we will see that we get something more." It may be provoking to say so, but I think it is better to know these things than to ignore them. It is better to prepare for them than to go on blindly and say: Oh, well, these things will adjust themselves with the working of the tariff and other measures. No tariff or fiscal policy can do it.

I have one suggestion to offer, that the government adopt a similar measure to that adopted by the government of the colony of Kenya. That government, realizing the state of the people in the cities to be more desperate than the state of the people in the rural district, sent out agents to ask the farmers if they could give food and shelter to one or two people from the cities. They were told that if they could afford to give that, the government would employ its funds in paying such people a small salary. I do not claim that that is the best remedy to be adopted, but I do say this: if urgent and practical means are not taken during this coming summer to prevent, I will not say starving people, but people in difficult circumstances in the small towns of this country where work is practically stopped, from flocking to the cities, the result will be disastrous. The more we advertise our charitable institutions and the means we take to alleviate the sufferings of the people in the large cities, the more we will have individuals from the smaller centres coming to such places as Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. They figure that because of such organizations there may be a chance for them.

While travelling in a second class smoking car a fortnight ago a man came to me who knew me by sight. He had some connection with the constituency which I represent in this house and he told me of the situation existing in the town of Hawkesbury, not very far from here. This town, like many other towns in Quebec and Ontario, has been built up and sustained by one industry, and that industry is now stagnant and no one has any work to do. The hon. member for Prescott (Mr. Bertrand) can correct me if I am wrong. This man told me that half of the dwellings which had been erected by the small merchants, the professional men and even by some of the labourers were now empty, and these small capitalists found themselves to be paupers because they had no revenue. The town has a debt of $750,000 which it is unable to pay. The labourers are leaving, but where are they going? Going to another small town of the same size? No, they are going to Montreal or to Toronto.

While travelling a short time ago with a professor of Macdonald college, a man possessed of knowledge, he told me about the situation existing in the town of Granby in which he had been a few days previously. He told me of an incident which happened in a factory there. This factory is working only part time, and a girl worker collapsed about ten o'clock in the morning. The other girls gathered around and asked her if she was sick, but she replied: No, but this is my fasting morning. She then went on to explain that in her family consisting of eight children, four fasted each day, alternately, so that the other four could have a cup of tea and a piece of bread. They were not all employed; what was earned by two or three members of the family was not sufficient to give a crust of bread to all the children. Those are things which have nothing to do with politics, which have nothing to do with theories, but which are hard facts. It seems to me that the duty of parliament is to see first—and that was the only suggestion I made last fall—that some little work is given to all those men who used to work in the small towns or in the lumbering districts so as to keep them at home, and if necessary, to adopt means so that the railway companies and other agencies of transportation will not bring those people next winter to the large centres; because, if the danger pointed out by my hon. friend to my left arises, it will be on account of the rivalry between those people and the old-timers of the cities, the men who have been born and brought up, who have lived many years in the urban centres and who will see the unemployed from the outlying districts coming to the cities and competing with them either in the small amount of work that will be given or in the distribution of charities and alms which will not be sufficient to alleviate all sufferings.

I think I have presented the case without any idea of embarrassing the government or anybody else. This appeal I make as the father of a large family and as one knowing the fate of large families not only in the city of Montreal but even in the good old

happy city of Quebec. The other day, passing just five minutes' walk from that great, shall I say, monstrous and scandalous castle of wealth and parvenu-ism, the Chateau Frontenac, I saw about 150 labourers who had come up from St. Malo and St. Sauveur, hanging around the door of the Salvation Army quarters on St. Louis street, waiting for a crumb of bread while American, English and French millionaires were feasting at the Chateau Frontenac, five minutes' walk away. This is another aspect of the question. I appeal to every man who has wealth or who knows men who have wealth, first, to create in their own minds, and then to endeavour to stimulate in other people's minds, a true spirit of Christian charity; or, if they cannot bring themselves to that standard of humanity, let them at least have the decency to conceal their debauchery of wealth and luxury, because in addition to the two causes that I pointed out as having produced revolutions and riots in every country, whether Teutonic or Latin, the third cause is this cynicism of the wealthy who, not content with throwing thousands of dollars on the streets, are bent on showing, on advertising their wealth and, thanks to the sensational papers, the radio and all the other means of publicity, bringing to the minds of millions of starving people the extravagances of the worldly and the selfish.

Last winter I was spending a few days of rest in the south of France, one of the happiest corners of earth with which God has blessed humanity, where most of the people have a modest but happy life. One evening, talking quietly in the resting room of a modest provincial hostelry with a good southern Frenchman, as far away from any idea of bolshevism or communism as my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals or as myself, maybe, I saw him growing red and with the quickness of a southern Frenchman he took his paper and threw it on the floor, exclaiming: "Do you not think, sir, that is enough to make decent people revolutionary?" I said: "What is it?" It was a piece of news cabled from New York, announcing that a certain magnate there, some vulgar individual, gilt-edged with millions, whether earned or stolen I do not know, had just married off his daughter, that the nuptial breakfast had cost no less than $200,000 and that each invited guest present had received an automobile as a souvenir. I give this advice to wealthy men and wealthy institutions of Canada: If you cannot bring yourself to the point of partaking with the poor, at least conceal your indecent wealth and the indecent use you are making of it.

[Mr. Bourassa.]

Mr. MULLINS: In regard to the speeches that have been made from the other side of the house, let me say that I represent in Manitoba a rural constituency. I have just travelled over that constituency, and I find that no such conditions exist as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has indicated. I have every respect for him because he was my preacher in the early days in the province of Manitoba, but I cannot understand why he should include the rural parts of Manitoba in any such statement as he has made on the floor of the house; his statement does not apply to the rural parts.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am sure the hon. member will pardon me; I was speaking of the industrial centres.

Mr. MULLINS: The hon. member included the farmers.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I said that a great many of the farmers were in a similar condition. That is true of large areas of Saskatchewan.

Mr. MULLINS: Why mention Manitoba? Why is he bringing in these things and knocking down the price of lands? Such statements are wrong. Our farmers are willing to come back and face the situation. I have just met with them and asked them: What is wrong? This is what they said to me: "I am wrong; I will take the responsibility; I bought three Buick cars when I should have bought Fords." Another one said: "I marketed my grain through the wrong channel and my farm is all tied up on that account. If I were out of it I would be all right." They are willing to meet the situation. These statements are doing harm to western Canada and I would ask hon. members to withdraw some and modify others. They are hurting Canada and doing more harm than good by such statements.

Mr. HOWARD: My remarks will not be such as to hurt Canada, but I consider certain measures that were passed during the short session made the situation worse than it might otherwise have been. One instance to which I wish to draw attention is this: it was brought forward by a telegram which I received about twenty minutes ago and a telephone message that I just went out to answer from one of my constituents. The telegram is as follows:

Les arbres souffrent depuis quinze jours. A moins d'avoir un permis d'en prendre livraison immédiatement nous aurons à subir un désastre. S. O. S.

Louis Gervais.

This is the translation:

The trees have been suffering for fifteen days. Unless we can get permission to take immediate delivery of them we will suffer a real disaster. S. O. S.

Louis Gervais.

At the short session of parliament legislation was passed that I do not think has been ever known of in Canada before empowering the Minister of National Revenue to fix for duty purposes the valuation of certain articles. That legislation was fought by hon. members who are in opposition at the present time, but in spite of that with the government majority it was passed through the house. Personally I am frank to say that while I realized at the time the seriousness of that legislation, it was not then brought home to me so forcibly as in the last two weeks what an injustice it might do not only to my section of the country but to all Canada. To-day I have the evidence before me, and I want to place it before the house for purposes of record so that the house and the country generally will know what hardships have been brought upon us.

Mr. Gervais for forty years has been in the business of distributing fruit trees through our section of the country. Last year from the month of May until December he went from house to house in that section and sold his trees and fruit bushes for delivery this spring. The duty upon those trees was 3 cents a tree coming from the United States. That has been the duty for the last forty-two years. There was no change made in the tariff with respect to these trees; it was never discussed on the floor of the house at all, and therefore the rank and file of our people knew nothing whatever about any change. But by an order in council in December last the value for duty purposes was raised from 3 cents to 30 cents a tree—I repeat, from 3 to 30 cents. This man's two carloads of trees arrived in Sherbrooke, and they are now in the hands of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Sherbrooke. The price he paid for two carloads was $1,179.06. I went to see the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) the other day. This man who imported these trees had come to Ottawa and had seen all the officials of the department that it was possible for him to see, with a view to getting what I would call simple justice, and something that would have been a benefit to Canadians as a whole. But he got no redress. He went to the customs at Sherbrooke to pay his duty, which last year amounted to $644.28, and the customs officer at Sherbrooke asked him this year to pay a duty of $3,472.18. The duty had been raised from $644.28 to $3,472.18—something that has never been heard of before. I have been investigating this matter for the past week. This man has not always purchased his trees on the other side of the line. He has purchased from different places. I shall not quote any names in this house because I do not want to do anybody any harm, but last year this man ordered some trees from a Canadian firm at 12 cents a tree delivered in Sherbrooke. Then this order in council was passed in December last, and the price which the Canadian nurseryman asked him for his trees this year was 23 cents, and that was the price quoted by three different Canadian firms whose names I have here. I will go further and say that a member of one of these firms is sitting in the gallery of this house at the present moment. These trees will be ruined if delivery is not given. I go further and say that one of our ordinary, honest Canadians, who has no special fund of money ahead of him, will be absolutely ruined through no fault of his own, but through this legislation, if something is not done to relieve his case. I lay the fault to the government in power at the present time, and I want the people to know it.

Mr. Gervais came to me last week and made this proposition. He said, "Mr. Howard, if the Minister of National Revenue will take all the money I have—I have about two thousand dollars in the bank—and will release the trees, I will make my distribution and pay the balance of the duty up to $3,472.18 as asked for." But the minister refused that proposition. I tell you, Mr. Chairman, that there is something more for us to do than simply sit here and fill our chairs. We ought to be of real service to the people, and if conditions are such as have been pointed out by the hon. member for Labelle and others, and some of these conditions I know of personally, the government in power ought to do something to remedy the situation. Here at least is one chance for the government to do something. There is no reason under the sun why any of this man's propositions should not have been accepted by the minister, who I regret is sick to-day. I say that it is absolutely criminal for our own Canadian growers to have increased their price by almost 70 per cent during the past year, especially when prices of everything else are coming down, and when wages are coming down so low that it is hard for many a family in Canada to maintain themselves. On account of this—I was going to say, rotten—legislation that was put through during the special session last fall this man in my con-

stituency is going to be absolutely ruined and every dollar that he has saved up in the last forty-two years will be taken from him. I charge the government with the responsibility.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would like to ask the Prime Minister one question, if I may. I do it because I am sincerely anxious to cooperate with him in dealing with the all-important matter that has been under discussion so much to-day.

Last year, when he was making his appeal to the country, speaking of this question of unemployment, my right hon. friend said over and over again, "Mr. King promises you consideration. I promise that I will end unemployment." I would like the Prime Minister to tell this house and the country exactly what he meant by that statement. What did he mean when he said "I will end unemployment." He also said, in many of his public addresses, that there was no reason at all why any man should go without work in a country such as Canada, and that if he were returned to power there would be work for everyone, not doles but work; and that so far as he and his government were concerned they would secure work for everyone or perish in the attempt. I would ask the Prime Minister to tell us what he meant when he said that there would be work for everyone.

I had expected when the estimates were presented to parliament, the annual estimates dealing with expenditures contemplated for the entire year, that one would find some indication of a labour policy, but I have looked through the estimates and I find nothing whatever different from what has appeared in the estimates of previous years with respect to any matter that has a substantial bearing on the question of unemployment. My right hon. friend will, I think, agree that, in realization of the very serious nature of the statement he has made, I have been particularly careful to give him the freest possible hand to make good the pledge which he gave in the last campaign. I have caused him no embarrassment whatever. To the extent of my ability I did what I could in the special session to see that every measure he brought forward was put through expeditiously. I have cooperated in every way in which my position would permit me to cooperate in assisting the government to remedy this unemployment situation, and I wish to say that I am prepared to continue to cooperate in every way in which I am able to cooperate. But as an assistance to this end I would like my right hon. friend to tell the house and the country what he meant when he said that if he were returned to power he would end unemployment.

Mr. BENNETT: I have to remind this committee of the fact that we are dealing with an application for interim supply. It can be done only by consent, and this is neither the time nor the place for the consideration of general questions of policy. May I further remind the committee that, under our rules, until the address has been adopted, there is never any discussion of further matters of policy. When that address has been adopted by this house there will be a declaration of the government's policy. About that there need not be any doubt in the world. Anyone who has followed parliamentary institutions knows perfectly well that until the address is adopted, in no parliament in any country in the world where British institutions prevail is any endeavour made to obtain during the course of a debate upon the address an enunciation of the policy of the administration. I intimated that the other evening. Now, by consent, supply is being sought by the government, merely as the instrument of this house to provide pay for the public services to enable them to be carried on. I have sat in my place and seen interim supply voted during the time I was leader of the opposition, some three sessions, and on every occasion, from the moment of the introduction of the motion that the house resolve itself into committee of supply until the third reading of the bill had been given, it went through in something like thirty minutes. That is what happened every time while I at least occupied that position.

An hon. MEMBER: Conditions were different then.

Mr. BENNETT: They certainly were, and responsible men were preparing for the evils that were seen, while others were not. Those of us who sat to the left of the Speaker at that time and pointed out these facts certainly did not meet with much support from the government of the day. You will find from the records of Hansard a clear indication of this. Those of us who then sat to the left of the Speaker stated what we believed would happen if the policy of the party then in power continued to be followed. And what we then pointed out has happened. I do not think this is the time to discuss questions of policy. I so intimated the other evening, and I do not propose to depart entirely from the rules that govern our parliamentary institutions. But this I will say, no good service is being done to the coun-

try by the exaggerations made by some of those who have addressed the chamber this afternoon. I say that with a due sense of responsibility.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: How about last July?

Mr. BENNETT: I am quite willing to discuss that too, and I will before I resume my seat. The hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins), having made a close and careful investigation of his whole constituency, has just told us exactly what he found. I have similar information from other members. I know of individual cases of hardship; of course I do. You would think, Mr. Chairman, when listening to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) this afternoon, that the only sympathy in the world for the unfortunate was manifested by the hon. gentleman when he left this country and spent his money to enjoy himself in France instead of staying at home. He has been reprimanding Canadians because they spend their money, whereas the economists of to-day are saying that rich men should spend and so put their money in circulation. Now the hon. member for Labelle says rich men are spending their money lavishly, and the people are getting the benefit of it, and they should not do so. That is one school of thought. The other is the school that says, "Save your money and put it in the bank; it will be safe there and no one will get any benefit from it." These two schools clearly indicate the differences of opinion that prevail with respect to the same matter.

I do not at this moment propose to answer hon. gentlemen opposite other than to say this. I never expected by remedial legislation to undo in a day the wrongs that had been done to this country in ten years. Neither did anybody expect it would be done, nor think it could be done. But this we do say, that within the time that has passed since accession to office no government has ever more fully implemented its preelection promises than the government now in power. I will not traverse the case made by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard). The minister who dealt with it is not in his place; he is ill. But we did say that where products were being dumped upon the Canadian market to the detriment of the Canadian producer, whether he be a nurseryman or a factory producer, such dumping was giving work to people outside of Canada that could be done by Canadians at home, and we proposed that Canadians should get that work through the instrumentality of government. Certainly we have no apology to offer for having said that.

Mr. HOWARD: Did you not at the same time say that prices would not be increased?

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly. It is not a tariff item that the hon. gentleman is speaking of. There was no change in the tariff according to his own statement.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: He has stated that there was no change in duty but that the value for duty was placed at 30 cents instead of 3 cents. That is what he has said. I am not in a position to determine whether or not the figures mentioned bear some adequate relation to the dumping of goods of a similar character upon this market because I have not the facts before me and did not know the matter was to be raised. Had I known it, I would have had the file brought to my attention.

This I desire to say, Mr. Chairman. Until the address has been adopted it would be wholly foreign to our parliamentary practice for the government to declare its policy. In the present instance the government is not acting as a government, it is simply the instrument to enable the public service to be carried on. Interim supply has been sought by succeeding governments, and it has never been made the occasion to raise questions of government policy, for the very obvious reason that the government cannot then make a declaration of policy, and should not do so. As I said a few moments ago, until the address is adopted it would be wholly foreign to our parliamentary institutions for the government to declare its policy. The best indication of what the government will do is to be found in what it has already done. Hon. gentlemen opposite nod their heads. They are opposed, I suppose, to the $20,000,000 having been voted for unemployment. Let this be borne in mind, that that $20,000,000 involves an expenditure during the next few months of over $75,000,000 on undertakings that, just as soon as conditions warrant, will be carried on. You cannot expect people to yield the wages that are being demanded without getting adequate results. This morning I was waited upon by a delegation urging that all the voluntary organizations that exist in this country to do useful service to mankind, churches, charitable and social organizations, should by statute be prevented from continuing their work. That is what I was asked to do by this delegation. Their slogan was "On the streets on the 15th of April." They came here this morning to urge upon the government non-contributory unemployment insurance. I told them they

would never get it from any government that I had to do with; that is what I told them; I was perfectly frank about it. Whatever else this administration may lack, there is no lack of decision as to what it will do.

In due time and in the proper place I will answer the questions propounded by the leader of the opposition, not to-day but at the beginning of the short session. He may be desirous of giving us cooperation. Well, a little cooperation of patience in these days might do something; a little cooperation to get the speech from the throne adopted to enable us to settle down to business might be a useful effort. Look at what has happened this afternoon on a pro forma motion for one-sixth supply to enable the public services to be carried on. We have listened to what from the hon. gentleman from Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot)? He is one of the leading members of the Liberal party as now constituted, one of their front benchers, one of their most trusted lieutenants, one of the gentlemen in whom it reposes apparently the greatest trust, one who is accorded the heartiest applause and the loudest laughter by his colleagues beside him; he is given the cheer that always encourages further hope. This leading member of the Liberal party spent the afternoon reading upon Hansard words not spoken loud enough to be heard by the Hansard reporters, and then he handed them reams of material to be put on Hansard at the expense of the Canadian people, on the principle, I suppose, that money should be expended for the benefit of those who get out Hansard, for certainly it could serve no other purpose that anyone can suggest. My hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) is a student of parliamentary institutions, and he knows perfectly well that this is not the time when the matter that he brought up can be dealt with. These are not ignorant men. If this pro forma motion for interim supply cannot be adopted this afternoon, the civil servants will be without their pay to-morrow, and they will know whom to blame for it. There is one party they cannot blame for it—the government.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister has just made one statement which I think is entirely correct; he has said that according to the procedure of parliament until the address is adopted any other business should not be taken up, and that if other business is taken up it can only be by consent. May I point out to my right hon. friend that if there has been any occasion to vary that rule, the fault does not lie with anyone but himself and the members of his administration. They did not call parliament until very late in the year, and surely the opposition or the country cannot be blamed for that circumstance. They brought parliament into session very late in the year, and naturally the whole public service was threatened with being inconvenienced because supply could not be voted in the regular way. Before the Easter recess my right hon. friend wished to get supply for the public service. We indicated our willingness to give him interim supply. Why did he not present the estimates to parliament before the Easter recess rather than now, on the 15th of April? The beginning of the fiscal year is April 1, not April 15, and it was only yesterday or the day before that these estimates were laid on the table of the house. That is not the fault of the opposition; that is not due to any lack of cooperation or to any discourtesy on the part of the opposition. It is entirely the fault of my right hon. friend and his colleagues in not having the business of parliament ready when parliament was called and in being so late in the calling of parliament.

Now may I say this further word. When my right hon. friend requested the passing of supplementary estimates for the last fiscal year and later the passing of interim supply for the present year, it did require unanimous consent to have the right to suspend the regular procedure to allow the house to go into committee of supply to consider the estimates and this the opposition courteously granted. But when, through the courtesy of hon. members of the opposition and in fact of all hon. members of the house, the Prime Minister moved as a result of the consent given that the house go into committee of supply to consider the estimates, that motion carried with it the right, as it always has, whenever supply is considered, to any member to discuss any and every question in the nature of a grievance requiring redress and above all the right to discuss the most important question which is before the people of the country.

The debate on the address has run on for a considerable time, but during the course of the debate how much, may I ask, have we heard from the right hon. gentleman himself, or from a single minister of the crown with respect to the question of unemployment in this country? If the records are looked through from beginning to end it will be seen that we have had no statement from the ministry on that all-important question, a question so important as to necessitate,

according to the view of the government, the calling of a special session of parliament last fall to deal with it. Under those circumstances it is not only the right but the duty of the opposition to demand from the government on every proper occasion what its policy is on this all-important question, and in doing so to-day we are only discharging the first duty of an opposition in seeking to get from the government some statement of policy.

I do not wish to go further into this question at the present time. I do think it would help throughout the country, in bringing about that better understanding of the government's position, if the Prime Minister would make at once a pronouncement to this house as to what the policy of the government is with respect to the unemployment situation which is so grave in Canada at the present time. I think the best way in which that statement could be made would be for him to give to the house and to the country quite frankly the meaning of his words when he said he would end unemployment. It is all right for my right hon. friend to say now that he did not mean he was going to end in one day the wrongs of ten years. I am not going to enter into any controversy about the wrongs of ten years or even as to how any conditions arose. That question can be debated by itself. My right hon. friend was dealing with a concrete condition of affairs in Canada during last summer, a condition of unemployment. True enough he did blame the then administration for that condition. The then administration was honest in saying that the condition was part of a world condition—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Were we not right in that statement?

Mr. BENNETT: My right hon. friend said it did not exist.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, we never said anything of the kind. Over and over again I stated publicly that what we were suffering from in Canada was a world condition. I gave, as I saw them, a statement of the causes of unemployment and stressed very strongly the policy which I believed would more than anything else lead to an increase of trade. I stated that increase of trade would lead to an increase of work, and increase of work to a cessation of unemployment; that was the whole basis of the campaign, but my right hon. friend, dealing with concrete conditions, spoke of conditions of unemployment irrespective of their causes and said, "Return me to power and I will end unemployment." Now I ask him again what he meant when he said, "I will end unemployment." It is not a good enough answer to give to the unemployed in this country to-day, or to the country, that he cannot do in one day what may have been occasioned by circumstances covering many years. He has been in power now for nearly nine months, and these estimates purport to deal with the expenditures for the next twelve months. Yet there is nothing here which indicates what is the policy of the administration. I do not intend to pursue this further at the moment, but I do intend to ask my right hon. friend when we take up the estimates again what he meant by the statement which I have just quoted, and I will expect him by that time to be prepared to give the country a satisfactory answer.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, may I say that I think the attitude of the right hon. gentleman as expressed in his closing sentence is eminently fair and proper, and one which I shall endeavour to meet. I believe that to be the time and place to advance criticism and to meet criticism, and of course it is the right and duty of the opposition to criticize. I merely ventured to say I do not think that on any occasion heretofore when the government has been seeking pro forma supply in order to maintain the public service, any debate such as this has been indulged in. That was the point of my observations, and I can assure the right hon. gentleman that we shall endeavour to meet the suggestions he has made, I hope before we again have to consider any similar application such as this.

Mr. VENIOT: I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in view of the fact that on the records of the house there are a large number of questions and notices of motion for the production of papers, whether we might have some guarantee that these papers will be produced before we take up the main estimates.

Mr. BENNETT: I can assure my hon. friend that while a number of these returns are voluminous, all those we believe should be properly brought before the house are in the course of preparation, and as soon as the address is adopted we believe we will be able to answer the questions without further delay.

Mr. VENIOT: Then there is another point to which I should like to refer, in connection with the matter brought up by the hon. member for Sherbrooke. I refer to the matter of dumping. In discussing that point the right hon. Prime Minister said there was no increase in duty, but that these articles were being dumped on the Canadian market and

therefore the dumping duty prevailed. If the matter is carefully looked into it will be found that at the very moment during the special session when parliament gave power to the Minister of National Revenue to apply the dump, so to speak, the price of the articles which would be affected in that way went up in Canada.

Mr. GOTT: Not all of them.

Mr. VENIOT: But the hon. member must admit that the prices of some articles went up.

Mr. GOTT: No.

Mr. VENIOT: The hon. gentleman is always ready to interrupt, but he does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. GOTT: Yes I do.

Mr. VENIOT: Let the hon. gentleman possess his soul in patience for a few moments. All he can do in the house is interrupt. Last session the hon. gentleman took up all his time in—I will not use that unparliamentary word "obstructing," but I mean that just the same. He took up the time of this house with very, very serious objections to certain ways of carrying on the administration of some of the departments. Now he has taken up the time of the house interrupting speakers on this side. Let me say to him that we on this side of the house are not looking to him for any advice as to how we should proceed in matters of this kind.

An hon. MEMBER: You are not running the country.

Mr. VENIOT: No, we are not; nor is the government running this side of the house. We are running this side to suit ourselves. Perhaps the hon. gentleman who speaks about running the government is a little offended himself, a little sore because he was not taken in to run the government. There may be something in that if current rumours have any foundation at all. Now let me come back to the question of dumping. In this case the very moment the power was given directly to the minister to apply the dump the price of nursery stock in Canada went up, and on the increase of price the Department of National Revenue fixed the figure at which the dumping clause should apply.

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. VENIOT: How am I out of order?

The CHAIRMAN: Come to the item.

Mr. VENIOT: I am coming to the item. The Prime Minister spoke on this item.

The CHAIRMAN: Everyone has been out of order all afternoon.

[Mr. Veniot.]

Mr. VENIOT: Then I am not going to be called down, surely. You are not going to make an example out of me when you allow everyone else to discuss it. I can stand on what I consider to be my rights, with all due respect to the chairman of committees. I was going to say that while the duty on nursery stock was not increased at the special session, nevertheless the fact that the minister had power to apply the dumping clause gave the producer in Canada the idea of increasing almost 80 per cent the price of nursery stock as it stood in August, 1930. That is how the injustice was done which the hon. member for Sherbrooke spoke about.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I trust I shall not be out of order inasmuch as what I am about to say affects the civil service. During the last two or three days I have been bringing up the question of the disposition of civil servants in the Department of the Interior who of necessity must either be placed in some other departments or be dismissed altogether. I wish also to correct an impression which some hon. gentlemen have, that nothing was done by the previous government to assist as far as humanly possible in transferring these civil servants. I am not going to take up the time of the house; I sympathize with the Prime Minister in his desire to get this interim supply through. But I do think that these people, some 150 or so, are entitled to know whether or not they are definitely out of the service, or whether the government is going to make some provision to place them in other departments when vacancies occur. I wish to make my position perfectly clear in this respect. I am not suggesting that the government pay salaries while these men and women are not actively engaged in the civil service, but that they simply be kept on a reserve list and given preference when vacancies occur, over both promotions and entries to the service.

Mr. CAHAN: Does the hon. gentleman suggest that, when a vacancy occurs in a department, all subordinate officials in that department who have been waiting fifteen or twenty years for advancement should be kept back while someone is taken from another department, such as the Department of the Interior, and put into that vacancy, over the heads of those who have been working in the department, who are familiar with its duties, and who are anxious for advancement therein?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes, I do suggest that. If my hon. friend will look up the Civil Service Act he will see that

frequently when examinations take place for promotions, they are not entirely confined to the department in question; other civil servants of similar standing may have an opportunity of competing for that position. Now I quite appreciate the difficulties that arise in departments over matters of this kind, but I say that this is an exceptional situation and one which it is likely will never occur again in the history of the service, and I see no hardship that can occur to individuals who have to wait for perhaps a year for promotion, and more particularly to entries into the service.

Mr. CAHAN: I can call attention to cases where they wait five and ten years.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I am quite aware of that; but my hon. friend will agree that men who have fifteen or twenty years of service to their credit—and creditable service, may I say—are surely entitled to the same chance as an individual in a department. And indeed, in my own opinion, under the circumstances—

Mr .CAHAN: The hon. gentleman suggested preference, not the same chance.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes, I do suggest a preference.

Mr. CAHAN: I just wish to understand the hon. gentleman.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is my position; I wish to make it clear. And I wish also to make clear the fact that as far as possible junior members of the staff were transferred, foreseeing this difficulty. I wish only to be helpful and not critical; I have not offered one word of criticism. I know the difficulties, the serious difficulties, that arise when you undertake to transfer civil servants from one department to another. I quite appreciate that, but I do say that this is a very exceptional situation which is not likely to arise again in the course of many years.

Mr. BENNETT: I would not trespass on the time of the committee were it not for the fact that the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat raised a question of very great public importance, and of much greater importance to the individuals concerned. As long ago as at least the month of March, 1926, this house was told that the resources of the western provinces would be turned over to those provinces, which of course would or should at once mean a reduction in the staff of the Department of the Interior. In order that the committee may have a clear understanding of the situation, I have asked to have prepared a memorandum showing the number of permanent and temporary employees at headquarters in this city in March, 1926, and in the same month in each succeeding year, as well as in February, 1931, which is the last year for which we have figures. The statement shows the permanent and temporary employees at headquarters and other than headquarters.

In March, 1926, which was subsequent to the date of the introduction of the Alberta agreement—because the house was told in the speech from the throne that the resources were to be turned over to the western provinces—there were employed in this city 1,194 of a permanent staff at headquarters. The figures for this and the succeeding years of permanent employees at headquarters are:

1926	1,194
1927	1,184
1928	1,215
1929	1,230
1930	1,251

My hon. friend the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Stewart) did succeed in one department of the public service. The director took the matter in hand and had a considerable number of transfers made, so that the number actually employed in February this year was 1,177. In other than headquarters, that is, outside the employees here, the figures are:

1926	667
1927	673
1928	700
1929	696
1930	717

This year the number is 670, or 3 more than in March 1926, when we were told that the resources would be turned over. The figures for the temporary employees at headquarters are:

1926	67
1927	122
1928	126
1929	194
1930	212

This year—if there is any credit to be taken for it—the number is reduced to 145. At other than headquarters the temporary employees in March, 1926, numbered 140. These are temporaries, these are political favourites seeking jobs. The figures for 1926 and succeeding years are as follows:

1926	140
1927	153
1928	188
1929	203
1930	235
1931	139

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Is my hon. friend including the number of casual labourers?

Mr. BENNETT: No, just the temporary employees. If the casual labour was included the number would be much larger. The total number of employees in the Department of the Interior for March, 1926, when we were told the resources would be turned over, and for the following years, is as follows:

1926	2,068
1927	2,132
1928	2,229
1929	2,323
1930	2,415
1931	2,131

It will be observed that the total number of employees in 1931 is 63 more than those employed in 1926. Some allowance must be made for increasing business and everything of that sort, but had the anxiety that is now being manifested about transfers been shown during the last six years, I have no doubt that much of the difficulty now being experienced would have disappeared.

The salary list bears the same relation to the total employees. It is as follows:

1926	$301,330 00
1927	308,947 43
1928	337,301 93
1929	351,135 16
1930	364,759 16
1931	337,093 65

Because of the very important and unhappy duty which has been cast upon this government, the resources having been transferred in October last and a large number of the staff not having been absorbed, the pay roll for this year was almost $36,000 more than it was in March, 1926.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): You are speaking of this year?

Mr. BENNETT: February of this year, the last month for which we have all the figures for the outside services. I say this to the hon. gentleman, there is no person charged with responsibility but can feel, shall I say sympathy?—or even more than that, alarm—at the duty which rests upon us. I put this to the committee: can we retain several hundred people without having anything for them to do? That is the first question.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I trust my hon. friend is not assuming that I have asked him to do that.

Mr. BENNETT: The second question is: what can we do to secure the transfer of these people to other branches of the public service? In my capacity as Minister of Finance I wrote to every one of my colleagues several weeks ago and stated: The last report which I have before me shows that you have on your pay list a certain number of temporary employees. I should like if you would be good enough to tell me why. In every instance they gave me a written memorandum dealing with the question whether or not it may be possible, looking to the future, to make provision for those who are engaged in, shall I say permanent places in the Department of the Interior. In the ultimate analysis the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Murphy) has been able to provide for some members of the staff, but I say to this committee and to everyone affected, a very earnest desire has been evinced and will continue to be evinced to adjust the situation in as easy a manner as it is possible for those who are vitally affected, but we cannot and we dare not keep people in positions if there is nothing for them to do. I believe it is unthinkable that it should be suggested that we adopt that action.

I know the former minister will not object to my mentioning the suggestion which he made the other evening. He said that in some instances it might be possible that parliament extend the period of service for the purpose of increasing the emolument which these civil servants would receive under the Superannuation Act. I am informed that that would involve very serious consideration of the whole actuarial question, but I would inform my hon. friend that his suggestion has not been entirely discarded.

The hon. Minister of the Interior, whose sympathies are known to every person who is familiar with him in private life, has worried—I use that word deliberately—more over this matter than he has over any other matter of public service in his department. This involves the human factor and we do not have to be reminded of the nervous strain of those who are not quite sure of their positions, who are thinking of the morrow, who have obligations to meet and who desire to be in a position to meet them; that is in the minds of all of us.

False statements have been circulated with respect to this matter, and it is in no censorious sense that I draw to the attention of the committee just what pressure, political and otherwise, will do. This committee must realize the task we have had to meet, the difficulties we have had to overcome and the situation which confronts us, and I assure the committee that any suggestions offered will be gratefully received. There is a very earnest and anxious desire on the part of the administration to deal with those who are affected as they would expect to be dealt

with by those who for the moment are charged with the responsibility of the administration of this country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Chairman, there was one expression used by my right hon. friend which I think must have been an inadvertence on his part; either that, or it was made in ignorance of the exact facts. He referred to the temporary employees as being political favourites seeking jobs. My right hon. friend nods his head in assent. May I say to him that any such characterization is most unfair. My recollection is that when the late Liberal administration came into office we found many hundreds, I think I am safe in saying thousands of employees who were classified as temporary. Considerable of the time spent in straightening up civil service matters was consumed in the consideration of the position of these temporary employees, and my recollection is that throughout the time we were in office a very large number of those temporary employees were, to use the technical phrase, blanketed in; that is to say, they were made permanent employees.

Mr. BENNETT: By order in council.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: By action of the Civil Service Commission. What has actually taken place is that many employees who are styled as temporary have been longer in the public service than many of those who are classified as permanent. My impression is that all such were dealt with quite irrespective of their political complexion. They were blanketed into the permanent service because they had served so many years. I am sure that at the present time there are still a large number of civil servants designated as "temporary employees" who have been serving in their positions not for ten years, but for fifteen or twenty years. I think it is entirely wrong to describe them as being political favourites who are seeking jobs. They are members of the public service of Canada who have been serving the country faithfully and because of a condition which I think might well be described as an injustice they have been carried along year after year as temporary employees when their services have in fact merited their being made permanent employees long ere this.

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman is both correct and incorrect. In his observation as to their being long-service employees classified as temporary, he is absolutely correct. A considerable number of civil servants in the Interior department—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: And other departments as well—

Mr. BENNETT: —are classified as temporary although, as the right hon. gentleman has said, they have many years of service. Those who have served but six months are in another class altogether, but they are classified also as temporary and they are the ones who for the moment are able to exercise the necessary influence to achieve the desired result.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): They are casual labourers?

Mr. BENNETT: No. The temporary employees at headquarters numbered sixty-seven in March, 1926. When we took office, the number was 212 and it is now 145. There are two divisions of the temporary employees. I would share to a certain extent the observations made by the right hon. gentleman. I first learned at the treasury board of the matter to which he has directed attention, and I recall one instance of a person who had served for something over thirteen years and was still classified as a temporary employee—

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There are some who have served twenty years.

Mr. BENNETT: My memory does not carry me beyond the case to which I am referring at the moment. This case is an instance of this class in the temporary list.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Will the Prime Minister be good enough to elucidate one point? Are all these men who are being retired on superannuation at the present time being treated in exactly the same manner? Are they being given leave of absence in accordance with the Civil Service Act, or are they simply notified one day in advance that they have to quit?

Mr. BENNETT: So far as I know, they are all treated in the same way except those who did secure leave of absence. I cannot at the moment speak with absolute authority about that. My memory is that there is a class that has been given notice that their positions have been abolished; that is, there is nothing for them to do.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): All the land service will be in that class.

Mr. BENNETT: Principally in that branch.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Will the Prime Minister allow me to cite one case?

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly.

Sir EUGENE FISET: There is a case of the librarian of the Department of the Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Roy, who is over seventy years of age, who has had forty years of service, who, in accordance with the Civil Service Act, is entitled to at least six months' leave of absence and who, I understand, has been dismissed from the service without a single day's leave notwithstanding the fact that the recommendation went from the department to the cabinet that he be given at least six months' leave of absence.

Mr. CAHAN: If my memory serves me aright, no application was made by this librarian for leave of absence until after he had attained the age of seventy years or more, when he was bound to retire. Under the act he had to retire unless I could certify that he had some special qualifications which necessitated a continuance of his employment for another year. I do not wish to discuss the personnel of my department, but I could not give the certificate in that case. The librarian received every advantage that could be given to him under the law.

Mr. BENNETT: As the hon. member for Rimouski has raised the question, might I point out that the section of the Civil Service Act states—and I am not responsible for it any more than the other members of the house are—that civil servants shall be retirable at the age of sixty-five, but at seventy they must retire unless their immediate head certifies that because of their peculiar fitness they should be continued in their positions. I did sign such a certificate the other day, but I put this to the committee: there is a gentleman seventy-three years of age and he had had a certificate for three years. It was signed again just as a matter of form, certifying that because of his peculiar fitness he should be continued in his position. What do hon. members think his position was? He was an elevator attendant. I give that illustration to show the difficulty the government experiences in matters of this kind. We did not raise the question, but when it is raised we must deal with it, and the only way you can escape it is to make a certificate of that character. The Secretary of State recalls the instance to which the hon. member for Rimouski refers. I think the hon. member for Rimouski will realize he would not ask the Secretary of State to make such a certificate.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Was the man of whom the Prime Minister spoke in his office?

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Motion agreed to.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BENNETT: This is the second resolution: I move:

Resolved that a sum not exceeding $1,887,664.67, being one-sixth of the amount of each of the several items to be voted for Canadian National Steamships and Maritime Freight Rates Act as set forth in the estimates for the fiscal year ending 31st March, 1932, laid before the house at the present session of parliament, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for the fiscal year ending the 31st March, 1932.

Mr. POULIOT: The Prime Minister knows very well that I like him.

Mr. BENNETT: He is not flattered.

Mr. POULIOT: When he uses sarcasm about my humble self, I admit I feel very humble, but when I compare myself with any one of his ministers except the Minister of Justice who sits to his right, I feel reassured. I wish to continue to read this report.

The CHAIRMAN: The resolution does not cover the railways; it simply covers the steamships, so my hon. friend is out of order.

Mr. POULIOT: There is nothing at all about the Canadian National Railways in it?

The CHAIRMAN: Only the Canadian National steamships.

Mr. POULIOT: Everything is so mixed up in the railways that I do not know what to do about the matter.

Motion agreed to.

Resolutions reported.

Mr. POULIOT: I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no motion before the house just now.

Mr. POULIOT: It is the reading of the resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: The reporting of the resolution is not debatable.

Mr. POULIOT: I wish to speak to a question of privilege. When the first resolution was introduced, I asked the Prime Minister whether it had something to do with the Canadian National Railways, and he said that it had not but that he was going to bring in another one that would have something to do with them. The Chairman has just said that the second resolution included nothing in connection with the Canadian National Railways. I do not know whether the Prime Minister made a slip or not, and I would like to be posted on the matter.

Resolutions read the second time, and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

The house in committee of ways and means, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Mr. BENNETT: moved:

Resolved that towards making good the supply granted to His Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the financial year ending 31st March, 1932, the sum of $42,087,112.10 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada.

Mr. POULIOT: Does this include something about the Canadian National Railways?

The CHAIRMAN: No, I am sorry.

Mr. POULIOT: Do not be sorry.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported, read the second time, and concurred in. Mr. Bennett thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 25, for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1932.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first and second times, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On Section 1—Short title.

Mr. POULIOT: Is this part of the estimates that are included in the blue book of estimates for the fiscal year?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. POULIOT: Item 161 reads:

Canadian government railways: to provide additional car ferry and facilities for car ferry service between the mainland and Prince Edward Island, $1,059,310.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver Centre, to reduce that amount to one dollar, and I will speak on the motion.

The CHAIRMAN: We are on clause 1. My hon. friend can move to amend clause 1, that the title be changed.

Mr. POULIOT: If there is an amendment that is suitable to cover an explanation of the whole thing, I shall gladly accept it. I will accept any suggestion from the chairman in that respect.

Section 1 agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Thursday, April 16, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

DEBATES TRANSLATION BRANCH

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That the recommendation submitted by the Civil Service Commission under section 12 and section 61 of the Civil Service Act for the classification of the position of assistant chief of the debates translation branch and laid on the table of the house on March 23, 1931, be approved.

Those who have been following the proceedings of the chamber will have observed in the journals of March 23 the report submitted by the Civil Service Commission some two years ago. That classification was made, and for the better organization of the staff now working in that branch it is regarded as essential by the Civil Service Commission, by you, Mr. Speaker, and by those in charge of the house that this classification now should be made effective. It involves an increased charge on the revenues of $260 per annum.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Who is the official?

Mr. BENNETT: He will have to be appointed by the commission. This is merely the authorization.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I suppose the Prime Minister could not indicate who the appointee is likely to be.

Mr. BENNETT: I am bound to say, Mr. Speaker, that since the advent of the new government we are never able to anticipate the actions of the commission.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I was just about to remark to my right hon. friend that I assumed the appointee would be a Liberal.

Mr. BENNETT: If history and custom are to be followed certainly there will be no chance for a follower of any other party.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Bill No. 26, respecting the Restigouche Log Driving and Boom Company—Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury).

Bill No. 27, respecting the Subsidiary High Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters in the Dominion of Canada—Mr. Chevrier.

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following letter:

Ottawa, April 16, 1931.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that Hon. Mr. Justice Newcombe, acting as deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber on April 16, at 3.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving the Royal Assent to certain bills.

James F. Crowdy,
Assistant Secretary.

LEGISLATION IN SASKATCHEWAN

QUESTION AS TO REPEAL OR DISALLOWANCE BY GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

On the orders of the day:

Mr. OSCAR L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse): Before the orders of the day are called I wish to put a question to the right hon. leader of the government (Mr. Bennett) based upon statements made by followers of the government and even by ministers of the crown in relation to recent laws passed by the legislature of Saskatchewan. In those statements these laws have been condemned and the hope has been expressed that they may be repealed. My question, therefore, is this: In view of these statements is it the intention of the government to take steps to have these laws repealed, either by disallowance by the governor in council under section 90 of the British North America Act or through the enactment by this parliament of remedial legislation in accordance with section 93, paragraph 4 of the British North America Act?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I intimated some days ago that I was wholly in accord with the hon. gentleman's own chief in his statement made some years ago that questions as to policy or having to do with the intentions of the government should not be put on the orders of the day. However, I can assure the hon. gentleman that his representations will be given due weight. I gather that he suggests that the power of disallowance, which has been in abeyance now for half a century, should be used by this administration. I refer him to history, and he will ascertain in that way what is the correct course to be followed in a case such as he has suggested.

ASSISTANCE TO RETURNED SOLDIER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): I have a case I should like to submit to the government, having to do with a returned soldier who was all through the war; who was in the army of occupation in Germany and who returned home incapacitated but never applied for a pension. Lately, under the new act, he applied for pension and his case was heard, but the decision was unfavourable. The case is now in appeal, but last winter he was so incapacitated that he could not support his family, which consists of four or five children, and he was helped out by friends and relatives. Now he wishes to do a little farming, but he is not in a position financially to secure the necessary seed. Can some arrangement be made to help him out, either by the Department of Pensions and National Health or under the arrangement which has been made to provide seed to needy farmers in the west?

I do not expect an offhand reply to this request, but I would ask that the Minister of Pensions and National Health, or perhaps the right hon. Prime Minister acting in his capacity of Minister of Finance, take the matter into consideration and let me know if anything can be done in such a case. I do not wish to put on record the name of the man; I think it would be humiliating to him, but I will submit the name to the Minister of Pensions and National Health. I can assure him that I am conversant with the whole case and that it is meritorious.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. The matter to which the hon. member is referring is one for correspondence rather than a subject which may be properly brought up on the orders of the day.

Mr. VENIOT: All I ask, Mr. Speaker, is whether the matter will be considered.

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): If the hon. gentleman will give me the name privately I shall have the matter looked into and give all the information I can.

AIR MAIL SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT OF POLICY ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I desire to ask the Prime Minister a question which I intended to raise yesterday had we reached the orders of the day. In the morning Citizen of April 15—yesterday—there appears a statement by the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauve) concerning which I should like to make an inquiry. The item reads:

A statement from the Prime Minister on the government's policy with respect to the air mails will be made in the House of Commons,

probably to-day or Thursday, declared Hon. Arthur Sauvé, Postmaster General, when asked if the reduction in respect of this service in the estimates for the current fiscal year indicated that any or all of them would be discontinued. Mr. Sauvé himself would not say what action was contemplated.

Then appears in quotation a statement which the Postmaster General is alleged to have made:

"It is the function of the Prime Minister, in his capacity of Minister of Finance, to make any statement in connection with this. I have nothing to say," Mr. Sauvé observed.

The question I wish to ask my right hon. friend is, first, whether he has a statement which he will make to the house on the subject referred to; and, secondly, whether the statement of the Postmaster General, as reported, represents the theory of ministerial responsibility as entertained by the Prime Minister in agreement with his colleagues. Is it to be understood that, on matters which are departmental, as well as on matters of general policy, all information will be given to parliament through the Prime Minister and not by the minister in charge of the department concerned? To make my meaning clear, I quite understand that the Prime Minister, as Minister of Finance, would make a statement of general policy with respect to financial or other matters. But when it comes to departmental matters, the custom heretofore has been, and I believe the British custom is, that the responsible minister in charge of a department is the minister of the crown holding the portfolio, and that he should be the one to advise parliament and the country on departmental affairs.

Hon. ARTHUR SAUVE (Postmaster General): If the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) will allow me to see the statement he has read, I will answer in proper time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Postmaster General is very kind. Would he tell me what the proper time would be? Can he tell me that offhand without first speaking to the Prime Minister?

Mr. SAUVE: I may inform the leader of the opposition that I will give the information in proper time, on the estimates.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: On the estimates? That may be several months from now. This is a pressing matter at the moment.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The item which I have just read to the house refers to a statement which it was said by the Postmaster General himself would be made in this house either yesterday or to-day. Is that correct or is it incorrect? Part is in direct quotations.

Mr. SAUVE: That is my answer to-day.

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): Mr. Speaker, I have a question to ask further to that asked by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in connection with the air mail developments. The other day I put a question to the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) but I was declared to be out of order. I suppose that ruling was made because my question bordered somewhat too close to a request for a declaration of policy by the government. I have no desire to have that interpretation put upon my question. I was wondering whether or not the Postmaster General has any definite information with regard to these western air mail developments, and if he can give us an approximate idea as to when he will make a statement to the house and to the country.

Mr. ERNST: Mr. Speaker, I desire—

Mr. McINTOSH: We ought to have something definite on this matter.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Is that the New Postmaster General standing in his place?

Mr. SPEAKER: No question has been directed to any minister of the crown.

Mr. McINTOSH: Mr. Speaker, my question—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. McINTOSH: —was directed to the Postmaster General and he is a minister of the crown.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understood the hon. member to say that he was wondering in regard to a certain matter; that requires no reply.

Mr. McINTOSH: Another excuse.

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. PETER McGIBBON (Muskoka-Ontario): I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether the report in one of the Ottawa newspapers on Tuesday last, that the Imperial conference would be adjourned by reason of the adoption in England of the quota system of purchasing wheat, had any foundation in fact.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): There is no foundation for such a statement as far as the government is aware.

DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Will the Prime Minister say when we may expect the report of the recent Dominion-provincial conference?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I do not know that any report will have been prepared until such time as the resolution is submitted to the house for approval. I may inform the hon. gentleman that the conference was called for the purpose of considering section 7 of the Statute of Westminster. That section was not prepared in England. It was left to us to prepare, and a meeting of the representatives of the provinces and of the Dominion was called for the purpose of drawing up such clause. That clause has been prepared. The premier of one of the provinces desired, while approving of it, to submit it to his colleagues, and he expected that by the 22nd day of April they would have had an opportunity to express their opinion with respect to it. I will not say immediately, but as soon as the business of the house will permit thereafter, the resolution embodying approval of the statute as drafted will be submitted to the house for its consideration.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Then no official proceedings of the conference have been recorded?

Mr. BENNETT: Except in this sense, that a secretary was appointed who kept minutes of the proceedings, the submission of a draft clause, the appointment of a committee, and the arrival of a conclusion. That is all.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Will that be laid on the table?

Mr. BENNETT: The secretary has not prepared any formal draft of it, because nothing was done except to consider that one clause, and that will be laid before the house.

TRACADIE, N.B., DREDGING

On the orders of the day:

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart) to a series of resolutions which I received to-day in the mail from the board of trade of Tracadie, county of Gloucester, New Brunswick, in relation to dredging going on there. I will not read these resolutions but will pass them on to the minister if he wishes. However, I will read the first paragraph:

Having been informed that the work of dredging carried on by Dredge No. 12 in Tracadie harbour has been ordered discontinued by the Department of Public Works, this board in special meeting assembled do hereby strongly protest—

It goes on with a series of whereases. If the minister will accept this resolution from the board he may let me know later on what the intentions of the department are.

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): I shall be pleased to receive the communication from the hon. gentleman and have the matter investigated.

PEACE RIVER OUTLET

On the orders of the day:

Mr. OLOF HANSON (Skeena): I wish to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) whether he has received the report of the Peace River-Pacific outlet railway survey. I asked him the same question before the house adjourned for the Easter recess. He informed me at that time that he was in communication with Premier Tolmie of British Columbia and expected to receive an answer from him as to how the survey was progressing. If he has not yet received that report, I should like to know whether it will be tabled when he does get it.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Prior to the hon. gentleman's question I had written to Premier Tolmie and I am informed that the report is before that government. It is rather voluminous and they have not had time properly to go into it. It has not yet been tabled in the provincial house and therefore I am not in a position at the present time to table a copy of it. When I am able to do so I shall lay it on the table of the house.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): Will it be presented?

Mr. MANION: When I get it. I have not yet received it.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): In his capacity as Minister of Finance, will the Prime Minister inform me whether we can get any details, if it has started to function, with respect to the financial corporation formed last winter?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The financial corporation to which I fancy the hon. gentleman refers is a credit corporation created by private enterprise and not through governmental action. The last advice I had, which was verbal, was that they had succeeded in securing subscriptions amounting to some $3,000,000 and that the corporation would function at a not distant date.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: It has not functioned yet?

Mr. BENNETT: Not so far as I am aware.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): In view of the fact that it was mentioned in his speech at Regina, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he is in communication with the financial corporation at all times?

Mr. BENNETT: The answer would be in the negative.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN FRANCOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, may I inquire of the hon. Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart) if the members will be supplied shortly with new telephone directories for the House of Commons.

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public works): Mr. Speaker, I shall take the hon. gentleman's request into consideration and hope to be able to meet his wishes in this respect.

DAMAGES BY FRENCH TRAWLERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. W. G. ERNST (Queens-Lunenburg): Mr. Speaker, I desire to direct the attention of the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) to despatches which appeared in the Halifax papers to the effect that French steam trawlers operating off the coast of Nova Scotia were doing serious and wilful damage to trawls and other equipment of the Lunenburg fishing vessels. I took the trouble to telegraph to find out whether or not these reports were accurate and I have been informed that such damage is being done and apparently wilfully. I realize that this is an international matter, but I would ask the hon. minister whether any action is contemplated.

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, so far as I am aware no communication has been received either by myself or by my department from Captain Parks. I observed the reference to this matter in the press, and in addition to that I received a telegram from Mr. Mosher of North Sydney directing my attention to the situation. Communications have been sent both to Mr. Mosher and to Captain Parks asking for full details as to the vessel's names, the names of the trawlers, and if possible the location and extent of the damage. As soon as this information is at hand the necessary representations will be made through the proper channels.

Mr. DUFF: As a shareholder in the vessel in question I am very pleased to hear that answer.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Tuesday, April 14, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. L. E. PARENT (Terrebonne) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, In resuming my remarks on the address, interrupted by the adjournment of Tuesday evening, I draw your attention once more to what the speech from the throne says concerning cooperation and unity in Canada. I repeat the quotation:

> In prosperity they were united. In adversity that union is made still stronger by the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding which is the surest bulwark of the nation's welfare and happiness.

The right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) who is the author of the speech from the throne and who put these fine phrases into the mouth of His Excellency has not, in the past, practised what he preaches. Did the right hon. Prime Minister and his Conservative followers preach union, cooperation and mutual understanding for the safeguarding of Canada's welfare and happiness during the last campaign? They did not. Wherever they addressed public meetings, before election day, our opponents went to unbelievable lengths of crowd-baiting in their determination to uproot the people's trust in those who had governed the country for the past ten years. They showed the situation in a false light, they appealed to prejudice, they stirred up the most baneful leanings of the populace; they went so far as to twist public opinion in a very harmful way. Were they striving thus to ensure the happiness of Canada's citizens?

I state it as my sincere belief that this spirit of harmony and confidence was the result of ten years of good government under the prosperous Liberal regime.

The speech from the throne goes on:

> These attributes of Canadianism are national assets of real value, and, upon their possession I do profoundly congratulate you.

This paragraph of the speech from the throne makes His Excellency pay a well-deserved tribute to the Liberal party who endowed our people with these national assets of Canadianism.

Mr. Speaker, these "attributes of Canadianism" are in large part due to the policy of peace and harmony of the Liberal administration, unfailing in their consideration and respect towards minority groups in matters of language, of education and of creed.

Canadianism is a word pregnant with meaning, like patriotism, like "Canada First"; but it is upheld by acts, by deeds; it is not an empty cry and, mayhap, a deceitful one.

Mr. Speaker, Canadianism is to be found only among those who understand and truly observe the prerogatives handed down to us under the British flag which every Canadian subject is proud to wave beside our own national emblem.

Where is the Canadianism of our Conservative friends? Let us take as a sample these biting words, born of hate and anger, uttered by the right hon. Prime Minister on June 10th, at Calgary, and reported in the Leader Post. Speaking of the Liberals, he had this to say:

> They make a plaything of people's lives, why? Do they realize that they are playing with lives, with food for women and children, with hunger? Nine years of wasted effort before the great betrayal. Judas took less time.

Mr. Speaker, is that preaching union, cooperation and mutual understanding to the country?

Or, take what he said of the Liberal party at the outset of the election campaign:

> This group of mercenaries who hang on to power through sham and subterfuge, look upon them as traitors to your cause.

When a political leader uses such language, which is beneath his dignity, is he upholding the spirit of cooperation and mutual among the citizens of his country? Is this sort of low spell-binding the proper method for safeguarding the welfare and the happiness of a nation, does it enhance respect for authority? To excuse the author we would fain believe that he had lost control of himself when he used those regrettable words.

[Mr. Parent.]

Why all this anger, all this hatred, merely to win votes in an election? At any rate, these unfortunate words may very well unleach the passions of the masses and destroy all respect for authority; and the day when the people will have lost all respect for constituted authority, the gates will be thrown wide open to communism and to bolshevism. Such language has never before, to my knowledge, fallen from the lips of a political leader who wished to be respected; apologies are in order. I ask the presumed author of these words, the right hon. Prime Minister, to specify what members of the Liberal party deserve the opprobrious epithet of Judas. Mr. Speaker, there is no Judas in the Liberal party.

I deplore this excess of language, I consider it an insult to a great many Canadian citizens; and I repeat that the insult should be withdrawn. I trust the author will withdraw the epithet "Judas". I suggest to the right hon. Prime Minister that he seek out the Judases in our political life and that he obtain the cooperation of his colleague from Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) who has some knowledge in the matter.

One after another the Conservative candidates and the right hon. Prime Minister proclaimed throughout the length and breadth of Canada, during the last campaign, that the Liberals had ruined the country through their carelessness; that the Liberals were to blame for the economic depression, for the unemployment crisis; that our industries were going to the wall, that trade was stagnant; that foreign markets must be found for our farm produce, that an outlet for our western wheat was imperative, and they added: "Elect us to office and we will soon set matters straight, or perish in the attempt." That is what they said before the election, Mr. Speaker, to win the people's votes. But all these statements were contradicted by the hon. ministers of the crown themselves, once the elections were over. As proof of this I intend quoting to the house a paper published not in Canada but in Japan. They went quite a distance from Canada to tell the truth after the election.

I have now to revert to the English language.

I have in my hand the front page of a journal published in Japan under the title of the Japan Times and Mail. This is what it has to say under date of Monday, October 27, 1930:

> Canada's Export Trade Stands on a Firm Foundation.
>
> Each year it grows in the volume and in importance to every community in the Dominion.

Export business provides millions of Canadians with their livelihood. Nearly a third of Canada's annual production is shipped to other lands.

Each year the volume grows. From $740,000,000 in 1922, it has grown to $1,363,700,000 in 1929. For the first ten months of 1929 the export of manufactured and partly manufactured goods has increased by $46,500,000, while the export of raw material has decreased by $70,700,000.

In foreign lands the demand for our goods and products is at a premium.

I shall not quote further from this journal, because to do so would use up all my time, but it would be very interesting if the article could be published in the newspapers of the Dominion so that every Canadian could take cognizance of it.

(Translation) Mr. Speaker, this happened a few days after the election. And I beg you to note that this advertisement was published by the department of Trade and Commerce under the signature of the present hon. minister in the Bennett cabinet (Mr. Stevens), and that of his deputy; so that the statement is authentic, and it flatly contradicts what all the Conservatives and all the members of the government were saying all through the country during the campaign, in their efforts to mislead the people. After the election our Conservative friends discover that Canada's foreign trade is prosperous.

If this Japanese paper had been shown to the voters in different ridings, in Quebec province and elsewhere, in East Kootenay, for instance, or Chambly-Verchères, Two Mountains, Montmagny or other constituencies, would the hon. members of the government occupy a seat in this house, I wonder. But there is more to come. I am going to quote another hon. minister; not what he said on the floor of the house; so far most of the ministers have abstained from addressing parliament; one is lead to imagine that silence is enjoined upon the hon. ministers in the House of Commons. Listen to what the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) had to say in clubs and at banquets. In November 1930, speaking at a banquet given by the Sauvé club in the Mount Royal Hotel, the hon. minister, after telling of Canada's wealth, went on to say:

Canada leads the world in agricultural products. It is second in importance among the manufacturing countries of the empire; first in the export of wheat, newsprint, nickel, asbestos; first in national wealth per capita.

There you have the truth, Mr. Speaker but it flatly contradicts the assertions of his leader and of all the Conservative candidates in the course of last summer's campaign. If the hon. Minister of Marine had been as accurate with the voters of Chambly-Verchères, would he be an "honourable" to-day?

Coming back to the speech from the throne, I quote further:

The fact that in this period of universal distress Canada has been spared the same acute degree of hardship which many other nations have been called upon to bear, will not, I know, blind you to the fact that between this country as it is and as it should be, there is a gulf to be bridged by the industry and zeal of all those who have the welfare of the nation in their keeping.

The situation has changed, says His Excellency in the speech from the throne. Indeed there have been changes, Mr. Speaker, since our Conservative friends came into power! Let us glance at a few eloquent figures which go to prove this. I am speaking now of the adverse change in the export of our domestic products. In January 1930, under a Liberal government, our exports were valued at $73,000,000; in January 1931, under the Conservatives, this had fallen to $44,000,000: a reduction of 30 per cent. In February 1930, under the Liberals, $66,000,000; in February 1931 under the Conservatives, $43,000,000: 30 per cent less. We are told that the national treasury faces a deficit of $100,000,000; quite a change from the surpluses built up by the Liberal administration. The government have to borrow to make up the deficit: the Liberals were constantly reducing our national indebtedness. We may expect an increase in taxes; tax reduction was the order when the Liberals were in office. There has been a pronounced weakening in the prices the farmer receives for his produce, just the opposite of what the Conservatives promised and foretold when they were out looking for votes. Canadian products, our agricultural products in particular, have lost nearly all their foreign markets, thanks to our exorbitant tariff increases. Canada is no longer a ranking nation in the matter of export trade.

In a word the change has been much for the worse; the situation fosters foreboding and causes much more uneasiness than did the crisis at election time.

Mr. Speaker, the speech from the throne asks us to set ourselves zealously to the task of filling this void; it says that certain factors of a domestic character were responsible for our present economic ills. I ask the honourable members on the other side to point out to us, if they can, what domestic factors contributed to this trade depression. They will try to make us believe that the Liberal administration is to blame for the sorry state of affairs brought about by the loss of our foreign markets. My reply is that it was the Liberals

who opened up these markets for our Canadian products and that the markets have been lost since the Conservative party came into power. And I quote, as proof, the statement of a man whose authority and knowledge in the matter is unquestioned. The general manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, speaking before the general meeting of the shareholders, in Montreal, on January 28th, 1931, said what follows:

> In ten years the proportion of Canadian products sold in foreign markets had increased from 25 to 30 per cent.

This was under the Liberal regime, since 1921. The gentlemen opposite must agree that times are changed indeed! In its monthly letter, published recently, the Bank of Montreal points out Canada's foreign trade has decreased by 36 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, we should look for the cause of all our ills in the action of the present government: they boosted the customs tariff to such a height that other countries refused to go on buying Canadian products, since we no longer bought theirs. We are isolating ourselves, that is what it amounts to; and Canada is producing a surplus of manufactured and agricultural products which we cannot sell abroad, to such an extent has our foreign trade fallen off. Prices are tumbling, factories are laying off their hands, unemployment is on the increase. There you have the fruits of a high protective policy.

The members to your right, Mr. Speaker, realizing the disastrous results of their short-sighted policy, and the terrible pass to which they have brought the country, are seemingly bent on appealing to clairvoyants.

I quote for you what was said by the honourable Minister of Marine, at that same banquet tendered by the "Club Sauvé", in Montreal, on the 27th of last November, as reported in La Presse. He had just spoken of the hardships people were undergoing in a rich country like Canada; he continued thus:

> We needed a clairvoyant mind, a man of action who would know how to give form and expression to the people's thought.

And he mentioned Mr. Bennett's name.

ROYAL ASSENT

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

> Mr. Speaker, His Honour, the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, the house went up to the Senate,

And having returned,

[Mr. Parent.]

Mr. SPEAKER informed the house that the deputy of His Excellency the Governor General had been pleased to give in His Majesty's name the royal assent to the following bill:

> An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1932.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. PARENT (Translation): I ask the hon. Minister of Marine to tell us when he speaks on the floor of the house—and we are anxious to hear him—just what the present government has done for Canada since it came into power. I suppose his reply will be: protection. I maintain that the protective policy shackles foreign trade, that it has prevented the sale of our manufactured products to the detriment of the consuming public, the farmers, especially, who have to pay high prices for everything they buy, while their own products must be sold on a steadily weakening market; the farmers' candle is being burned at both ends.

I maintain, Mr. Speaker, that agriculture, as the basic industry of this country, should receive first consideration at the hands of our government, before any other group.

I believe that if the hon. Minister of Marine's "clairvoyant" had foretold the present condition of the farming class in Chambly-Verchères, Two Mountains, and other Quebec constituencies, we would have fewer Conservative representatives in this house to-day.

If the hon. Minister of Marine answers: "Unemployment relief," I will quote him the words spoken by the right hon. Prime Minister at Victoria on the 16th of June last ("Colonist"):

> Is there any excuse for hard times in this country, if the government does its duty?

and at Sarnia on July 16th ("Mail and Empire"):

> Someone is responsible for unemployment; not individuals but the government. Because of their majorities in parliament governments must answer for every bit of legislation passed.

I grant you that the government passed a law for the relief of unemployment. But what

does it amount to? I state here and now that the government did not keep their promise to end unemployment; they did not assume the share of liability they pledged themselves to assume under the unemployment relief act. They threw all the burden on the municipalities; most of the latter were unable to negotiate loans and to contribute an equivalent amount to that put up by the federal and provincial treasuries. That is not what was promised on the campaign platform.

An hon. MEMBER: You were free to take it or leave it.

Mr. PARENT: But that is not all. What was the net result of the unemployment relief act? According to statistics, 18 days of work were furnished to 228,351 men, or an average of merely $50 or $60 to live on for six months. Is that what you promised the voters of this country?

An hon. MEMBER: It is better than nothing.

Mr .PARENT: These facts speak for themselves; they are real: statistics do not lie. Mr. Speaker, my time will soon be up; I have only a few minutes left. I wish to speak of the statement made by another member of the government, the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) who invokes the authority of economists:

> The chief cause of the present trade depression is not overproduction, but faulty methods fo distribution.

He adds:

> Certain countries, among others China, India, Mexico and certain parts of Latin America are in need of goods which other countries possess in abundance. The main difficulty is to reach these markets. The problem of straightening this state of affairs should receive the attention of economists.

This is the same hon. minister Mr. Speaker, who had a full-page advertisement published in a Japanese newspaper, under his own signature; in that advertisement, which I mentioned a while ago, it is said that the markets of the world are open to Canada for the export of her surplus product. During the campaign the Conservatives, were very generous with their promises. They made any number of nasty insinuations against the Liberal party; but they have never been able to charge the Liberal administration with dishonesty. They sought in vain: they could find no pretext for any such accusation. The Conservatives showed things and events in a false light. They made all sorts of statements which they contradicted themselves, once the elections were safely behind and they were in the seats of the mighty. But the Canadian people have had their eyes opened; they see now the difference between the two administrations; between the Liberal regime from 1921 to 1930 and the disastrous consequences of only six months of Conservative rule. This government has lost the confidence of the Canadian electorate.

Mr. Speaker, with a full sense of the duties and responsibilities I have assumed I am willing to cooperate with the government and with the hon. members to your right on all measures of public interest submitted to the house because as a Canadian I have the hopeful ambition of doing my share to hasten the return of our former prosperity and to help our country reach the high destiny which we all trust is hers.

Mr. EMILE FORTIN (Lévis): (Translation) Mr. Speaker, from my seat in this house, I wish to pay a tribute to my constituents in Lévis I wish to tell them how I appreciate the honour they conferred upon me when electing me as their representative, and that they can rely on my unremitted devotion at all times.

In rising to speak for the first time in this house, I do so with a deep feeling, as I happen to be the first Conservative member returned by the constituency of Lévis since 1882. This feeling is easily accountable for when I recollect that I have been called upon to succeed the Hon. Dr. Blanchet, grandfather of the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré), who is the minister from my district. As I am thus evoking the memory of my illustrious predecessor who so fittingly occupied the chair you now adorn, Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my pleasure to offer to you my congratulations for your election to that office.

I desire to extend my felicitations to my fellow countrymen who, in delivering their speeches in their mother tongue have set the example, and had I a reproach to express, it would be addressed to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), and even to the hon. deputy speaker of this house (Mr. LaVergne), who could at least have delivered part of their speeches in French. However, upon further thought, I felt that the hon. deputy speaker had used the English language in order that his remarks might be understood and to defend us more efficiently. I take this opportunity to express the hope that our esteemed deputy speaker shall speedily recover from his illness. I wish to inform him that his valuable help shall still be required in our national contests. Norris was the idol of the Liberals, even of the French Canadian

Liberals, but ourselves, we shall stand up against Anderson. And it is my sincere wish that the hon. prime minister of Saskatchewan may remember that we have at Rideau Hall a lady of the manor of French origin.

I was rather shocked, if I may use the term, when I was asked by several members, Liberal and Conservative, from Ontario and other provinces, where the constituency of Levis was located and other information concerning same. For a few moments, let me take you on a journey through my constituency. The county of Levis is separated from Quebec by the St. Lawrence river. It has two means of communication; first, the Quebec bridge, and in second place, the ferry service. When reaching Levis from the ferry boats the first building to be seen, and that is rather significant, is the Canada National Railway station; we also see the up-to-date customs house, and on our left, the yards from which coal is being shipped to all parts of the province of Quebec. A few steps farther, one may board a street car of the Levis Tramways Company and proceed to Lauzon where are located the famous Lorne and Champlain dry docks. You may know or may not know that the Lorne and Champlain dry docks are the most up-to-date in the world; at this same place may be seen also the shipyards where skilled workmen are now engaged in building, for the Canadian National Railways, a car ferry of some 500 feet in length. It was on behalf of these workers, that, at the first caucus held during the special session, I called the attention of the Prime Minister and of the Minister from my district (Mr. Dupré) to the opportunity of exacting a duty of 25 per cent on all foreign naval construction. Quite recently, I noticed in a newspaper that a manufacturer, more experienced than myself, had suggested that we should follow the example of the United States and apply a duty of 50 per cent. At the caucus above mentioned I was promised—and the Conservatives, as a rule, keep their promises—that action would be taken accordingly, and the matter was discussed at the interprovincial conference held recently.

Let us leave the Lorne and Champlain dry docks and proceed to the military camp at Lauzon, where the various regiments of the Quebec district hold their annual drills. This camp has been in existence for a great many years and it is surrounded with old forts that are now classified as historical sites, but which ought to be kept in a better condition by the hon. Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sutherland) for I would be ashamed to ask tourists to pay a visit to these forts.

Thence, we proceed to the armouries which are the general headquarters of the Quebec and Levis regiments. We then go to the Quarantine where is disembarked the grade live stock imported from foreign countries. A little further on, one may see the Breakeyville mills and those of the Gravel Lumber Company, and some distance away the large Canadian National Railways workshops, of great size, forsooth, but unfortunately idle. If the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) was at his seat—

Some hon. MEMBERS: He is here.

Mr. FORTIN: —I would pause to call his attention to the fact that exceptionally large sums of money are being expended by the Canadian National Railways outside of the constituency of Levis, and this because of the presence in our district of unqualified men who instead of having the necessary repairs made at Charny take the cars and locomotives to Montreal, Joliette and other places. I hope that the Minister of Railways will take up the matter and see to it that we get fair treatment in that respect.

We now have practically reached the limits of my constituency and come to the famous lighthouse of the Department of Marine at St. Nicholas. This is the point from which, after our journey through the county, we retrace our steps via the well known Quebec bridge. It is to be hoped that the mention of the famous Quebec bridge shall bring to mind the constituency of Levis and that I shall no longer meet people saying to me: Where is the county of Levis? What about that constituency of Levis?

The county of Lévis has also given the country quite a number of men of great distinction. Many of them went through the College of Lévis, from which both the hon. Solicitor General and my hon. friend, the member for L'Islet (M. Fafard), graduated. Among such famous men may be also included Sir Lomer Gouin who was prime minister of his province, Minister of Justice in the Dominion government and lieutenant-governor of the province of Quebec. One may also mention Sir François Lemieux, chief justice of the superior court of the province of Quebec, and the Hon. Adélard Turgeon who for so many years was president of the Legislative council. There are also justices Belleau, Bernier and Gelly, and we also can boast of having the first Canadian cardinal, cardinal Bégin, who was born in a small

parish of my constituency. And lastly, I could not overlook our national bard, Louis Fréchette.

Speaking of my Alma Mater, I wish to bring out the fact the college of Lévis has made for itself quite a reputation in the intercollegiate contests held for some years back. Twelve students from our Alma Mater were awarded the Prince of Wales prize.

The unfortunate thing about the constituency of Lévis is its close proximity to Quebec, as well as its being included within the boundaries of Quebec harbour. When it comes to secure a construction or improvement of some kind, complications arise. Only recently, having come to the conclusion that a deep water wharf would be of great advantage, the electors for Lévis petitioned me to that end. Before applying to the place where I expected a favourable reply, I had to visit several offices. I was first asked to see the department of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart) who, after a delay of three or four weeks, told me that he could not deal with the matter owing to the fact that Lévis is within the boundaries of Quebec harbour and that the Minister of Public Works has no authority to undertake any work there. A few days later, I went to the Department of Marine and there I was told by the hon. Minister (Mr. Duranleau): "Go and see the harbour commissioners and have the matter settled by the chairman and manager of that board." In other words his advice to me was that I should go and solicit from the president and manager of that board a favour which they mean to keep to themselves. I may state, Mr. Speaker, that for the last twenty-five years we have asked for deep water piers at Lévis and the matter is of the utmost importance, it being the key to the successful development of our industrial and commercial establishments.

Recently I had a conversation with the Hon. Senator Lemieux who said: "Lévis is a splendid county, Lévis is a beautiful city, but when one comes to the lower part of the town, the sight of its dilapidated wharves is disgraceful." In reply, I said to him: "I took steps in order to have this state of affairs remedied." I may be too pessimistic in my forebodings, though I have not seen anything in the estimates; otherwise I might lose the sympathy of the minister representing my district; however, I have not lost hope of succeeding for, as the hon. member for Dorchester was telling me the other day: "The supplementary estimates are yet to come."

The deep water wharves in question would only cost a trifle as compared to the $20,000,000 that have been spent in the harbour of Quebec. This work being requested not only by Lévis but by the south shore, by the constituencies of Bellechasse, Dorchester, Lotbinière and Beauce, it seems to me that the government ought to grant my request.

My predecessors, Mr. Speaker, have not neglected their duty. I am aware that they applied to the government for the very thing I am asking for this day, but always without success. If, as a member for Lévis, I must make requests and never secure anything, I say frankly that it is not my intention to act as a footstool to those who have political ambitions.

I now wish to refer briefly to the length of the speeches heard in this house. I find out, for the greater part, they are too long. I shall begin with the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) who, yesterday, after he had listened to the communistic utterances, to the revolutionary speeches delivered here, rose to his feet to say that the cause of the whole trouble lies in the fact that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) called the session too late.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. FORTIN: Yes, it is a fact, but if the opposition was not obstructing as it does since four weeks.

An hon. MEMBER: It is their duty.

Mr. FORTIN: We now have entered the fourth week of the session and we have practically done nothing! It seems to me that the hon. gentlemen on the other side may be blamed for this just as much as the government.

What has the right hon. leader of the opposition done? He delivered a splendid speech, most interesting, but which in fact was a lecture on the imperial conference and on the speech of the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett during the last election, and he spoke along these lines for at least two hours or two hours and a quarter. The right hon leader of the opposition devoted at least three quarters of an hour to an essay on the word "humbug". He said he had collected all existing dictionaries in the British empire in order to find a definition of the word "humbug". Do you not think, Mr. Chairman, that this is a waste of time?

I now turn to the hon. member for Quebec-East (Mr. Lapointe) whom I am always prone to call Minister of Justice because, indeed, a man of Mr. Lapointe's worth, cannot be belittled. What did the hon. member for Quebec-East say? He said; "There are our prophets". Well, yes, I hope we are prophets, and when we shall have restored to Canada

its prosperity of former days, it will be our turn to say to the opposition: "What nice prophets you are"!

The Hon. Mr. Lapointe's mind is beset with the imperial conference and for at least a year he has given thought to nothing else. He had fancied that no one else in Canada, apart from the right hon. leader of the opposition and himself, could attend the imperial conference. Mr. Speaker, the people have given their reply and it seems to me that Mr. Lapointe should make the best of it. If his trouble is due to indigestion, he should take a laxative in order to relieve himself from his conference. The hon. member for Quebec-East wasted the valuable time of the House with an eulogy of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The life story of Sir Wilfrid Laurier is known to all of us, and we all know that he was a great man, statesman of exceptional merit. But if we, on this side of the house, should start to proclaim in long speeches the virtues of all our famous public men, I dare say the session would last the twelve months of the year. As to the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) I should make no reference to him; however, since we are bound to speak even of those who are the vaudeville performers in the house, it occurs to me that he should be less prodigal of what little time we have to devote to the discussion of public affairs, instead of spending forty minutes in telling us about the station at Rivière-du-Loup. During the nine years of Liberal administration he surely had plenty of time to secure the building of that station.

I shall refer briefly to the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Fournier) who exceeded all others when he said: "Instead of being beneficial to my constituency, the $20,000,000 have done it harm."

Mr. Speaker, let an unemployed come to you and give him $100; two days later he comes back to tell you that you have done him harm. Speeches of that type are hurtful rather than helpful. You have heard the speeches, or the lectures, of the hon. members for St. Denis (Mr. Denis) and for Portneuf (Mr. Desrochers), and even the utterances —I was not in my seat at the time, but I was told about them,—of the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Verville). It is said his remarks were quite interesting and that he endeavoured to help his party. I quote these instances, Mr. Speaker, and I do so designedly because I wonder if an agreement could not be entered into, a rule laid down whereby the length of the sessions would be limited to three months instead of venturing on a session without knowing how long it may last. I would be pleased to have an answer to that suggestion from the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie), or from some legal gentleman, in order to ascertain if what has been done in respect to the length of speeches could not also be done concerning the session.

I am somewhat reassured when I find that the right hon. leader of the opposition seems in sympathy with the idea for, in the last part of his remarks, he was saying to the Prime Minister: "We trust you; we know that you are sincere; we know that all your intentions are good; but your policies are unsound."

The policy of the right hon. Prime Minister has been accepted and endorsed by the people and I hope that the right hon. leader of the opposition shall adhere to it until further order.

Mr. FOURNIER: Would the hon. member allow me a question? Did you read the following sentence in my speech—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question must be a direct one.

Mr. FOURNIER: With your permission, Mr. Chairman, and with the consent of the hon. member, I wish to point out that in my speech, as reported in Hansard of the 24th March, page 263, I said the following:

> It is said that the unemployment situation has improved, thanks to the grant of $20,000,000. I think so. Everybody will admit that it helped.

The hon. member should withdraw that part of his speech in which he states that I said that the grant caused harm.

Mr. FORTIN: The hon. member for Hull has only read one line of Hansard and I am not prepared to withdraw my words because I heard his speech.

Mr. FOURNIER: I request from the hon. member the withdrawal of that part of his remarks.

Mr. FORTIN: And I know that he inferred—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Withdraw, withdraw!

Mr. FORTIN: And I trust, as I was saying a minute ago, that the Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Withdraw. Order!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member for Hull having made a statement to the effect that the hon. member for Levis had misunderstood him, the hon. member for Levis cannot put a different construction on his words. He is bound to accept the statement of the hon. member for Hull.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Withdraw, withdraw!

Mr. FORTIN: In that case, I accept the explanation of the hon. member.

Mr. DORION: Hear, hear!

Mr. FORTIN: I was saying that the Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King was quite in sympathy with the government and that he was endeavouring to safeguard the interests of all. I expect that the people will soon give him further proof that the Liberal party is failing fast. I mean when the elections take place in Quebec and the Hon. Taschereau is defeated and has to make way for Mr. Camillien Houde.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Never.

Mr. BOUCHARD: Count on that as you did on your wharf; it will turn out the same way.

Mr. FORTIN: In order to set a good example, and without taking too much of the time of the house, I wish to pay my respects and offer my thanks to the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) for her kind and flattering words concerning the French-Canadian. Our hon. friend stated that she admired the facility with which the French-Canadian took up English, while at the same time, I surmise, retaining their own language. I shall suggest to my hon. friend that she should set an example to her English speaking colleagues, by becoming specially proficient in the use of the French tongue, to the point of delivering a speech in French by next session.

Mr. E. C. ST-PERE (Hochelaga): (Translation) Mr. Speaker, the member for Hochelaga is glad of this opportunity to join his voice to the chorus of congratulations which have greeted your elevation to the honourable, and honoured position of Speaker of the House of Commons.

If I choose to pay my respects to you in my mother tongue, despite my ready knowledge of both languages, this choice of mine was induced by my noticing not only that you gave proof of broadmindedness and intelligence in taking up the study of French, but also that the interested attention with which you follow every speech delivered in French shows that you appreciate more and more the beauties of our tongue.

You have given to the entire country a magnificent lesson in bonne entente. You have, moreover, made it clear that the language that is dear to you will work side by side with our own mother tongue, in Canada as in the League of Nations, for peace, harmony and fraternity among the different racial groups who go to make up this Canadian nation.

I followed with very great interest also the speech of the hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier). His exposition of Conservative policy was more than a profession of faith in a political doctrine: he showed the whole country that Memramcook College, an institution which numbers him among her most brilliant graduates, endows her students, as do all our French colleges in Canada, with a bilingual education. His presence here in this house is proof, moreover, of the survival of the French group who, since the great disturbance, have never ceased, from the plains of Acadia to the most remote bayous of Louisiana, to grow in numbers and in influence.

The seconder of the address also belongs to the new generation of public men who refuse to believe that parliamentary custom is something which cannot be changed. The designated mover of the address made way for the honourable member for Restigouche. This gesture, truly Canadian, is a sign of the times. There is no question of racial superiority in Canada; and I would be happy to know that in the future this rotation will be an established thing in the House of Commons.

The debate has been mild, Mr. Speaker, particularly amongst us French-Canadians from Quebec, representing the two political groups of the province. If an epithet has been dropped here and there, from one side or the other, if there has been a little teasing, it has all been couched in that genuine politeness which drew from one English governor the opinion that we were "a race of gentlemen".

There must be a debate, Mr. Speaker. Was it not the fabulist Lafontaine who wrote: "Discussion is a valuable help; without it we would sleep through life"?

Before entering into a discussion of the respective merits, or demerits, of the speech from the throne, let us glance at the conservative platform whence came all the speeches of the last election campaign.

At the last session of 1930 the two main features of the Conservative program were discussed on the floor of this house, our opponents refused to recognize that unemployment was an international problem and they claimed that the butter problem—God knows the province of Quebec was covered with butter during the last campaign—was due to the carelessness of the William Lyon Mac-

kenzie King administration. I must frankly admit that our Conservative friends were well prepared. It is always a clever move to flood the country with propaganda, not quite truthful; be that as it may I think our opponents were well prepared and, thanks to circumstances, they, who for years had been striving to get into office, reached their goal.

The right hon. Prime Minister did me the honour of opening his campaign in a Montreal district, next to my riding. I listened attentively to his speech, over the radio, in my humble home. He appealed to the unemployed; he surely intended to kill two birds with one stone, speaking in Maisonneuve county, adjacent to Hochelaga; but the workers in these two electoral districts gave a negative answer to the Conservative party, and your humble servant and the hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Robitaille) won the support of the voters once more, to the cause of the Right Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, to the cause of the Liberal party which, of all the political parties, has most often bent down to humble folk and lent them a helping hand.

The mentor of that evening was the hon. member for Maisonneuve in the provincial legislature. He asked several questions of the Conservative chieftain. He asked him, particularly, if he pledged himself to build in Canada the ships Canada needed. The Hon. Mr. Bennett replied that he saw no objection to that. But I am still wondering where those ships are, since most of the former employees of the Vickers shipyard are still without work.

Everything imaginable was promised the employees of our large textile mills; they were told that thanks to protection their wages would go up, that the waters of the Pactolus would replace those of the St. Lawrence which flow behind the mills of St. Anne and Hochelaga. I must admit that, lured by all these promises, a few of my friends deserted me for a moment, but they are looking forward to an exemplary revenge at the next federal election.

Protection was offered as a cure for all our ills. It was the hon. member from Compton (Mr. Gobeil), I believe, who recently made the statement that the province of Quebec was, in fact, protectionist.

Mr. DORION: That is true.

Mr. ST-PERE: The hon. member for Montmorency exclaims "That is true." I have no reason to change my opinion, Mr. Speaker. In a number of speeches on the floor of this house I have said that the difference between the two parties on the tariff question—I made the same statement during my last campaign—was that the Conservative party was the party of high protection while the Liberal party sought after the happy medium of moderate protection. Here are the answers the Liberals made to the arguments of our Conservative opponents: That the William Lyon Mackenzie King administration had reduced our national debt; that since 1922 the Liberal government had accumulated surplus after surplus; that the reports of our banks, etc., showed that Canada enjoyed a high degree of prosperity, and that our position in international trade was the envy of the world.

But the King government, in spite of all it had done for Canada, was defeated. Mr. Speaker, the masses are moved because their feelings are easily stirred; hence it is not difficult to swing their allegiance. The hero carried in triumph to the capital is dashed to death from the Tarpeian Rock, with the same enthusiasm. The Conservative party organizers—it is useless to blame them: that is their business—knew well how to put into practice the advice contained in their lines of Charles de la Vigne:

> Employez ces grands mots, ces phrases, ces formules,
> Dont la solennité trompe les moins crédules.

Mr. DORION: The Liberals know something about that; they made use of those words for such a long time.

Mr. ST-PERE: The hon. member for Montmorency will surely have occasion to discuss these matters again in the budget debate. If he will please remain in his seat for a few minutes I will acquaint him with certain statistics that he will find edifying.

An hon. MEMBER: The Dominion Textile.

Mr. ST-PERE: A few days after the victory the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett proceeded to appoint his army generals. But there was one missing, the general who was to lead the army of workers. During the struggle the Liberal party had retained the support of the workers in our big cities. Not a single workers' candidate was elected under the Conservative banner. But our opponents are never at a loss, apparently. The commander-in-chief sought among those who had been retired; and the hon. Minister of Labour of the Great War period, the Hon. Gideon Robertson, took up the task once more. A senator, who is not responsible to the people! The workingmen of Canada deserve better treatment than that at the hands of a government which claim it is truly democratic. I will remember how

much our opponents protested in the province of Quebec because the Hon. Mr. Perron accepted a portfolio while he was a member of the upper provincial house. He yielded to the popular demand and, nothing daunted, marched into Montcalm and carried away the mandate for that county. Let our friends opposite show themselves as consistent as did the Liberal party in Mr. Perron's case in Quebec province; then our workers will be represented in this house by something better than a light under a bushel.

Mr. LAVERGNE: In 1919 you were going to reform the Senate.

Mr. ST-PERE: Many reforms put forward are never accomplished.

Right after the election, the government lost no time in calling a meeting of the national employment council. In my capacity as the representative of a large labouring constituency I was at the meeting. On the recommendation of the council, the government accepted the methods of assistance that Mr. Hoover and his advisory committees had already decided upon for the unemployed in the United States. In their accepting their recommendations the present government who, throughout the campaign, had maintained that the unemployment problem was not international, recognized that the problem was, in fact, international.

There was nothing extraordinary about the short session. Called under the pretence of relieving unemployment it was nothing but a camouflage, its real object being to satisfy the imperious demands of those who had backed the Conservative party during the campaign. The tariff must be increased, whatever the cost; the ransom must be paid. God knows if the country has found out the cost of having listened to the pleadings of certain capitalists who, to-day, form the backbone of the Conservative party.

Far be it from me to deny the usefulness of the $20,000,000 voted for unemployment relief; but between that and making the people believe that an end was to be put to unemployment, there is quite a gap.

The Imperial conference. Being myself a newspaper man, I leave to our lawyer friends the analysis of constitutional law. I confine myself to the one remark that in leaving our shores the Right Hon. Prime Minister was bound for certain failure. The "non possumus" of the Right Hon. Mr. MacDonald told the Hon. Mr. Bennett and all his friends that Great Britain has no intention of changing her fiscal policy, the policy of every British government, Liberal, Conservative and Labour alike, since the repeal of the Corn Laws.

The "humbug" of Mr. Thomas. I think there is a bit of irony in the frequent repetition of this word "humbug" used by Mr. Thomas. We have often heard of this reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Canadian Prime Minister's tariff proposals. The right hon. leader of the government cannot fail to know that the hon. Mr. Thomas, this one-time engineer on the Great Western Railway, is, according to one of his biographers, "rather blunt, but a good-natured soul," and that he adhered fully to the program of the Labour party that the British voter could read as follows:

> The labour vision of a well-ordered world encompasses the nations presently torn by strife and quarrelling. Hence the labour party demands a policy of international cooperation.

These two last words explain the failure of our prime minister. The British Labour party, no matter what may be said to the contrary, prefers international to imperial cooperation.

There you have it; you must admit the plain fact that John Bull will restrict his trade to no special zone; he wants the whole world for a customer. Such are the traditions, the methods and the endeavours toward international peace, that the Gladstone party embodied and applied in days gone by.

"This practical idealism"—the very words that appear in the pink manifesto—has always had a strong hold on British opinion. The British people have always been equally moved by the consideration of their own interests and by the demands of their sentimental temperament.

Let us wait for the next economic conference, the only hope left the Conservative party of succeeding in disposing of our wheat in the markets of Great Britain.

During the campaign the Hon. Mr. Bennett stated there was no excuse for unemployment in Canada, with a government who did its duty. Has there been an end of unemployment, I ask the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Dorion)? Factories are closing down everywhere. Representing as I do, the largest manufacturing section of Montreal, rubbing elbows every day with workers and foremen, I know something about the situation. Moulders, carpenters, cabinetmakers, mechanics, all are idle to-day. The Pactolus has ceased to flow. Imports and exports are falling off, which makes serious inroads into our national exchequer. Our high tariff closes the Canadian market to foreign goods and in retaliation our products find no sale abroad. Result: unemployment is rampant, ever on the increase, and the purchasing power of the Canadian consumer has fallen so low that he can no longer buy even our own Canadian made goods.

Now let us glance a moment at the textile industry, ever the spoiled child of the Conservative party. The Montreal Star, Conservative organ in the metropolis, gave its special protection to this industry. The McLeod pamphlet, addressed to all the members of parliament was, I might say, an insult to the public conscience and to the common sense of the workingmen in my riding. This paper claimed that the workers in the cotton mills earned an average salary of $20 a week. I absolutely deny that statement and since proof of the contrary is the best answer I lay here on my desk pay-envelopes from the big cotton mill of Hochelaga. These hands worked from ten to twelve hours a day in the mill in question where the bosses apply the advice once given by William Pitt to the English textile manufacturers who were complaining of the high salaries they had to pay adult men and women: "Employ children." The Dominion Textile Co, has always employed child-labour. Not one of these envelopes mentions a higher wage than $37.50 for fifteen days' work.

Several hon. MEMBERS: For shame!

Mr. ST-PERE: It is interesting to note also that on the backs of these envelopes the employees are advised: "Spend your wages for made-in-Canada goods." Worthy advice, indeed. Shameful advice, I say, when addressed to workmen whose weekly budget—according to the Labour Gazette—should not fall below a minimum of $20-$21; telling them to buy other things when their pay will barely keep body and soul together. The hon. member for Montmorency—

Mr. DORION: Will my hon. friend allow me a question? What was done by the provincial Minister of Labour in Quebec?

Mr. ST-PERE: It is not for me to deal with provincial matters. I hold no brief for the Hon. Mr. Taschereau's administration; neither is it my business to lay charges against the city administration in Montreal. I say only this: it is my duty to deny the statements made by the present administration on the floor of the House of Commons.

Mr. DORION: Defend Taschereau and his government.

Mr. ST-PERE: The hon. member for Montmorency—

Mr. LAVERGNE: Will the hon. member show us those envelopes?

Mr. ST-PERE: They are my private property.

[Mr. St-Pere.]

Mr. LAVERGNE: I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman has quoted a document which he ought to disclose.

Mr. ST-PERE: I merely said that none of these envelopes represented more than $35 in the way of salary for two weeks.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I will drop the point of order. The hon. gentleman does not want to show the document.

Mr. ST-PERE: I know that if I showed it, revealing the salaries, these fellows would be out of their jobs to-morrow.

Mr. LAVERGNE: When the hon. member says that he is not fair.

Mr. ST-PERE: The other day the hon. member from Montmorency told us that the number of workers in the mill at St. Grégoire had doubled.

Mr. DORION: Not at all. I beg your pardon, I never said that.

Mr. ST-PERE: What is it you did say? Increased?

Mr. DORION: Increased.

Mr. ST-PERE: Very well, I withdraw the word "doubled." Here are the comparative statistics of 1930 and 1931 furnished by the Department of Labour, Quebec. How many persons were employed in the Dominion Textile mills at Montmorency, at the end of July, 1930? Answer 1,347. How many employees were there at the end of February, 1931? Answer: 1,349. An increase of two workers, under the high protective policy of the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett.

Mr. DORION: And that statement comes from the Minister of Labour at Quebec?

Mr. ST-PERE: I have every reason to believe that the hon. Minister of Labour at Quebec is just as honest as the member for Montmorency, when he submits a document. The member for Stormont (Mr. Shaver) told us that people were prosperous in the eastern part of the town of Cornwall. Unfortunately for him, my sporting activities in the past often brought me to Cornwall: I know what is going on there as well as I do what is taking place at home. Three of my good Cornwall friends have assured me this very week that the famous weekly wages of $30 was inexistent; that the only employees in the big Cornwall mill to earn any such figure were the engineer who repairs the machines, and a few other engineers. The Dominion Textile Co., in spite of the high protection which it enjoys, is never lavish with wage increases.

Mr. DORION: Just like the paper-mills in Quebec.

Mr. ST-PERE: You can keep the paper-mills.

Sir. EUGENE FISET: Especially Price Bros.

Mr. LAVERGNE: They are friends of yours.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Yours too.

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Now, to listen to our Conservative friends one would think that the $20,000,000 voted at the special session would, by some process of spontaneous generation, double in value under the magic wand of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). What about the charities of our St. Vincent de Paul societies? What about the assistance given by all the large social organizations of the city of Montreal and elsewhere? What about the self-sacrifice that the Montreal property owners are making, at present? I am proud to mention, in this respect, the devotion of a number of property owners among the working class of my riding who, since unemployment is prevalent in Canada, shelter without charge those among them who suffer from this world-wide crisis. Mention is made of unemployment statistics. Have you ever read, Mr. Speaker, the articles published by certain distinguished economists who contend that it is impossible to gather reliable statistics on unemployment?

I should very much like to discuss the Russian embargo. However, I shall postpone my comments on this subject.

Mr. LAVERGNE (Translation): Sometime, somewhere.

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Until I discuss the budget. Since the Deputy Speaker of the house and the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) wish to know the views of the Liberal members for Quebec in this respect, I shall ask them to wait patiently until the budget is brought down.

Mr. DORION (Translation): The fiddles are out of tune.

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Much has been said about national unity. Does it truly exist? I am sorry to have to refer to it and I ask my English-speaking friends throughout this country who know me to take note, that if I refer to this subject now, it is that circumstances compel me to do so. The hon. Solicitor General spoke about appeals to prejudice. An article which appeared in "La Presse" with reference to conscription was mentioned. Who was the first to refer to conscription at the last Dominion elections, if not the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. MacNicol), he stated when he was chosen as a Conservative candidate in Ontario:

> Next time war breaks out, conscription will be resorted to "right off the bat" and it will be conscription of capital as well as that of men.

No one in our province spoke of war or conscription. It was in Toronto that they discussed it. Why should it now be a French Canadian from Quebec who should charge the Liberals with appealing to prejudice?

Mr. DORION (Translation): Name the member who made that statement.

Mr. ST-PERE (Translation): Mr. MacNicol. The hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon), in a well thought out and clear cut speech, reminded us of the statement which the hon. Senator de Boucherville made on February 17, 1879, as to the obligation under which the Conservative party were of fulfilling the pledges made to the Canadian people. Like in 1878 and 1879, it behooves the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett and his friends to fulfil, to-day, that duty. We Liberals, who are oppositionists, not negationists, patiently await the appearance of that midnight sun which will disperse this would-be gloom spread throughout Canada by the King regime. Once for all, let this column of fire appear, which is to lead us to this promised land of the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett, a pledge made during the last elections.

We, Liberals, are willing to help. We are quite aware that the initiative must come from the government, and since they contend not to be a one man government. Let them ponder over this line of Virgil: "Non nostrum inter vos tantas componere lites." "We are not called upon to arbitrate between you on such momentous issues."

I recognize that the right hon. Prime Minister is, at present, labouring under difficulties. I fully understand his silence. There is nothing astonishing that at times he keeps his own counsel. Racine's verses could well be applied to him, under the present circumstances:

> "Tant de coups imprévus m'accâblent à la fois,
> Qu'ils m'ôtent la parole et menlèvent la voix."

Work, it behooves you.

Conservatives of Quebec who boast of having destroyed this so solid bloc which represented our province at Ottawa since 1922, it

devolves on you to find not only a remedy but a complete solution to the unemployment problem which you boasted to settle three days after assuming power at Ottawa. It rests with you to persuade your large industries so highly protected, to give full satisfaction to the claims of the working classes, let the industrialists acquire wealth, but let them be careful that it does not become their master. That is they should pay better wages to their employees. Work, the people have their eyes on you, they will judge you, and should you neglect to settle those important questions which you have pledged yourself to do, four years hence the country will punish you, you will be defeated not for your sins of omission, considering that many of these pledges could not possibly be carried out, but for making those inconsiderate pledges.

Mr. W. G. WEIR (Macdonald): Coming as I do from one of the older rural constituencies in western Canada, I desire to make a few observations.

I have listened with a good deal of interest to the debate so far, and particularly to the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins); and without in any way reflecting on that honourable gentlemen or the constituency he represents, permit me to say that the constituency of Macdonald is quite as good a constituency as Marquette, and in many respects better. The electors are just as intelligent, and there are very few, if any, cowless, sowless, chickenless farms.

I would like to indicate briefly to this house the very definite efforts the farmers of Macdonald constituency are making towards stabilizing their agricultural business, and I think it applies equally well to the rest of Manitoba.

It may not be generally known that the first bovine tuberculosis free area to be established in the British Empire was established in the constituency of Macdonald a few years ago. This area has served as the centre from which several agricultural activities of far-reaching importance have been developed. It has gradually been extended both locally as well as in other parts of Canada. This same area has for some time been recognized as an improved sire area, and when the provincial government introduced its system of agricultural representative, it was one of the first to take advantage of it. There have for many years been established sire clubs of one kind or another, making possible the securing of the best sires in the country in a cooperative way.

Very tangible evidence of the efforts of the farmers of my constituency can be gleaned from the recent exhibition held in the city of Brandon. In looking over the list of prize-winnings in grains and grasses, fully 25 per cent have been won by farmers in Macdonald constituency; including the championship in barley, won by Mr. John Wiener of Miami,—a member of the Miami Cooperative Barley Growers Association. A similar honor was won by Mr. George Knox of the same place at the Toronto Royal last fall. The farmers of Miami district have for years paid particular attention to producing high quality barley for malting purposes as well as for seed, and have annually some 40,000, to 60,000 bushels for sale.

Looking further afield, one can note that the farmers of Manitoba have established a very enviable reputation in the larger Canadian and American exhibitions in winning more than their share of the prizes. Manitoba butter-makers have a most enviable reputation in the larger butter shows of Canada, the creameries of Macdonald constituency being well among the winners as well as the Manitoba cooperative dairies. The honey producers of Manitoba have established for Manitoba honey a reputation that is second to none in the world.

In the matter of quality hog production Manitoba stands high. Car lots of bacon hogs selected from the products of the boys' and girls' clubs, as well as of individual exhibitors, have been consistent winners at the Toronto Royal. And I venture the assertion that there is not another area in western Canada that consistently ships to the market as high a percentage of bacon type hogs as does the constituency of Macdonald.

I do not mean to imply that the farmers of Manitoba or the constituency of Macdonald have reached perfection as regards quality production, but I do say they are doing their part, and that the farmers of this older, longer established district should be in as good a position as any farmers in western Canada to withstand this period of depression.

I am setting out these facts to indicate that so far as the farmers of my constituency are concerned they are at least doing their part. They are producing high quality products which the markets of the world demand and it is only fair for them to say to the governments of this country, both provincial and dominion: "We are doing our part. What are you going to do for us?"

We have, however, areas even in Macdonald constituency quite unsuited for live stock, and one area in particular that presents a serious problem on account of drainage. Three years ago the people there could not put in a crop because of flood conditions.

The next year they got in their crop but could not take it off because of water lying in their fields. Many farmers had to bring their stock into the barns during the month of August and to keep it there until such time as the water receded. As an indication of what these flood conditions mean, I might state that the Sperling cooperative elevator handled in 1927 approximately 400,000 bushels of grain while for the following two years that mark was reduced to something in the neighbourhod of 100,000 bushels, and much of that had to be resold locally for seed and feed. This district now has drainage facilities but their installation has increased taxes to such an extent that the farmers cannot carry the load under present conditions. That problem will have to be handled by someone very soon or one of the best wheat growing areas in western Canada will be abandoned.

Strange as it may seem, so far as live stock production is concerned, even considering the flood conditions during certain seasons, this area has no permanent supply of water for stock. There are no wells, creeks or rivers; they have to depend wholly upon dug-outs for their water supply, which I think everyone will agree does not offer an adequate or reliable supply for mixed farming.

I venture the assertion that the farmers as a whole have put in a reasonably good winter. I do not suppose that very many on the farms have suffered from hunger during the past few months, nor do I suppose that many have suffered from the cold; but it has been a mild winter. One coal dealer told me that his business had been reduced some 50 per cent during this last winter. So far as the farmers in my district are concerned, they have spent very little for clothes or anything which was not absolutely necessary. In the majority of cases, any money spent for ordinary living expenses was money which should have gone to pay taxes and interest on mortgage indebtedness.

During the past six or eight months I have met many farmers, who have pioneered this country, established good homes, educated their families, and contributed much to their local communities as well as to the country as a whole. I am sorry to say that these same men, ordinarily considered as well established, successful farmers, are greatly concerned and worried at the present time. They tell me that they are unable to pay their taxes or their interest charges and that the banks are reluctant to loan them money. They inquire as to the advisability of putting in a crop; they say that in the main they can put in a crop but they cannot afford to take a loss again this year as they have for the past two years. Their greatest concern, Mr. Speaker, is their lack of security in their homes and holdings. Homes they have spent a lifetime in building up are subject to such mortgage indebtedness that they are fearful of being dispossessed. That is what is bothering the western farmer at the present time. Is it any wonder then that the farmers are asking what this government is going to do for them? They see tariffs raised to help the manufacturer, and money paid out for unemployment relief, and they naturally want to know what the government is going to do with respect to agriculture. Before Christmas I was telling these men to wait until December 30, but since that time I have been forced to say that I do not know what the government's policy is going to be. These men do not want to put in another crop under uncertain conditions and they are still waiting for an announcement from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) or from some other member of the government as to what the policy of the government is going to be in respect to agriculture.

The situation confronting the western farmer is one that requires the most serious consideration on the part of this government and something must be done immediately in order to renew his confidence—something that will have immediate effect. To that end I feel it is essential that our Dominion and provincial governments give assurance without delay that they will protect the farmer in the security of his home and holding. To that end, it may be necessary to declare some form of moratorium. Of course, that is only delaying the evil day but it may serve the purpose until something else can be done or until world conditions improve. It would give the farmer a renewal of confidence and courage and enable him to carry on.

As a second measure of relief, I wish to associate myself with those who have already contributed to this debate in urging a reduction of interest rates. It is the accumulation of debt that is bearing down the western farmer; it is interest added to principal and interest on principal and interest added to that again. The farmer has been obliged to carry the whole load of this depression without being able to pass it on. A reduction in interest charges would mean much to him and in the long run I think it would mean a good deal to those people from whom he has borrowed.

As a further suggestion, I would associate myself with those hon. members who have been urging a reduction in our domestic freight rates, particularly on the shipment of

our western feed grains to eastern Canada and British Columbia as well as interprovincially, coupled with an extensive campaign on the part of this government to popularize western barley among eastern feeders. Allow me to pause to congratulate the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis) on the very valuable contribution he made to this debate a few days ago with regard to the feeding value of our western barleys, as compared to corn. Our agricultural colleges are doing a great deal in an experimental way to demonstrate the value of western grains for feeding purposes, and the more information that can be gotten out, such as that given by the hon. member for Souris the other night, the better. We in the west always have been obliged to use these grains and I do not think anyone can say that they have not been reasonably satisfactory.

Mr. Beatty of the Canadian Pacific Railway has come forward with a plan for a revolving credit scheme to assist the western farmer to go into mixed farming, particularly for the purchase of live stock. An offer to reduce the domestic freight rate on feed grains within Canada would have been much more acceptable. In speaking to my constituents I find that they are not at all enamoured of this idea of a revolving credit scheme. To them it means more debt, and debt is what is worrying them at the present time. What the western farmer is looking for is lower interest rates, lower freight rates, lower tariffs and an opportunity to pay his debts and at the same time maintain a reasonable standard of living.

I would like also to urge upon the government the necessity of gathering more world statistics with regard to live stock, dairy products and poultry. We are furnished with statistics with respect to wheat and other grains but we need more information concerning other farm products. More attention should be paid to the gathering of world-wide statistics in this regard.

I would urge upon the Minister of Agriculture the necessity of doing something towards assisting the marketing of hogs next fall. The farmers of western Canada this summer have gone extensively into hog raising and there will be a tremendous increase in hog production by next fall. They have attempted to use up their low priced feed grains, and in this they have been encouraged by local institutions, including the banks, the mortgage companies, the railways and the governments. I think it is essential that our Department of Agriculture come forward with some scheme which would assist in the marketing next fall of the largely increased supply of live hogs. If the minister can offer a scheme which will assist this situation, I, for one, will lend him my wholehearted support.

Just here I should like to emphasize the remarks made by the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) in respect to an agricultural policy, particularly that part where she states:

> All farm or agricultural colleges should to-day teach cooperative marketing of farm products as aggressively as in the past they taught, and are still teaching, greater production. As the central idea of their programs they should have cooperative marketing of farm products, and the government should lend its full moral support to any efforts made along the lines of cooperation.

Those are exactly my sentiments. I do not think a successful agricultural policy can be established that does not take into consideration the actual producers on the land. nor do I think any agricultural policy can be successfully carried out that does not return to the producers the highest possible proportion of the price which the consumer has to pay.

The farmers of Manitoba are looking to the government to see that Fort Churchill has a fair opportunity to operate particularly in respect of rail rates to and from Churchill as well as ocean rates and marine insurance. As a further effort to develop trade at Churchill, the advisability of making it a free port might be taken into consideration. I understand that it costs from $100 to $1,200 for harbour dues at some of our larger ocean ports, and if charges like those are made to apply at Churchill, this would impose quite a heavy burden upon the boats using that port. If, on the other hand, this being a wholly government-owned port, the government could forego those charges, at least in the initial stages of the development of the port, that would go a long way toward developing trade there and perhaps have favourable effect on ocean rates to and from Churchill.

In closing, let me repeat what I said at the beginning: the farmers in my constituency, which is one of the oldest constituencies of the province, are doing their part honestly and conscientiously—and I know the same is true of the farmers of the whole of Manitoba as well as of western Canada—but they are not going to be able to carry on for very long under present conditions. In fact, some of them have not been able to carry on thus far. The government has given assistance to the manufacturers and to

the unemployed. Surely the farmers are equally entitled to some consideration and assistance from the government.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. J. T. SIMPSON (North Simcoe): I desire in the first place, Mr. Speaker, to extend my congratulations to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. It has been repeatedly stated during this debate that the French-speaking members who understand and speak both official languages have a considerable advantage over the English-speaking members of the house, and that advantage was clearly demonstrated by the mover of the address who spoke very fluently in both languages. To him and to the seconder of the address, whose riding adjoins my own, and who redeemed that riding for the Conservative party, I extend my heartiest congratulations. The hon. member for North Grey (Mr. Porteous) is a young and able man, very popular in his own riding, and for him I predict a long and useful representation in this house.

During this debate we have listened to many speeches and to some able speeches. Coming to this house as I do, a new member, one gets the impression that the opinions of many of the members are local and provincial. That is not to be wondered at because each of us is more concerned with his own particular riding and his own locality. However, I also gather that all the representatives in this house, are here for the common good of Canada, and I can assure the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) that so far as this side of the house is concerned, at least, he has a united and loyal party supporting him and his policies.

We have heard many complaints from hon. members opposite as to the conduct of the elections in their own ridings, and as to how they were treated by their opponents during the campaign. I myself could unfold a tale of woe, but it would not be instructive, nor do I think the members of this house would be particularly interested in it. Many of the complaints which have been made, it seems to me, come from those who tried to put something over their opponents and were disappointed at not being able to do so. They have received a chastisement at the hands of their electors and are still smarting under the sting.

Much criticism has been made of the present administration and particularly of the leader of the government himself, personally. The hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) during her address took occasion to thank the Prime Minister for a certain appointment that he had made, that of the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, to be Canada's representative in Great Britain, or, as the hon. member saw fit to style him, Canada's minister plenipotentiary to the court of St. James. She thanked the Prime Minister from the bottom of her heart, she said, for having made that appointment. She said that it was a great relief to the province of Ontario, but it was very hard on the court of St. James.

I have no brief to speak for the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, nor do I think the hon. member for Southeast Grey and the members who supported her in that statement have any brief to speak for the electors of the province of Ontario. The Hon. G. Howard Ferguson was Minister of Lands and Forests in the province of Ontario from 1914 to 1919 in the government of the Hon. Sir William Hearst. At the provincial elections in 1919 Mr. Hearst's government was defeated and the United Farmers of Ontario came into power in the province of Ontario. Not only was the Hearst government defeated in that election, but Sir William Hearst himself and more than half his ministers met personal defeat at the polls. The United Farmers of Ontario had the largest group of elected members in the house, and that party was asked to form a government. No member of their own party elected at that time would undertake to form a government, and so the party called on one Mr. Drury to lead the government, which he did. Perhaps the fame of that government has reached Ottawa. Some of the members here may have heard of it. At any rate Mr. Drury formed a government, which carried on for four years. After the election of 1919, only 21 per cent of the candidates elected were Conservatives. The Conservative group was the smallest in the province. The United Farmers of Ontario had the largest group and the Liberals the second largest group, and they were therefore the official opposition. Mr. Ferguson after that election was asked to take the temporary leadership of the Conservative party. He did so reluctantly, and led the party in opposition for four years. During those four years the government in power did everything they could to blacken Mr. Ferguson and his political life before the electors of Ontario. Commissions were appointed and investigations held into Mr. Ferguson's administration

of the Department of Lands and Forests under the government of Sir William Hearst, but during all these investigations and in all the reports by different commissions there were no charges proven against Mr. Ferguson's administration. In 1923 the United Farmer government of Ontario appealed to the electors of the province for a renewal of their confidence, but the result of that election was that instead of 21 per cent of the elected members being Conservative, more than 50 per cent were returned supporting the policies of the Hon. Howard Ferguson as leader of the Conservative party. The Lieutenant-Governor asked Mr. Ferguson to form a government, which he did. That government administered the affairs of the province for three years, and then appealed to the electors. At that election Mr. Ferguson was returned, not merely with 50 per cent of the elected members as Conservatives, but with over 70 per cent of the elected members supporting him and his policies. He carried on for another term of three years and again appealed to the electors of the province of Ontario. Instead of 70 per cent, 85 per cent of the elected members of the province of Ontario were elected to support the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson. During his administration his policies had been altogether at variance with those of the party to which my hon. friend from Southeast Grey and her supporters belong. No members in or out of this house have a record such as his, and considering his record I think it is not very fitting that hon. members should speak of the Hon. G. Howard Ferguson as they have spoken of him in this house. I am one of his admirers and supporters and I feel that the affairs of the Dominion of Canada in Great Britain are safe in his hands. The Prime Minister of Canada is to be congratulated on making that selection and appointment.

Many times during this debate mention has been made of the present depression in our Dominion. It has been insinuated that the present government is responsible for that condition. The hon. member for South Perth (Mr. Sanderson) after telling the house that his was a rural riding, that the farmers in his constituency were noted for their thrift, and that the soil in South Perth was noted for its fertility, said that the farmers were very bitter towards the present administration because of the low prices they were receiving for their produce. He said that if there were an election at the present time the result would be different. I want to say to him that he and his colleagues should get down on their marrow bones and thank their Maker that the general election was held in the year 1930 and not in 1931. If the election had been postponed until 1931 there would not have been enough Liberal members elected to form a corporal's guard. They would have been banished to the shades of opposition where they would have remained for a considerable time.

Mr. SPENCE: And will remain.

Mr. SIMPSON (Simcoe): The hon. member for Southeast Grey made some comparison between the present depression and that existing between the years 1921 and 1924. In the comparison she stated that in the previous depression the high prices that the farmers received for their produce had provided them with a surplus with which they were able without serious effects to tide over the period of depression. She said that at the present time however they had no surplus and consequently they were in very bad straits indeed. On the other hand the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in his address to this house dwelt at length on the prosperity of Canada during his administration, and quoted figures to support his contention. He gave figures concerning the amount of goods exported from Canada in the year 1922, the first year of his administration. The right hon. gentleman told the house that in that year we exported $740,000,000 worth of goods. In 1923 the value of exports was $931,000,000; in 1924, $1,045,000,000; in 1925, $1,069,000,000; in 1926, $1,315,000,000; in 1927, $1,252,000,000; in 1928, $1,228,000,000; in 1929, $1,364,000,000, and in 1930, $1,120,000,000. In other words when the present leader of the opposition came into power Canada's exports amounted to $2,000,000 daily, and during the last year he was in power they amounted to $3,000,000 daily. He stated further that when the policies of his government began to become effective there had been a surplus from year to year. His first surplus, amounting to $36,000,000, occurred in the year 1924. From that he had a surplus every year until 1930 when the surplus was $47,740,000.

From this picture hon. members might think that Canada was in a very good condition financially, but the right hon. leader of the opposition did not give the house a full statement of the facts. He should have told the house the amount of goods imported into Canada during the same time. In the year 1922 the imports and exports were about the same in value. Exports were valued at $740,000,000 and imports at $748,000,000. The imports increased from year to year until the year 1930 when the goods imported into the Dominion of Canada amounting to $1,248,000,000. In other words when the present leader

of the opposition came into power the imports were about $2,000,000 daily and during the last year they were about three and one-half million dollars daily. To my mind that fact has had a very pronounced effect on the conditions in Canada at the present time. During the last year of the late administration we were selling goods valued at $3,000,000 daily and paying out three and one-half million dollars daily for imports. That is the results of the policy of the late administration. To that policy is to be attributed to a great extent the conditions existing in Canada to-day. We have been buying in other countries what we should have been producing and manufacturing at home.

The late administration claimed that they reduced taxes from year to year and still had a surplus. No government, institution or individual likes to end a year with a deficit. What advantage is it to the fruit growers in British Columbia, central Canada or the maritimes if by showing a surplus at the end of the year they are robbed of their market? When the product of the fruit growers is ready for the market he finds that his home market is flooded with fruit imported from other countries. Those countries on account of their fortunate geographical locations have climates in which fruit ripen earlier than it does in Canada, and those fruits are allowed to enter our country before our product is ready for the market. Under the late government they were allowed in under a small customs duty. The same statement may be made concerning manufacturers. What advantage is a surplus to the manufacturer if when his goods are ready for the market there is no home market for them? The same could be said concerning market gardeners and labourers. Goods may have been imported into Canada so as to create a surplus, but those imported goods may have caused the labourer to be out of a job in the factory where he had previously been employed. This is the effect: If you buy an article in a foreign country, you get the article and the foreign country gets your money. If you buy the same article at home you get the article and the money is kept in circulation in your own country. The hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine) in his address the other day mentioned that the Dominion of Canada might be self-supporting and practically live within itself. I think we could do that to a very great extent, and that fact was very clearly illustrated by the hon. member for Souris (Mr. Willis). He told the house that a large amount of barley was for sale in western Canada, and he gave some comparisons which showed that tests made of Canadian barley and imported corn showed that barley was almost as good as the corn for feeding purposes. I would commend that point very favourably to the feeders in Canada. Our own barley might be used in almost every case where corn is used at present, and by so doing we would keep circulating in our own country the money which we pay for feed. The hon. member for Macdonald (Mr. Weir) also mentioned the fact that more of our home grain might be used for feeding in our own country.

The fact that the increased tariff has been a benefit to Canada was very clearly illustrated by the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Thompson), the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Shaver) and by other members who have contributed to the debate. They cited concrete cases where factories had been opened and men were being employed at a good rate of wages because of the increases which were made in the tariff during the special session last September. I have here, sir, an article from one of our Ontario papers headed:

United States Newspaper Discusses Bennett Tariff

The article is as follows:

People in the United States are taking notice of what the Bennett tariff policy is doing for Canada. They realize that it has effectively safeguarded the Canadian market for Canadian workers without raising prices to consumers; they know that it is transferring a number of industries from their side of the international border to our side.

That is, from the United States to Canada. The article proceeds:

In neighbourly fashion the Times-Press says that it cannot regret Canada's good fortune and that it wishes the Dominion all progress and prosperity.

The article in the United States newspaper goes on to point out that every one of these new companies established in Canada is taking jobs from hard-pressed United States workmen in order to improve Canadian conditions. Then follows an appeal to the readers, many of whom are industrial workers, as follows:

Two American motor cars, formerly equipped with Akron-made tires, are to be made in Canada now. Their tires will be made in Canada and not by you. The men who earn wages by making those tires will be spending in Canadian stores and not in yours. They will be buying life insurance from Canadian agents and spending Canadian money to build and furnish homes, instead of patronizing you.

That is one of the results of the increased tariff. I would also like to read an editorial that was printed in one of our newspapers during the recent recess. It states:

> The King government was turned out of office because it lacked constructive force, because it lacked vision and vigour. There were those who predicted that Mr. King would lead a much more useful opposition than he did a government. Even they must be disillusioned. His own marathon speech of twenty-seven thousand words offered not a single constructive thought to assist the Bennett administration to successfully meet present conditions. For nearly five hours Mr. King indulged in carping criticism, but not one concrete suggestion of helpful character did he venture.
>
> It was evidently a Liberal "keynote" speech. For two weeks his supporters have entertained parliament and in all the records of Hansard their addresses show no more constructive nature than did that of their chief. They awakened to conditions in 1931 to which they had been blind for at least a year, but even with the awakening, they found no solution.
>
> It begins to appear that in opposition, as in government, Mr. King has nothing to offer in the way of constructive statesmanship.

The hon. member for Macdonald, in his address this afternoon, mentioned the fact that in his riding there were quite a few hogs being fed on the cheap coarse grains of Manitoba, and he asked what would happen next autumn when those hogs were ready for market. I will answer him in this way: In Great Britain there is a market for all the bacon Canada can produce for some years to come. We will have to feed a great many more hogs than we are feeding at present if we are to over-stock that market. Great Britain imports over 900,000,000 pounds of bacon annually, and two-thirds of that amount is supplied by Denmark. When the late administration came into power Canada supplied over 200,000,000 pounds of bacon annually to the English market, but during last year that export almost ceased.

We in Canada should have a great advantage over the Danish farmer in the production of bacon, because at least eighty per cent of the grain fed to the hogs in Denmark is imported, and a great deal of that grain comes from North America, from the United States and Canada. When you consider the long freight haul of those grains it is plain that we should be able to produce bacon for very much less than it can be produced in Denmark, but to do so we will have to educate ourselves to the bacon requirements of the British market. Every hog between snout and tail will not produce Wiltshire sides, the kind of bacon required for the British market. A bacon hog requires a certain depth; it must have a certain length and depth of side; it must be not too thickly fleshed and not too lean. The people of Denmark, in order to produce that type of hog, went to a great deal of trouble to educate the farmers in the right type of hog to raise and also in the art of feeding, because breed in a bacon hog is not everything. The feeder has to have a certain knowledge of feeding before he can produce the required article.

There is in Great Britain a great future for the bacon industry of Canada; there is no reason why we should not supply at least half that 900,000,000 pounds of bacon imported annually by Great Britain. This is a matter which perhaps calls for assistance by the Department of Agriculture, but it cannot be done by that department alone. The hog producers of Canada must produce the article required by the British consumer. There is a great opportunity in this regard for cooperative pork packing establishments such as are operated in Denmark.

The hon. member for Macdonald said that in catering to the consumer it was necessary to supply quality products, and that statement applies very definitely to the production of bacon. You must supply an article of the right quality.

The hon. member for Queens (Mr. Myers), during his address the other evening, had something to say with reference to the production of potatoes in his province. What he said then applies also quite definitely to the potato growers in the province of Ontario. In my riding there is considerable land which is well suited to the production of potatoes. It is not every kind of land that will produce a good potato; the soil must possess certain qualities before it is possible to secure a good crop. When I was farming on my own account we did not pretend to grow potatoes in a commercial way; the soil was not suited to the purpose. But we grew enough for our own private use, and if possibly we produced them at a loss we were not, at any rate, driving on the roads consuming gas and wearing out the tires of cars. We stayed at home, and perhaps that was to our advantage.

I do not pretend to speak about the production of potatoes; I am concerned more with the market. I would ask the Department of Agriculture, in this connection, to insist upon the enforcement of the law regulating grading. I would make it an offence for anyone transporting potatoes on the highways by truck to any market if he failed, in the case of every sack of potatoes, to have a tag attached disclosing the grade of the potatoes and the name of the producer. One unscrupulous shipper from any district will do grave injury to the whole district, and there

are in my riding growers who are so particular in the shipment of their potatoes as always to have their produce a little over rather than under grade. When they offer potatoes for sale there is no difficulty about their securing a market; the wholesalers accept their potatoes without question, for they know that the producers can be depended upon, and they know that the purchasers will be satisfied. For this reason the market is continuous. I repeat, I would commend to the Department of Agriculture and the minister a rigid enforcement of the regulations in this respect.

A good deal has been said during this session about old age pensions; different hon. members have had something to say about the matter. We are not particularly concerned at this time with the question whether the old age pensions act was good legislation and ought to have been put on the statute books; the fact remains that it is there. We are not discussing to-night the reasons for its having been put there. Reading the reports of the proceedings of parliament in 1930, I read that the leader of the opposition made the statement that the system was a vicious one. I could not make out precisely what he meant by its being a vicious system; I did not know whether he meant that it was a vicious principle to give pensions to old people, or that it was vicious for the Dominion of Canada to contribute a portion of the pension and allow the province to administer the act. At any rate, the act stands as we have it, and is in force in all the provinces except Quebec and the maritime provinces. Those provinces contribute to the amount paid by the Dominion government to Ontario and the western provinces, and in order to make the application of the principle general the Prime Minister in the campaign said that he would have the Dominion pay the full cost of pension. The leader of the opposition in his address stated that every old man and woman was promised full pension. The present act does not go that length, nor did I understand the Prime Minister to say that; the principle was only to be extended so as to cover the whole Dominion.

I have had something to do with the administration of the act in our county, and I think it leaves room for amendment in many respects. The old age pensions legislation is a good thing for many old people. Many of these old people were pioneers in this country; they hewed out homes for themselves, raised families, sometimes large families, and in some cases were unable to accumulate any property. The result is that now they have grown old, and can no longer earn a livelihood as they formerly did, they are without means to support themselves. I know from experience in our own county that in many cases the provisions has been of great benefit to a good many of our old people, who have done more perhaps in building up the Dominion than many of those who at the present time are driving around in expensive cars. It is making their declining days a little easier for them, so that they need not worry about where their bread and butter will come from. I might mention one case in the town of Barrie. One of the old pensioners was receiving $20 a month. He had no family; his wife was dead, and there was no one to look after him. He takes his pension, rents a room and provides his own food. He pays something like $10 a month for a heated room in winter and prepares and cooks his own meals, and he told me that in one month, doing this, he had saved $2 over and above providing for himself. He pays for his washing. He has a cleanly appearance and dresses comfortably, and he has been able to finance himself as I have stated. A man of that type should be made finance minister. But there are some things in the old age pensions act which to my mind could be amended, and when the legislation is brought down I shall have something to say with respect to certain of its provisions.

It is said that we are passing through a period of depression; and while the late government did not administer the affairs of the country in the best interests of the people, nevertheless we should not feel the pinch as we are feeling it now. There is something for the individual to do for himself: he should be given to understand that he must live within and not beyond his means. One thing which we as a people have not been doing is precisely this; we have not been living within our means. Consequently we are feeling the pinch particularly hard at the present time.

It has been said that the present government came into power at a very inopportune time. To my mind it came in at a very opportune time; for I believe that, with its policies, and taking hold of the problems of the Dominion as it is doing and managing them in a business way, we shall in due time have a prosperous, happy and contented people.

Mr. W. A. FRASER (Northumberland): As a new member addressing the house for the first time I respectfully ask the indulgence of this honourable assembly. I trust, Mr. Speaker, you will permit me to voice my appreciation of the dignity and fairness with

which you discharge the duties of your office, which sometimes must be a bit uncomfortable. Before proceeding, may I pause to express my deep regard for my French Canadian colleagues in this parliament. They lend much charm to the proceedings by the eloquence of their addresses.

I have the honour to represent, on this side of the house for the first time in over forty years, one of the most important agricultural, fruit-growing and industrial ridings in the province of Ontario—Northumberland county. Cobourg, the beautiful county town, is the most important deep water port between Kingston and Toronto, serving all central Ontario, and providing a year-round base for the twice-daily Canadian National car and passenger ferries between Canada and the United States. The people of Cobourg are vitally interested in the development of the St. Lawrence deep waterway and I am anxiously waiting any announcement by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) regarding this great and necessary undertaking.

I believe the people who elected me expected that I would make myself heard in this house both in the interest of my county and in the interest of this great Dominion, not as a narrow partisan but as a sincere Canadian citizen, endeavouring in his humble way to serve them and his country, to the best of his ability. This I intend to do according to my judgment.

I have followed with keen interest the proceedings of this house and the policies of this government, both here and in London. I have endeavoured at the same time to keep in touch with the people of my riding, and I can say most emphatically to this house that they are waiting for the Prime Minister to fulfil his many election promises. This, I believe he knows to his sorrow is beyond his capabilities to do. As a representative of the people, I believe it is my duty to assist if it is within my power to improve the conditions in Canada, and with this honest purpose in view, I submit for the consideration of this house my thoughts regarding our future. I believe we should have at this time definite suggestions to place before the administration for consideration and that wise counsels should prevail.

I disclaim any special knowledge of statesmanship, but with some knowledge of both business and public matters, I cannot see why the affairs of this country should not be conducted exactly as successful business is administered.

[W. A. Fraser.]

First, Mr. Speaker, I submit the greatest possibilities for trade expansion lie with Great Britain, and that the surest, safest and most logical place for us to concentrate our efforts, in peace as in war, is with the empire. Our policy should not be Canada alone, but Canada leading the way within the British commonwealth of nations for the advancement and security of all on which our welfare depends; in this way Canada can be first. A most illustrious citizen, speaking at a Canadian Club banquet in London, said that Canada was the cornerstone on which rests the great edifice of the empire. In this I fully agree. Let us live up to this position and make the edifice the greatest structure this world has ever known. In this way, and in this way alone, can we promote our Canadian interests in trade and commerce and make sure the safety of our future. In this way we develop markets with 450,000,000 people for our surplus agricultural and manufactured products; we will have our trade lanes protected by Great Britain, and we will be doing as much business as possible with the people on whom, in my opinion, will in the future depend the very existence of civilization as we know it. Canada, situated as it is, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, lying in the path of empire progress, with its great railway systems, vast natural resources, industrial centres, wonderful agricultural expansion and undaunted man power, must blaze the way.

Having had to make my living in business, I do not believe business can be done by blasting. I never blasted myself into a single order in twenty years, and never tried. Blasting only results in retaliation. I am a firm believer in the principle that business is done for mutual advantage. It is much easier to do business with friends than with strangers, and we generally do our utmost by friendly relations and the quality of our goods to increase our business with our best customers, especially when selling them twice as much as we buy from them. Business is a matter of give and take; nations are only collective individuals, and sometimes you have to give more for the present to get more in the future. It is poor business to antagonize your best customers and seldom, if ever, can you have all your own way. After all, the giving and taking must be pretty well balanced.

Never were trade relations between corporations and individuals maintained over a period of years except by cordial understandings, plus mutual profit. I would like to quote, with commendation, the words of the Acting Prime

Minister of Japan, who, addressing the Canadian trade delegation at a farewell dinner in Tokyo a few months ago, said, in part:

> Friendship is a greater thing than trade. Without it the springs of trade will be frozen. Trade can thrive only in a genial atmosphere of mutual good feeling, and friendship rests on knowledge.

The Prime Minister is a very able lawyer and has much to do with big business, but I doubt if he has had anything to do with actual salesmanship.

Let us take stock of Britain, the customer who bought $281,838,000 of products from us last year and sold us $189,180,000 worth. Britain, during the period of 1914 to 1919, stood the brunt of the world war, in which she suffered more than any other country. She sacrificed the flower of her manhood; she lost most of her foreign trade; she lost a large part of her shipping; she financed her allies and she is paying her war debts. Other countries, to supply the needs of their people previously supplied by Britain, built industries, many of them not adapted to the country in normal times, and they have since endeavoured to protect them with high tariff walls. The United States, with war profits and nearly forty per cent of the world's gold, a country over-industrialized, took advantage of Britain's position to make a drive to expand her foreign trade before the motherland could recover.

Where does Britain stand to-day? Last year Britain's overseas trade amounted to nine billion dollars—greater than any country except the United States, and greater than the United States in manufactured products. She built 35 per cent of the world's ships, and carried nearly 50 per cent of the world's shipping. She increased her foreign investments by over a billion dollars and she developed at home the most efficient industrial system in the world. She has less unemployment pro rata than that high protected country the United States, and had a favourable trade balance of $195,000,000. Far from being decadent, as the Hon. Howard Ferguson will learn, she is fast regaining her pre-war position.

When Britain succeeds, Canada succeeds. Britain is a trading nation, and while we need her as a consumer she is also necessary to us as a broker to resell our surplus, manufactured or otherwise. She is a clearing house for our products on the markets of the world, and more so now than in the past.

World conditions are changing. The importance of Russia as a competitor is becoming more serious. As so well stated by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales when opening the British industrial exhibition at Buenos Aires, artificial trade barriers which are a menace to commerce to-day must be modified and the world economic system must be readjusted. Let us get together with Britain, before she is forced into further trade treaties with European and other foreign countries by our foolish Canada-alone policy, with its blasting methods which have made it more impossible for her to do business with us, and join the other dominions in working out the possibilities of increasing our trade within the empire, so there can be control for the benefit of the whole, even if it hurts in spots.

I submit for the consideration of this government for the adjourned Imperial economic conference the following proposal: that a non-political empire trade council be formed, comprising the following members from Britain and each dominion: one government representative, one outstanding industrialist, one outstanding financier, one prominent agriculturist, one outstanding economist, one outstanding transport man, and one outstanding labour representative, to study the foreign trade of their respective countries and the possibilities of encouraging the exchange of commodities with other parts of the empire; the council to meet in London within twelve months, to draft recommendations to be considered and acted upon by their different governments, these recommendations to include tariff readjustments, trade treaties, and other arrangements that they consider will further develop empire trade.

There is something like $14,000,000,000 of trade annually within the British Empire. Britain has the same right to determine her policy as Canada has. The Prime Minister knows we cannot dictate the course she is to follow; she knows her business better than we do, but she will welcome sane, reciprocal trade considerations as will our sister dominions. Britain protects our ocean trade lanes and the empire has a great world responsibility at this time.

I submit for the consideration of the government that a thorough investigation be made to devise ways and means of diverting a greater percentage of our overseas trade through Canadian ports. Last year $205,163,170, or 34 per cent of our overseas exports, and $9,849,889 of our imports, were handled by United States ports. Canada has excellent port facilities on both the Atlantic and the Pacific where millions of dollars have been invested. Railway rates should be so adjusted as to divert the traffic through these gateways instead of through United States ports. If this is done, it will certainly help to solve the problem of unemployment. Our railways are laying off men. They need the

traffic, our terminal men require this work, and the sooner Canadian freight is handled by Canadians in Canada, the sooner will more of our people find employment. The Canadian railways should increase their proportion of through freight rates with United States railways. I submit to the Minister of Railways and Canals that is one of the most important policies in connection with the transportation problem in the Dominion of Canada. It is absolutely necessary for Canada to find markets for her products and to increase her foreign trade in order to cure unemployment. This can best be accomplished within the empire, with the assistance and cooperation of Britain. The influence and benefit of trade must be considered fairly in all its ramifications, and not only from a manufacturing viewpoint. The handling of imports as well as exports provides work and increases business, and in some cases much more labour is employed in handling imported commodities from the seaboard to the consumer than would be used to manufacture the same commodities in Canada. The use of Canadian raw materials and the amount of labour employed should be the yardstick of tariff protection.

I am going to issue on the floor of the house a warning in connection with protection. If the manufacturers of Canada seek and procure increased protection from the government, then the government—and this thought applies to every administration—should procure from the protected Canadian manufacturers the assurance that they will consider and put into practice the purchase of Canadian materials for every branch of their operation. Protected Canadian manufacturers should realize that the responsibility lies with them to protect and to give to Canadian labour every advantage of their protection. In this I mean not only the labour that is employed in turning out their own product, but the Canadian labour that is employed or that it is possible to employ in the production of every article that is used in their industry. My contention is that many Canadian manufacturers are free traders when they are purchasing the materials that enter into the products of their factories and protectionists when they are selling the products of those factories to the Canadian public. I am not making in this house statements that I am not in a position to verify and I state emphatically that the perspective of many Canadian manufacturers is narrow and selfish; it is anti-Canadian and diametrically opposed to the policy they themselves advocate. They wish to help with employment, if they can use

men profitably in their own industry, but they do not give a thought to the number of Canadians who could obtain work if they purchased as much Canadian material as possible on equal terms from other Canadian manufacturers and producers.

I agree with the Prime Minister that this is a time for action; it is a time for sane, logical and consistent action. The republic to the south of us has made it harder and harder for us to get the products of our farms and factories into their country, yet the Canadian manufacturers continue to play into the hands of United States industry. Like the Prime Minister I feel that it is a time for plain speaking and clear thinking as to the economic policy of this country and its political effect, particularly as regards Great Britain and the empire of which we are proud to form a part. First let us put our own house in order, then let us strengthen the empire so that we can in part, and as a whole, formulate a policy that will promote the interests of the British commonwealth of nations, if necessary against the rest of the world.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, unemployment will cease only when our trade increases. I have endeavoured to place before this house three definite ways in which employment of labour in Canada can be increased. Within the empire we have every product and commodity that is required by the people of the empire to trade. Britain is a naturally industrial and trading country; Canada has vast resources but is immature, and will naturally be so for many years to come until our population is capable of consuming a greater proportion of the product of our industries and until our population is so distributed as to lessen the distances that exist between populated centres. Our policies will have to be worked out slowly. No one has more confidence in the future of Canada than I, but we are not quite in a position to dictate to Great Britain what she shall do, and certainly we should not attempt it as long as we rely on the British navy to protect our overseas commerce. I believe in Canada as being all-important in service and strength to the empire. Our population is made up of descendants of the two great peoples of the world, the British and the French, and we are capable of leading the way within the empire. The union of the United States on one side and the progress of soviet Russia on the other is forcing an economic alliance of the countries of Europe. A lowering of trade restrictions between the countries of Europe will mean a further decrease of Canadian trade with these countries. As a Canadian citizen and a mem-

ber of this house I state emphatically that it is the essential duty of this government to have ready to submit at the economic conference to be held in Ottawa this coming summer, definite proposals that will be acceptable to Great Britain and the other parts of the empire, for the increase of trade within ourselves.

I submit that the Prime Minister will have to change the attitude he adopted at the London conference, and I suggest that he adopt the attitude of the Hon. Charles Dunning when he said, in part:

> We do not intend to meet the other countries of the British commonwealth of nations in a spirit of petty bargaining, but rather in a broad spirit of willingness to become in ever increasing measure good customers to those who treat us in like manner. This is the spirit in which we desire to meet all nations, but we believe that within the British commonwealth of nations lies the greatest measure of opportunity for development of trade, because of our common heritage, kindred institutions and a common patriotism.

A man who considers his own interest and his own interest alone, seldom succeeds; never over the long run, and it is not otherwise with nations.

With all the emphasis that I can express I desire to say that it is the bounden obligation of the present government to make sure that the economic conference to be held in Ottawa during the coming summer will be productive of ways and means whereby we can solidify the British Empire in trade as well as in sentiment.

Mr. C. E. BOTHWELL (Swift Current): Mr. Speaker, I am taking part in this debate in the belief that it is necessary for each member of the house to bring to the attention of the government the situation as he sees it in his own constituency so that conditions in all parts of the country may be placed before the government. Everybody realizes that we are going through difficult times. No one I think blames any particular party in Canada for that. Parties may be to some extent responsible but we have a world-wide condition that must also be considered, and we must realize that no party can solve in a few days the difficulties which confront us. During the election campaign last July many of the electors in Canada I believe supported Conservative candidates in the various provinces on account of the pledges that were given at that time by leaders of the Conservative party. The people realized that Canada was in much the same position as some of the other countries in the world, and they believed that the promises that were made by the leaders of the Conservative party throughout Canada would be carried out. Instead of going over many of the promises that were made to the electors in my constituency, I should like to give in a sentence or two some of the representations that were made by the Conservative party's candidates in appealing to the voters of that constituency.

This is an advertisement that appeared in the press: "Bennett will win on July 28. Why? He will sell Canada's wheat crop. He will solve the unemployment situation. He will build a highway across Canada. He will keep Canadian trade for Canada and make employment for your sons and daughters." Just what influence that advertisement may have had on the electors of the constituency I do not know, but I believe that it had considerable. In any event the electors there were entitled to take at their word those who were responsible for that advertisement and expect that those pledges would be carried out. I want to deal for a moment with some of those pledges and see what has been done by the government of the day to carry them out.

We have looked in vain for any move on the part of the government that will sell Canada's wheat crop. We in the west who are dependent upon wheat have not been able to see that the government of the day has done anything to assist in disposing of our wheat crop. We still have our wheat, and we have not found a market for it. There is possibly an intimation in the speech from the throne that something along that line is going to be done. The speech in one paragraph says:

> 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.

That may mean that the government believe that they have found a solution for some of those difficulties. The speech from the throne also says:

> 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.

That, I say, contains an intimation that something will be done to enable Canada to dispose of her wheat, but up to the present time we fail to see that anything has actually been done. Wheat is to-day at almost its

lowest price. I note by the Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation, a publication which is gotten out by the Department of Trade and Commerce, the following:

> The record low price of 54½ cents a bushel for December No. 1 northern wheat established on the 18th of November was repeatedly broken in the final month of the year, and a new extreme low of 50 cents a bushel was established on the morning of December 27th. December cash closing prices were consistently and substantially under the lowest daily closing November quotations after the first ten days of the month.

I note by to-day's Toronto papers that No. 1 northern wheat is quoted on the Winnipeg grain exchange at 59¾ cents a bushel. The freight rate from my constituency is 17 cents a bushel, which would make that wheat worth to-day 42¾ cents a bushel and that is for No. 1 northern. Now there is only a small percentage of No. 1 northern that goes on to the market. Most of the farmers have to depend on No. 2 or No. 3 wheat, and those grades bring lower prices. The hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy) in his address the other day gave a statement of the cost of producing wheat on the western prairies, and according to the figures that he put on Hansard the cost of producing wheat in western Canada to-day is around one dollar a bushel. Now it is imposible for the farmer, even if he had all No. 1 northern, to live when he gets a price of only 42¾ cents a bushel for it. No steps have been taken by this government to see that a better price shall go to the producer.

Coming closer home, one of the best farmers in my constituency of Swift Current, a man who keeps books and a record of his transactions from year to year, gave me a statement of his operations during the year 1930. This man has a farm of 1,120 acres, of which 885 acres are under cultivation. He had 250 acres under summer fallow, the balance being in crop, about 635 acres. That land cost him $24,005; that is the capital cost. He has machinery and equipment that cost him $8,982. His operations last year on that 635 acres gave him a little over 8,000 bushels of wheat. He sold that 8,000 bushels for $3,324.62. He took an actual loss on his operations, without figuring interest on his investment and excluding interest and depreciation on his equipment, of $1,047.67. He paid $490 for labour; $1,320 for household expenses, groceries, fuel; $954.30 for gasoline and oil; $687.99 for taxes and insurance; and his feed and seed cost $920. That gave him a net loss at the price that he got for his crop of $1,047.67. If we figured interest on his investment at 5 per cent and 15 per cent for depreciation of equipment he took a loss last year of $3,594.97. Farming cannot continue in that way. I say nothing has been done to help Canada sell her wheat crop or to enable the wheat producer to get into any other line of business. Yet we were told from one end of Canada to the other, and particularly throughout the west, that steps would be taken immediately to see that Canada's wheat crop was sold. We thought that something would have been done at the Imperial conference. The move that was made by the former administration when it brought down the budget last May constituted an endeavour to sell Canada's wheat. That administration realized that Canada could find a market for her wheat only in Great Britain. They endeavoured to bring down a budget that would enable Canada to dispose of it there. Everyone in Canada I believe had hopes that when the Prime Minister went to the old country he would go there in an endeavour to deal with the British people in such a way that we would find a market. What was the result, however? A number of quotations have been made in this debate as to the attitude of the Prime Minister when he was in Great Britain. Quotations have been made from English newspapers. Those publications appeared some time ago. There are however papers other than those quoted which referred to the attitude of the right hon. gentleman. For instance the Manchester Guardian argues:

> To have treated Bennett's offer as a basis for bargaining would have done more harm to good-will within the empire, than any brusque remarks by Philip Snowden or Thomas could ever do.
>
> "It is said that these were only Mr. Bennett's first terms, and that if the principle had been accepted we might eventually have done a deal with him, as though we were buying a horse or he selling one," the Guardian continues. "But Mr. Bennett began negotiations by declaring that he would not consider any proposal to lower Canadian tariffs on manufactured articles for the benefit of British industry."

The London Daily News contains the following:

> At great length the Canadain premier professed indignation because a British minister described the Canadian preference offer as "humbug." The Canadian press described it in much more vulgar terms than that and called it a fraud. Even Stanley Baldwin, Bennett's patron saint, as soon as he discovered the worthlessness of the offer, was reduced to silence. Mr. Bennett must be very simply constituted. If he imagines that any intelligent Englishman would be deluded by a proposal that we should tax our food in return for Canada's generosity in putting another tiny brick on her tariff wall against foreign imports and keeping the wall at the same effective height against British goods—if that proposal

is not humbug, what is it? The Dominion premiers like to claim the right to speak plainly and like to exercise it. They should be able to keep a stiff upper lip when an English statesman for once in a way speaks plainly to them.

The Daily Herald contains the following:

Mr. Bennett has no call to be so angry with Mr. Thomas. He was unwise enough to put forward as a serious offer to Britain, a proposal which would have been not of the least practical value, and to ask for a heavy sacrifice. In return Thomas has bluntly called this "humbug." The language is strong but the judgment is correct. The Canadian premier, who speaks bluntly enough himself on occasions, should not mind, do not once, having been the cause of bluntness in others. He might, indeed, have been himself profitably plainer on this particular occasion.

The article continues:

He says if his proposals are contemptuously rejected, Canada will reply by embracing other means at hand of further strengthening her economic position in the world. That sounds very much like a threat. Frankly, the use of threats does not seem a very hopeful way of promoting imperial unity but if it is a threat, let it be a plain one; do not let us have Mr. Bennett stalking round darkly, muttering vague hints that unless we do as he tells us he will do something or other that Britain will not like. Not only the people of this country, but the people of Canada, are entitled to know what these thundercloudy phrases mean.

Then, several members of parliament discussed the attitude of Mr. Bennett before that conference. We know this, however, that no matter how the British people were approached by the Prime Minister, apparently nothing has been accomplished; there has been no market found for our wheat; the wheat is still on our hands and we have no more chance of disposing of it than we had on the 30th of July last.

I have quoted to the house remarks credited to English editors. Let us however come closer to our own home. We notice that during the past few months one of our Canadian publications has been most assiduously publishing biographs of present cabinet ministers. The same writer, writing in the Commonweal of New York in the issue of January 21, is quoted as follows—

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask hon. members, and particularly those on my right at the present time, to refrain from loud conversation when an hon. member is addressing the house. Such action is not fair to anybody.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I quote:

Mr. Bennett, departing for Britain, expressed confidence in his mission, and up to the very end, when the failure of the conference became clear to all, faith existed that somehow he would induce the British government to purchase the bulk of the dominion's wheat surplus. Mr. Bennett within the restricted ground of his "Canada first" policy, undoubtedly did his best. His offer to the British people of a preference in Canadian markets, based upon a 10 per cent increase in the duties upon all foreign products, was sincere. The weakness of the plan, so far as the British people were concerned, was that while it involved a guarantee that the British would buy Canada's wheat, there was no corresponding guarantee that the Canadian people would buy British goods. On the contrary, the actual position was that, taking account of the tariff increases imposed by the special session of the Canadian parliament, the barriers against British goods were higher than before.

In the circumstances, Canadian opinion did not greatly blame Britain for rejecting the Bennett plan.

Then, further down in the same article I find the following:

So Mr. Bennett has returned to a Canada which has still some 250,000,000 bushels of unsold wheat, which has an acute unemployment problem, and whose declining revenues threaten an enormous deficit at the close of the fiscal year. The weakness of his position is that, like Mr. Hoover in the United States, he took office on a platform of prosperity. Mr. Bennett, electioneering told the Canadian people that failure to market the western wheat crop and prevalence of unemployment were the fruits of the Liberal ministry of Mr. King. After four months in office, and despite millions voted for unemployment relief, unemployment is still acute, and the wheat of the west remains unsold.

Even after that conference we of the west still hoped that something would be done. Towards the close of the year the newspapers throughout Canada, and particularly those of the west, heralded the visit of the Prime Minister to Regina. Through the press we were told that he was going to bring some sort of policy to the people of the west which would give us help. Everybody looked forward with hopefulness to that meeting on December 30 in the city of Regina. I believe interest was as great in all parts of the west concerning the visit of the Prime Minister as it was in my particular district. People who were not able to go to Regina to hear the speech drove miles where necessary, to hear it over the radio. We expected that we were going to hear something. I had the opportunity of listening to that address, and while it did not convey very much to me because there was nothing very definite as to the policy or plan which would be followed, nevertheless I still had hopes that the Prime Minister had something in mind which he was not in a position fully to divulge at the moment.

On January 2, I received a letter from one of my constituents, a great admirer of the right hon. Prime Minister, in which he addresses me as follows:

Beaver Flats, December 31, 1930.

Mr. C. E. Bothwell, K.C.,
Federal Member for Swift Current.

Dear Sir:

We listened with interest to Mr. R. B. Bennett last night at Regina, and we want to be among the first to take advantage of his scheme to get into diversified farming. As you will no doubt have the particulars please let us have application forms and particulars.

Also could you tell us about the federal farm loan board or what you call it.

How about a job taking 1931 census?

This ought to be a happy New Year. Let us hope so.

I replied to that letter telling him that I did not know what this proposal was that Mr. Bennett had made in Regina on December 30, any more than he did. The only information I had was what I was able to gather over the radio, but I gave him an answer in connection with the farm loan board and told him at the same time that I was writing the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to find out what this scheme was. I directed the following letter to Hon. Mr. Weir—

Mr. CAHAN: Mr. Speaker, I think we might conform to parliamentary practice. It is against the rules of the house to refer to any member of the house by name; he should be referred to by his constituency.

Mr. BOTHWELL: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker; I should have referred to the hon. gentleman as the Minister of Agriculture. However, the letter refers to Hon. Mr. Weir. It is addressed as follows:

Swift Current, Sask.,
January 2nd, 1931.

The Hon. Robert Weir,
Minister of Agriculture,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

The Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, in his address in Regina on the 30th ultimo intimated that a scheme had been worked out for enabling farmers of the west to get into diversified farming through governmental assistance.

That was the way I understood the Prime Minister's address.

I have a letter from one of my constituents to-day, Walter Smith of Beaver Flats, Saskatchewan, stating that he listened to Mr. Bennett"s address over the radio and he wants to be among the first to take advantage of the scheme. In his letter he mentions that I will, no doubt, have the particulars and he wished me to advise him just what the scheme is, and forward to him the necessary application forms.

I would be glad to have any information you can give me in this connection so that I can advise Mr. Smith.

That letter was written on January 2. On January 14, a letter was written to me by the Minister of Agriculture as follows:

[Mr. Bothwell.]

Assistance to farmers in the nature of seed grain, etc., I understand, will be made through the machinery of the provincial government as they are closer to the problem and will save the Dominion government a good deal of expense in duplicating machinery.

I hope hon. members listened to the reading of my letter and the reading of the letter in reply from the Minister of Agriculture. There is not a single word in that reply with reference to the questions which I asked. However, the minister stated that he understood that assistance in the nature of seed grain would be made through the machinery of the provincial governments. I wanted to know then what the provincial government knew about this plan which had been announced by the Prime Minister, so I wrote to Regina. The provincial legislature was then in session and a question was put on the orders of the day in order to find out what they knew about the situation. This was the question:

Have arrangements been made by the federal government with the provincial government in connection with implementing the promise made by the Hon. R. B. Bennett, in his address at Regina on December 30, 1930, of assistance to farmers in securing seed grain, etc.?

The answer was:

Discussions have taken place between members of the Dominion government and the provincial government regarding seed grain, and information is being asked for rural municipalities in order that appropriate action may be taken.

So still I had no information. To-day, Mr. Speaker, a question was asked of the Prime Minister as to how this finance company, or whatever it is to be called, was getting along, but apparently as yet it is not functioning, and we do not know whether or not it ever will function. In any event, if I understood correctly the answer given on the floor of the house to-day, there has been no relief of any kind given to any farmer at any place in Canada under the scheme announced by the Prime Minister last December. As a matter of fact, I believe that speech was made by the right hon. gentleman following a speech made by Mr. Beatty in London, Ontario, on December 5, when Mr. Beatty said:

To me, an unprejudiced and unofficial but not disinterested observer, it seems indisputable the Dominion government should not hesitate to intervene with an offer of assistance as a national public duty. In recent years assistance, as I have indicated, has been given in one way or another for the removal of disabilities of manufacturing interests, of the dairy and fruit farmers of the east and British Columbia, and of the maritime provinces. More recently direct financial aid has been provided for unemployed workers. Special pro-

vision for the farmers of the west, suffering from difficulties which they could not foresee nor avoid, should be regarded by other groups in the country as a simple act of justice.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, although we had the definite promise that the Conservatives would sell our Canadian wheat, they went to the conference and fell down. We had the announcement in Regina on December 30 of last year that some assistance would be given to the west right away, but outside of some seed grain and possibly some gasoline provided through the municipalities there has been no relief of any kind, so far as I know, given to the west other than what assistance they received under that $20,000,000 unemployment relief bill. In that connection, I do not know but what the position to-day is worse than it was before the $20,000,000 was voted. It seems to me it is going to be impossible for the municipalities of the west to carry through such unemployment schemes again. Any person who observed the public works that were being carried on last winter under the scheme must have come to the conclusion that the municipalities could have done the work just as efficiently and as well for the amount of money they themselves were spending, without the assistance which was granted by the provincial or federal governments. That added assistance was simply being used by the workmen in order, shall I say, to lie down on the job. The work did not progress as it should. I believe it would have been cheaper for Canada if the unemployed had been put on direct relief instead of working under that Unemployment Relief Act.

I did not and do not now object to the appropriation of $20,000,000; I believe it to be the duty of this government to take steps to remedy the unemployment situation in Canada. If this cannot be done by governmental policies, then it will be necessary to do it by appropriations, because we cannot allow people in Canada to starve when we have all kinds of food in the country. However, realizing the difficulty with which the west is faced; with the western premiers coming down to Ottawa; with farmer organizations from one end of the country to the other sending in resolutions and with deputations of farmers coming to Ottawa pleading with the government to fix the price of wheat, why was not something done? They did not hesitate in 1917 and 1918 to peg wheat prices. They did not hesitate then when it was in the interests possibly of other people to handle our wheat. We do not know yet whether the allies got the benefit of the reduced price or whether the government got it. None of the questions asked on the orders of the day have been answered. Ever since I have been in the house my experience has been that most of the questions asked on the orders of the day, in the course of routine proceedings, would have been answered. To-day, if you ask a minister the simplest kind of question he says, "Put it on the order paper"; and we have not been able to receive answers to important questions asked in this house, any more than I was able to get answer to the questions which I submitted on January 2. It is time that hon. members in this house brought forcibly to the attention of the government the situation which Canada is in at the present time, and demanded some action. We believe it is the duty of this government to fix the price of wheat if they cannot do anything else. Are they not in a position to enable us to sell our wheat at fair prices after we have contributed to the manufacturers from one end of the country to the other since the inception of these tariff regulations? Surely they cannot expect us after that to go down to defeat in the west and abandon that country just because, in a year or two of stress, the government will not come to our assistance and fix a price.

Last winter, organizations of various kinds throughout western Canada held meetings at different points, and I myself have a record of forty-three different meetings held in the constituency of Swift Current. Resolutions were passed at these meetings. I did not attend any of them with the exception of a board of trade meeting at Swift Current; but as I say, at all these meetings resolutions were adopted and forwarded to the government. I received copies of them—resolutions from boards of trade, village and rural councils, farmers' organizations and so on. Let me quote one resolution which was adopted at Pennant, Saskatchewan, on December 17, 1930, requesting that certain things be done:

1. That the federal government guarantee a minimum fixed price of wheat for this year's crop at one dollar ($1) per bushel f.o.b. Fort William.

2. That a board of standards be set up whose duty it will be to arrive at a proper relationship between the price which the farmer has to pay for the commodities which he purchases and the price which he receives for the commodities which he has to sell.

3. That we urge the nationalization of currency and credit.

4. That we demand a moratorium until such time as proper adjustments have been made.

5. That the legal rate of interest at 7 per cent as set out in the Bank Act be enforced, and that no one shall be allowed to charge higher than the legal rate of interest.

6. That the federal government, in conjunction with the provincial governments, institute a form of crop insurance.

7. That we ask for the nationalization of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the re-valuation of the Canadian National.

8. That we continue our efforts to secure for the growers 100 per cent control of the marketing of their products; first, by demanding that a grain marketing act, as suggested by the wheat pool, be placed on the statutes; secondly, that a primary products act be placed on the statutes.

This is the type of resolution which was passed at each of these forty-three meetings. The resolutions vary in some respects, but so far as I know there has never been received, from any member of the government, an answer to a single one of these resolutions forwarded here since December last. I cannot tell to whom the various resolutions were sent, but I have copies of them. They were directed to the attention of the government but there have been no replies.

Now, we are immersed in spring work at this season of the year and the farmers have been looking for some information from the government. They wish to know what they are to do. They do not know whether or not to seed a crop. The weather conditions are not propitious, and in any event they are taking a chance in sowing a crop. Surely, then, they are entitled to some encouragement from the government of the day in order that they may react favourably, so to speak, to the weather conditions as they are. But they can get no information. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, that a number of these questions that are asked on the orders of the day should be answered without our having to wait for replies through the ordinary publications of the house. These questions should be answered on the floor of the house; they are questions that concern the farmers throughout the west. Hon. members desire to send information to their constituents but they cannot do so, and it matters not whether you go to the department or ask questions on the floor of the house, you do not seem to be able to obtain any information.

I have here a letter written on April 2, and in this connection I wish the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins) were in his place to hear it. I should not like hon. members of this house to believe that the conditions throughout the west are as the hon. member for Marquette would have us understand. The letter in question is dated, at Swift Current, Saskatchewan, April 2, 1931, and is addressed thus:

[Mr. Bothwell.]

Hon. R. J. Manion,
Minister of Railways, Ottawa.

Hon. J. A. Merkley,
Minister of Railways, Regina.

C. E. Bothwell, K.C., M.P., Ottawa.
Hon. W. W. Smith, M.L.A., City.

Re-South Saskatchewan Railway and Traffic Bridge and Southwestern Saskatchewan Development

Honourable Gentlemen:

Adverting to our previous resolutions a memorandum of which is enclosed; and as the estimates will soon be up for consideration at Ottawa and in view of the continuation of present depressed condition of agriculture, labour and business, it is imperative that some projects be undertaken in this city and district to relieve the unemployment situation, augment the circulation of money, bring about needed facilities and maintain a spirit of confidence and encouragement of our people to say nothing of absolute want and poverty of a very great section of our people. Our board most urgently request that further relief of some kind be found as other relief measures are now exhausted being only temporary relief and that now larger projects must be undertaken to enable people to earn a livelihood and at the same time afford the district and city service facilities that will be of use for all time.

The letter goes on to refer to railway construction works that should be proceeded with, such as are indicated in the resolutions that were sent down and in the correspondence alluded to in the letter. I wish to bring this matter to the attention of the government in order that they may realize, if they have not already done so, that the situation in the west is indeed serious and that it is time something was done to encourage the people in that part of the country, especially at this time of the year when they feel that, if they are to have anything to live on this winter, they must put in a crop. They are entitled to the information they require if they are to realize out of their crop enough to pay expenses.

Mr. C. B. HOWARD (Sherbrooke): In discussing the speech from the throne and the amendment thereto proposed by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) I am not unmindful that Canada is going through one of the severest world-wide economic depressions she has ever known—this in spite of the fact that during the last election campaign Conservative candidates in the eastern townships of Quebec claimed that this depression was due entirely to the administration of the late government. I do not wish for one moment, Mr. Speaker, that you should consider me a pessimist. I am not in the least a pessimist. I know that of all countries in the world Canada, with all its troubles, is possibly best off at the present

time. With our undeveloped natural resources; with our hard-working, thrifty, kind-hearted population; with our increasing gold production and our enormous mining possibilities, to say nothing of our agricultural areas, which are second to none, we shall emerge from this crisis as we have emerged from similar situations in the past; and I am perfectly satisfied that when we get out of this depression conditions in Canada will be better than they have ever been before.

As to my own section of the country, I believe, notwithstanding the general depression that exists there also, and especially in Sherbrooke, that we are possibly better off than any place else in Canada. In my remarks, therefore, what I wish to prove is that the promises made during the last election campaign by the Conservative party have not been kept, and that the way in which the present government is handling the affairs of the country is retarding the comeback into our regular stride. The right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) and other hon. members of this house have shown where these policies might carry us in our empire relations, but I want to show this house how the policies of the present government have affected my own constituency in southern Quebec.

I am not a protectionist Liberal, as most people say I am, nor am I a free trade Liberal, as others think I am, but I believe that free trade is just as bad for Canada as is the present high protection. The only policy which will benefit this country in the long run, or even at the present time, is one which is between the two extremes, one on a par with the old Liberal policy.

Mr. DUPRE: That is what we are doing.

An hon. MEMBER: Oh, no.

Mr. HOWARD: I think credit is due to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) for his sincerity, because I believe he is sincere in his ideas of what is best for Canada. But I do think, and I shall attempt to prove my argument in the short time at my disposal, that his policies are detrimental both to my own section and to Canada as a whole. The present government is in power for two reasons: First, because of the extraordinary unemployment situation which existed, and second, the falling prices of farm products, which prevailed at the time of the elections. I will not quote the many promises made by the Prime Minister, but I do want to refer to some remarks he made at a meeting held in my home town. The following is a quotation from the paper which supported the present government during the last elections, the Sherbrooke Daily Record, and I would particularly call the attention of the house to it:

> What is the use of advertising in the town paper that John Smith is sick, without sending for the doctor? Send for the doctor. He is the Conservative party.

The following is a remark made by the Prime Minister at that same meeting:

> Canadians want the right to work and when a government fails to correct the causes of unemployment over which it has control that government can justly be charged with negligence.

The other Sherbrooke paper, La Tribune, which supported the Liberal party, in reporting that same meeting said:

> We wish to call a special session to put an end to these conditions, because the people want work and not doles.
>
> Mr. Bennett: Exactly. What you want is work and not a conference. I am not making you pledges, lightly. Should I not keep them, I ask the members who you elect to withdraw from me their support.

This meeting was reported to have been attended by about 12,000 people. It was held in the 54th armouries, which is situated in the centre of the industrial section of Sherbrooke. The Prime Minister then became more brave, walked to the front of the platform, pointed in the direction of one of the industries, and said: "I know I am speaking within a stone's throw of some of the finest industries in Canada; I know that those industries are on short time, and if I am elected on July 28, within thirty days the men, women and children will be going back to those industries and getting the work they should get." Mr. Speaker, two hundred and sixty-two days have expired instead of thirty and the situation is worse than it has ever been.

In the city of Sherbrooke there are 42 industries. Without taking particular examples, I desire to give the house certain information in connection with twelve of the main industries in the city of Sherbrooke.

In 1930, one of our specialty steel companies employed 125 hands, and on February 15, 1931, their employment had dropped to 100 hands.

Our largest steel manufacturing industry employed 488 hands in July of 1930; in February of this year, their payroll had dropped to 400.

One of our cotton industries employed 363 hands in July, 1930, while to-day they are employing only 323.

Another specialty steel industry employed 150 as against 125 to-day.

Another company's payroll dropped from 70 to 58.

Another large steel company was employing 119 hands only fifteen days before the last election, and on February 15 last, they were employing only 27; from 119 to 27.

A rubber company dropped from 80 to 65 and another machinery company from 30 to 10.

A silk company employing 490 in July of last year was employing that number in February of this year but it was working on shorter hours. The same would apply to other companies.

From the date of the elections to the present day there has been a decrease in employment affecting 321 hands. Most important of all, these same industries have dropped from 149,174 weekly hours to 106,904, or a slackening off of 42,270 hours per week. Figured at the ordinary price paid for labour, that represents a shrinkage in the payroll of 12 out of a total of 42 industries, amounting to over $12,000 per week. In other words, over $12,000 per week less money is being paid out to-day in the city of Sherbrooke than was being paid when the promises were made by the present Prime Minister that the unemployment situation would be cured.

In another section, close to Sherbrooke, where is produced one of the articles of which Canada boasts of controlling a large percentage of the world's supply, the candidates stated on all the hustings that because Mr. R. B. Bennett was connected with the big business men of Canada he would supply with his friends the necessary capital to put these mines on their feet as they had never been before. I do not intend to discuss this situation because the hon. member for Megantic (Mr. Roberge) will probably do so, but in Thetford Mines to-day they are producing asbestos at the lowest rate ever prevailing since the Conservatives were last in power. More than that, in the town of Black Lake, not one single mine is operating and the asbestos industry is practically ruined in that section.

If the Prime Minister were in his seat I would direct his attention to the statement he made yesterday on the floor of this house. He said that he would never consent to unemployment insurance, but I say to-night that if the manufacturers of Canada have to take on unemployment insurance in the near future they can date the cause back to the present government's attitude towards the needs of this country.

I have every respect for the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson); he is a personal friend of mine, but I say that the Minister of Labour of the government of Canada has no right to be anywhere else than in a seat on the floor of this house. In view of the present conditions prevailing he should stand up and tell us what he intends to do.

Another cause of our defeat during the last campaign was the drop in agricultural prices, and in this connection I would like to give a few comparisons. The first thing the eastern township agriculturist has to sell is stock. I do not mean paper stock; I mean live stock. The prices on the 15th day of July, 1930 and on March 1 of this year in the town of Lennoxville, the marketing centre next to Sherbrooke in the eastern townships, were as follows:

Live stock	Prices paid July 15, 1930 per pound cents	Prices paid March 1, 1931 per pound cents	Decrease per pound cents
Fat steers. .	6 to 8	4 to 5½	2 to 2½
Fat cows . .	4 to 6	2 to 3½	2 to 2½
Fat heifers .	5 to 7	3 to 4½	2 to 2½
Canners. . .	2½ to 3	1 to 1½	1½
Veal calves .	8 to 10	5 to 7	3
Drinkers . .	4 to 5	2 to 3	2
Hogs. . . .	9 to 10	5 to 6	4
Sows. . . .	7½ to 8	4 to 5	3½
Lambs. . . .	7 to 9	4½ to 6½	2½
Sheep. . . .	4½ to 5½	2 to 3	2½

Let it be remembered that this year in the month of March we should be getting a fairly decent price for these products, and I am comparing them, I think not unreasonably, with summer prices.

An hon. MEMBER: Will the hon. member say where he is quoting the prices?

Mr. HOWARD: At Lennoxville. I have the prices also at Montreal, but we are in the eastern townships and our centre is Sherbrooke.

The next thing the agriculturist has to sell is his butter. This famous article comprised one of the big arguments during the election campaign. We were told that the reason why the price of butter had fallen to the price it was on the 15th day of July last was that there was no tariff against butter and we were allowing New Zealand and Australian butter to come into the eastern townships. The farmers fell for this, but they have now changed their opinion; they have read the newspapers and they know what they are receiving to-day. The price the farmer was getting for his butter was as follows:

Per pound February, 1930	Per pound February, 1931
37 cents	28 to 30 cents

That is a decrease of nine cents per pound. Again, the winter price is the high price of butter and I am going to give you the com-

parison with the price last July, at the time of the election when the price was 27 cents per pound. The Sherbrooke Pure Milk Company at the present time are selling pasteurized butter of the very finest quality in Sherbrooke at 30 cents per pound. I notice in to-night's paper a drop of one cent a pound, and I hesitate to predict what the price will be in the next summer season. This is with a duty of 8 cents a pound against New Zealand and Australia and 12 cents a pound against the United States. It seems that the higher they put up the duties, the lower goes the price of butter in the eastern townships. In my section of Quebec, if it were not for the help that is being given to the farming classes by the Taschereau government, our farmers would be practically out of business. Under such conditions, I think the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) should, from his place in the house, tell the people of Canada what he proposes to do, either immediately or during the session, to remedy this extraordinary situation.

I come now to the subject of eggs, that little commodity that helps to eke out the family budget. The prices paid to the farmer in the eastern townships for eggs were as follows:

February, 1929	February, 1930	February, 1931
35 to 37 cents	35 to 40 cents	15 to 16 cents

In February, 1931, after six months' administration by the present government, the price of eggs had fallen to 15 cents a dozen, the lowest price they had been for 30 years I shall not attempt to say what the price of eggs will be next summer. Recently I was at Knowlton, in the county of the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel), and I met fifty-five farmers from different parts of the county. They did not know what to say when they were getting 15 cents a dozen for eggs, especially when in our part of the country the price of eggs during that time should ordinarily have been 75 cents a dozen. I should like to read this clipping from a paper:

> Brockville, Ont., March 27.—Eggs, fresh eggs, at one cent per egg. That is what one resident of this town paid for five dozen "cackleberries" at Lansdowne, near here, he declared. The retail merchant who sold the eggs said he had bought them from a farmer for ten cents a dozen.

Just a word in regard to the wheat situation. I do not pretend to know everything about the wheat situation, except what I see in the market quotations in the newspapers. The Ottawa Journal of to-day, April 16, 1931, states that the price of No. 1 wheat in Chicago is 66⅛ cents a bushel and in Winnipeg 62⅛ cents a bushel. What does that mean? Canada has the finest No. 1 hard wheat in the world and its price in Winnipeg was never before lower than the price of wheat in any other part of the world, until under the present administration it is now below the price in the United States.

Referring to another situation, I have in my hand pay envelopes from one of our manufacturers in the city of Sherbrooke. Before I place on record these few pay envelopes, I should like to say this: The other day a manufacturer came into my office and made this statement. I call him a genuinely loyal manufacturer, and I pay tribute to many like him. He said "Charlie, we have not reduced our wages yet, but if conditions continue to get worse and worse, the last thing we will do —the thing we hate most to do, but what we shall be obliged to do—is to reduce wages." I have in my hand twenty-two pay envelopes, all showing on them the number of hours' work in a week in one of the factories in Sherbrooke. For a week's work the pay envelopes are as follows:

$4.70; $5; $7.65; $12.35; $11.35; $13.10; $7.70; $9.45; $8.10; $9.20; $13.40; $10.85; $11.60; $9.85; $5.65; $11.50; $8.25; $6.90; $6.90; $10.90; $10; $1.

The total is $195.40, and if we divide this by twenty-two, the number of pay envelopes, the average weekly pay was $8.88. That shows the seriousness of the situation. I do not like to be one of those fellows who say: I told you so; but during the famous short session in which we were going to do such wonders, I made this remark:

> What assurance has the government that more employees will be taken on by the manufacturers? What promises has the government received that the men employed in the industries affected by these tariff changes will be paid at least a decent wage and that the manufacturers will not profit by the plentiful labour market to reduce the present wages?

In closing I said:

> I regret that I fail to see anything in these tariff proposals that will benefit Canadian labour or help solve the unemployment problem.

This is the situation. I should like to ask any hon. gentleman opposite how in the city of Sherbrooke a family, consisting of a husband and wife and five children, with a shrinking pay envelope, can live on $8.88 a week and meet expenses. The situation is terrible. If wages have to be reduced, I do not think it is right to advance the tariff 50, 75 or 100 per cent, and at the same time allow this manufacturer to reduce wages as he has done. I absolutely protest against such administration.

I have covered my last point and that is the reduced purchasing power. The other day I was riding on the train and went into the smoking car where there were six other men discussing that most popular question, the existing situation. They were discussing what this government was doing, what the other government had not done, and so forth, and one of them said, "Can you tell me why, with eggs at 15 cents a dozen and all other farm products at the lowest prices they have been for years, the people do not start to buy and live on these products?" I leave it to any man in this house to say how many eggs or how much lamb or pork or any other food a man with five children and a wife to support could buy with $8.88 for a week's work. Do you know what they have to do, Mr. Speaker?—and I am proud to say that they can do it. They buy a big piece of heavy meat, with the bone in the centre, a piece of extra good quality at the lowest price, and of that they make the most nourishing food, which is soup, and they buy bread and use it without butter, hoping for the time when the Liberal government will be back in power again and men will get at least a living wage.

In case some hon. gentlemen may think that these cases are overdrawn, let me say that I am not speaking of men who started to work only a few weeks ago. A man recently came to my office who had been in the service of a certain company for sixteen years. He was a sober, hard-working, industrious man, and for sixteen years, almost the best part of his life, he had been working for that same concern. He worked fifty-five hours and he drew $15 for a whole week's pay, after sixteen years of faithful service. Before the last election that same man, doing the very same job for the very same company, drew a minimum of from $23 to $25 a week, so there was a shrinkage of $10 a week in his pay since this government came into office. When the previous government was in power he was running two slubbers in a cotton mill; to-day he is running four slubbers at a reduced wage of $10 per week. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that these are things that make one wonder where we are going to get off at.

The hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi, speaking in this house the other evening, took a great deal of credit for industries which he said had recently been established in the town of Farnham. Everybody rejoices when new industries come into our towns, especially in the eastern townships; but let us have the facts as they are. One of those industries is a plush factory. It was established in the town of Farnham in 1929, under the administration of my right hon. leader who now sits on this side of the house. Another industry is the big linoleum concern. That was astablished in 1930, before the present government came into power, before it was ever dreamed that it would come into power. The other industry is the silk factory. It is true that that factory in the hon. gentleman's riding is fairly prosperous, but he did not tell this house that this silk company got an increased protection, and reduced the wages of every man 25 per cent. The men went on strike, and they only came back to work two weeks ago Monday at the reduced rate. The enamel industry, the only other industry in that part of the country, was started back in 1922, under the administration of my right hon. leader. My hon. friend had a special way of conducting his campaign. I suppose anybody can conduct his campaign as he sees fit, but speaking at Knowlton he said, "To hell with the national debt, but let us do something for the farmers." I ask him now what has this government done for the farmers of his constituency. My hon. friend stated on every platform in Mansonville, Brome, Knowlton and other places, that the King government was paying only 60 per cent compensation for cattle that had been slaughtered for tuberculosis, and he said that he had the right to say on behalf of the Right Hon. Mr. Bennett that if that gentleman came into power his government would pay the balance of 40 per cent for every cow slaughtered in his constituency. Naturally the farmers voted for him. I would like to ask him if the government have yet paid any of that balance.

Mr. PICKEL: Mr. Speaker, I deny that statement totally, and I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw it.

Mr. HOWARD: Speaking at Sherbrooke, as reported in the Sherbrooke Daily Record—

Mr. GUTHRIE: A point of order has been raised, Mr. Speaker, and we ask you to decide it.

Mr. HOWARD: I will withdraw, to save time, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. HOWARD: The Sherbrooke Daily Record, which supported my hon. friend, which indeed was one of his very best friends, reported my hon. friend as follows—and I ask the members from western Canada on both sides of the house to pay particular attention to this. Speaking at a meeting of

the associated boards of trade in Sherbrooke, he said:

The western farmers also came in for considerable criticism. They were termed the greatest menace that the east has to contend with at the present time, and it was the opinion of Dr. Pickel that although everything had been done for them they would never be satisfied.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Do you deny that?

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): May I ask a question?

Mr. HOWARD: I did not intend to make the following statement, but as my hon. friend from Chateauguay-Huntingdon (Mr. Moore) is on his feet, I will state this: The other night he compared the offices that were being held at the present time by the Hon. L. A. Taschereau, Premier of Quebec, with the offices held by the Prime Minister of Canada, and said that they were exactly the same. But there is this difference. Mr. Taschereau has been doing double work, has been acting as premier and also as provincial treasurer because in the county where he tried to elect his provincial treasurer they turned him down. But when the next election comes in that province, the same man, Mr. Gordon Scott, will run again and will be elected as provincial treasurer. Mr. Taschereau, all honour to him, has been carrying the two portfolios in order to preserve an old tradition, that the provincial treasurer should represent the English protestant minority in that province.

Mr. MOORE (Chateauguay): May I ask my hon. friend a question?

Mr. HOWARD: Turning now to trade figures, our imports have dropped $290,000,000 and our exports have dropped $296,000,000 since this government came into power. For the past six months our trade figures were as follows and I would like to underline this in view of the publicity which the present government has received throughout Canada: The imports into Canada in the six months just ended were valued at $465,000,000 and the exports at only $449,000,000. That is the story, Mr. Speaker.

In closing let me say that the so-called "Canada first" policy of the Prime Minister has increased unemployment in Canada since the election. That same so-called Canada first policy has lowered the prices of agricultural products and in every case has caused injustice to our farmers. That same so-called Canada first policy has placed our Canadian wheat at a price lower than that of the United States. It has decreased Canada's world trade; it has lowered our standard of living and it has lost to Canada some of her very best markets. We have heard a great deal about the money which was granted by this house to help unemployment. I do not wish to be critical. I will do better than that. I promise the government of to-day my co-operation in any scheme they put forward before next spring which will remedy the situation I see coming. Of the money which has been given out at the present time the city of Sherbrooke was to receive $87,500, and two-thirds of $21,000, or $14,000 in direct relief. They have borrowed the money, and taken care of the people, but they have not received one single nickel up to the present time.

Mr. McINTOSH: What about the farmers?

Mr. HOWARD: Now I have a word to say to my hon. friend on the other side of the house, the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré). My first words are to congratulate him on the splendid sentiments he expressed in this house the other day. He said:

I regret the attitude taken recently, and even during the last eighteen months, by a coalition government in one of the western provinces.

Mr. McINTOSH: They call it a cooperative government.

Mr. HOWARD: The quotation continues:

The laws enacted against the French language—one of the two official languages—by the government of Saskatchewan are an insult to the true Canadians established here for fourteen or fifteen generations. It was in the name of God, but in the French language, that first cross was consecrated on Canadian soil. Against these laws I must protest.

As a French Canadian the Solicitor General was voicing his true, honourable sentiments. As an English Protestant Canadian I want to say to-night that those are exactly my sentiments. But then the Solicitor General added these words:

And I hope these will be repealed.

I would like to remind him that to-day he is sitting in the seats of the mighty. If he is sincere in those remarks it is within his power to accomplish his wish and to have those laws repealed. I would like also to suggest to him that one reason why his government is in power to-day may be found in the help they received from Saskatchewan, from the very man who placed that law on the statute books of that province. I want to go one step further and say that the people in Saskatchewan who are fighting the battle, not for the French Canadian but for liberty in Canada, are the Liberals in Saskatchewan.

I will go even further and say that I trust my English speaking friends in Saskatchewan or in any other province in Canada will accord to our French Canadian friends the same fair treatment as the old French province of Quebec has accorded to the English speaking minority in that province.

Mr. JOHN T. HACKETT (Stanstead): Mr. Speaker, since the twelfth day of last month I have listened to about ninety speeches. I am somewhat loath to address the house. My reluctance is not entirely due to diffidence, nor is it attributable to a belief that all has been said which can be usefully said. I find it more interesting to listen. It was not my intention to speak during this debate but my good intentions have yielded to the provocation—or inspiration—of the words which have fallen from the lips of the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard). He and I have the advantage of coming from a part of the country which, in common with all who have visited it, we believe to be the most beautiful part of the whole Dominion. It is interesting for reasons other than its topography. It is a thumb nail of Canada; with the possible exception of deep sea fishing there is to be found within those half dozen counties the entire range of activity of the whole Canadian people. There lumbering, farming, mining, milling, industry in factories, trade in the shops, finance, and transportation engage the attention of an active and energetic people. Moreover there is in the population a diversity of origin and outlook which makes for nicety and consideration in the relationships between man and man.

My hon. friend from Sherbrooke has spoken of this miniature Canada; he has told us his version of conditions prevailing there. My friendship for the hon. gentleman is not of yesterday, he knows that my feelings for him are both deep and sincere, but I now have for him a feeling of profound commiseration if he believes all he has said to-night, and if he believes that all he has said is all that may be said with regard to conditions in the eastern townships. Mr. Speaker, why does my hon. friend draw a veil over his remarks? Why does he refer to industries and individuals in hazy and indefinite language? For the benefit of the house, and to establish accuracy and truth, I shall endeavour to place upon the record the names of corporations and individuals who to-day are infinitely better off and whose hundreds of employees are better off as a result of the policies of the present government.

[Mr. Howard.]

My hon. friend has told us there is a tool company in Sherbrooke which is not doing much work. That is true. The Rand Drill Company specializes in mining equipment, and unfortunately, due to over-production, the mining industry is not being carried on as actively as it has been in years past. Because there is no demand for mining equipment there is no work for the Rand Drill Company. Is the government to blame for that? My hon. friend has told us there is a cotton mill in Sherbrooke not doing much work. Without doubt he refers to the Sherbrooke Cotton Mills—a large part of whose output is fabric used in the manufacture of automobile tires. Because there is slight activity in the automobile manufacturing industry.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Why?

Mr. HOWARD: Would the hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. HACKETT: Very well.

Mr. HOWARD: Is it not a fact that for two years they have been manufacturing no tire fabric, but are in a new product?

Mr. HACKETT: No, it is not. The Oshawa and Windsor factories are not very active at present, and because this factory specializes in a typical kind of product for which there is a limited demand, at present its employees are on short time. There is also another industry in Sherbrooke known as the Fairbanks Scale Company, whose principal product is scales used in grain elevators. Unfortunately the grain business has not been as thriving for the last year or two as it has been in the past, and the construction of grain elevators is not being carried on. In consequence there is not to-day the demand that there has been in the past for scales. Is the government to blame because the people in the west are not constructing grain elevators?

Mr. YOUNG: Because they cannot sell their grain.

Mr. HACKETT: Because they cannot sell their grain? They cannot sell their grain for the same reason that gentlemen in the east who have been producing newsprint cannot sell their product; they have both been producing for a market which is glutted; they have produced a commodity for which there is no market to-day.

However, my hon. friend was very careful, after mentioning these different industries, not to mention the oldest industry in Sherbrooke, the Paton Mills, one of the very few woollen mills which survived the regime of the govern-

ment which came into power in 1896. My hon. friend well knows that in this mill, where employment a year ago stood at 40 per cent on the basis of a 55-hour week, it stands to-day at 110 per cent. Two hundred and seventy-five breadwinners of families in the constituency represented by my hon. friend thank God each night for legislation which set the looms in operation in that mill and gave to the wee children of that city the food which they were denied under legislation which obtained until this government came into power.

Then, Mr. Speaker, there is the largest industry in Sherbrooke, the Kayser Company, Limited, which employs 800 hands and in which there was the slightest diminution of employment of any industry in Sherbrooke save the one in which my hon. friend is so heavily interested. That industry came back to 100 per cent employment when it got from the September session the additional 5 per cent protection which it said it required. I do not blame my hon. friend; I do not criticise him because another beneficiary of that protection was the Canadian Silk Products Company, of which my hon. friend is an honoured and esteemed shareholder and to whose success his brain and energy have contributed so largely. My hon. friend says he is not a Liberal protectionist or a protectionist Liberal. He is the kind of Liberal who enjoys protection and wanted and got it for the industries in which he has invested his money. When he speaks in Sherbrooke to his own electorate he finds it more stimulating to express the sentiments—I know he entertains them—which marked the end of his speech than to discuss economic and fiscal problems.

I ask my hon. friend to come with me to territory which is quite as familiar to him as it is to me; I ask him to come with me to the county of Stanstead, whence his forebears came. I know him too well to fear that he will deny for one moment that the legislation put on the statute books by this parliament last September gave abundant, generous and life giving employment to a large percentage of the population of that riding. He knows that in Magog, where less than 1,000 hands were employed by the Dominion Textiles Limited, 1,600 people are engaged at the present time, with over-time several nights a week. He knows that in the town of Coaticook the Belding-Corticelli Company is more busily engaged than it has been for years, and he knows why. He knows that in the same town the Neidner Company, which manufactures fire hose now gives generous employment to the inhabitants which it could not give before, and he knows why. He knows that in other towns throughout the eastern townships, including the towns referred to by the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel) the towns of Drummondville, Actonvale, Granby and St. Hyacinthe, this depression which, as he said, weighs upon the whole world, has brought less trouble and less suffering than it has elsewhere.

I did not intend, Mr. Speaker, and I do not wish, to indulge in a discourse at this time. I have listened to the speeches which have come from hon. gentlemen opposite; they all have been vastly interesting to me. I have found however that many of them were so flavoured with party wine that they intoxicated the speakers, if not the house.

I have listened to criticism, both candid and catholic, which in its range has gone from the meagre notes used by the hon. gentleman who moved the address—I may tell the right hon. gentleman who uttered that criticism that I envy greatly the gentleman who had the notes and I wish I were in his happy position at the present time. That criticism has extended, Mr. Speaker, from the use of notes by a novice away overseas to the members and even mannerisms of one of those who were sent to the Imperial conference. Criticism has even knocked at the door of our ministers to foreign lands. References that have been made in this house to our minister to Great Britain, to our minister to the United States, have not been suited, however intended, to enhance the repute of Canada in those countries. To those who are better versed than I in matters of this kind, such language may seem commendable; but to a neophyte, standing on the threshold of the temple and still charged wtih respect for all who wear his country's livery in a foreign land, it seemed clumsy if not intemperate.

I have listened, Mr. Speaker, to this criticism; I have listened to gentlemen set forth their points of view; I have felt, notwithstanding their sterile criticism, that they are desirous of doing something to alleviate human suffering which, possibly for purposes of debate—and it may be that all sins of that character are not on one side of the house—has been somewhat exaggerated. Just exactly what is to be done to afford employment, and just how unemployment is to be obviated in the future, is a matter which will have to be carefully studied and considered. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that unemployment must be a charge or a partial charge on industry. Just so long as municipalities, just so long as government, just so

long as private charity and suffering humanity are to be made to bear the total burden of unemployment, I fear that it will persist.

I believe that we must regulate industry. I believe we must find a plan which will extend over a number of years and give steady employment: employment when there might otherwise be unemployment, and to prevent overwork when work is abundant. Long hours and night shifts are unnatural, and brutalizing. I believe a system of this kind will have to be worked out and legislation enacted to implement it. Just as this Dominion has led the way in other realms, just as it found a way to end industrial disputes, with their ravages both to labour and capital; just as it led the way in the realm of governmental improvement, growth and development—because it was Canada that pointed the way to all other dominions, even the old land itself, to autonomy within the empire—I believe Canada can find a way out of the difficulties of the present day and find a specific which will preclude a recurrence of them.

There is one other subject to which I should like to refer before taking my seat. It may be because of my lack of experience in this house that I marvel that no one has yet referred to it. We have heard much about wheat; we have heard much about the troubles that beset the west; and I may say to hon. gentlemen from the west that we sympathize with them. And I, for one, envy them that organization which makes them vocal when they suffer—equal hardship in the east is not quite so expressive. I desire, Mr. Speaker, to refer very briefly to an aspect of our national life which seems to me worthy of every consideration. I refer to our great national system of transportation. Recently there has been laid upon the table of the house a document called the Annual Report of the Canadian National Railway System. If there is one thing which has contributed more to the financial and fiscal difficulties of Canada, possibly even more than the war itself, it has been the rivalry in the construction and operation of railways. That rivalry, carried on under the smile and even the protection of government, brought about such a chaotic condition that government went into the business of transportation. I know full well that many members in this house will not agree with me; but I am of those who believe that if a government make wise laws and administer them wisely it has fulfilled the principal function of government. I believe that government should not enter competitive business, whether it be liquor, hydro-electric, transportation, or any other of a dozen ventures in which provincial governments are engaged at the present time. Be that as it may, it is well that we in this moment of depression, at a time when we are seeking for means to pay Canada's way, when our estimates have been cut, to use a very trite expression, to the bone, when all public works have been abandoned—it is well, I say, that we should take stock of this enterprise which is making such a terrible drain upon our financial resources.

I find, Mr. Speaker, that the total liabilities of the Canadian Pacific Railway are $950,000,000; I find that the total liabilities of the Dominion of Canada—I am not speaking of the net debt—are $2,544,000,000; I find that the total liabilities of the Canadian National Railway System are $2,870,000,000; I find that the funded debt of this railway, the debt upon which interest is owed to the public, is something over $1,200,000,000; I find that the interest owing to the public, interest that is to be paid annually, is $51,000,000; I find that the interest upon the debt of the Canadian National Railways is over $80,000,000 a year—something over $10,000,000 a year in excess of the total revenue from the income tax in the most abundant year of which we have records. I find from the last departmental report that this debt is forever increasing.

I pause here to lament that these reports should be so difficult to understand. There is a fiscal year for the Dominion government which ends on March 31, and there is a fiscal year for the railways which ends on December 31, and betwixt December 31 and March 31 there is a bedevilment which no ordinary man is able to disentangle or understand. I commend a form of report more simple and better suited to reveal rather than to conceal the facts of the year under review.

I find in the last report which has been laid before the house, the report of March 31, 1930, that the long term debt of the railway for which the government is responsible was increased during that year by some $163,000,000. I find that in 1914 the total debt of the Dominion of Canada amounted to $335,000,000. I find that in seven years the liability of the Dominion of Canada has been increased by nearly twice that amount by reason of the inordinate and lavish expenditure of the Canadian National Railways.

I find in the statute of 1929 authorization for the construction of a passenger station and terminals in Montreal and I find even now that that consuming rivalry which has made such demands upon the fiscal and financial life of

our country is about to grab another $100,000,000 for purposes of dubious utility. We find that a passenger station and terminals are to be built in the city of Montreal for the Canadian National Railways within a stone's throw of another railway's passenger station. If Montreal needs a terminal, it needs a union terminal. We know from recent sad experiences that when undertakings of this kind are set afoot they sometimes require more than double the amount anticipated, and while the statute provides for an expenditure of $50,000,000, those who are best informed tell us that this scheme cannot be carried to completion for less than $100,000,000. When this expenditure has been made, not one car will have been added to the carrying capacity of the railways, not one additional passenger will have been found for their carriages, not a penny added to their coffers. We have shut off immigration; we know that passenger traffic is dwindling; we know that automobile and air traffic are impinging upon the erstwhile predominance of locomotive traction and conveyance. All it means is this: that a few passengers may be attracted to that glittering monument from the rival across the way, and that that rival will have to erect a similar edifice to folly to protect itself against the allurements of this child of our statute. Is it necessary?

I for one feel that this matter should be very carefully investigated. Some years ago we were told by hon. gentlemen on both sides of the house that the railway committee had not the technical information or knowledge to decide matters of engineering which were essential to the good administration of the railway. That was the reason given for the creation of the Board of Railway Commissioners, and yet this, the largest railway undertaking in eastern Canada, has been embarked upon without reference to that technical organization.

We are told now that a project to girt the island of Montreal with a second and altogether unnecessary line—it may be said that I have no quality to express an opinion, but surely my qualifications are equal to those of the hon. members who passed the legislation —is to come before the Board of Railway Commissioners on the twenty-seventh of this month. To the best of my knowledge, the recently appointed chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners has not yet arrived in the city and the board has not been completed by the appointment of a member from the province of Quebec. In these scant ten days there is no time for preparation of a case against the proposed belt line or for a union station. I for one protest against this unseemly haste. I ask this house: why should we be dragooned into expenditures of ten, fifty or one hundred millions of dollars when money is not available for other purposes which are more urgent? I want to know what useful purpose is to be served by this terminal and by this second belt line. Is it going to reduce the rate on wheat from the west? Is it going to give employment to people in Toronto, in Winnipeg or in Vancouver?

An hon. MEMBER: What about Montreal?

Mr. HACKETT: It may give some employment in Montreal, but my hon. friend must remember, and I am sure that he does, that the curse of such log-rolling has been holding this land in its grip for the last sixty years. Montreal must have a terminal because Toronto has one! and the country must pay the piper. I for one protest against such action. I do not say that the terminal is not necessary, but I want to hear that it is necessary from people who know and who are disinterested and not from people who are interested in supplying materials which are to go into their construction, not from people who may achieve self-glorification from participation in a huge enterprise. It seems to me that this matter should be discussed without undue haste at this particular moment when money is so scarce and when we are taking stock of all our sins of omission as well as of commission. Before it is proceeded with I want to be told by expert opinion, by those who have had time to consider this project, that it is necessary and that a union station is impossible. I have no desire to see the Canadian National Railways subjugated to the Canadian Pacific Railway. I have no desire to see the Canadian Pacific Railway subjugated to the Canadian National Railways, nor do I want Canada subjugated to either. If it is necessary, let us call into existence an operating or terminal company, a third and independent entity which would mete out equal justice to all: to the Canadian National, to the Canadian Pacific, to Montreal and to Canada.

On motion of Mr. Nicholson the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Manion the house adjourned at 10.50 p.m.

Friday, April 17, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

BANKRUPTCY ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. JOHN T. HACKETT (Stanstead) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 28, to amend the Bankruptcy Act (priority of claims).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. HACKETT: There is at present a provision in the Bankruptcy Act which prevents those to whom money is due for commissions earned more than three months before the date of a receiving order from being paid. There is a class of people who sell goods on commission. Under the terms of their engagement they may not receive their commission until the goods have been delivered, and sometimes not until they have been paid for, which is frequently six and nine months after the goods have been sold and the commissions earned. If the employer become a bankrupt before payment of the commission, the salesman has but an ordinary and unpreferred claim for his services. This amendment would enable such people to receive payment by preference of their commissions earned more than three months before the date of a receiving order but not payable until a later date provided that date be within three months of a receiving order. In other words, it puts them in the position of people who have worked for the company within three months of a winding-up order and gives them the same preference.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 29, to amend the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. GUTHRIE: This proposed amendment applies only to the province of Saskatchewan. As the house will remember, an agreement was made in the year 1928 under which the administration of the police force in that province was undertaken by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the object of this amendment is to extend the provisions of the present Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act to certain men of the Saskatchewan police who have been incorporated into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It is for pension purposes.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

CONFERENCE OF FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON INSURANCE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Before the orders of the day are called, Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct the attention of the government to an article which appeared in The Mail and Empire of Thursday, April 16, with reference to a riot in the streets of Winnipeg, involving 6,000 unemployed, and disturbances in other centres of Canada. There had been a request that an unemployment insurance bill be put through the legislature, and Premier Bracken replied that:

> A resolution, already passed, favoured the calling of a conference of federal and provincial governments to consider a scheme of unemployment insurance.

I was wondering, in view of this serious situation, whether or not the Prime Minister would give the country an assurance as to whether he intended calling a conference with the provincial governments with a view to putting through an unemployment insurance scheme at an early date.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): In view of the fact that nine years have passed without such a conference having been called, the hon. gentleman might ask himself whether the government should be expected to call a conference while parliament is in session and we have been in power but a few months.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to move the adjournment of the house, as I am entitled to do in view of such an answer as the Prime Minister has given. Let me point out, however, that during the time I was Minister of Labour there were no riots nor bloodshed in any period of unemployment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. HEENAN: And I still think—

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. member proposes to address a question to the Prime Minister or to a minister I must rule him out of order.

Mr. HEENAN: Then I will ask for the adjournment of the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: For the same reason given to the house on a recent date, I now rule this application out of order, inasmuch as the matter therein referred to has already been discussed by the house and will no doubt be again considered in the course of the debate now proceeding.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Will your honour read the motion?

Mr. BENNETT: It is not a motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member wishes to move the adjournment of the house to discuss what he describes as a matter of urgent public importance, namely, a report of a riot in Winnipeg.

Mr. HEENAN: Before you give your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I would remind you, sir, that there has not been discussed in the house so far during this session the question of riots in this country. I submit, sir, that this is an entirely new question—

Mr. BENNETT: There were no riots to start with.

Mr. HEENAN: —and therefore I think I have not only a right but a duty to raise the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman may not proceed to make a speech at the moment. My ruling is that the application is not in order, inasmuch as the matter to which reference is made is not one of urgent public importance.

Mr. HEENAN: Will your honour not allow me—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order

Mr. BENNETT: There is only one course for the hon. gentleman to take; he may appeal from the Speaker's ruling.

Mr. HEENAN: Will you not allow us to argue a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman can appeal from the ruling of the chair; there is no other method I know of which he may take.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman must abide by the rules of the house.

Mr. HEENAN: Then, Mr. Speaker, I regret to have to appeal against your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Speaker having decided that the application by Mr. Heenan for leave to move the adjournment of the house to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the reported riots of unemployed in Winnipeg and other points in Canada, to be out of order as not being a definite matter of urgent public importance, Mr. Heenan appeals from that decision.

The house divided on the question: Shall the ruling of the Chair be sustained? And the ruling was sustained on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Anderson (Toronto-High Park),
Barber,
Baribeau,
Barrette,
Beaubier,
Bell (St. John-Albert),
Bennett,
Beynon,
Bowman,
Burns,
Bury,
Cahan,
Cantley,
Carmichael,
Casselman,
Chaplin,
Charters,
Cotnam,
Cowan (Long Lake),
Dickie,
Dorion,
Duguay,
Embury,
Ernst,
Esling,
Fortin,
Fraser (Cariboo),
Ganong,
Gordon,
Guthrie,
Hackett,
Hanson (York-Sunbury),
Hay,
Johnstone,
Jones,
LaVergne,
Loucks,
Macdougall,
MacLaren,
MacMillan (Saskatoon),
MacNicol,
McGregor,
McLure,
Maloney,
Morand,
Myers,
Nicholson,
Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Perley (Sir George),
Pickel,
Plunkett,
Porteous,
Price,
Quinn,
Robinson,
Rogers,
Ross,
Ryerson,
Senn,
Shaver,
Short,
Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Smith (Cumberland),
Smoke,
Spankie,
Spence,
Spotton,
Sproule,
Stanley,
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Stitt (Nelson),
Stitt (Selkirk),
Sullivan,
Sutherland,
Swanston,
Thompson (Simcoe East),
Thompson (Lanark),
Turnbull,
Weir (Melfort),
White (London),
Willis,
Wright.—82.

NAYS

Messrs:

Blair,
Bothwell,
Bourassa,
Bradette,
Brasset,
Brown,
Butcher,
Campbell,
Cardin,
Cayley,
Coote,
Denis,
Desrochers,
Donnelly,
Dubois,
Duff,
Fafard,
Fiset (Sir Eugene),
Gardiner,
Garland (Bow River),
Gershaw,
Hanson (Skeena),
Heaps,
Heenan,
Howard,
Hurtubise,
Irvine,
Kennedy (Peace River),
King, Mackenzie,
Lapointe,
Lucas,
Luchkovich,
MacInnis,
Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre),
MacLean,
Macphail (Miss),
McMillan (Huron South),
McPhee,
Marcil,
Motherwell,
Munn,
Neill,
Parent,
Perras,
Reid,
Roberge,
Sanderson,
Speakman,
Spencer,
Taylor,
Totzke,
Veniot,
Verville,
Weir (Macdonald),
Woodsworth,
Young.—56.

(The list of pairs as furnished by the chief whips.)

PAIRS

Messrs:

Anderson (Halton),
Arsenault,
Baker,
Bell (Hamilton),
Bell (St. Antoine),
Black (Halifax),
Boyes,
Bowen,
Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay),
Dupré,
Duranleau,
Edwards,
Gagnon,
Garland (Carleton),
Geary,
Gobeil,
Gott,
Harris,
Kennedy (Winnipeg South Centre),
Laflèche,
Laurin,
Lawson,
Lennox,
MacDonald (Cape Breton South),
Macdonald (Kings),
McDade,
McGibbon,
Manion,
Matthews,
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Mullins,
Murphy,
Factor,
Thauvette,
Bertrand,
Mercier (St. Henri),
Raymond,
Dubuc,
Deslauriers,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
Ilsley,
Ferland,
Rinfret,
Elliott,
Boulanger,
Goulet,
Mercier (Laurier-Outremont),
Rhéaume,
Rutherford,
Jacobs,
McIntosh,
Girouard,
Fontaine,
Gray,
Pouliot,
Urquhart,
Ahearn,
Dupuis,
Power,
Euler,
Moore (Ontario),
Robitaille,
Howden,
Stewart (Edmonton),
Peck,
Pettit,
Rhodes,
Rowe,
Ryckman,
Sauvé,
Simpson (North Simcoe),
Simpson (Algoma),
Stevens,
Stewart (Leeds),
Stinson,
Stirling,
Tétrault,
Tummon,
Wilson,
Weese,
White (Mount Royal),
Beaubien,
Bouchard,
Ralston,
Lacroix,
Chevrier,
Seguin,
Fraser (Northumberland),
Casgrain,
Malcolm,
Hepburn,
Hall,
Hanbury,
Dumaine,
St-Père,
Vallance,
Buckley,
Fournier.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. POWER: I was paired with the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. McGibbon). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. HOWDEN: I was paired with the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. ROWE: I was paired with the hon. member for Beauce (Mr. Lacroix). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. EDWARDS: I was paired with the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Elliott). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling.

Mr. MURPHY: I was paired with the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling.

Mr. ST-PERE: I was paired with the hon. member for South Hastings (Mr. Tummon). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. BUCKLEY: I was paired with the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Weese). Had I not been paired, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. MOORE (Ontario): I was paired with the hon. member for Toronto East Centre (Mr. Matthews). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. BOUCHARD: I was paired with the hon. member for Welland (Mr. Pettit). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): I was paired with the hon. member for St. Henri (Mr. Mercier). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling.

Mr. COWAN (Port Arthur): I was paired with the hon. member for Hants-Kings (Mr. Ilsley). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I was paired with the hon. member for Durham (Mr. Bowen). Had I not been paired, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. VALLANCE: I was paired with the hon. member for Wentworth (Mr. Wilson). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. GOULET: I was paired with the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Garland). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. HALL: I was paired with the hon. member for Victoria (Ont.) (Mr. Stinson). Had I not been paired, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. McINTOSH: I was paired with the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Kennedy). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. BERTRAND: I was paired with the hon. member for Northeast Toronto (Mr. Baker). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. FONTAINE: I was paired with the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Laurin). Had I voted, I would have voted against the ruling.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton South): I was paired with the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Urquhart). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling.

Mr. SIMPSON (Simcoe): I was paired with the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Fraser). Had I voted, I would have voted to sustain the ruling.

Mr. SAUVE: I was paired with the hon. member for l'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Séguin). Had I voted I would have voted to sustain the ruling.

REPORTED EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA OF UNITED STATES WORKMEN

THREATENED DEPORTATIONS FROM UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. E. PARENT (Terrebonne): I wish to draw the attention of the Minister of Labour or of the Acting Minister of Labour to a despatch which appears in the Montreal Gazette of this morning, and which reads as follows:

U.S. Workers Admitted

Rockport Unemployed Claim Unfair Treatment

Brockville, Ont., April 16.—Considerable feeling has been aroused in the Rockport area, in the Thousand Islands, through immigration officials permitting United States carpenters, painters and other tradesmen to enter the country for the purpose of carrying out renovation and improvements to summer homes in the vicinity owned by Americans while Canadian residents of the neighbourhood remained unemployed.

I also wish to draw attention to another despatch which appeared in the Montreal Gazette of yesterday, the 16th instant, and which carries the information that the United States government, in order to protect the interests of its citizens, is taking steps to deport 30,000 French Canadians from the New England states.

The question which I wish to ask is this: Will the Minister of Labour or the Acting Minister of Labour, when the opportunity presents itself, as it apparently does in this Brockville case, retaliate against the United States government by deporting to their own country those painters, carpenters and other tradesmen who appear to be doing work which should be carried on by Canadian citizens.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration): This question of the interchange of labour has arisen on many occasions, and the Department of Immigration is working in harmony with the Department of Labour. Whenever a complaint is made, immediate investigation is started and deportation takes place if the evidence is sufficient to warrant deportation. I am happy to state that the relationship along the international boundary even at this time is, I believe, harmonious and the interests of the Canadian workmen are being carefully guarded by both the Labour department and the Department of Immigration.

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): The hon. member for Terrebonne (Mr. Parent) has drawn the attention of the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) to a situation that has developed along the border, and in Ontario, I believe. I wish to draw his attention to a similar situation in New Brunswick, which has not developed recently but has been in existence for some years back, and I would ask the minister, when considering the matter brought to his attention by the

hon. member for Terrebonne, at the same time to consider the situation as it has developed in the towns of St. Stephen and Milltown in New Brunswick.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration): The Department of Labour is always ready to consider any question that may arise at any time along the international boundary or anywhere else that affects the workers of this Dominion.

Mr. VENIOT: I take it, then, that this matter will be considered. Thank you.

BRODHAGEN, ONT., POSTMASTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. F. G. SANDERSON (South Perth): I desire to direct a question to the Postmaster General. I have in my hand a clipping from the Toronto Globe under date of April 15, containing an interview given William Marchington of the Globe by the Postmaster General. I shall not read it all. It is in regard to the letters and affidavits that were sent out from the Post Office Department to postmasters charged with partisanship during the last election. I would draw the attention of the Postmaster General to the following phrase:

> The letter is addressed only to postmasters accused by sworn statements or affidavits.

I desire to ask the Postmaster General a question with regard to the case of a postmaster in my constituency which I brought up in the house on March 31 last, namely, the postmaster at Brodhagen in South Perth. I would ask the Postmaster General if the letter and affidavit were sent to the postmaster at Brodhagen before any sworn statements were made in regard to his conduct during the election of last summer. I would also ask if there have been any sworn statements made against that postmaster. I would not expect an answer offhand unless the Postmaster General is prepared to give it to me, but I desire to know—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member says that he does not expect an answer offhand. Then why not put the question on the order paper?

Mr. SANDERSON: Would it not be better for the Postmaster General to say whether or not he can answer the question now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Stenographers are supplied for the use of members, and there is no trouble in writing to the minister and getting a reply to such a question.

[Mr. Veniot.]

Mr. SANDERSON: I have directed my question to the Postmaster General in the house, and I await his answer.

Hon. ARTHUR SAUVE (Postmaster General): I do not want to make a speech in answer to my hon. friend. I am glad to say, however, that the statement published by the Globe is correct.

Mr. SANDERSON: Is correct?

Mr. SAUVE: Yes, and I am ready to put the letter on the table in the regular way.

Mr. SANDERSON: Will the Postmaster General—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SANDERSON: I am going to ask another question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. member has occupied enough of the time of the house at this stage. If every member present undertakes to ask half a dozen questions on the orders of the day respecting matters that are not of urgent importance, we shall never get on with any business. I must call the hon. member to order.

Mr. SANDERSON: Do I understand, Mr. Speaker, that you rule that I have no right to ask another question?

Mr. SPEAKER: My ruling is that the hon. member has asked his question, and that it has been answered. I would therefore ask him to desist from asking further questions on the same subject just now.

Mr. SANDERSON: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that my question has not been answered, that only part of it has been answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: Even so, the minister is not obliged to answer at all. He has seen fit to answer as he has, and the hon. member is obliged to accept that answer.

Mr. SANDERSON: If that is the attitude of the Postmaster General, well and good.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

ORIENTALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): In view of the fact that a census is about to be taken throughout Canada I would ask the Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Manion) if he would seriously consider,

in view of the great encroachment of orientals in British Columbia, the advisability of having the census takers ascertain the numbers of orientals who are illegally in the province of British Columbia?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Acting Minister of Trade and Commerce): The question of the illegality of the residence of orientals in British Columbia is a matter for the Department of Immigration rather than for the census takers.

AIR MAIL SERVICE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. C. R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): I have a question to direct to the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. McINTOSH: Just take your time; the question is coming. And may I say there is an element of wonder in it. Psychologically, it would not be a question if there were not an element of wonder in it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Put the question.

Mr. McINTOSH: I am going to if you give me time. The question does not concern government policies. The question is simply this: Is the air mail service at present enjoyed between the cities of Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon and North Battleford to be discontinued or not? To be or not to be, that is the question.

Hon. ARTHUR SAUVE (Postmaster General): The question is under consideration.

Mr. McINTOSH: I want to thank the minister for his reply.

PRIVILEGE—MR. BENNETT

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I very much regret being compelled to draw the attention of this house to what I conceive to be a breach of its privileges. The hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard), speaking in the house last evening, said, as reported at page 674 of Hansard:

> If the Prime Minister were in his seat I would direct his attention to the statement he made yesterday on the floor of this house. He said that he would never consent to unemployment insurance, but I say to-night that if the manufacturers of Canada have to take on unemployment insurance in the near future they can date the cause back to the present government's attitude towards the needs of this country.

No such statement was made by me. On the preceding day, as reported in Hansard at page 631, these words occur:

> They came here this morning to urge upon the government non-contributory unemployment insurance. I told them they would never get it from any government that I had to do with; that is what I told them; I was perfectly frank about it.

The hon. member for Sherbrooke either deliberately or otherwise left out the word "non-contributory." Either he heard what I said in the house or he did not. If he did not hear my statement he must have seen it in Hansard. Therefore either deliberately or otherwise he stated that which is not the fact.

Mr. YOUNG: Inadvertently.

Mr. BENNETT: To my mind the only evidence that it was not inadvertently done would be the fact that possibility of inadvertence has been suggested by my hon. friend from Weyburn (Mr. Young). May I say that I can conceive of no greater breach of privilege in this house than a deliberate statement of that character made by an hon. member with respect to the observations on the preceding day of another hon. member.

EMBARGO AGAINST POTATOES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. E. MacLEAN (Prince): Question No. 19, dealing with the embargo placed against Canadian potatoes by the British government has been on the order paper for some time. I would like to ask for information regarding the removal of this embargo against Canadian potatoes.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I direct the attention of the house to the fact that the question is already on the order paper.

Mr. VALLANCE: Mr. Speaker, there are many questions in a similar position to that of the one mentioned by my hon. friend from Prince, and they have not yet been considered.

An hon. MEMBER: Sit down; and let us get at it.

Mr. VALLANCE: Hon. members on this side want to get at it.

Mr. SPEAKER: It may be somewhat inconvenient, but I must state that the subject sought to be dealt with is on the order paper and hon. members cannot anticipate such questions by asking them orally.

Mr. MacLEAN: This is a very urgent question.

Mr. McINTOSH: The hon. minister wanted to answer it.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Thursday, April 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. G. B. NICHOLSON (East Algoma): Mr. Speaker, in rising to address the house on a resolution which has been debated for something over three weeks one naturally feels that almost everything which could profitably be said has been said. However Canada is a big country and it has many problems. I believe that with the situation now prevailing, economically and socially the most serious which has prevailed for fifty years, it is our duty to explore every phase of the situation as thoroughly as possible in an effort to learn the causes and if possible to suggest some solution.

Before proceeding further, Mr. Speaker, I desire to congratulate you on your almost complete restoration to health and to express the wish which is in the heart and mind of every hon. member in this house that you will be long spared to preside over its deliberations. I also wish to congratulate the mover and seconder of the resolution on the very able manner in which they dealt with the whole question now before us. I wish also to congratulate the government on the scope and character of the speech from the throne the details of which we will have ample opportunity to discuss as the session proceeds. Particularly I wish to congratulate the government on the vision and courage of which it has given evidence in the action it took at the special session of parliament to meet a situation inherited by them from their predecessors, the most difficult that any government in Canada has ever been called upon to face. They are to be congratulated equally on the success of the measures taken during that session to meet that emergent situation.

Particularly at this time I wish to refer to the action taken for the relief of unemployment. There is no use side-stepping such a question; there has been and there is serious unemployment in Canada. I state however without fear of satisfactory contradiction that there never has been a time in this country where so complete cooperative and favourable action has been taken between the federal, provincial and municipal authorities, employers of labour, and charitable institutions to meet a critical situation. As a result of the legislation passed at the special session of parliament and the action taken by the Department of Labour under that legislation some 230,000 men have been given employment. True, in many cases the work was not of a character to which many of the men had been accustomed. Men who had been employed as mechanics and railway employees were given employment in road construction, mining and railway construction; nevertheless they got employment. Knowing the situation among many of these men and having been constantly in contact with them I wish to say now that they have nothing but gratitude in their hearts for the measures taken to relieve the situation with which they were face to face.

Since the beginning of this session there has been a chorus of criticism levelled against the government, led by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in a speech which lasted four and one-half hours and in which he dealt with three main points. First there was the failure of the government in regard to unemployment; secondly, the failure of the economic conference in London and thirdly the failure to market Canada's wheat. At the moment I have dealt so far as I intend to go with the question of unemployment. I can say only this that never in the history of this country has there been such comprehensive and effective action taken to meet emergent unemployment conditions as that taken by the present government when at the special session it presented special legislation to deal with the emergency.

If I may I would like to compare that action with the action or lack of action taken by the former government. During this session of parliament I have listened to the speeches of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan), also I have read the many speeches he has delivered and the numerous newspaper interviews he has given in which he has constantly deplored the lack of action on the part of the government. I have been led to wonder who this hon. member might be. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it would be an excellent act if someone would kindly take the hon. member and introduce him to the gentleman who was Minister of Labour in Canada from the years 1926 to 1930 (Mr. Heenan). It would be well to have the two parts of the hon. gentleman together and have them discuss the position the hon. gentleman took in this house just about or probably a little more than a year ago when for three and one-half hours he argued against a resolution presented by the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) which merely asked that the house be given the privilege of considering the

conditions of unemployment in Canada. If the leader of the opposition were in his place I would ask him if he is the same right hon. gentleman who as Prime Minister stood up in this house a little over a year ago and amid the plaudits of his followers—principally his Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan)—declared positively and definitely that not one single five-cent piece would be permitted to be used by the federal authorities for the relief of unemployment in five of the provinces, including the province of Ontario, in which there is the great northern district to which the hon. member for Kenora (Mr. Heenan) is constantly referring. There is unemployment in northern Ontario, and before I conclude, if you will bear with me, Mr. Speaker, I will cite some of the reasons for this unemployment, and some of the efforts that have been made to relieve it.

As to the alleged failure of the Imperial economic conference, whether it fails or whether it is a success will depend on the course taken at the adjourned meeting which is to be held in this city during the present year. That the economic conference will be a success I am certain. Every man who has the interests of this country at heart, every man who has the interests of the British Empire at heart, sincerely hopes that it will be. That it may be a failure, I am equally certain is the wish of the right hon. leader of the opposition and those with him in this house and outside who have so consistently and determinedly misrepresented the position taken by the right hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues at the opening meeting in London last October. Should it be that the economic conference fails—and I say with all sincerity and humility, God forbid—but should it fail, then the British Empire in the aggregate and in its component parts will be face to face with an economic crisis—and this applies particularly to the United Kingdom—such as it has not been confronted with in the memory of any man now living. Before I sit down I shall endeavour to give some reasons for taking that position.

Now with regard to the question of the marketing of our wheat. I do not presume to be thoroughly familiar with the question, but I would ask: When was it that the free flow of wheat from Canada to the world-markets in which we had been selling began to back up; was it in August, 1930, or some date subsequent or previous? Anyone who has studied the question, anyone who has followed the course that our wheat marketing has taken, knows this, that from 1925 onward during eight years, as the accumulating surplus of wheat continued to grow, right up until 1929, when the jam occurred, the free flow, the free marketing of our wheat, was gradually being slowed down. In the meantime what action was being taken by the government of my right hon. friend the present leader of the opposition to relieve that situation or to find wider markets for Canadian wheat? As has been stated on the floor of this house many times, the position taken by the then Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) was that it was not the business of the government to find markets for our wheat. As a matter of fact, by the then government's discouragement of general industry, by its discouragement of general agriculture, by its placing emphasis on the production of wheat and nothing but the production of wheat, a situation was developed in this country that was utterly impossible of continuance. To illustrate the position taken, may I quote from a statement made in this house in 1920 by an ex-Minister of Railways, erstwhile leader of the grain movement in western Canada, erstwhile leader of the progressive group in this country, with regard to what should be Canada's economic policy. It is interesting to note that the statement made by the hon. gentleman on that occasion was applauded and supported by the then leader of the opposition and his supporters. The statement was this: That the course Canada should follow was to take her people out of the villages, towns and cities and put them on the land growing wheat and more wheat. You will pardon a personal reference, sir. I took the liberty on that occasion to state that if the destiny of western Canada was the growing of wheat for export to the markets of the world, she had attained that position in 1915, because then she was growing as much wheat as she would ever be able to find profitable export markets for. Ninety per cent of the economic troubles of this country is due to the unbalanced character of Canadian industry, brought about very largely by the lack of constructive policies that prevailed from 1922 to 1930.

I asked a moment ago what action did the government of the day take during the time that the accumulation of wheat was constantly gaining in western Canada. If the Department of Trade and Commerce of that day had been fulfilling its function it could at least have kept the producers of wheat and the marketing organizations in western Canada advised of world conditions; it could have done something to advise those producers and marketing organizations of the misunderstand-

ings and the hostile opinions then prevailing in the wheat importing countries of the world, because of the policy alleged to be followed by our wheat marketing organizations. Whether these misunderstandings and hostile opinions were well founded or not I shall not discuss; I am not in a position to do so. But I do know, as every member in this house knows, that these misunderstandings and hostile opinions prevailed and to a greater degree among the wheat importers and wheat distributors of Liverpool than among those located in any other part of the world. But no action was taken to remove these misunderstandings or to conciliate these hostile opinions. No, Mr. Speaker. The government of that day was too busy balancing one class and one section of Canada against another in order to maintain itself in power to give any thought whatsoever to the interests of the people as a whole, whether industrial, agricultural or wheat-producing.

Now I come to a brief review of the economic situation with which we are faced. As I said with regard to unemployment, so with regard to our economic position, it is difficult, sometimes it is virtually impossible, to see a way out. Suggestions, however, may be made and I intend to make one or two. But first, what are the actual conditions? As I said, I am not as competent to deal fully with the wheat situation as are many members who are directly and personally engaged in the business. I may say, however, that it has been a matter of disappointment to me that in all the speeches to which I have listened during this debate, speeches from men actually engaged in the wheat business, men presumed to know all about it, both from the production and the marketing end, I have failed to hear one single suggestion as to a remedy that may be applied, or a means that may be employed, to find a continuous market for Canada's wheat at a price that will make it possible for the western farmer to produce wheat and live as a Canadian citizen should live. Perhaps I can best illustrate the situation by referring to a business I am presumed to know at least a little about. There are two main industries in Canada that have been furnishing the large bulk of our exports, namely, the wheat-producing industry and the forest products industry. The forest products industry is, in proportion to its size, in a position just as difficult, and in some cases more difficult than the wheat-producing industry. One part of the forest products industry is in an utterly impossible position as conditions are at the present time. The two branches of the forest products industry are, first, the pulp and paper industry and, secondly, what is generally termed the lumbering industry. The pulp and paper industry will come back more quickly than either the wheat producing industry or the general lumbering industry, provided it is not subject to possible competition, to which the other two industries are subject, by virtue of an economic condition to which I shall refer in a moment.

The pulp and paper industry as it exists at present depends for its market very largely on the United States and Canada, and as general economic conditions improve so will the market for newsprint paper improve. In the meantime, however, many suggestions are being made. Drawing on memory, I believe I heard it stated in this house—it has been stated in the press—that delegations have waited on the governments of Quebec and Ontario asking that the paper companies be penalized because they are not operating their mills to capacity. It has been suggested that the timber lands upon which these industries are based should be taken away from them because they cannot operate their mills. It would be just as reasonable to suggest that because the western wheat producer cannot find a profitable market for his wheat, therefore the land on which he is growing, or expects to grow wheat, or on which he expects to continue in some form of agriculture should be taken from him. The newsprint men are as anxious to sell paper and operate their mills as the wheat producer is to produce and sell wheat at a profitable price; he is just as anxious to operate his mills as are the men who are now out of employment by reason of the fact that the mills are not operating.

To come to the general lumbering industry. Difficulties in this industry began in 1922 and increased through 1923 and 1924 up to 1929 and 1930, when virtual paralysis resulted from two main causes. First there was the drying-up and general paralysis of the industry due to the economic course or lack of economic course or policy followed from 1922 to 1930, killing the home market for the lumberman's product. But the principal reason for the situation is—and here may I say that the same remark applies, in my judgment, to the market for wheat—that the British market was taken away from us. The British market for all kinds and classes of Canadian lumber began to be transferred to other countries than Canada much earlier than in the case of any other product we have, because the country that was and is now supplying that market was in a position to dump lumber more quickly than they could dump anything else. The result is that whereas, prior to 1922, the lumber industry of Canada found its export

market largely in the United Kingdom, in 1930 less than 4 per cent of the total requirements of the United Kingdom was purchased from Canada, or indeed, from any part of the British Empire, while 94 per cent of the total requirements of soft woods in the United Kingdom was purchased through the dumping policy of the Soviet government of Russia. Here let me say this. The lumber industry in Canada cannot live; the wheat industry in Canada cannot live; no other industry in Canada or in any other civilized country can exist and provide a standard of living—at any rate, such as the people in Canada hope to have and are entitled to—in competition with 150 million or 160 million slaves. That is the situation with which the lumber industry is brought into conflict—the situation which in my opinion bedevilled the wheat industry in 1929 and 1930, just as the lumber industry has been affected from 1922 to 1930. In this regard I would congratulate the government upon the courageous action they took in prohibiting the importation of Russian products. I will go a step further and say I sincerely trust that the government will become the crusader in this movement and will endeavour to bring behind them the British Empire, the United States and the countries of Europe in a determined effort to isolate Russia so far as this dumping is concerned.

In this connection may I just cite one instance in relation to the trade of the United Kingdom itself. In 1929-30 Great Britain purchased from Russia $40,000,000 worth of goods more than she purchased from that country in the previous year. During that same period she purchased from Canada approximately $40,000,000 less of goods than she purchased from us in the previous year. In 1929 Great Britain purchased from Russia approximately $170,000,000 worth of goods and sold to Russia $30,000,000, a balance in favour of the communist government of Russia of $140,000,000. Now it is true that we are not responsible for conditions in the United Kingdom; but as a citizen of the British Empire I will presume to make one observation in this regard. If someone suggested, in Manchester or Leeds, or some of the industrial centres of Great Britain, that they send to Russia and bring over a sufficient number of people from that country into England, to live under the conditions prevailing in Russia, to work for the wages, if they can be called wages, now prevailing in Russia, and to produce these goods for the British people, there would be a revolution in England. But what are they doing? They are taking their trade away from Canada, purchasing goods from Russia and bringing them into their own market not only in competition with the rest of the British Empire but in competition with their own people, creating the condition presently prevailing to a large degree in the United Kingdom.

I wish to put into the record a few quotations which will give the house some idea of how goods are being produced. In support of the action taken by the government of Canada in imposing an embargo upon Russian goods, and in furtherance of the hope I have expressed that this government will take the position of crusader in this movement, I wish to read an extract from the Philadelphia Evening Public Ledger. Referring to the order in council of the Canadian government, this paper says:

> Their order in council frankly recognizes that the Russian Soviet is seeking to divide the world and to destroy the economic basis of western civilization. With this conviction and not from any concern about details of international trade, the Canadians have struck the most powerful blow yet aimed at Russian plans for a communized world.
>
> Nations, whose lives are ordered on the basis of a sane regard for the dignity of human life and the right of the individual to be master of his own destiny, cannot be blamed if they view this experiment with distrust and hatred.

Next I desire to quote from a statement handed out by the Permanent Bureau of the Entente Internationale with headquarters at Geneva. After citing conditions in Europe generally and the attitude taken by the nations of Europe in trading with Russia, the statement proceeds:

> The offensive of the Soviet government and its alter ego the Comintern is directed against contemporary civilization:
>
> (1) By the destruction and the disintegration of religious and moral values.
>
> 2. By the continuation of the political-social agitation.
>
> 3. By subversive action in Asia.
>
> 4. By the offensive against industry and commerce, by means of dumping.
>
> 5. By the constantly more intensive training of the Red army.

An extract from a statement made by Oscar Berl, an outstanding economist of Vienna, Austria, reads as follows:

> Russia is awake, and the whole world sleeps. Soviet products are being sold regardless of the cost of production, and are an important cause for unemployment. Unless the world unites for self defence, world depression will be impossible to overcome.

Commander Carlyon Bellairs, a member of Parliament in Great Britain, discussing the investigation into conditions prevailing in the lumber industry in Russia, which had been carried on continuously from July, 1929, to

July, 1930, stated that the exiles are working in the camps at Solovki. He says:

> The work goes on from five in the morning until eight at night. The prisoners are fed twice a day. The food is repulsive.

A second affidavit by Commander Bellairs reads:

> It is stated in the lumber camp at Solobetsk out of 29,000 prisoners over 19,000 died from typhus.

He continues:

> The more one reads about Russia, the more evidence accumulates of what it is doing and trying to do, and the more it becomes clear what a slimy, barbarous and beastly thing the Soviet republic is.

In dealing with the same situation, a Paris correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph states:

> More than 570,000 men, 74,000 women and 18,000 children are employed under forced labour conditions in the concentration lumber camps of the Soviet union, and more than 73,000 died from exhaustion last year.

The following is an extract from the chief officer of a boat which had brought to England a cargo of timber from Russia. It reads:

> I have just completed a second voyage to northern Russia, in both cases returning with a huge cargo of pit props. I left Archangel about a month ago, and there were then 110 vessels in port, all loading. There were berths for nine vessels at the one we loaded at, and there were 40,000 convicts allotted to that section alone. They worked twelve hour shifts and marched up and down in batches of 200 and 300 like soldiers, all in a state of extreme destitution. These men are not convicts as civilized people understand the word, nor are they of convict type. They are slaves pure and simple, and as with slaves, 95 per cent do not know why they are there. To see them hungrily watching our men going along the decks at meal times with their steaming soup, roast beef, vegetables and duff would make a stone heart bleed. We seamen often wondered what our own government was doing to allow profits to be made out of such abject misery, and why our so-called union leaders allowed decent men to handle goods produced by such means. If you could once see just one man hungrily disposing of a raw pickled herring and chunk of black, filthy bread, you would hate the sight of anything produced in Russia forever. It is a wicked, shameful and disgusting trade, and should be ruthlessly stamped out, as was the slave trade in days gone by.

The following is from an article by H. R. Knickerbocker, dealing with an interview held with Ivan Jakovlevitch, president of the lumber combine. This article appeared in the Toronto Daily Star of December 3, 1930, and reads:

> After describing the manner in which production had increased, the president stated as follows: "As to the workers in the mills, they receive an average pay of two rubles a day."

[Mr. Nicholson.]

If the ruble meant anything in Canada or any other part of the civilized world, that would be equivalent to one dollar, but from the standpoint of purchasing power, the ruble is worth six cents. I believe this article was referred to by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth). I may be mistaken in this, and if so, he can correct me. The article goes on to state that the farmers or peasants are not allowed to work around the sawmills because the danger of sabotage would be too great. They are employed only for felling and transporting the lumber. Mr. Knickerbocker quotes Attorney General Krylenko as follows:

> There were 500,000 farmers forcibly dispossessed by punitive measures and sent to the woods. The total number of peasant families in the territory before March, 1930, was 14,000,000.

Mr. Knickerbocker then called attention to the fact that Krylenko meant not 500,000 individuals, but 500,000 families, which would include the women and children.

At this point I would like to read an extract from a speech delivered by an outstanding Canadian public man to the students of Toronto university. This speech was delivered a comparatively short time ago, and reads:

> Farmers that wanted nothing more than to till land they owned and sell the product of their own soil in the markets of the world were classed at once as counter-revolutionists and ordered to ignominious exile or death. The story of this tragedy does not end merely with bloodshed and despotism. The forces of Lenin set out to remould the whole Russian nation, to uproot the institutions of ages and to refashion the ways of men. One after another of those things towards which humanity has clung in every land and every age, has been taken up by the roots and destroyed.

Western civilization can no more live in competition with that kind of slavery than can the western farmers grow wheat and sell it at Fort William for fifty cents per bushel and live as the Canadian western farmer is entitled to live.

It has been stated throughout this country and it has been stated in this house that there are people who believe that the conditions in Russia are as they should be. The very foundation of existing civilization is being attacked by communistic Russia. In support of that statement I will read from the remarks of Mr. H. G. Bartholomew, an engineer from the city of Toronto who has been resident in Russia for eighteen months. Mr. Bartholomew is chief mechanical engineer of the Vato board at Moscow, a department of the supreme council which supervises the construction of tractors and agricultural machinery. In view of the fact that a quota-

tion has been given in this house from a statement made by one of the engineers at the head of this so-called five-year plan, Mr. Bartholomew's article may be very interesting. The interview is headed: Glowing Review of Soviet Five-Year Plan. So that the house will not feel that I am quoting a biased witness as to social conditions in Russia, I might point out that after indicating the success of the five-year plan from the mechanical side without any regard whatever to the life of the people engaged in it, Mr. Bartholomew goes on to say:

A man does not even own his own soul in Russia, but they seem to be happy. The peasants are in the great majority, but the workers who support the communists are the direct rulers of the country. The peasant worker makes about fifty roubles, or approximately $25 per month. Community centres—

And this is the point to which I wish to direct particular attention:

Community centres are provided where large apartment dwelling houses house two hundred workers, male and female. All eat in a community diningroom, use community washrooms, are supposed to congregate together socially each evening. Single people have one room, married people two, but these rooms are not to be occupied except during sleeping hours. All cooking is done in a general kitchen. The cooked food is carried to a main diningroom where a general air of jollity is supposed to prevail. After the meal all are supposed to join in merrymaking or attend the community theatre.

And here is the point:

Children are placed in kindergartens or institutions controlled by the state.

How does that measure up with the Canadian idea of what the home life of the country should be? When you destroy the home life of any country; when you destroy the inviolability of womanhood; when you take away from the father or mother the child which they have brought into the world, you destroy the very foundation upon which civilization rests, and I say again the civilized world cannot afford to do so.

Just one further quotation, and this is from Mr. William Z. Foster, leader of the communist party in the United States and at one time communist candidate for the presidency of the United States. This is a question addressed to him by the chairman of the congressional committee inquiring into communist activities and propaganda in the United States:

Can members of the Communist party in Russia be married in a church and maintain religious belief?

The answer is:

A member of the Communist party of the Soviet union who would be married in a church would not be of any value to the Communist party.

Mr. A. E. MacLEAN (Prince): I wish to compliment the hon. member for East Algoma (Mr. Nicholson) who has just taken his seat. I look upon him, a former resident of our province, as one of the successful Islanders abroad, and we are glad to see him back in this chamber and restored, comparatively, to his usual health and strength. He has dealt with a situation, that in Russia, which is undoubtedly attracting the attention of the whole world. I believe the greatest danger which Canada is facing is not so much the importation of Russian goods as the foundation which is being laid in Canada of communist doctrine. This to my mind is far more dangerous than the importation of a few million dollars' worth of Russian goods.

The hon. member stated that during the short session the unemployment situation was dealt with by the most comprehensive legislation ever put through parliament. Speaking for our own province of Prince Edward Island, I find that the assistance given has not been of very much help to us. It came very late in the fall, and no work of any importance was carried on. Besides, many different municipalities and provincial governments have been loaded with a burden equal to the assistance given, and if the $20,000,000 had not been voted they would not likely have assumed such a large responsibility. This assistance may have been of advantage in some of the larger centres, but as regards the relief of the unemployment situation in Prince Edward Island, it was not very beneficial. This year, however, there is some money to be spent which may give employment, but in the summer months we have not much difficulty with unemployment.

I should at the start have congratulated the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address in reply to the speech from the throne, especially in view of the fact that the mover is a maritime man and I understand it was considered an honour to the French Acadian people that he should move the address. If so, I wish to share in that honour, because I represent a constituency in which there is a large number of French Acadians. I wish to pay them this

tribute, that they are amongst our very finest citizens; through their wonderful perseverance, their patient toil, thrift and industry, they have built up the finest homes in that province and have made a splendid contribution to the maritimes and to the Dominion as a whole. Further than that, they have made a splendid contribution to the literary development of our country.

Some of the difficulties which we are told exist in the western provinces are also experienced by the farmers of eastern Canada. Although possibly we do not get as much publicity through the press or even in the house, still we have our difficulties down by the sea, and with these I shall deal as I proceed.

The other night the hon. member for Queens (Mr. Myers)—and I see his smiling countenance across the floor—gave a very fine address. In fact portions of that address might very well have been delivered on this side of the house, and I was wondering whether my good friend had really had a change of heart since coming to Ottawa and was now considering becoming a real, honest-to-goodness Liberal. I have to take exception, however, to his contradiction of the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) regarding some circulars which he, Mr. Veniot referred to when speaking and which my hon. friend claimed were never circulated in the province of Prince Edward Island. My hon. friend stated that he knew the province from end to end and that he was in a position to speak for it. He is something like Pat who was going to beat up everybody in the house; when he got through with that he was going to beat up everybody in the village, and when he got through with that he was going to beat up everybody in the country side. But he ran up against somebody who gave him a trimming and he said: "The only mistake I made is that I took in a little too much territory." Possibly my hon. friend can speak well for his own county, but when it comes to the other two counties and just what happened there at election time, perhaps he is not in a position to speak so authoritatively, and in this case like Pat he took in a little too much territory. Large numbers of these circulars, not only the ordinary printed ones, but also typewritten copies which had been made, were handed into my office after the election was over. So I think the ex-Postmaster General, when he spoke of these circulars the other night, was well within the facts. I will go this far, however, and say that we frown on any such tactics. Liberals and Conservatives alike do not wish to see such tactics adopted in any election. When we traced the thing down we found that it was done by a party from outside the province altogether.

My good friend (Mr. Myers) then took up the question of the current depression. He said that if the rest of the world were prosperous and the depression was confined to Canada, he would say that the fault must lie either with the Canadian government or with the Canadian people. I do not think our friends opposite were so generous at the last election. They went up and down the country saying the depression was entirely due to the policies of the King government and that conditions throughout the rest of the world were all right. They pointed to the wonderful prosperity of the United States and said that Canada was suffering from depression and unemployment just because the King government happened to be in power.

My hon. friend then went on to deal with the causes of the depression. He said: We have no answer unless it is that the country was stock crazy. During the last election even the stock market crash was blamed on the King government. It was not contended that the crash came because people were crazy to buy stocks at that time, but because the King government had put crazy policies into effect which were ruining the people.

Next, my hon. friend came to the potato industry, and referred to the high duties against our potatoes entering the United States. We all agree that this duty is entirely too high, and we would like to see it reduced. My hon. friend spoke of the countervailing duties brought down by the Dunning budget last year, and said that he approved of them. If I remember correctly, our friends were not so generous on that score in the last election either. They went up and down the country telling the people that the countervailing duties were a "made-in-Washington policy" which would enable the United States to control the situation. If the countervailing duties remained in effect, what would happen, they asked? They said that the United States would have the making of the Canadian tariff as well as their own, and that during the season from June to October, when our potatoes are off the market, the United States would take down their tariff wall and automatically ours would come down, and during that period the Canadian market would be flooded with American potatoes; then, when our potatoes were coming on the market, the United States would put up their

tariff wall and we would have no sale for our potatoes in Canada or the United States. I think that that was an alarming statement to make to the farmers of Prince Edward Island, and it was made from almost every platform during the campaign. The farmers were led to believe that the countervailing duties were a very dangerous thing.

Not only does my hon. friend approve of the countervailing duties now, but the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) himself, in the short session last September, instead of placing a straight duty against American potatoes as he advocated during the election, moved that the countervailing duties as provided by the Dunning budget be left in effect so far as potatoes were concerned. So our friends opposite are not consistent in this matter.

Another question brought up during the campaign was that of markets. We were given to believe in the election campaign that immediately the Conservative party came into power a golden era would commence, and immediate markets would be provided in Canada—a wonderful home market which was to be built up over night, and in which we would find a sale for all our products. But conditions to-day in Prince Edward Island are just the same so far as markets are concerned. Our potatoes and other products are selling at lower prices than have prevailed in many years.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. MacLEAN: We are having the greatest difficulty in selling our potatoes at the present time. So far as I can see, that home market has not materalized.

My hon. friend from Queens also referred to the price of agricultural machinery, and said that the farmers had to pay entirely too much for their agricultural implements. I agree with my hon. friend. That is good Liberal doctrine which might well be proclaimed from this side of the house. The Liberal party, in fact, did everything they could to remedy that situation. Year after year we reduced the duties on the implements of production all along the line, the implements used by the farmers and by the fishermen. But one of the first things done by the Conservative government during the short session last fall was to increase the duty on agricultural implements and make the price of agricultural machinery just that much higher for the farmers of the maritime provinces, and one of the very first acts of hon. gentlemen opposite, including my hon. friend, was to vote for that increase in duty. Everyone in the maritimes knows that the John Deere Company ship their products in, and our farmers buy them. There is no use telling the farmers down there that an increased duty is not going to increase the price when they know that on account of the new tariff they have to pay from 10 to 15 per cent more on the cost of these goods coming into Canada.

Mr. MORAND: We are making them in Canada now.

Mr. ROWE: Did the Liberal government decrease the price of agricultural implements?

Mr. MacLEAN: My hon. friends cannot get away with that kind of propaganda now, because everybody in this country knows that the prices of all raw products are coming down. I could cite instance after instance to show that the spread between the price of the raw product and the price of the manufactured article is a great deal higher to-day than it was under the Liberal government. You cannot satisfy the people of this country by telling them that prices are holding the same or have not increased, because they know very well that that is not the case. They know that the prices of all raw materials are coming down, and they believe that the prices of the finished products should also come down.

Mr. COTNAM: Would the hon. gentleman say that before there was a reduction in the price of raw products, the price of agricultural implements came down in this country after the Liberal government reduced the duty?

Mr. MacLEAN: I know that machinery was brought in this winter paying a 10 per cent duty, and a dealer, a strong supporter of the government's policies, came to me and said, "How in the world are we going to get our stuff in against that duty? Can we get it knocked down and brought in piece by piece to evade the duty? Can you tell me any way in which we can get it in without paying the duty?—because our farmers cannot pay an increased price." He told me that he had brought in a carload of potato graders, that he could sell a carload more at the old price, but that it was no use bringing them in against an increased duty of 10 or 12 per cent because the farmers would not buy them at an increased price.

Mr. COTNAM: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman has evaded the question.

An hon. MEMBER: Make your own speech.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: We can show you that the price of machinery has increased. I have the proof in my pocket.

Mr. MacLEAN: The hon. member for Queens also brought up the question of the improvement of transportation to and from Prince Edward Island, and said that Sir Robert Borden in 1911 gave a pledge to the people of Prince Edward Island that they would receive continuous steam communication with the mainland. That pledge, he said, was fulfilled and a new car ferry provided. While I admit that the Conservative party did improve our means of transportation, successive governments had constantly been trying to improve the service and provide a better steamer. The Liberal government gave us the Earl Grey, which improved the situation. Next came the car ferry. However my good friend was not fair enough to tell the house and the people that within the last two and one-half years the Liberal party by estimates submitted to this house provided for another car ferry, a bigger and better boat, an oil-burning, three-track boat, one that will cost when completed, along with the improvements to the piers, possibly as much as the new car ferry and the new piers did in 1911. If my hon. friend had wished to be fair he would have told the house that that was done by the Liberal party when it was in power. If one was a whale of a promise, as he has told the house, then the other is a bigger whale of a promise and has been fulfilled by the Liberal party. As yet not one dollar of Conservative money has been voted for that project. It may be that some vote may be put through at this session.

My hon. friend has said that the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) has perished politically, but let me tell him that so far as the Liberal party is concerned they are further from perishing to-day than they have been in a great many years. My hon. friends on this side have not perished in the matter of implementing their promises in connection with the maritime provinces. In that respect we have something to look back upon with pride. My hon. friends opposite know that one of the first things the Liberal party did in 1922 when it assumed office was to vote money for the widening of the railway gauge in Prince Edward Island. Every foot of that railway gauge has been widened, and in that province we have standard equipment and loading facilities which we never had before. In addition to that my hon. friends know we have the best shipping facilities we ever had. They know that potato warehouses have been built at every important shipping point. They know that the dredging of the harbour has been completed to such an extent that the largest ships afloat can enter and load produce for all ports of the world. They know that the Liberal party gave the province a subsidy of $125,000 per year. All those things go to prove that the Liberal party can look back with pride to its record. I can say only this to my hon. friends opposite, that I wish them the same amount of success in getting improvements for the province of Prince Edward Island that members of the Liberal party had during the last few years of the Liberal administration. If my hon. friends opposite are as successful as we were I should wish to step across the floor of the chamber and congratulate them.

Hon. members on this side have no apologies to make for the policies of the Liberal party. As I have said, the policy of that party has been one of reducing taxation and duties. It has been one of extending markets and of building up prosperity in this Dominion. So far as that policy is concerned I am prepared to stand by it and to let this country judge how the record of the Liberal party will compare in the next few years with that of the administration now in power.

I need not refer to the financial situation. Everyone knows that there is a record on the public accounts of this house which never can be equalled by any party which in the future may come into power; I believe the record of the last administration will never be duplicated in the lifetime of any member at present sitting in this house. We had a succession of surpluses, reductions in debt and reduction in interest charges which I do not think can ever be duplicated. In the last five years of the previous Conservative administration there was a deficit of $1,542,949,000. As against that we have a reduction made by the Liberal party in seven surpluses of $272,819,000. I do not think that is a record of which anybody need be ashamed —and we did not "perish in the attempt," but put our legislation through with flying colours.

May I come to the other point in favour of the previous administration? As I said it has been the policy of the Liberal government to reduce duties. We reduced the duty on motor cars; we reduced the duties on all implements of production as well as on the equipment of the fishermen and farmer. We cut down the income tax; we cut down the sales tax and on a group of 216 items we abolished it. Although last year was considered a poor year Mr. Dunning when he brought down his budget was able to show a

surplus of over $44,000,000. In addition to that he was in a position to cut the sales tax to one per cent and to tell the people of Canada that if the Liberal government were in power another year the sales tax would disappear altogether. We hear rumours of increases in the sales tax; we hear rumours of a turn over tax; we hear rumours on every hand of deficits and taxation. Because of the falling off in trade I do not think our friends can balance their budget unless they resort to something of that kind. If my hon. friends opposite are going to go ahead and give to the manufacturers in respect of other commodities the protection they provided for them in the short session—no doubt they intend to continue the principle in this session—and if they compel the consuming communities to pay that increased cost, then those protected manufacturers are the people who ought to pay the increased taxation. What is going to happen? The sales tax is to be placed back on the goods the manufacturer has to sell and instead of the manufacturer absorbing the tax, as he ought to do when he receives protection, the consumer will be exploited. The consumer will have to pay the increased duties and also the increased sales tax, or whatever tax it may be. Is this fair?

The seconder of the address in reply stated that the policy of Sir John A. Macdonald had never been given a chance to operate until this government came into power. What were we led to believe in respect to that policy? I was always led to believe that the tariff was to be operative only until certain industries got on their feet and were able to take care of themselves. I understood that the moment those industries got away to a good start and were able to carry on successfully the tariff was to be withdrawn. What do we find to-day? After fifty years of tariff protection the seconder of the address in reply has said that this is the first government which has ever put into effect fully the policies of Sir John A. Macdonald. If that is so, what may we expect? There can be no use in endeavouring to help those industries by tariffs, because they are going to come back here year after year asking for further increases, while the farmer has to sell in the world's market. I do not think that under the Liberal administration we had many requests from manufacturers for increased tariffs. The Massey-Harris Company and other companies took a reduction in duty and were able to sell their machinery; it gave their business a boost. My hon. friends opposite are not dealing fairly with the public when they increase the duty on manufactured articles used by the consumers, farmers and fishermen, unless there is a very strong demand for such increases, and until those manufacturing concerns can truthfully say they are unable to carry on without such protection. We were led to believe that the duty placed on butter and eggs would increase the price to the farmer and immediately they would be put back on easy street and would have no more worry. I do not believe that improvement has taken place in the price of any of those commodities; in fact those farm commodities are to-day selling lower than ever.

Last year during the election campaign there was such a wonderful program of promises that I think it would be only fair to put some of them on record. It should be a revelation to the house to hear the inducements held out to our good friends in the province of Prince Edward Island to vote for the Conservative party. I would not be anxious to place these statements on record if our friends in the Conservative party at every meeting had not been so prolific in their promises, which were heralded not only in the press but also on the public platform. Everything in the way of inducement was held out as to why the people of Prince Edward Island should vote for the Conservative party. I have in my hand a paper published in my own town, the Summerside Journal, and this particular issue is dated July 25, 1930. I find the following:

> A vote for Arnett means a vote for Bennett.

I might explain that Mr. Arnett was the Conservative candidate. Then it continues:

> Why you should vote for Bennett. Bennett will protect the farmers' markets. Bennett will cancel countervailing tariffs and save your potato industry.

I think I have explained how those countervailing tariffs on potatoes were cancelled. My hon. friend approves of countervailing tariffs; the Prime Minister stood in his place, said he approved of them, and moved that they be left in force in the same form as they were brought down in the Dunning budget. I quote further:

> Bennett will provide employment for all men who are willing to work.
>
> Bennett will enable our manufacturers to pay higher wages.
>
> Bennett will keep Canadians in Canada.
>
> Bennett will send a fertilizing stream of new money over the country.
>
> Bennett will provide Canada with national highways and assist the construction of roads, and by so doing relieve the existing unemployment situation.
>
> Bennett will return to Prince Edward Island her federal highway grant which the Liberals took away.

Bennett will return to Prince Edward Island her technical educational grant which the Liberals robbed us of.

Bennett will return to Prince Edward Island her agricultural grant which the Liberals took away.

Bennett will fully implement the Duncan award, thereby enriching our province by some $700,000 annually.

I hope my good friends across the way will see that these promises are implemented.

Bennett will provide fast refrigerator freight train services for the marketing of our fish.

I hope my good friend the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) will take this to heart, because at the present moment we have resolutions from every part of the province asking that a subsidized boat or other form of assistance be given to the fishermen in the marketing of their fish, especially live lobsters. The last paragraph I read from the Summerside Journal is a direct promise to them that a fast refrigerator freight service will be put into effect, and we hope the Minister of Fisheries will not fail them in that respect.

Bennett will get us a preferred position in the British market.

I suppose we all know how that has been accomplished, because it has been referred to on many occasions during the course of this debate. It seems to me to be utterly foolish for anyone to imagine that he can go over to Great Britain and persuade the British people overnight to change their fiscal policy that they have followed for a hundred years—to tax their foodstuffs and their raw materials. It must never be forgotten that Great Britain has under her free trade policy built up the most wonderful manufacturing industries in the world. Her ships carry her manufactured articles to every part of the globe and bring back raw materials in exchange. It is idle to imagine that Great Britain is going to change her fiscal policy over night as was suggested by the Prime Minister at the Imperial conference last September. He cannot fail to have noticed in this morning's papers that the Ramsay MacDonald government was sustained yesterday by a majority of 52, and it is significant that the vote hinged solely on the question of the taxation of food. Mr. Lloyd George, waving his hand down the Conservative front benches, asked: "Are you 'aye' men or 'no' men; are you in favour of taxing food, or are you against it?" And by a majority of 52 they voted against a tariff on food. Let me continue my quotation:

Bennett will protect farmers' markets with a tariff shield.

Bennett will see that Canada (not United States) dictates Canadian tariffs.

[Mr. MacLean.]

Here is a crackerjack:

Bennett will protect the farmer—

Of Prince Edward Island—

—who exports 1,000 bushels of potatoes from the necessity of paying a tax of $450 to Washington for the privilege of selling United States our potatoes which they cannot do without.

There was a direct promise to the farmers of Prince Edward Island who had potatoes to sell, and if on every 1,000 bushels or $1,000 worth of potatoes the farmers could save $450, I am sure they would jump at the offer and be only too willing to vote for any party that could give them so much; but judging by the results of the elections our farmers did not take these seductive promises too seriously

Bennett will stop 125,000,000 tons of Russian coal mined by bolshevist enemies of Christianity from flooding Canada's markets.

There is only a little error of over 100,000,000 tons, but that is nothing to our good friends opposite; where election promises are concerned, it is a question of win at any cost.

Bennett will revive our dairy industry.

Bennett will revive our egg and poultry industry.

Bennett will revive our hog and bacon industry.

Bennett will revive our beef and cattle industry.

Bennett will revive our fisheries.

Bennett will revive our home manufacturing industries.

Bennett will see that Canadian raw materials are manufactured in Canada.

We all know that the Liberals have tried for nine years and failed.

Bennett will relieve you from paying old age pensions to the western provinces which you cannot enjoy in Prince Edward Island owing to Mackenzie King's unfair pension scheme.

Bennett will see that each and every aged and destitute person in Canada receives a pension direct from Ottawa without any strings to it and without costing any province one cent.

That was another direct promise. Now we find our friends opposite are not quite so anxious to come right out and make these definite statements on the floor of the house. They say they will do so a little later on. Well, I hope when the time comes they will not seek to evade the issue. Last July there was nothing said about progressive stages by which their promises would be carried out, nothing about demands on the federal exchequer, nothing about the economic condition of Canada; all these things we find mentioned now in the speech from the throne. On that occasion the pledge was unequivocal and unconditional and definite. Now we shall see whether our friends opposite will redeem this pledge in regard to old age pensions.

Our people in Prince Edward Island are very much interested, and I sincerely trust the government will implement this promise. Personally, I do not think the right hon. Prime Minister need have made the definite promises he did make throughout the length and breadth of Canada with regard to old age pensions and paying all from the federal treasury. There was no complaint on the part of the various five provincial governments about contributing 50 per cent to the cost of old age pensions where they were in a position to make this contribution. But the right hon. gentleman comes along and says: "I will relieve these provinces of the payment of millions and millions of dollars by paying the money out of the federal exchequer." To my mind the better plan was that put forward by the right hon. leader of the opposition when he was in control of the government, that is to say, to pay 50 per cent out of the federal treasury towards the cost of old age pensions. He intended to assist the maritime provinces by granting them increased subsidies as recommended by the Duncan commission, and which was then being investigated by the audit board, and thus put them in a position where they could take care of their share of the cost of old age pensions. The plan of the Mackenzie King government would have saved the Dominion for all time to come at least $25,000,000 annually, and would have given the old age pension to all our people just the same.

Now I come to the question of markets. As our good friends opposite have stated, our great trouble in Prince Edward Island is markets. If we could market our products we could produce a great deal more than we are doing at the present time. But our markets are curtailed, and to-day even Cuba is threatening to shut us out. Recently the government sent a delegate to Havana to interview the Cuban government, but no report has as yet been brought down as to just what happened. For information on the point we have to rely on the press. The following is an extract from the Cuban paper Mundo:

> Commercial relations between Cuba and Canada, after expiration of the existing modus vivendi in December, were discussed at a conference between Canadian minister Macdonald, Canadian commercial attache Marmack, officials of the Departments of State, and of Agriculture, Commerce and Labour and members of the Tariff Commission. The state department is said to have indicated that Cuba will not change her tariff policy, but will consider modifications in favour of Canada provided that country makes special concessions as to Cuban sugar, rum and tobacco, and the Canadian representatives agreed to study the question.

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): If the hon. gentleman will permit me—why cannot the government of Canada enter into reciprocal trade relations with the Cuban government and take her sugar?

Mr. MacLEAN: If my hon. friend has any suggestion to make to the house I shall be happy to give him an opportunity to present it. The Cuban authorities say they are willing to enter into reciprocal discussion with us.

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): But why cannot we do it?

Mr. MacLEAN: I do not think there is any reason why we cannot. We know the United States has a preference of 20 per cent in the Cuban market. As I say, these people are willing to discuss trade matters with us, according to their own paper. Why did the government send Mr. Macdonald down to Cuba if they knew no negotiations would be effective?

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): He went down there—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MacLEAN: My hon. friend no doubt knows the reason. One of the reasons is that in the short session the Conservative party increased the duty on Cuban sugar coming into Canada and in consequence the very first thing our representative found when he got there was that the sugar growers there were in very bad shape. Hence this duty was placed on Canadian potatoes with the idea of helping their own farmers, allowing them to go into diversified farming and the growing of potatoes. That was as much as to say to the Canadian government, "You put a duty on our sugar going into your country; why in the world should we not impose a duty on Canadian potatoes coming into our market?" There is no doubt in the world that this is what happened, and my hon. friend who is in the potato business knows it perfectly well. We hope that the delegation will have proved a success, but unless the government are prepared to give some concessions along reciprocal lines, then I do not think they can hope to accomplish very much; because after all Cuba, like every other country, is looking out for itself. The Cubans, I believe, will be willing to consider a reciprocal proposal, but I do not think they will be willing to give us free admission, because they say here definitely that they have no idea of removing the duty, though willing to consider a reciprocal arrangement.

An hon. MEMBER: Does not the hon. member know that the treaty ties our hands?

Mr. MacLEAN: My hon. friend is not correct.

Mr. MALONEY: Just for information, may I ask my hon. friend this question: Where is sugar produced in Canada?

An hon. MEMBER: From the maple trees.

Mr. MacLEAN: Where is it produced?

Mr. MALONEY: Yes, in Canada—apart from maple sugar.

Mr. MacLEAN: Sugar is produced from sugar beets; there is a large plant at Winnipeg and there are others elsewhere. But why did my hon. friend vote for the increase in duty? We are perfectly willing to let sugar come in free.

Mr. MALONEY: I am asking my hon. friend to tell me if he can where sugar is produced in Canada, apart from maple sugar.

Mr. MacLEAN: That is not relevant to the question, because I am not arguing that there was any need of a duty to protect any sugar interests in Canada. In my opinion the sugar industry was all right, and the Liberal party in the Robb budget reduced the duty on imports of raw sugar, while our good friends were the first to go and increase that duty, thus antagonizing Cuba, with the result which we have at the present time.

This is a live question in my province, inasmuch as we have large quantities of potatoes to sell. I have a question on the order paper since March 16 asking if the government was endeavouring to get Britain to lift the embargo against Canadian potatoes, and I endeavoured to get a reply from the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) to-day. I have had correspondence with Great Britain, and they are short of potatoes over there at the present time. They are perfectly willing to take our potatoes because they have to import Spanish potatoes into the British market. Our potatoes are shut out of that market for one reason alone, and that is, we have the Colorado beetle in Canada. The question for Great Britain to decide is this: Are they going to import potatoes from Spain, where there is also the Colorado beetle, or are they going to give the preference to Canada? I endeavoured to get a reply from the minister to-day and he was good enough to send a letter across the floor to me; he informed me that he had information on his desk and would give it to me. This is an important question; the matter is an urgent one. Our potatoes are not like western wheat, which can be kept for years; we must dispose of them within the next few months or we cannot sell them.

[Mr. MacLean.]

When the minister was getting up to reply to me he was stopped by the Prime Minister. That is all our friends across the way care for the farmers of Prince Edward Island. We desire to give those farmers the necessary information as soon as possible, and I submit that it was due to the members of this house, and especially to those from the maritime provinces, that they should have been given this information to-day, even if it were not in strict accordance with the rules.

Mr. J. F. BUCKLEY (Athabaska): As a new member of the house it had not been my intention to participate in this debate as I have frequently been told that it is the duty of a new member to be seen and not heard. But I think that it is incumbent upon me, by virtue of the duty I owe to my constituents, to lay their views before the house and to place on record just exactly how conditions are in the constituency of Athabaska, which I have the honour to represent. Before doing so, however, may I congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address on the very eloquent way in which they discharged their duty.

The constituency of Athabaska is one of the largest in the whole Dominion, being, roughly, 600 miles in length by about 200 in width. The southern portion is devoted to agriculture whilst the northern 400 miles is muskeg and rough country, but very rich in many natural resources. Of this I shall have something to say later.

For the moment I wish to confine my remarks to the conditions under which agriculture is suffering at the present time. I have listened with great interest to the addresses of the previous speakers and I am obliged to agree with most of them that conditions are so very bad that I doubt very much if they could be worse. I was astonished to hear the member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) state that in his part of Saskatchewan conditions were not so very bad and might be worse—that, in fact, in that district they were about to turn the corner. This prompted me to wonder whether he had ever taken the trouble to visit any portions of rural Saskatchewan, and I concluded that he had not. I imagine that had he done so he would have come to the same conclusion as did the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer), who told us exactly how conditions are in Saskatchewan, to say nothing of the other members from that province who have spoken in this debate. In fact, I do not think I can do better than to refer hon. members to an article by Grant Dexter in MacLean's Magazine of April 1, 1931, entitled "Are the Banks refusing Farmers Loans?" I do not wish to quote from the

article in question but I do wish to say that both sides of the question are ably set out therein, and I commend it to the attention of all.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me say this—that conditions are just as bad in Alberta as they are in Saskatchewan, and, in the constituency I have the honour to represent, are probably worse, owing to certain railway conditions to which I will presently refer.

Let me give the prices which farmers received for their grain at St. Paul, Alberta, on the 20th of last month:

Wheat	Cents
No. 1	34
No. 2	33
No. 3	27
No. 4	23
No. 5	21
No. 6	21
Oats	
No. 2 C.W.	12
No. 3 C.W.	9
Feed	
Extra No. 1	9
No. 1	7
No. 2	5
Barley	
No. 2 C.W.	11
No. 3 C.W.	8

Now, sir, wheat costs, to thresh, anywhere from 8 to 10 cents per bushel, and oats and barley from 7 to 9 cents. It can be easily seen that oats to-day do not bring at the elevator the bare cost of threshing. There are also other expenses which the farmer has had to pay. Add to this cost of threshing, the cost of seed, the cost of seeding, the cost of cutting the crop, the cost of twine, the cost of stooking, the cost of hauling, and I am sure you will agree with me that every farmer last year not only lost actual money by seeding his land, but is now not in a position to pay any of his debts or to pay his taxes. Let me illustrate this point by saying that I personally shipped a carload of wheat containing 1,563 bushels to the Alberta Wheat Pool, and all I received therefor was $252. The taxes on the property upon which this grain was grown—school, municipal and supplementary revenue—amounted to $170, leaving a bare $82 in excess of the amount received. I did not pay any thresh bill and that, even at 8 cents per bushel, would have amounted to $125

I do not know what the seed cost or what would be a fair charge for putting it in or taking it off, but the above figures indicate that quite apart from what these costs are there is already a big deficit with wheat, and it can be realized how much more so it is with the coarser grains. In fact, sir, at the present time it is absolutely impossible to sell the coarser grains and get even the freight out of them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me say most emphatically that in my opinion agriculture could not possibly be in a worse condition than it is to-day, and the effect of all this is that every business and professional man in the west is feeling the effects of this depression. The farmer finds it absolutely impossible to pay his debts. For many years a practice has prevailed in rural centres whereby the local storekeeper has grubstaked the farmer and every fall the farmer has come in and paid his account. To-day he cannot do so and consequently the storekeeper has been unable to pay his debts, with the result that he is liable to be closed out by his own creditors, and many of these storekeepers are liable to be made bankrupt. The hon. member for Last Mountain (Mr. Butcher) has stated that a large percentage of his constituents are bankrupt. I will go further and say that this would be true of almost all the people in western Canada, in view of the definition of bankruptcy given in section 3 of the Bankruptcy Act. This definition reads as follows "a debtor commits an act of bankruptcy in each of the following cases"—here follows a list of cases all lettered alphabetically, until we come to the last one, which reads:

(j) If he ceases to meet his liabilities generally as they become due.

Everyone will realize that according to this definition a very large number of people in the prairie provinces could be declared bankrupt. I have a practical suggestion to make to the government, and ask that even though it comes from this side of the house it be given sympathetic consideration. It is that the Bankruptcy Act be amended either by striking out subsection (j) or alternatively suspending its operation during the present period of depression. Many local merchants are being threatened by their creditors that they will be put into bankruptcy unless they make a voluntary assignment. While these men may be bankrupt according to the strict letter of the law, they are not insolvent. I know many men who although they cannot pay their debts as they fall due, yet have a substantial surplus of assets over liabilities. Should they make a voluntary assignment or be forced into bankruptcy, all this surplus disappears. Their stock is sold for about 40 to 50 cents on the dollar and after the trustee's expenses have been paid, the creditor gets little and the debtor is broke.

The present abnormal times demand abnormal remedies. This is one way by which the government can alleviate the situation. The Alberta legislature has already taken some measures to meet this need by the passing of the Debts Adjustment Act, and I would suggest that this government fall in line by passing this proposed amendment.

In my opinion my suggested amendment would assist the local merchants, but something must be done for the farmer. I do not think I can do better at this moment than to read into Hansard a resolution which was forwarded to me by the Waskatenau local of the United Farmers of Alberta. It reads as follows:

Whereas, a fixed minimum price for wheat of 70 cents per bushel, basis No. 1 northern Fort William, would materially increase the purchasing power of the farmer, thus stimulating business, and to that extent relieving the necessity for unemployment relief;

And whereas, the government of Canada have spent millions of dollars bonusing railways, coal mines, the steel and iron industries and manufacturers, the farmer helping to pay these bonuses;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Waskatenau local No. 101 of U.F.A. do request the government of Canada to fix a minimum price for wheat at 70 cents per bushel, basis No. 1 northern Fort William for the 1930 crop and until such time as the agricultural products have been placed on a parity with manufactured goods, and that every farmer who has sold any or all of his current crop below the proposed basis be indemnified to that extent.

Francis Lunn,
President.
D. C. West,
Secretary.

A resolution passed at the last session of the Alberta legislature reads as follows:

That pending a general substantial revision downward of all tariff this assembly recommends to the Dominion government that the agricultural industry of western Canada be placed on a parity with other industries, either by stabilization of prices or by careful examination of the incidence of tariff schedule in order that the economic interest of the farmers of western Canada be adequately and justly safeguarded.

We have a situation existing in the north-eastern portion of my constituency which is peculiar to that part of the country. This district is served by a branch line of the Canadian National railways running out of Edmonton, known as the Edmonton-North Battleford line. At the present time this line has been extended out of Edmonton, only to Heinsburg and out of North Battleford to Frenchmens Butte, leaving a gap of some 38 miles. Although the completion of this line has been promised, I understand that this year the Canadian National railway will not connect up these two points. My constituents are affected in this way: the present rate on the western portion of this line is 29 cents per hundred pounds to Fort William. All wheat in less than carload lots is purchased on the basis of the Fort William freight rate.

This same situation applies also to another branch line of the Canadian National known as the Bonnyville branch line. The building of this line has been authorized by parliament but has yet to be completed. The farmers in my constituency are affected in this way: they are obliged to pay freight on a useless back haul amounting to as much as five or six cents per bushel. This affects not only grain but every single article which is imported into or exported from this district. This back haul of over 250 miles costs the farmers over $100,000 annually, which is a needless expenditure on their part. If there are any people in this Dominion entitled to preferential treatment, it is those to whom I have referred.

The building of this railway was commenced in 1911 and its early completion was promised. In 1920 when I first went to St. Paul the end of steel was some twenty miles away. We were told by the railway officials that they would be unable to complete the line because of inability to obtain the necesary labour. Our board of trade offered to lay the steel, which offer the railway accepted. It was a remarkable sight to see prominent merchants, bank managers, farmers, doctors and lawyers laying steel. Through their efforts the steel was laid into St. Paul that fall. If the farmers in this portion of my constituency are to continue to exist, it is essential that both these lines should be completed. The unemployment situation is most acute and I strongly urge the government to complete this work this year. In this connection I have received telegrams from the following:

J. M. Dechene, M.L.A.
Board of Trade, Bonnyville, Alta.
Secretary, Cold Lake Board of Trade.
Doctor S. Sabourin, Mayor of Bonnyville.
St. Paul Conservative Association.
Secretary, St. Paul Chamber of Commerce.
J. H. Bedard, Mayor of St. Paul.
Municipality of Champlain.
Municipality of Lincoln.
Municipality of Laurier.

Resolutions have been forwarded to me by every municipality along both of these lines. I cannot urge too strongly upon the government the necessity of having this work done immediately. Should this not be done, much distress will be caused to the people in this vast district.

At the commencement of my remarks I mentioned that I would have something to

say with regard to the northern portion of my constituency. I believe this matter to be most important in view of the fact that the government will in all probability bring down legislation either to build a trans-Canada highway or to vote a grant to the provincial governments for this purpose. Bituminous or asphalt sands are found in the constituency of Athabaska. These sands when mixed with small gravel or crushed stone make a paving which cannot be improved upon. Excellent results have been obtained at Jasper and Banff, the first experiment being made at Jasper in 1924. Sir Henry Thornton, speaking of these sands in 1925, said:

> In our opinion the use of these tar sands has gone beyond the experimental stages and it has proved desirable material for road-making purposes. The roadway to Jasper which has been used for two winters and one summer came out in perfect condition this spring.

The Canadian National Railways have used this material extensively in the construction of platforms at Sarnia, Guelph and many other points. The Canadian Pacific Railway also have used it to a very considerable extent. It has been used on the grounds of the parliament buildings at Edmonton, and a small area has been paved in the grounds of the parliament building here. My suggestion is that when the trans-Canada highway is constructed it be stipulated that this Canadian product be used for surfacing. These tar sands are found in a natural state in my constituency and are to be found nowhere else in the Dominion.

We have also at Fort McMurray a natural salt mine which, owing to the expense of transportation, has been forced to close down. With the proper encouragement from the government this industry could be made a paying proposition and I would like to see something done along these lines.

In conclusion I would strongly endorse the views so ably expressed by the hon. member for Dauphin (Mr. Bowman) with respect to new Canadians. I reside in a constituency where French-Canadians and new Canadians form a very substantial majority. I desire to pay my tribute to the French-Canadians and to their broadmindedness. I know there are many of my French-Canadian constituents who will endorse, as I do, the sentiments eloquently expressed by the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré) in his criticism of the action taken by the Saskatchewan legislature.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. T. F. DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of interest to this debate in the hope and expectation that something would be said by some member of the government as to its policy with regard to agriculture. So far it has been a case of hope deferred. Although two members of the government have up to now taken part in the debate, no policy has been propounded. After the last election the people throughout western Canada expected that some program would be put forward by the government to help them to sell their crop. They were told during the last election that that would be done, and naturally they expected some action. But as month after month went by and no program was announced, they began last fall to ask what the program was. When still no program was announced and winter came on with conditions getting worse and worse, they asked again what the program was, and at the present time throughout western Canada the people are demanding more and more strenuously that they be informed as to the policy of the government with regard to agriculture. What is the government going to do for the grain growers of western Canada? As yet we have received no answer. To-night from my place in this house I again ask the government and the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir): What is your program with regard to the grain growers, and what are you going to do to help the farmers of western Canada? Eight months have gone by; conditions have gone from bad to worse, yet we hear no voice from the government, nothing in any way, shape or form for the benefit of the farmers.

The hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) said that conditions in western Canada were bad but might be worse. I do not know how much worse they could be. Speaking for my own constituency, I do not know how conditions could be worse than they are at the present time. I have seen men who were good farmers come singly and in twos, threes, fours and dozens into our municipal offices stand before the desk and say: "I want food for my family because they are hungry." I have had men come to me and say: "I want clothes for my children so that I may send them to school." The condition is not one of unemployment; it is a famine condition. If you can find conditions worse than that, I do not know what they can be. Some hon. members may say: That is all very well, but

in your district they were dried out and the circumstances are exceptional. To that I reply that I have land in other parts of Saskatchewan; I have land in places where we have had crops for the last two years. I have land in those districts where the production has been as much as twenty bushels to the acre, and from those lands which I have had rented I have not received enough during the last two years to pay the taxes. That is not exceptional; the same is true with respect to many farmers in western Canada. They are not receiving enough for their crops. We have now reached the time when the farmers in western Canada should be starting to seed, and in many instances they are doubtful whether or not it is advisable to do so. They are waiting to see whether there will be rain and whether they will seed or save the seed. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, if they do seed, they will be worse off next fall than they are now. Next fall they will not receive enough to compensate them for their work and trouble, let alone pay their taxes. From present prospects conditions are bound to be worse in Canada next fall than they are now. Ninety per cent of our farmers in western Canada have not paid taxes; they have not paid interest on loans. They are living on what should be paid as interest on loans and taxes, and next fall they are bound to pay the interest and taxes so that they cannot help being worse off.

In the face of that we find the government sitting mutely here without giving any indication as to what they expect to do for the farmers of western Canada. Surely the Minister of Agriculture, who comes from western Canada, knows the conditions there. After eight months of studying the problem, he should be able to tell us what he is going to do. Are we to wait until the people revolt? Are we to wait until we see, as we saw the other day in Winnipeg, another riot before any action is taken by the government?

Let us see, on the other hand, what the record of the government has been since it took office. During the last election, what did the Conservative party do? The present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) went out west, visited the different parts of the country and told the people what he was going to do for agriculture. This is what he said at Winnipeg:

> Listen you agriculturists from the west and all the other parts of Canada, you have been taught to mock at tariffs and applaud free trade. Tell me, when did free trade fight for you? You say tariffs are only for the manufacturers. I will make them fight for you as well. I will use them to blast a way into the markets that have been closed to you.

Tariffs have not been working very hard so far as the farmers of western Canada are concerned; they have been lying down on the job. If they have been doing any fighting, they have been very badly beaten because I cannot see any benefits they have conferred upon the farmers of western Canada.

On June 19 last the present Prime Minister visited Calgary and he said:

> Then comes the problem that is more important, the problem of marketing and of selling wheat. There it seems to me is a fertile field for the endeavour of a government. France, Germany and Italy have raised tariffs against Canadian wheat. We will look over the top of the hill and beyond the horizon to make provision for the Canadian agriculturist and secure for him markets. That is a question which will have to be solved. I told my audience at Winnipeg, and I tell you here and now that condition I will not permit to continue in this country.

Then when he visited Vancouver on June 18, he had this to say:

> If Mr. Mackenzie King thinks I will not so build up our agricultural and industrial life that its strength will drive our products into the markets of the world, then he is wrong. For that I will do. If he thinks I will not establish new markets for these products, strive with all my heart to retain them, drive our products with all my power into new markets, into old markets, into reluctant markets, he is wrong. For that I will do.

Those are the words of the Prime Minister as to what he was going to do for agriculture and for the agriculturists. Naturally the agriculturists of western Canada expected that something would be done, and we are still hoping. What about his followers? What did they say during the last election? They went from place to place at least in my constituency, and they said: Look at the price of butter! Look at the price of eggs! If we get into power we are going to put up the price of butter. Butter will be seventy-five cents a pound anyway; we will put it up for you. We will put up the price of eggs.

We have been disappointed at the result. At that time, in the middle of the summer, the price of creamery butter was forty-five cents a pound, and the very same people who were selling it then at that price, were selling it this winter for thirty cents a pound. At that time in the middle of the summer our dairy butter was selling at twenty-five cents a pound. What do we find now? We find dairy butter being sold by our farmers to the

country stores at 12 and 15 cents a pound. Just think of it! It takes two pounds of butter to buy a pound of axle grease. And what is the price of eggs? In the middle of the summer eggs were selling for 25 cents a dozen. During the past winter we have been getting eight and ten cents a dozen for eggs. It takes a wagon box of eggs to buy a pair of shoes. Why do not hon. gentlemen opposite bring in a resolution now and talk about the Australian treaty which I have heard them talk about for two sessions in this house?

Again, they went around and said: "Look at the price of your wheat. It is only 80 cents a bushel. Where is Dunning now?" Can you blame the Liberals, Mr. Speaker, now that we are getting about 30 to 40 cents a bushel, for asking: Where is the Bennett government now, and what is it doing to put up the price of wheat? We cannot get the government over there to say even one word as to what they are going to do about it.

Mr. BRADETTE: They are not allowed to.

Mr. DONNELLY: No, they are not allowed. Even in this house we have heard some of the echoes of what was said in the last election. We heard the hon. member for Rosetown (Mr. Loucks) say from his place in this house, "Why did you not sell your wheat for $1.47 a bushel which was offered by Mr. Thomas?" Did you ever hear anything more ridiculous, Mr. Speaker? Has this government any wheat for sale anywhere? It never had any wheat for sale any more than it had boots, or shoes or clothing, or any other commodity. Of course, the government could not sell wheat, and more than that Mr. Thomas never made the offer. It is wonderfully easy to look back and say that we should have taken advantage of an offer of that kind. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the farmers of western Canada at that time were out buying wheat themselves at $1.55 and $1.65 a bushel because they thought the price was going up. Now it is said that we should have sold at $1.47 a bushel. If we could only have foreseen these things—oh, the money we could have made! If we only had men like the hon. member for Rosetown to tell us what is going to happen, if only our fore-vision was as good as our hind-vision, how well off we should be.

Le us see what Mr. Thomas actually did say. If hon. gentlemen will look up the official report of the parliamentary debates in the House of Commons at Westminster, at page 1085 of the British Hansard of July 15, 1930, they will see that Mr. Lambert asked Mr. Thomas a question, and that Mr. Thomas replied:

> On the contrary I took the view that when wheat was $1.40 it was too high.

And then it is said he offered $1.47 a bushel. What a generous person he must have been! Not only that but the late prime minister and members of his government told me distinctly that this offer was never made. The pool officials have also told me the same thing, that such an offer was never made to them, and yet hon. members opposite have the audacity to say that we should have sold our wheat to Mr. Thomas. Why, it is ridiculous.

Some hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house have said: The government does not make the world price of wheat. No, I admit that. But the government does regulate the price which we receive for our wheat as compared with the price received in other countries of the world. There is no doubt about that. In my constituency in the fall of 1929 we were receiving 19 and 20 cents more a bushel for our wheat than the price received in Montana, just across the line, and the Americans were hauling their wheat into Canada, paying the duty, and selling it for 19 and 20 cents a bushel more than they could get at home. That was because our wheat was receiving its due, because it had been put up to its true value and had been kept there on account of the changes made in the Grain Act by the late government. What do we find this year? We find that in the very same territory the Americans are receiving 20 and 30 cents a bushel more than we are. It is the government that has done that. Yes, the government and no one else, because the Americans fixed the price of their wheat at 81 cents, and some of our American friends are actually coming across and getting Canadian wheat and smuggling it into the United States to make the extra profit. It is the American government that is responsible for their higher price, yet our government sits over there on the opposite benches and does nothing for the farmers in western Canada.

Our Canadian wheat growers, as I have said before in this house, receive less than any other farmers in the world for their wheat. I have just spoken of the conditions in the United States. The farmers in Germany, France and Italy receive in the neighbourhood of $1.50 for their wheat because they consume more wheat than they produce, and they have a duty on wheat. Those countries are protecting their wheat growers. Not only that,

but we find that in Australia, the Argentine and Russia, the farmers can put their wheat on the market for 12 and 15 cents a bushel, while it costs the farmer in western Canada, as the grain commissioners stated the other day, in the neighbourhood of 35 cents a bushel to put their wheat on the market. So I say that our wheat growers in western Canada receive less than other wheat growers in the world for their wheat.

After the election was over last July, we had a special session of the house, at which we saw our manufacturing industries protected, but not a thing was done for the wheat growers. The farmers were still expectant, still in hopes that something would be done. They hoped that something would come from the Imperial conference. The Prime Minister went over to the Imperial conference to get a market for our wheat. That is what he said he went over there for. He said that he went over there to blast and enlarge the channel through which our river of wheat would flow to the markets of the world, and that is what we thought he was there for. But as one farmer said, every time the Prime Minister put in a blast, instead of enlarging the channel he threw up a dam, and every time he threw up a dam the farmer in western Canada uttered ten thousand damns. I have sat in this house and listened to hon. gentlemen telling us about what happened in England at the conference, and what a great success our Prime Minister made over there. I have heard members quote from different papers as to what the Englishmen and the Irishmen and Canadians thought of the Prime Minister, and what he did at the Imperial conference. The Englishmen are too courteous to say anything but nice things about him anyway; they would not like to do anything else. But let us hear from some unbiased authorities or from some papers outside this country, say an American paper, and see what they say about him. I am going to read what one American newspaper said:

> The weakness of the plan, so far as the British people were concerned, was that while it involved a guarantee that the British would buy Canada's wheat there was no corresponding guarantee that the Canadian people would buy British goods. On the contrary, the actual position was that, taking account of the tariff increases imposed by the special session of the Canadian parliament, the barriers against British goods were higher than before.
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> In the circumstances, Canadian opinion did not greatly blame Britain for rejecting the Bennett plan.
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> The conference might have ended amicably, and with possibility for achievement when it resumes next year at Ottawa, had it not been for an unfortunate phrase used by Mr. J. H. Thomas, a leading member for the MacDonald ministry. In a debate in the British Commons, Mr. Thomas, under attack, and caught off his guard, characterized Mr. Bennett's plan as "humbug." It was one of those unfortunate lapses which often influence politics more than men of measures, and it produced a storm of criticism and recrimination between the two countries. The chief effect of the conference, indeed, so far as Canada was concerned, was that Mr. Bennett, who went to England with a high ambition for imperial economic unity based upon tariffs, left London with a veiled threat of economic separatism.
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> Nor was this the end. Mr. G. Howard Ferguson, Premier of Ontario, recently appointed Canadian High Commissioner to London, committed the extraordinary indiscretion of making a vigorous attack upon the Socialist policy of the Labour government to which he has been accredited. This, not unnaturally, has added to the strained relations between Ottawa and Downing Street, has made cooperation between the two governments difficult, if not impossible. Mr. Philip Snowden, the acid-tongued Socialist Chancellor of the Exchequer, has a good memory.
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> So Mr. Bennett has returned to Canada which has still some 250,000,000 bushels of unsold wheat, which has an acute unemployment problem, and whose declining revenues threaten an enormous deficit at the close of the fiscal year. The weakness of his position is that, like Mr. Hoover, in the United States, he took office on a platform of prosperity. Mr. Bennett, electioneering told the Canadian people that failure to market the western wheat crop and prevalence of unemployment were the fruits of the Liberal ministry of Mr. King..
>
> After four months in office, and despite millions voted for unemployment relief, unemployment is still acute and the wheat of the west remains unsold.

This is from the Commonweal of New York.

Mr. McMILLAN: Who is the writer?

Mr. DONNELLY: The author of this article is the man who writes the biographies of the different members of the government for publication in MacLean's magazine. I do not know what the members of the government pay him for writing these biographies, but I do know that he is the man who writes them in MacLeans—Mr. Grattan O'Leary, a Tory mouthpiece in this city. I must say that this is a Tory opinion, not a Liberal opinion. I do not hear any applause from the other side, and is it any wonder? The western farmers were discouraged because of the results of the Imperial conference. Then the Prime Minister came west and promised to leave in Regina a message of hope for the western farmers. Out in the west we were foolish enough to believe that he would tell us something which would be of benefit to us. We went to Regina to hear him, but when we arrived what did we find? The audience were waiting expectantly. The

chairman, Mr. Reilly, made some opening remarks. The premier of Saskatchewan made some further remarks, and the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) stated that the Prime Minister had a great message for western Canada. These gentlemen did not know what the message was going to be, but they said it was going to be a wonderful message. We moved over to the edges of our chairs and began to follow every word. The farmers had their ears cocked and listened carefully so as not to miss anything. When the meeting was over one farmer turned to the other and said, "Is he through?" "Yes,". "Well," he said, "he has not told us anything; he talked for an hour but he did not say what he was going to do." Right then and there the farmers of western Canada realized they had been handed a gold-brick last July. That feeling has been growing and is increasing in western Canada to-day. Let me say that there are not many Tories in the west at the present time, and unless conditions improve there will be very few of them left.

Mr. ROWE: My hon. friend told us that last year.

Mr. DONNELLY: And I will tell it again. What were the proposals of the Prime Minister? There were three. First, he said: "We are going to have a market in China." We woke up next morning and found that this promise had been merely a nightmare. However, I cannot deal with that phase of the matter any further, because I must hurry on. Next he promised that we were going to sell 9,000,000 bushels of wheat to France. Following that promise the farmers in the west began to consult past records to learn what they contained. They found that in the year 1926 we sold 12,000,000 bushels of wheat to France; in 1927, 13,000,000 bushels; in 1928, 18,000,000 bushels; in 1929, 19,000,000 bushels and in 1930, 10,250,000 bushels. When they were confronted with these figures they said, "To sell 7,000,000 or 9,000,000 bushels is no use to us; this is less than we usually sell to France." It looked as if the Prime Minister had done a little blasting in France. The people in the west however, thought that France wanted something in return. In the following month, the month of January, when we should have been exporting to France about a million bushels of wheat, we exported only 440,000 bushels. The people in France got their backs up because they did not receive consideration in our markets. As they did not receive a preference in Canada, they were not disposed to deal with us. That is the record in regard to France.

The next suggestion he made was that western Canada should adopt mixed farming. Oh, yes, mixed farming was the thing! "We will help you if we get you into mixed farming." I would like to go into this matter fully, but I am afraid that it alone would take the whole of my forty minutes. In connection with mixed farming, however, I would say that there are no better, no more intelligent, or more up-to-date farmers in the world than those of western Canada. They do not have to take a back seat for anybody. They resent the idea of a man sitting down here in a financial office, or some member of parliament such as my hon. friend who interrupted some time ago, telling us in western Canada how to farm. I wonder if hon. members know that an easterner has to live a year in western Canada before he knows how to farm properly. I wonder if hon. members know that; if they do not I will tell them that it is a fact. I want to tell my hon. friends more than that. There are no two places, even on the bald prairie, where farming can be conducted in the same way. Different districts require different methods. I would like to devote more time to this point but my time is limited, and I wish to spend a minute or two on another question.

One of my hon. friends opposite, I think it was the hon. member for Regina, said that he had sat in the house and listened to the long debate but had not heard a suggestion from anybody on this side as to what might be done. One of my hon. friends interrupted me a few minutes ago and asked me the very same question. May I say to my hon. friends that if they have not heard suggestions from this side of the house they must be deaf. If they had been listening they would have heard the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) make a concrete suggestion. They would have heard the hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance) make a further suggestion. The hon. member for South Battleford suggested that the price of wheat should be pegged. The hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell) suggested that the processing of meats should be investigated. He said that $25,000 had been set aside to make this investigation, but that the Conservative government had not spent it. If hon. members had consulted the order paper they would have seen my suggestion that the domestic freight rates on grain and grain products should be the same as export rates. With that particular point I shall deal at greater length at a later time.

Why has the government not done something? Why has it not pegged the price of

wheat? That is its policy. It has pegged the price of manufactured goods. If the Liberal government had been in power such action would not have been necessary. The policy of the Liberal party is for freer trade and open markets. Our policy has been to trade more freely with other countries. We in western Canada believe that if the Dunning budget had gone into effect we would be selling our wheat more freely to-day. There would be a more favourable attitude towards us in England; there is no doubt about that. We believe we would have been able to make favourable trade treaties with Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy and other European countries. We might have got a preference in their markets for our wheat, and we could have given them a preference in our market for some of their manufactured goods. Some one may say, "Why didn't you do that when you were in power?"

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. DONNELLY: Yes, "hear, hear." Why not? Because neither my hon. friend opposite nor anyone else in this house thought fifteen or ten years ago, or even a year ago, that we would ever be looking for a market for our wheat. We believed that our wheat would always find a market. It is only lately that this situation has developed.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. DONNELLY: Well, my hon. friends opposite seem to know, they seem to believe that two or three years ago there was some fear of our losing our market. Well, let them go to the west and see if they can make people believe it.

Mr. ROWE: You know last year it was lost.

Mr. DONNELLY: I should know better than an Ontario farmer working 160 or 200 acres of land. The hon. member must know that his leader told us that he would sell our surplus wheat. I tell him right now that there is more wheat in Canada to-day than there was a year ago. I have the figures right here from their own records. This information comes from the Department of Trade and Commerce under the authority of the present minister, (Mr. Stevens). It says that at the present time there are 277,180,987 bushels of wheat in Canada, while this time last year—that is comparing 1931 with 1930—there were 228,646,367 bushels, or somewhere in the neighbourhood of 50,000,000 more this year than a year ago. Well, you have been in power marketing this crop, you have been looking after it.

[Mr. Donnelly.]

Mr. ROWE: We had the 1929 crop, too, to look after.

Mr. DONNELLY: You have not sold last year's yet.

Mr. CHAPLIN: Why didn't you sell the 1929 crop?

Mr. DONNELLY: The Conservative party was elected to office to find a market. You said you would find a market, you promised us you would sell our wheat. Why don't you do it? We have heard nothing but promises—promises that come from you as freely as pious statements from mealy-mouthed philanthropists who divorce the word from her mate the deed."

An hon. MEMBER: I would like to ask my hon. friend a question.

Mr. DONNELLY: Sit down; I want to finish.

Mr. ROWE: Why didn't you sell the 1928 crop?

An hon. MEMBER: Why didn't you sell the 1927 crop?

Mr. DONNELLY: I have only a few moments left and I would ask hon. gentlemen to allow me to finish. Since the government saw fit to turn down the proposition of the three prairie premiers to peg the price of wheat, why have they not applied to our wheat the Pattersen scheme which the Australian government put into effect in relation to butter? Let us look at the Paterson scheme as it could be applied to our wheat, suppose we set a price f.o.b. Fort William of $1.50 for No. 1. northern wheat to be ground into flour for home consumption; then pay to our farmers an initial price of 70 cents a bushel. We could appoint a board to look after this.

An hon. MEMBER: How much wheat do we consume in Canada?

Mr. DONNELLY: We consume here something like 50,000,000 bushels. The board would make a profit on every bushel of wheat of something like 80 cents, or on 50,000,000 bushels a total profit of $40,000,000.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: One hundred per cent profit.

Mr. DONNELLY: That is nothing to what some of our Conservative friends make. During the last five years we have been exporting from western Canada about 250,000,000 to 300,000,000 bushels of wheat. The price last year ranged from 50 cents up to $1. Suppose the average export price at Fort

William was 60 cents. Then out of the $40,000,000 the board could pay to the farmers 10 cents a bushel on this 250,000,000 or 300,000,000 bushels of wheat and have left over something in the neighbourhood of $15,000,000 or $10,000,000 for a final payment, which would net the western farmers somewhere between 70 and 75 cents a bushel. That would not cost the national revenue one cent. But even if it did, we do not feel that we need come to this government on bended knees to ask for this consideration, because in 1917 and 1918 the then Conservative government pegged the price of wheat to keep it from going too high—that is the only product of which they pegged the price; the wheat growers were the only people they penalized—and they made at that time between $70,000,000 and $100,000,000. That money has never been paid back to the farmers. So if it did cost the country a little money, this help is coming to the western farmer; they don't need to beg for it, it is their own money and it should be paid back to them. The only people who would have to pay more would be the consumers. Well, that is the policy of the Conservative party. Peg the price of wheat? Yes. Why not? They have pegged the price of manufactured goods by putting up the tariff so that those prices will not come down as otherwise they would. Why not protect the wheat grower of western Canada in the only way in which you can protect him? Peg the price for his wheat.

Mr. CAHAN: Have you convinced your colleagues of the soundness of your proposition?

Mr. DONNELLY: I have told you what the Liberal policy was.

Some hon. MEMBERS: They never had one.

Mr. VALLANCE: You boys don't like your medicine, but you had better take it.

Mr. CAHAN: If the hon. member will allow me to ask him a courteous question? Has he convinced his colleagues so that they are prepared to support a pegging policy such as he has announced?

Mr. DUFF: Have you the Prime Minister's permission to ask that question?

Mr. DONNELLY: I told the house what the Liberal policy was. The Liberal policy was freer trade and open markets. I will repeat it lest he did not hear it. We would enter into trade relations with Germany, France and the other European countries so we could exchange our wheat for their commodities. But it is the policy of this government to build a tariff wall around Canada and force us to consume our own wheat. Therefore the only way to protect the farmer is to set a price for his products the same as the government has set a price for manufactured goods. I am putting this forward so the government may be consistent in their policy.

Mr. CAHAN: Is the hon. gentleman prepared to support such a policy?

Mr. DONNELLY: I would sooner have open markets, freer trade.

Mr. CAHAN: Does not the hon. gentleman know that every country in continental Europe during the latter part of the Liberal regime raised its duties against Canadian wheat?

Mr. DUFF: Send for the Prime Minister, send for the Prime Minister.

Mr. VALLANCE: The hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) knows the answer to his question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

An hon. MEMBER: So do you.

Mr. VALLANCE: Do you want me to give it to you?

Mr. DONNELLY: This is one of the suggestions I make. As I say, I have listened for the last three weeks for some suggestions from the Conservative party, but I have not heard one.

An hon. MEMBER: You waited for nine years.

Mr. DONNELLY: Well, I don't know whether my hon. friend and his government are going to take my suggestion now. I do not know what they have got in the back of their heads.

Mr. VENIOT: They have not got anything.

Mr. DONNELLY: They are not telling us what they will do. Well, my time is up.

Mr. WILFRED HANBURY (Vancouver-Burrard): Mr. Speaker, I am very much pleased that the first words of my first speech in this House of Commons are words of congratulation to you, sir, upon having been elected to the high office which you now so ably dignify, and to express further, to you and the members of the house, my appreciation of your having been called to this high office in view of the fact that you are a resi-

dent of my own city, Vancouver. I regret the absence from the house of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) and I am greatly pleased to have heard recently that he will likely take his seat here in the course of the next few days. In referring to these two hon. gentlemen I would observe that not only is Vancouver fortunate in being represented by three good Liberals but that we from the city of Vancouver have also the representation of the Speaker of this house and of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. I think you will agree with me that the importance of Vancouver justifies this representation.

Some hon. members will no doubt remember that an election was held in July of last year, and members on this side have listened I am sure, with a great deal of patience to some of the hon. gentlemen on the other side who have been telling them quite frankly that they were beaten at the last election. You will pardon me, therefore, if for a few minutes on behalf of the citizens of Vancouver as well as on behalf of the members on this side of the house, I gloat a little over the result in greater Vancouver in the last election. As you know, there was a change in the lower mainland in British Columbia. This change, Mr. Speaker—and I believe, sir, you will realize this by reason of your residence there —was based absolutely on the trade extension policy of the Liberal government. It was based on the extension of foreign trade, on the development of foreign markets. Vancouver is a port city and is vitally interested in foreign markets; and it was that interest in foreign markets and the extension of foreign trade that brought Vancouver after a hard struggle into the Liberal fold, where we feel sure it will remain for a long time to come.

My congratulation to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr. Porteous) of the address is not only on the fact that they presented their arguments in an able manner but, as well, on the fact that they have accomplished what I am now attempting: they have finished their maiden speech At the same time I wish to congratulate the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), my chief. It was the policies of that right hon. gentleman that made me change my politics, in a fashion similar to that of the hon. the Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) and, as one hon. gentleman reminds me, of the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion). It is the policy of foreign trade extension that is responsible for the change in my case. I am a follower of the Liberal party, because that policy of theirs brought Canada from a colony to a nation; it also raised Canada to the position of fifth trading nation in the world. That policy not only reduced taxes in Canada but at the same time materially reduced the debt of the country.

I wish also to congratulate the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Bennett) on having received an expression of confidence from the greatest people on earth, the Canadian nation; and I wish to convey to him and his followers a message from myself and, I am sure, from all members on this side of the house. We regard him as the leader of an opposing political party; but I regard him also as Prime Minister of my country, and I wish to assure him, as the Prime Minister of my country, of my full cooperation in any measure which is going to bring Canada through the present crisis.

Much has been said about conditions not only in Canada but throughout the world. Of course, we are particularly interested in the conditions that prevail in Canada. Now, conditions are not good; they are in fact the reverse—they are bad. And if we listen to some of our friends from the prairie provinces we shall be inclined to say they are even worse than that. However, it is admitted that conditions are not good. As to the causes, I fancy there are as many theories as to the reasons for the depression as there are people who attempt to think of causes at all. Over-production or under-consumption—of course, that is an obvious reason. Then shortage of gold; I do not agree with that; I believe there is sufficient gold for the requirements of the world. But there is one cause that is particularly true of Canada, and I think it is the propaganda that was either put out or permitted by the wheat pool during recent years. By that propaganda, and by their system of forcing their sale to the ultimate consumer, they also encouraged the production of wheat in other countries. By their propaganda, that wheat was to be $2 on a certain date, I am afraid that they did the Canadian producer much damage.

But, Mr. Speaker, the real question is not as to how we arrived at the stage we reached; our problem at the present time is to know where we are. Our next problem is to know where we are going and then what path we shall take to get to our destination. To show where we are as a nation to-day, I have only to say that we are one of the western nations of the world; and for the purpose of making my point, I visualize the world as a fortress of plenty. There is to-day a greater variety and volume of commodities in the world than at any time in its history. This fortress of plenty is en-

circled by a magic wall the component parts of which are machinery, science, transportation and communication. This wall is contracting day after day and year after year, and in the process it is forcing the nations of the world into closer contact with each other and each country into closer competition with all the others. To my mind, it is this contracting process which brought about the upheaval known as the world war. During the past fifteen years the process has been accelerated, and particularly within the past few years, aided by the restriction of exchange of commodities, until to-day the nations have contracted the disease we now call economic depression, which in turn is accompanied by a lower standard of living. That is where we are to-day. We have reached the position where this contracting process has brought us into economic competition with the other nations of the world, and Canada is being forced to accept the lower standard of living prevailing in the countries with which we compete.

Where are we going? Within this fortress the groups we call nations are beginning to realize that the only cure for the prevailing disease is to break through the wall and thus be able to move forward to the promised land of international cooperation, with its shorter working hours and higher standard of living. To my mind that is where we are going. But the cure will take years, because each nation is ineffectively attempting to bring about a cure by the erection of tariff walls to protect itself from other nations.

What can we do to bring relief to Canada? I advocate the course, peculiar as it may seem in view of the discussions we have heard in this house, of greater production and keener competition, and I hope to be able to offer a policy consistent with the Conservative policy. If we hope to cooperate with the government our suggestions must be consistent with their policies. I offer a suggestion which will make work for Canadians. This is a Conservative policy because it will permit Canada to blast her way into the markets of the world.

We must make Canada the economic Russia of the capitalistic nations of the world. We must fight for our place in the sun. We must tighten our national belt, and every individual in the nation must do his share. How are we to bring about this tightening process? The hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote), in the very able address he made recently, advocated a depreciated currency. Personally I cannot accept that proposition because that which a depreciated currency would do can be obtained by other means which would permit us to maintain our standard of living. We want to be one of the leading nations of the world, proud of the fact that everywhere our money is worth one hundred cents on the dollar.

How can we tighten our national belt? First, we must provide more purchasing power by more and cheaper money; second, we must reduce wages; third, we must reduce freight rates, and, fourth, as a natural consequence after the first three are accomplished, we must reduce our taxes. Only by these policies can we lower the cost of living and thereby reduce the cost of production, which would permit us to blast our way with our lower prices into the markets of the world. Once the cost of production is reduced the tariff ceases to be an issue. Our clothing and our machinery could then be manufactured in Canada cheaper than it could be imported. Lower production costs would permit the refinement and fabrication in Canada of most of our resources now being exported in a raw or semi-manufactured state. And a most important result would be that by the adoption of these policies we could return to their proper relationship to the value of primary production such fixed charges as interest, freight rates and taxes. We would then be the one nation in the world outside of Russia where every man was working. We would have an advantage over those nations which are obliged to provide for the unemployed, and we would have a job for everyone in Canada willing to work.

The first policy which I advocate, the establishment of a federal reserve system, would have the immediate effect of materially increasing money available for loans. It would enable the banks to lend to individuals and industries the money they are now unable to lend because of their frozen assets in the shape of loans to agriculturists and to industry now impossible of collection. By increasing the total amount of credit available, money would be cheaper, which would result in lower interest charges without affecting the net earnings of the banks. By increasing credit there would be an increase in capital available for the expansion of our industries. More and cheaper money would increase the purchasing power of the Canadian people.

My second suggestion is that there should be a reduction in wages, such as has already taken place in many industries. Because of the decrease in the cost of living, those who are to-day receiving a fixed income are better

off than they were during the period of prosperity. My suggestion is that a reduction of 20 per cent be made in wages, but at the same time the cost of living must be reduced to the same extent.

Mr. HEAPS: How could the purchasing power be increased if wages were decreased?

Mr. HANBURY: The cost of living is relative to wages; the purchasing power of a day's work will be as great as it is to-day. This purchasing power of a day's work would increase when the worker, whose wages are to-day maintaining the unemployed—and this is a point to which I would invite the attention of hon. gentlemen in that corner of the house, that to-day the unemployed are being paid for by the employed worker—is relieved of that burden by the increased demand for man power. Wage reduction is always difficult, but I am confident that we can prove to labour that their cooperation in this national emergency would permit many thousands of their numbers to return to the higher paid positions from which they have been displaced. As an illustration of this condition, I have in mind thousands of railwaymen—and I mention railwaymen particularly because they are a strongly organized group, it is natural to expect that their consideration would not be favourable—who have been reduced in status and their earnings decreased as a result of declining railway traffic, and thousands more who are now on the spare list with no earnings at all. I know in British Columbia there are engineers who have been what they call "bumped" to a fireman's job and in fact some have been bumped right down to the roundhouse. There have been firemen bumped out of a job and shopmen bumped out of a job. Through greater production and greater traffic, those men can better afford to take a reduction in wages and get back to their proper position. I have no doubt of the cooperation of labour if labour has no reason to doubt the cooperation it will receive from industry and from government.

My next suggestion is a reduction of 20 per cent in freight rates, made possible by reduced costs, by the most improved equipment, and also by increased earnings through greater traffic. Lower wages and all other charges, with increased foreign trade and general business expansion, in addition to a reduction of 20 per cent in the pay of all government employees, can result only in lowered taxes. More and cheaper money, lower wages, lower freight, lower taxes, will bring lower production costs, but not necessarily a greatly decreased selling price for our farmers, lumbermen, fishermen and miners whose products are sold on the markets of the world.

Our object must be not crass indifference to the interests of all other nationals, not just cold blooded exploitation, but to provide work for all Canadians. We must ever keep before us the improvement in the Canadian standard of living, which our resources, education, and civilization will make a simple task if we have courage, energy and faith. To better our standard of living we must be prosperous, and Canada is not prosperous to-day. The advantage in world commerce, the place in the sun, will belong to that nation which first and best realizes the necessities of the present world economic position.

I am advocating the immediate adoption of a policy that otherwise we shall be forced into in a very short time, and if we wait for that day it is not inconceivable that our present institutions might not be then in control of the working out of that policy. Science, machinery, transportation, communications, are forcing the world forward at an ever increasing rate. The immediate future offers nothing but economic war; civilization demands a truce to regulate production through reducing the hours of work; civilization demands a world economic peace. In this new world away from the age-old distrusts of the old world, let all the nations assemble to cooperate for the benefit of mankind. A suggestion I wish to make to the Prime Minister is that there is no other place in the world to-day where the question of international economic cooperation can be so well considered as it can be right here in Canada. Until that day, when world economic peace has been proclaimed, let us Canadians, with faith and courage, set our course to make Canada the barometer of world trade.

Mr. T. M. CAYLEY (South Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I crave the indulgence of the house for only a short time to make a few observations. Since eight o'clock we have had the pleasure of listening to two excellent addresses. This recalls to my mind the words used by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) during his election campaign when he went throughout the west calling upon sinners to repent. It seems to me that those two splendid addresses are calling upon sinners to repent.

I should like in this public way to say how pleased I am at the elevation to a ministerial office of my old school friend and lifelong chum, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sutherland), which has brought so much credit to the good old county of Oxford, half of which each of us represents. I see

my friend the hon. member for Ontario (Mr. Moore) applauding; he too is an offspring of that good old county. With regard to the criticism that has been hurled against the front benchers on the other side for being absent so much, I should like to point out that my good friend from North Oxford, the Minister of National Defence, is not among that class. He has shown a great deal of interest at all times in the affairs of the house.

I want also to pay tribute to another old chum of mine in the person of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), with whom I had the privilege of attending school for some months. He has said that he is faced with a very heavy task, and I am sure he is. I want to assure both of these hon. gentlemen that in any effort which they undertake for the improvement of conditions in Canada, I shall personally be only too happy to cooperate with them, for my love of Canada is no less than theirs.

Listening to the addresses from different members from all parts of Canada, and knowing conditions in his own locality, one must admit that the world is passing through dark days, and in spite of the attempt on the part of some to claim that conditions in Canada are only a legacy from the King administration, the consensus is that the present situation is due to world economic conditions. If the government headed by the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) ever goes out of power—and it is being prophesied now that this will happen soon—let us hope that his government will not leave any worse legacy than the one they took over. The King administration saved Canada from a much more serious state than would have been the case had they not been in office prior to the accession to power of the party opposite.

In a recent article in the New York Times, Raymond B. Fosdick, a distinguished lawyer and author, describes conditions as follows:

> In a world that is bursting with goods and that has limitless capacity to produce, we are haunted by the spectre of compulsory idleness with its bony fingers upon the throat of our industrial life. Apparently the problem of the machine age is not so much a problem of producing goods as it is a problem of producing buyers. The unemployed are waiting for the flow of wages so that they can buy goods they need. The manufacturers with idle plants are waiting for consumers with sufficient money to start the wheels. All unwillingly we have slipped into the vicious circle.

The progress of science and invention has brought the world to this emergency. So must it lead us out into better times of its solution.

Some say we must do away with the machine and go back to more and more hand labour. But we cannot go back. The discoveries of modern times must carry us forever forward. There is no standing still, no going back, but ever the bringing to light of new forces and ever changing conditions, to which changing conditions the world must adapt itself.

The Right Hon. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, in his statement before the 1930 Imperial conference used these significant words:

> I would, therefore, sir, put to the conference this proposition. What we must apply ourselves to is how this conference, representative of the empire as a whole, can make a practical contribution toward the solution of the difficulties and problems we are faced with to-day, but I say a practical proposal and I say practical remedies, because we are faced with circumstances in which quack remedies and mere phrases or preorations will not lead to real results.

A quack is a pretender to medical or other skill, so the dictionary informs me. He usually has the one and only panacea for all ills. Such was the medicine man with his incantations and charms. His treatment may pacify and soothe for a time, but seldom effects a permanent cure. Industrial success to-day is due to the elimination of the quack remedies in that sphere of activity; but in the world of politics and statecraft, the charmer and medicine man still holds sway. In this connection one may recall the case of the sick Indian medicine man who was asked why he did not beat the drum for himself and take his own medicine. His reply was, "Sometime drum all right, sometime medicine all right, but me sick." Canada is sick, but this government continues the use of the old time quack medicines, incantations and charms.

The need for reconstruction on a broad basis is urgently felt, as Mr. Thomas further points out, saying, "It is hardly necessary for me to say that the world has struck an economic blizzard"; and he implored all the representatives to forget "party," and forget "election promises" in the face of the great emergency, and suggest some practical remedy. One realizes now how incriminating those words sound in the face of Canada's unpreferential legislation of the special session of last autumn, and the bold, blunt proposals of Canada's Prime Minister, in which he outlined his "Canada first" policy.

With here and there a jarring note, one, nevertheless feels that the nations are beginning to realize that our political conceptions have not caught up with our machines and that we still cling to the idea that we

can maintain political isolation in a world in which economic isolation has long since gone by the board. This is our challenge.

We have the League of Nations—a world council of justice—great world conferences, material and religious—and we have our Imperial conferences, all in an endeavour to create a wider political system better able to protect the more extensive intersts of the nations they serve.

Higher and higher discriminatory tariffs are quack remedies. There seems to have developed an insatiable greed for tariffs, to build about us an insurmountable wall so that our only recreation will be that of charging each other high prices. Tariffs may be wisely applied, but in order to apply them sanely and wisely a government must have at its disposal all the data it can possibly obtain from a far-reaching investigation. For tariffs may be highly discriminatory, as was found to the dismay of the present government in the case of glass. A tariff board of well-trained impartial experts, non-political, non-partisan, is an absolutely necessary adjunct of every government, and it is with great satisfaction that one learns of the government's intention to re-establish the tariff board which they so ruthlessly exterminated on coming into power.

We should learn from the past. Canada has had extraordinary periods of growth and prosperity. In those periods sprang into being her great industrial centres, her great ports and transportation systems. Then were settled, and tilled ever-increasingly, millions of acres of fertile land. Then Canadian shipping was found in the ports of the seven seas. Foreign commerce increasingly sought our shores. Canada flourished because her world trade flourished. Canada's growth in the fifteen years of the Laurier regime was wonderful, but the golden era of her prosperity was during the nine years of the Mackenzie King administration. I might implore this government to forget its pre-election promises, but that is unnecessary, as hon. members have so often pointed out. But I would urge that they formulate their policies along those lines which brought Canada such success during the regimes of these great Canadian statesmen, and welcome the coming Imperial conference in the spirit of the Dunning budget. This parliament might well, too, study the causes of the depression with a view to preventing its repetition; and not merly accept its recurrence as an act of providence but rather as a problem for sober-thinking representatives of a great people to solve. I do not doubt for a moment the ability of the present age to solve the economic problems of such a crisis as the present, when machinery has not only captured the workshop but is invading the home and leaving its impact on social and family life. The great fact of to-day is the collapse of man power before machinery and narrow governmental policies. The solution will be found in a careful adjustment of conditions both at home and internationally. It will not be found in a wholly free trade policy, or in an exclusive high tariff policy, but in the careful adjustment of a free trade and moderately protective and mutually beneficial policy.

Foreign trade is not war but exchange. When Canada's ambassador to Tokyo seeks to sell wheat to Japan he is asked "what will Canada buy from us"? When he goes to China, China wants to know what Canada will buy from her. When the hon. member for Kings (Mr. Macdonald) seeks a market for potatoes in Cuba he will be asked the same question. When the Prime Minister endeavours to sell Canadian wheat in the motherland it is pointed out that the old land buys from Canada many more millions of dollars' worth than Canada buys from her, and the question is asked whether Canada will take more. What will Canada buy from Britain?

At present it would appear that the "Canada first" policy may have the effect of greatly reducing Canadian foreign trade. Already from one cause or another it is greatly reduced. Exports are falling off, our industries are languishing and unemployment becoming more and more a problem. It is true there is no great trek of our youth to the United States, for that country is in a worse economic condition; but a number of Canada's trained workmen and those technically trained are joining the large army going into Russia. Stephen Leacock, Professor of Economics at McGill University, speaking a few days ago under the auspices of the Montreal junior board of trade in the Windsor Hotel, is reported as saying:

> Russia is going to fail; Russia is going to break. In Russia there is none of the apparatus of democracy as we know it—nothing but a huge driven herd of millions scarcely worth while counting. But they put Russia together.

The professor does admit that they are doing things in Russia, and it will be all the more difficult for the rest of the world where things languish.

> Their political organization is on the pattern of political parties in the United States; their economy is copied from the American trusts.

Further on Mr. Leacock is reported as saying:

What are we going to do? The virus of communism is eating into the souls of the young people of Canada because we are not doing enough for the country and they know it; because we starving in a land of plenty and they know it. We must build something here which will be a bulwark against any communistic chance.

Continuing he says:

It is whether Russia will break or we will break first. In Canada we will have to be up and doing. We have the resources—more than 10,000,000 people could live here if they wanted. If Russia can build dams, pile up production, so can we. But we produce too much. Hitherto we thought of that as a kind of interesting paradox. We have to solve it. We must have a policy which will mean that there must be bread and work for all. Not the English dole system—all bread and no work—that is no good.

The greatest problem, and the one that comprehends and includes all others, is the improvement of agriculture in Canada. The future of Canada is dependent upon having a prosperous happy and contented rural population. For agriculture is the basic industry. And in view of the urgent demand, arising out of the serious condition in which Canadian farmers find themselves, parliament would do well to spend a greater part of its time during this session in committee trying to find a solution for their difficulties. I am not going to attempt to describe conditions in my own county. Perhaps they are not as bad as they are in some other counties, but meeting farmers continually and knowing them intimately I do say that many of them have made committments and find themselves wondering how they are going to get through. They are a brave class of people. They come from a noble group of people who pioneered this country, and they are not easy to discourage.

I am going to quote from what I believe to be one of the best sources from which we could draw information regarding the condition of agriculture in Canada to-day. I have in my hand a manifesto on agricultural conditions, issued by the Canadian Council of Agriculture. This information is not gleaned from any particular part of Canada, but from Canada as a whole. The council knows whereof it speaks, and issues the following statement:

The conditions now prevailing among the agricultural population of the Dominion menace the whole social and economic fabric of the country. Exhortations to optimism and statements denying the widespread suffering and impoverishment of our rural people, even when made by prominent men, do not change the facts. Farmers are being reduced to poverty; their families are being inadequately fed, clothed and educated; they are unable to meet their obligations to pay taxes, to redeem mortgages, to maintain payments of interest, to settle their debts for machinery, gas and oil, and other necessary purchases. Many lack seed for spring sowing and will be compelled to go deeper into debt in order to provide it. Even the minority who have hitherto occupied a position of financial independence have "gone behind" and are in danger of being submerged.

For many years the Canadian Council of Agriculture, speaking for the farmers' provincial organizations, has protested against the handicaps imposed on the farming industry by tariff exactions, high transportation costs, inadequate and expensive credit facilities and inequitable taxation, to name only the more outstanding of their grievances. Such protests have been unavailing and the advent of the world-wide depression, resulting from the costs and ravages of the war, aggravated by the national jealousies and economic rivalries which have succeeded it, has found the Canadian farmers totally unable to cope with the difficulties and to make the sacrifices entailed by it. The continuance of the existing conditions throughout another crop year must inevitably involve in the most serious degree the financial and industrial institutions of the Dominion. Banks, trust companies, mortgage corporations and other lending institutions will find themselves in possession of the lands and chattels which form the security for their loans, but lacking purchasers to take them off their hands. Their security will have depreciated to an extent necessitating the writing off of very heavy losses. The manufacturing concerns, together with the great army of distributing agencies, will face stagnation owing to the inability to find purchasers for the products they produce or handle. The farmers will be either dispossessed or compelled to spend long years in carrying on an uphill struggle to liquidate the debts of principal and interest pyramided upon them. Large numbers will become tenant farmers, or farm labourers, living at a standard much below that, even, which they have been able to attain in the past.

I have heard from both sides of the house different suggestions as to the reason for the unfortunate position in which the farmers find themselves. Some people blame the farmers for laziness; some allege mismanagement; some say they are buying too much and some that they are buying too little. If there is any class of people in the Dominion of Canada which receives from the arm-chair and white-collared philosophers of our land more free advice than any other class, it is the poor farmers. In the present emergency they require some one really to show them how to surmount the difficulties which confront them. Show them what? How to do all the work on a 100-acre farm without help—grow, harvest and market the crops; build the buildings and keep them in repair; be machinist, agriculturist; pay the interest on the mortgages, pay the taxes; feed and clothe his family; support the church and local in-

stitutions, and the other hundred and one things which time does not permit me to enumerate.

The farmer finds himself confronted with heavy capital commitments at a time of falling prices for his own productions. He is endeavouring to meet the payments of high-priced farms and equipment in the face of an income barely sufficient to maintain the living expenses of his own household. As I said, the betterment of the farmers' condition involves to a large extent the solution of the other great problems of industrial regeneration and unemployment. In view of the positive promises given to the country by the Prime Minister. that he would right the wrongs of the Canadian people, the farmers of Canada are awaiting with keen expectation the coming of that great day of fulfilment.

Considerable criticism has been offered by hon. members of Canadian banking institutions. Perhaps they might do more by way of assistance, but when one recalls the wholesale failures of banks in the neighbouring republic and their instability one must feel increased pride and confidence in Canadian banks.

What is most important is the adaptation of our institutions to modern conditions and needs, based on a world-wide conception. Internationally we are interdependent; we cannot live to ourselves; we all need markets and we all need each other. I say to-day is the empire's chance. For this emergency has she been preserved. Her's the chance to consolidate—to solve the great economic and social problems and preserve peace and freedom among 450,000,000 people. There is urgent need for an empire board to be working all the time, not periodically; a board, not of politicians but of experts in their particular lines. I repeat, we need world markets, more and more of them. Where are additional foreign markets to be found? It has been pointed out by leading economists and statesmen that more than a billion people throughout the world are potential consumers of our surplus products and that they could, under the right kind of governmental policies—including of course a liberal trade policy—be converted into actual consumers. All the great problems now facing the country—farm relief, agricultural surpluses, the utilization of manufacturing productivity, unemployment, maintenance of our standards of living, continued development and progress, international good will with resultant international peace—all seem to me to be bound up in the solution of this problem of the expansion of our foreign trade.

[Mr. Cayley.]

Unless the country is to abandon its high standards of living; unless our great manufacturing plants are to remain idle with accompanying unemployment; unless more and more farmers are to be driven from the land and forced to compete for a living with the surplus labour in the cities; unless progress and development are to cease and be followed by a recession, the result of which one can foretell, it seems to me we must abandon selfish and insular trade policies and set up a financial, commercial, economic policy that will be world-embracing in its aims. But the expansion of our foreign trade along the lines indicated can never be the policy of the Conservative party committed as it is to super-protection and economic isolation. It can come only by the ascendancy of the Liberal party with its broad and liberal tariff and trade policy that is a world policy. And that to my mind truly is the greatest of all Canadian policies—a Canada-first policy that means everything.

Out of the wreck of ages
We grasped that truth divine,
It fires us still,
And, by God's will,
It shall to the end of time.

It shall lead and lift us upward
To a truer strength of soul;
It shall banish fear.
And bring us near
The freeman's destined goal.

On motion of Mr. Gardiner the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Guthrie the house adjourned at 9.40 p.m.

Monday, April 20, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

FIRST READINGS

Bill No. 30, respecting the St. Lawrence River Bridge Company.—Mr. Rowe.

Bill No. 31, respecting the Burrard Inlet Tunnel and Bridge Company.—Mr. Munn.

CIVIL SERVICE

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RESPECTING RETIREMENT OF EMPLOYEES OF DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. R. E. CHEVRIER (Ottawa): Mr. Speaker, will the hon. Minister of the Interior (Mr. Murphy) advise the house how long the dismissals of employees is to continue in

the Department of the Interior, and what progress has been made, if any, in the way of reestablishing those who have been let out?

Hon. THOMAS G. MURPHY (Minister of the Interior): Mr. Speaker, it would be manifestly impossible to answer the first part of the question put by the hon. member, but with regard to the second portion of his question, namely, as to what steps have been taken by the government to provide for these employees, I would say that that has been more or less answered already.

Possibly it might not be out of place at this time to say something in regard to this matter. The former Minister of the Interior has put certain questions to the house in regard to it and has expressed his solicitude for these employees. He feels that the government should make certain provision for these civil servants who have been retired or who have received notice of dismissal. It is not a pleasant position in which I find myself at this time. Because of the transfer of the natural resources to the prairie provinces many people have for the last eight or nine months found themselves to be without a position. However, that is not a matter for which I can accept full responsibility because these resources were returned to the western provinces before this government assumed office or before I had the honour of administering the affairs of this department. It is a little unusual to hear the ex-minister express such solicitude in view of the fact that no provision to take care of any of these employees was made in the agreements transferring the natural resources to the western provinces, or in the legislation confirming those agreements. It might well have been made the subject of more than discussion; some steps might have been taken to see that these employees were looked after. However, a search of the agreements and legislation discloses nothing providing for these people.

The services of some 591 employees formerly employed in what might be termed the outside services have been dispensed with. Some of them have been taken over by the provinces but there is nothing in the records to show that the former government attempted in any manner to provide for any of them The only thing on the files is a letter written by the former minister expressing the hope that something might be done.

Owing to this transfer there is no work for those previously employed in many of the branches of the department. Speaking on this very question on May 1, 1930, the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) said:

I might answer my hon. friend as to the reasons why the government did decide not to await the answers by the courts before transferring the resources. It was perfectly apparent to the government that the agreements with Manitoba and Alberta would pass, which would mean that so far as the Department of the Interior was concerned that department would more or less pass out of existence.

Mr. Bennett: Functus officio.

Mr. Mackenzie King: Yes, it would practically pass out of existence, two-thirds of it at any rate, and we would be keeping on a department of the government, simply for the purpose of awaiting the answer by the courts. That was one reason.

On May 2, 1930, in replying to a question asked by the hon. member for Argenteuil (Sir George Perley), the hon. leader of the opposition said:

I think I can promise my hon. friend that the number will not be increased. As he is aware, in this house we have passed to-day enactments under which the natural resources of the three western provinces must be transferred to those provinces, as well as certain lands to the province of British Columbia. When that transfer is effected it should be possible to do away entirely with the ministry of the interior. Some reorganization and consolidation will be effected as respects the Department of Immigration, the Department of Indian Affairs, the forestry service and allied branches of the public service.

Those remarks would show that there existed in the minds of the then government an intention to curtail to a great extent the activities of this department. As I stated before, having that in mind, they took no steps whatever to make any provision for these employees.

When the present government took office this was the first question brought to my attention. Knowing that a great many of these employees would find themselves without employment when the reorganization took place, I addressed a letter to each of my colleagues in the cabinet, asking them and their departments to take care of as many as possible of those employees of the Department of the Interior who might be retired. This letter is dated October 2, 1930, and reads as follows:

My dear colleague:

The transfer of the natural resources to the western provinces will render surplus to the future requirements of this department a large number of well-trained and highly skilled officials of extensive departmental experience.

All of these employees have confidently expected to work out their full period of service with the federal government, and have predicated their domestic arrangements on this understanding. If no place can be found for these in the federal public service, the Dominion is obligated to grant pensions or whatever other consideration has been earned under the act under which the employees have been contributing. Those affected have already filed a petition asking for consideration beyond that provided in the existing Superannuation or Retirement Acts.

From this you will see that it is distinctly good business to give precedence to those employees when assistance is required. New work is being undertaken by certain branches of the public service, and in some cases the permanent positions have not been provided in the estimates so there is no vacancy in the establishment to which permanent employees could be transferred. In order to overcome this difficulty I am prepared to authorize a loan of surplus permanent employees of the Department of the Interior up to the end of the present fiscal year, that is until the 31st of March, 1931, the date to which their salaries have been voted, provided, of course, your department undertakes to create positions for their retention after that date. The Civil Service Commission is aware of this and is ready and willing to facilitate such transfers.

If your department needs any assistance might I suggest that you nominate an official to confer with a representative of this department in order that the situation may be carefully analyzed with a view to promoting the transfer of suitably qualified employees from the Department of the Interior.

I have not had a great deal of experience in the public service of Canada, but I find that it is not easy to transfer an employee from one department of the government to another. Many things militate against this being done. First, there is the natural ambition of individuals in other departments; if a position becomes vacant and they are in line for promotion, naturally they wish to secure that position. That applies right down the line until the lowest paid position is the only one available, and an employee, say in the Department of the Interior, who has been receiving a certain salary, is a little loathe to accept so great a reduction. I am not arguing that should a vacancy occur in a department, an employee losing his position in another department should as a matter of course be put into that vacant position, but at least it might fairly be claimed that he should have an equal right to compete for that position with others in the other departments. That would put them on an equal basis, but the departments—and no government is to blame for this—are apparently run as closed institutions or, as one might say, closed competitive institutions so far as the employees are concerned. They are not willing to allow an employee from one department to transfer to another. Further, in many cases an employee in a department such as the Interior department, knowing of a vacancy in another department, prefers to remain in his own department and to take his chance, rather than to transfer to the other.

This is not a new situation. In the Department of the Interior it had been known for some four years that this reorganization was bound to occur, and the matter has been very much to the fore this year. I do not suppose any employee in any of the branches of the Department of the Interior has not been for the last year or for at least ten months, fully cognizant that this reorganization was coming.

I have given to the house the events as they have transpired until the present time. We have now entered a new fiscal year and the estimates of the department show that the appropriations are much less. Accordingly, we have to meet that situation. Certain criticisms have been levelled against the department to the effect that these employees have been dismissed in a very cruel manner. They received their notices, it is true. How else could the dismissals have been made except by giving notice to them? The Civil Service Act provides that when an employee's position is abolished or when his services are no longer required, he shall be given a certain leave of absence. Under the present situation in the Department of the Interior, that period of time will extend from two to six months. They are not cut off at a moment's notice; rather, they are given that two to six months' notice during which time their full salary will be paid. The following instructions were given to the various heads of branches of the department when this reorganization was to take place:

In effecting staff reductions to bring the salary list within the limits of the figure set by Treasury Board, the department will work in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission.

In the matter of retention on the staff, regard will then be had for preference in the following order, provided always that no employee will be retained unless efficient to perform the service required,—

That is, efficiency is the first test.

1. Those who enlisted in Canada and saw active service in any theatre of war and who have now domestic responsibilities.
2. Other employees with domestic responsibilities.
3. Those who enlisted in Canada and saw active service in any theatre of war and who have no dependents.
4. Others with no dependents.

Generally speaking it will not be possible to retain any employee who has reached the age of sixty-five years or who has put in the full thirty-five years of service unless such retention is a matter of special necessity to the department.

Following that, conferences were arranged with the heads of the various services, and the matter was fully explained to them. Further, the names of those employees who have been retired or who have received their notice of dismissal, are listed with the Civil Service Commission for reassignment to any other branch of the government when vacancies

occur. This is carrying out the law as I understand it and as it is laid down in the Civil Service Act, chapter 22, section 54, which reads:

> Any employee holding a permanent position that is to be abolished, or which is no longer required, shall be laid off and his salary discontinued but his name shall be placed, in the order provided by the regulations of the commission, on the list of persons eligible for the class of positions from which he was laid off or for any other position for which he may have qualified.

That has been done in the case of each of the employees who have lost their positions. I do not think I can add anything further at the present time, but if the question should arise again I am willing to make my position as clear as possible to the house.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): Will the minister allow me to ask him a question in regard to this matter?

I am glad to be interrupted at this moment by the entrance to the chamber of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) with whom I have had the honour of sitting in the house for many years. I am glad to see him restored to health and strength.

I was about to ask the minister whether it is true that in certain branches of his department which remain under the control of the Dominion, a number of officials have been dismissed.

Mr. MURPHY: I do not get the full purport of the question.

Mr. MARCIL: A morning paper states that in certain branches of the Department of the Interior which remain under the control of the Dominion government, a number of officials have been dismissed. I refer to the hydrographic survey, geodetic survey and parks survey.

Mr. MURPHY: The hydrographic survey does not come under the Department of the Interior; that is under the Department of Marine. The other surveys, such as the geodetic, topographic and international boundary surveys are still under the department, but all branches of the Department of the Interior are to a certain extent affected.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I refrained from interrupting the hon. Minister of the Interior while he was speaking, because, in common with other members of the house, I felt it was a privilege to have an opportunity to listen to him and to hear what he had to say on this important matter.

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): My right hon. friend will pardon me. On the orders of the day when a question is asked and a reply made, that is the end of the incident.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is the very point to which I was coming. I did not interrupt my hon. friend when he was speaking, though I might have done so on a question of privilege. My hon. friend in speaking, whether consciously or unconsciously, did not confine himself to answering the question asked but entered into an argument in answer to a question on the orders of the day. That was wholly irregular, and I am going to ask the permission of you, Mr. Speaker, to be allowed the same latitude in making reply to one contention which was made by the minister—your honour may put it on the ground of privilege, if you will—but which I think ought to be answered immediately. Out of courtesy, I did not interrupt the minister though I knew he was out of order at the time. I believe the house will take no exception to what I have to say when hon. members hear what it is.

Perhaps the acting leader of the government will not find fault if I venture at once to express our congratulations to the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) upon his return to the house, and particularly upon his looking so well and strong. We all hope that he has completely recovered from the very serious illness through which he has recently passed.

The point I wish to make, Mr. Speaker, is this: My hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Murphy) in speaking, whether unintentionally or otherwise I cannot say, did seek to leave the impression by his remarks that this present situation with respect to employees of the Interior department had arisen out of some neglect by the previous administration.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If that was the minister's intention I rise to a question of privilege, and I have the right to speak. I repeat, I do not say that the minister's inference was intentional. I wish to state the facts correctly, if I may be permitted so to do. What I wish to bring to the attention of the minister and of other hon. members is this: The legislation respecting the transfer of the resources to the provinces was not actually assented to until the day of dissolution of parliament itself and the time fixed for the transfer was still considerably in advance of that date. Obviously under the circumstances, no arrangement could have been made either at the time or prior thereto for the transfer of persons or their accommodation in other ways with respect to positions which were still necessary and which of

necessity had to be continued for some little time to come. As a matter of fact, the resources were, I believe, not transferred finally, until the month of October, at least in the case of those of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, and it was therefore absolutely necessary that clerks should be kept on until the actual transfer was made.

As to provision in advance, may I say that I recall that as early as 1926 the government of the day believed that it had made an arrangement with the province of Alberta for the transfer of its resources, but we found later on that for some reason the Alberta government did not desire to proceed with the transfer at that date, and it was some four years later that the ultimate transfer was made. We had at the last session of the last parliament reason to assume that all negotiations would work out satisfactorily so as to permit of the transfer but no guarantee that this would be effected the moment that parliament dissolved. Therefore the government of the day was restricted and very much restricted in attempting to make arrangements for the provision that might became necessary for those employees of the public service who might find themselves adversely affected by the transfer when it might actually take place. I want to make clear, that it was actually the month of October before the resources in the case at least of two provinces were transferred.

This fact also I think should be borne in mind. In the interval there was the period of a general election. In the nature of things it was inadvisable if not impossible, immediately prior to the election, for the government of the day to anticipate its result and make provision for employees in their positions as they might be after the election. I think that is quite clear. If, for example, the government of the day had provided for these civil servants prior to the general election, it would immediately have been stated that the provision thus made had been made in the light of the forthcoming election, and very strong exception would have been taken to the making of such provision by the hon. gentlemen who are now objecting to our having refrained from making every provision. What we did was to go as far in the matter as we could go at the time, intending, immediately the elections were over to proceed further, if we were returned to office, or have hon. gentlemen opposite assume that responsibility if they were returned.

The exception that is being taken at the moment is not to the fact that many of these employees cannot be continued in their present positions, but to the summary manner in which many of them have been dismissed, and to the inadequacy of the consideration which has been shown them in the matter of time and in other respects in consequence of the loss of the positions they were holding.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I say that the same reasons which actuated the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in refraining from interrupting the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Murphy) influenced the Speaker in not interrupting the hon. gentleman. Now that great latitude has been allowed to a member of the government in speaking on the orders of the day and similar latitude to the leader of the opposition, I think I cannot do better than to draw the attention of the house to the rule in that respect, which I am bound to say has to some extent been evaded at this session. I will read to the house what Bourinot says, as summarized by Beauchesne:

> When the orders of the day are called by the Speaker and before they are read by the clerk assistant, it is the practice sanctioned by usage but not by any positive rule, for members to make personal explanations or ask questions of the government, in reference to an inaccurate report of their speeches in the official records, or in the newspapers; or in denial of certain charges made against them in the public prints; or in reference to certain remarks which had been misunderstood on a previous occasion, and which they had not before had an opportunity of explaining; or in respect to delay in obtaining returns or to the incompleteness of certain returns brought down under the order of the house; or relative to the state of public business, or other matters of public interest. But these remarks should be brief as they are only tolerated, there being no question before the Chair when they are made, and no discussion should be allowed when a minister has replied to a question nor after a member has made his personal explanation. In asking a question, a member must not attack the conduct of the government. If a member wishes to make personal explanations in reference to remarks which have fallen from another member, the latter ought to be in his place.

I would also refer to standing order 45, which is explicit:

> Forty-eight hours' notice shall be given . . . . for placing a question on the order paper.

I think members will agree with me that the nature of questions asked on the orders of the day should be something altogether different from questions that might well be put on the order paper, and I would therefore ask the cooperation of the house in future in observing both the rule and custom of the house.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Friday, April 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D.

Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): May I take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to express my pleasure at seeing the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) again in his seat. During the progress of the session members of the house have missed the hon. minister very much indeed. I am sure that we all trust that he has fully recovered and that he will continue in good health. It is a pleasure indeed to see him again in his seat.

Before I commence what I have to say on the subject matter before the house, may I also take advantage of this opportunity to thank the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull) for his very kind remarks with reference to myself when he was addressing the house. May I assure him that they were very much appreciated, and I trust that he will accept my sincere thanks.

The House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, meets at the present time under very adverse circumstances. Not only every hon. member, but I think almost everybody in Canada will admit that we have never within the memory of any person now living had such grave conditions confronting this country as we are faced with to-day. It is quite true that we had a very serious time during the war; it is quite true that we also had a hard time during the deflation period following the year 1920; it is true also that we had certain conditions because of the war which made the deflation period following 1920 almost certain; but after a period of so-called prosperity lasting three or four years we are now suddenly met with conditions such as neither this country nor I believe any other country on the face of the globe ever had the misfortune to meet with before. Because of those circumstances we are not meeting under very happy conditions. Therefore in my judgment it is necessary for every member of the house to give his best attention to the great problems which lie before us. So far as I personally am concerned it is pretty well known in this house that I represent a purely agricultural constituency. With the exception of a small amount of coal mining there are no industries other than that of agriculture in the constituency of Acadia. Because of the nature of my constituency I am here primarily to represent agricultural interests.

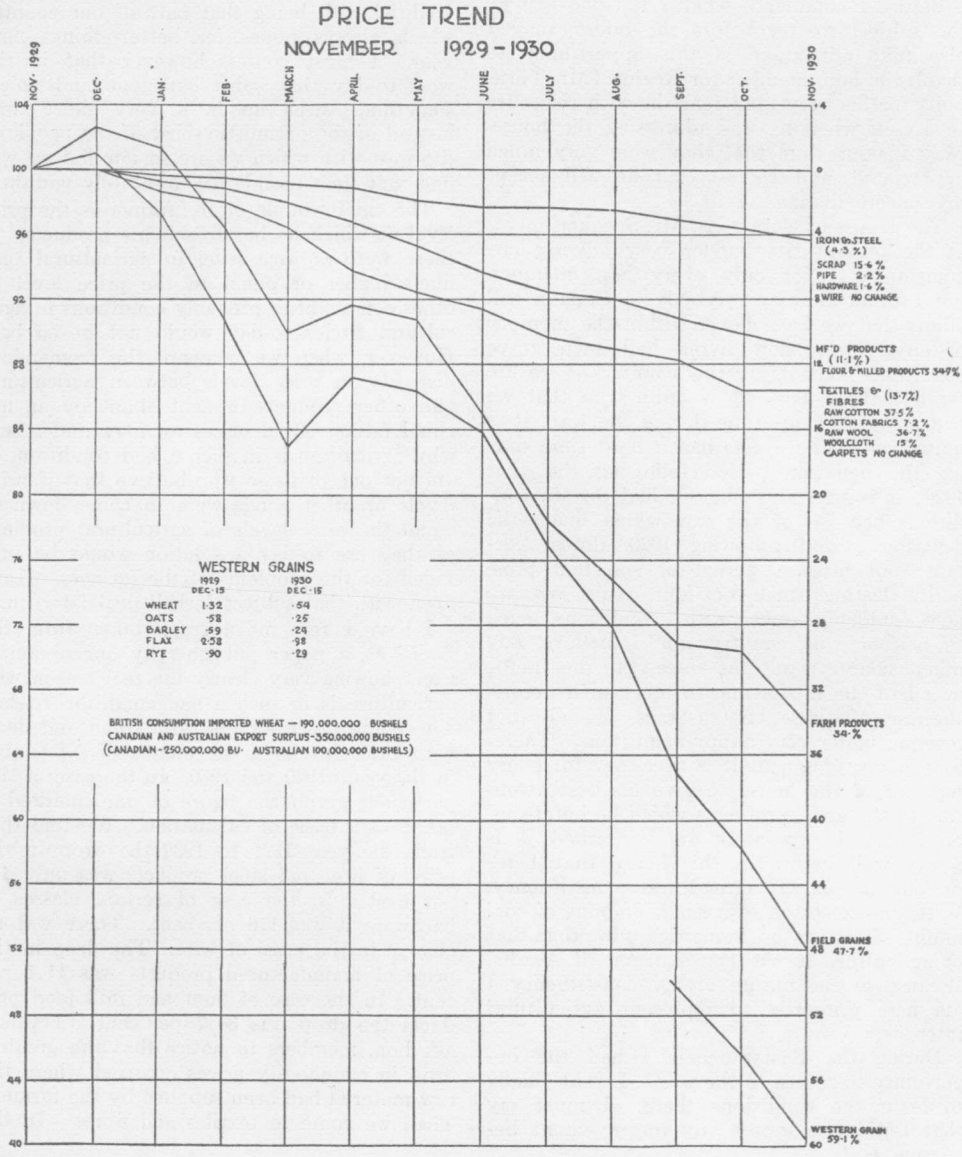
During the Easter recess I had the opportunity to return to the west. I went chiefly to learn the conditions there. I must say that I did not expect any improvement because at that particular time no improvement was possible. I was very much surprised however to find that the western farmer had lost his usual optimism. I know of no class of people who during the last few months have lost their morale to such an extent as have the western farmers. The people who went out to develop our great western country were optimists and through all the hard years they have had to meet they have continued to be optimists. At the present time however I must confess they are far from being optimists; they see no lining to the cloud, no ray of hope, nothing to encourage them to expect better times. Western Canada is credited with being that part of our country which always hopes for better things next year. I must confess however that in the west to-day that spirit has gone and unless something turns up in a very short time instead of the optimistic spirit of the people in the west with which we are so familiar we will find that their morale has absolutely vanished.

The chief trouble of the farmer is the price level at which he has to sell his products. If there were a price level in agricultural products higher or equal to the price level of other commodities probably conditions in agricultural circles to-day would not be so bad. However, when we compare the tremendous disparity in price levels between agricultural and other products brought about by an unequal falling off in prices we may understand why agriculture is in such a bad condition. I am not one of those who believe that if price levels of other goods were to come down to equal the price levels of agricultural products as they are to-day a solution would be provided for the problems of the farmers. However, with that subject I shall deal later on.

I have before me a graph taken from the U. F. A., a paper publisher by our organization, showing very clearly the real reason why agriculture is in such a bad condition to-day. The graph describes the price trend and deals with price levels in the month of November in the years 1929 and 1930. In the case of this particular graph the figure of one hundred is taken as a basis of calculation. We find that from the year 1929 to 1930 the drop in the price of iron and steel products was only 4.3 per cent. In the case of certain classes of hardware it was 1.6 per cent. There was no change in the price of wire. The drop in the price of manufactured products was 11.1 per cent. In the case of flour and mill feed products the drop was 34.7 per cent. I would ask hon. members to notice that the greatest drop in commodity prices occurred where the raw material had been supplied by the farmers. Then we come to textiles and fibres. In the

case of those commodities the drop has been 13.7 per cent. However, the price of raw cotton has dropped about 37.5 per cent. May I at this time interject a question? Why is it that the price of cotton goods has not dropped to a greater extent? Is it because of the emergency legislation of last session that the price of the raw material has dropped 37.5 per cent but that of the finished product has dropped only 13.7 per cent? We go down the list until we come to farm products. Farm products generally have dropped 34 per cent; field grain show a figure of 47.7 per cent. Then we come to the real problem facing the western farmer to-day. I refer to the fact that according to this graph the price of western grain has dropped 59.1 per cent.

On the other side of the graph I find a table referring to western grain. It shows the price level of western grains on December 15, 1929 and on the same date in the year 1930. In the year 1929 wheat was selling at $1.32 per bushel whereas on December of last year it sold for only 54 cents per bushel. With the consent of the house, Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to put this graph on Hansard because it illustrates exactly the condition of agriculture at the present time.



[Mr. Gardiner.]

I have another table which strikes at the root of the situation in a somewhat different manner. This table was prepared by the executive of our organization and it was presented to the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman) when the hon. gentleman was touring western Canada in October last. I am going to read only one table to show the purchasing power of a bushel of wheat to-day in comparison with the purchasing power in former years of the same commodity.

May I say, Mr. Speaker, that these price levels to which I shall refer are taken on the same date in succeeding years. On October 22, 1906, the cash price of a binder at the city of Calgary was $175. On October 21, of that year the cash price for No. 1 northern wheat in store at Fort William was 74¼ cents. The handling charges and elevator profits were 5 cents. The freight from Calgary to Fort William was 14.4 cents. The price to the shipper was 54.85 cents. At that time it took 319 bushels of wheat to buy an eight-foot binder complete. In the year 1913 the price of a binder was $190. On the same date in that year it took 318 bushels of wheat to buy a binder. In the year 1914 the price of the binder remained at $190 but the price of wheat had gone up and as a result it required only 194 bushels to buy an eight-foot binder. In 1926 the price of the binder was not $190 but $295. Yet the price of wheat had risen somewhat and it required in that year, despite the higher price of the binder, only 231.5 bushels of wheat to buy a binder. Now we come to last year, 1930. In that year the price of a binder had been reduced to $287. The price of wheat on that date was only 72⅝ cents. Allowing 5 cents for handling charges and elevator profit, and 15.6 cents for freight the price received by the farmer was only 52.025 cents per bushel. It required 551.5 bushels of wheat to buy an eight-foot binder last year. To my mind those figures show clearly the story of conditions in western Canada. I have in my hand other tables dealing with other classes of implements. May I point out further that the comparisons on these tables are based on No. 1 northern in store at Fort William. The average grade of wheat is not No. 1 northern; No. 3 or No. 4 is the average grade the farmers deliver. That is to say, if you take the grades from the highest down to the lowest, the average of the whole will be between No. 3 and 4 northern. This means that it takes many more bushels of wheat to buy the implements that I have quoted than the figure that has been given to me. I make this explanation because I believe it to be necessary.

Now, as I said before, the position of the western farmer is not a happy one. His liabilities are growing at a rapid rate. And many reasons can be given for this condition of affairs, but it all comes back again to the problem of the price levels of agricultural products. When we consider, for instance, the interest charges which the western farmer pays, more particularly the interest charges on overdue accounts, these are very burdensome, and consequently there is no hope of improvement, as far as I can see, unless we get some modification of the farmer's debts, or unless his interest charges generally are reduced; unless this is done I can see no hope of the liabilities of the farmers becoming substantially less in the near future. One of the weaknesses of our monetary system, or our medium of exchange, is that all governments seem to want to stabilize that medium at a certain level. Why governments should do the best in their power, in fact take the resources of the state for that particular purpose, I do not know. I am not aware of any reason why the state should put the national resources behind our dollar for stabilization purposes, any more than it should put its resources behind the stabilization of manufactured or agricultural products, as the case may be. Take the case of a farmer who in good faith buys implements or contracts a debt of any kind when the price of agricultural products is at a high level, and that of other commodities in proportion, and then try to realize what it means to the debtor during a deflation such as we are passing through at the present time. It means that the debtor's debts have increased, because through the reduction of the price level he will have to give more of his products to meet his liabilities. That practically is due to the fact that we do not permit the dollar to fluctuate the same as we permit the price levels of goods and services to fluctuate. And it is only fair to the debtor class that there should be a corresponding fluctuation of the dollar. My hon. friend from Macleod (Mr. Coote) has placed before the house a proposal which I think hon. members should consider seriously, because it seems to me to be the most important proposal that has yet been submitted in an effort to remedy the conditions that we are passing through at the present time. I cannot see why we should be so fearful of the interests of the creditor class. The creditor class in this and other countries seem to be given all the privileges. No debtor class has ever been given any privilege in this country at all. Therefore I submit in all seriousness that the creditor class should be placed in exactly the same

position as the debtor class, and that it should not secure any privileges by reason of the natural wealth of the country being put behind our dollar to stabilize the dollar whether it is worth stabilizing or not. I believe that is the biggest problem that confronts us to-day, and until something is done along these lines I am satisfied that we shall never begin to recover even the meagre prosperity that we have had during the last few years.

During these times of stress and trouble there is one class in this country that receives all kinds of gratuitous advice—the farming class. We are told in the speech from the throne that we must reduce production costs. I say to the government "All right." I throw out this challenge to the government: If they are sincere in stating that it is essential because of world conditions that the farmer reduce his production costs, then let the government show us how to do it. How can we do it? I submit to the house that to-day the farmer in western Canada is producing as efficiently as, and in fact more efficiently than, any other class of farmers in any other country in the world. The farmers of Canada use the most up-to-date machinery, they have the benefits of the scientific research of our experimental farms. I am satisfied of the fact that unless something drastic is done it is useless to tell them that they must reduce their production costs before they can expect to succeed. But I can see where perhaps the farmer may be able to reduce his production costs somewhat. If it is the intention of the government that in order to reduce their production costs the farmers of the west must accept a lower standard of living, then the sooner the government tells them the better it will be for the government and for the west. As far as I can see there is no hope of reducing production costs except by the western farmer reducing his standard of living. And if that standard of living is reduced, then hon. members can see what it will mean to industry in eastern Canada, because the western farmer is a good buyer when he has the funds, and his ability to purchase means a good deal to eastern industry.

If any evidence is required as to whether the western farmers is, for instance, producing grain at a cost comparative with the cost of production of similar grain in another country, I have the information before me. It is the report dated March 4, 1924, made by the United States tariff commission to the president. Hon. members may say that this is an old report and that conditions may be somewhat different to-day from what they were then. True, there may be a slight change, but it is slight only. Anyone who remembers the price levels in 1924 will recall that manufactured goods were selling at about the same level as they are to-day, maybe a little lower, but not much. This report is the result of an investigation undertaken by the United States tariff commission for the purpose of determining what duty should be placed on wheat importations. The commission realized that the greatest competitor of their wheat-producing states was Canada, because in Minnesota, South and North Dakota and Montana the quality of wheat produced is nearly as good as that produced in the Canadian prairie provinces. The commission found that the average cost of producing wheat at thirty-six points in those four states, after taking into consideration land, interest and other charges, was $1.44 a bushel. In order to ascertain the actual conditions in Canada the commission made inquiries in our three prairie provinces at forty-three points, taking evidence from eighteen to twenty farmers at each point. As a result of their inquiries the commission found that the average production cost of wheat in western Canada was 93 cents a bushel, as against the average cost of production in the four wheat-growing states of $1.44. That is why the high duty of 42 cents a bushel was imposed on grain entering the United States—to protect the United States grain-grower against his rival in western Canada. I think that shows fairly conclusively that the cost-of-production bogey has been over-worked. May I say in passing that it is useless for the government, it is useless for armchair farmers, it is useless for other wouldbe advisers to say that the only hope of the grain-grower of western Canada is in lower costs of production. In my judgment that is almost an impossibility under present conditions.

Now I am going to discuss another phase of the situation, with regard to the price levels of different commodities. I have studied this problem for some time, Mr. Speaker, and I have come to the conclusion that the most important cost, or the most important element in the cost, of producing any commodity is the labour time element. The labour time element is the most important element in the cost of producing commodities, whether they be agricultural commodities or manufactured goods. I am not going to take a back seat to any one in respect to the value of the labour time of the farmer in comparison to that of other classes of producers. The farmer is absolutely essential to the welfare of the people; we cannot get along without him, because he provides the food which is essential to life. Therefore I say that the labour time element

entering into the cost of production of all goods should be given very serious consideration. In my judgment it is the most important element of all, and consequently should be given its rightful place. What is the condition to-day? If you analyze the price levels, as you may analyze them, you will find that probably the farmer will have to put in three hours or more in producing an agricultural product which, when exchanged for manufactured goods, will bring in exchange a product which only contains one hour of labour time, and this problem is being understood more and more by the western farmer. The time is coming when he will accept no other form of exchange than that which contains the absolute labour time element on the average. I think just now the western farmer is realizing this important element in the production of his goods, and as I said before as soon as he understands that principle thoroughly, and finds that it will explain to him very largely the discrepancy in price levels, I am satisfied that no government and no class of people in this country will be able to stand against the demand of the farmer that his labour time be reckoned as being just as valuable as the labour time of any other class of producer.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I find that I have far more material on my desk than I will be able to deal with this afternoon. Permit me to take a moment to deal with the policy of the banks in western Canada, and on this point let me congratulate the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) on the very sensible thing which he did some time ago, in suggesting to the banks that they should give better credit for spring work in western Canada. The banks say the farmers of western Canada are securing all the advances to which they are legitimately entitled. If that is so, Mr. Speaker, then I take it from the banks that western Canada is insolvent; that is what the statement of the banks would indicate. Of that there is no question. I had the opportunity of going home at Easter, and I made specific inquiry on that point. I drove for two days among men in my constituency whom I knew and upon whom I could depend in order to find out whether they were getting a reasonable amount of credit. Of course we do not expect to get the same amount of credit that was handed out when we were passing through more prosperous times but, sir, I did not meet one person in my two days of driving who had been able yet to secure one bank credit for this year's spring operations. Yet the banks say they are giving to the farmers of the west all the credit to which they are entitled. Why do not the banks have the courage of their convictions and tell us that in their judgment western agriculture is insolvent, and then we will know what to do. I have no desire to see the banks place loans where they feel they have no chance of being repaid. That would not be good business either for the farmer, for the banks or for the people of this country, but I do object to this system, bonused and privileged as it is by legislation of this country, saying it is doing what it is not doing. Once more I congratulate the minister on his statement in this connection.

May I say also, Mr. Speaker, that in my judgment if the farmers of western Canada to-day were forced to liquidate, eighty per cent of them would be insolvent, notwithstanding all that has been said by my good friend from Marquette (Mr. Mullins).

Mr. MULLINS: Is my hon. friend speaking for Saskatchewan only, or for the entire west?

Mr. GARDINER: I say eighty per cent of the farmers of the west would be insolvent if they were forced to liquidate. If price levels get better they may be able to get away from that condition but, sir, if this condition continues for another twelve months my advice to the western farmer will be that his only hope is to go through bankruptcy. That is a hard thing to say, but I say it in all seriousness and fully realizing the position which I occupy. There is no hope for western farmers unless conditions improve within the next twelve months. Their only hope is to get rid of their liabilities, and the only honourable course open to them, will be to do as the business man does when he is in that position, and go through bankruptcy. Bankruptcy is not a nice word to use. I never liked the sound of it, but it describes a course of action which it is sometimes necessary to follow. The word we use now to indicate that particular course of action is not so harsh as it used to be in years gone by. In the earlier years of financing through banks, instead of calling it bankruptcy the people used to call it bankrupture, or in other words ruptured by the banks. That just about describes the position of the people of this country.

I want to make one suggestion which may be of some value. Some of my colleagues have made other suggestions, but it is not my purpose to cover the ground which they have covered so well. In western Canada to-day we have a certain cooperative selling organization which does the biggest part of its business in selling the products of the farmers to outside countries. When they sell

these products, such as wheat, oats, all kinds of grain and sometimes live stock, and so on, they sell them in competition with the world. We in this corner of the house have been blamed for asking for compensation because of tariff duties which have increased the prices of the goods we have to buy. The tariff does not protect agriculture; we have had a very good illustration of that since the special session. Although duties were made higher the prices of agricultural products have gone lower and lower all the time. I make what I consider to be a fair suggestion to the government: in view of the fact that these cooperative organizations are selling farm products at competitive prices in the world's markets, I suggest that these same organizations be permitted to import into this country goods of equal value to those exported without any duty being imposed. The farmer would thus be put in the same position in his buying as he is in his selling, but only to the extent that he exports on a competitive basis. I believe this suggestion to be well worth the consideration of the government.

My time will soon expire, but I desire to deal with another matter. What we are debating is the amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, moved by the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). It is not my business to criticize to any extent what this hon. gentleman does, but permit me to say this: as far as the amendment is concerned, it is wholly negative in character and does not get us anywhere. During the war we were obliged to form a coalition government in order to unite all the forces of the people. I do not suggest that we form such a government at the present time, but I do think that the parties should drop politics in order to consider the really serious condition with which we are faced at the present time. From time to time we have had a pensions committee operating in connection with this house, which committee has always operated without a display of party feeling. I would suggest that another committee should be appointed by this house to be conducted in a non-partisan manner for the purpose of examining into economic conditions and reporting or recommending to this house from time to time anything which they think would be of value.

We have in Canada a research council which deals with production. My judgment is that we should have such a council dealing with economic conditions. This council should sit all the time and be composed of men who have their finger on the economic pulse of Canada, and who would be at any and all times in position to advise the government as to the best thing to do. It is said that we are to have a new tariff commission. I have no objection to that, but I believe that an economic research council would be a thousand times more valuable to the people of this country than any tariff commission which might be set up.

Unemployment in Canada is still rife. While out west, I had a rather peculiar experience in Calgary. The city of Vancouver ceased the supplying of relief to single men. They made up a nice parcel of food and told them to get out. I am told that they even assisted in the finding of empty box cars in which they could travel as comfortably as possible. These men arrived in Alberta, and upon reaching the railway yards of such places as Calgary, the railway police boosted them off the cars. Fortunately for these men who had no place to go, as soon as they were boosted off the cars by the railway police the provincial police came along and put them on again. That is a terrible state of affairs for a country possessing the wealth of Canada. All the way from Calgary to Ottawa we saw these men strung along the line. We heard that at Fort William they had to go and beg meals from the people of that good and hospitable city. That is not fair to the unemployed men.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we believe that the time has come for cooperation in the solving of these problems, and believing that the amendment now before the house is negative in character, I move, seconded by Mr. Heaps, a subamendment as follows:

That all the words after "that" in the amendment be stricken out, and the following substituted therefor,

This house fully realizes that there exists in Canada an economic situation which constitutes a national emergency, which can only be met by extraordinary measures;

This house is of opinion that the present situation calls for the greatest possible degree of cooperation on the part of all its members, and to that end, and that this cooperation may be given in the most practical and efficient manner, Your Excellency's advisers should give consideration to the appointment of a special committee of parliament, to which committee would be assigned the duty of examining into the causes and extent of the present depression, with the view of suggesting such appropriate action as might best correct the present situation and relieve present suffering, and as might also render less probable the recurrence of such disasters in the future;

This house urges that the need is great and immediate, and that this committee should be appointed without delay, that it be given all necessary powers and authority, and that it be instructed to proceed with all expedition and to report to this house during the present session of parliament;

While the above suggested action should assist in the ultimate solution of these great

national problems, this house realizes that there are conditions in this country which require more immediate consideration and to that end this house is of opinion,

(a) That the failure or inability of our banks to provide the credit which is essential to our farmers in respect to their spring operations, render it imperative that consideration be given to some system of federal assistance, whether directly, by way of bank guarantee, or otherwise;

(b) That the serious situation which still prevails in respect of unemployment demands that consideration be given to some immediate action looking toward increased employment, and a further measure of direct relief where such is found necessary.

Mr. F. R. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): Mr. Speaker, I desire to join with others who have spoken in offering my congratulations to you upon your elevation to the Speaker's chair in this house, and also to the mover (Mr. Cormier) and the seconder (Mr Porteous) of the address.

I have noted in all of the addresses delivered by my hon. friends opposite, and more particularly by those who represent constituencies in Saskatchewan, a note of pessimism. In fact, one would almost think that the hour of death had arrived. I am not surprised at this attitude of mind of hon. members opposite—they are the party of divine right, and finding themselves in the shades of opposition, they paint pictures of blue ruin. I would remind hon. members opposite that prior to August last, the Liberal party had been the government of Canada for the past nine years, and if, as they have said, blue ruin faces our country and the province of Saskatchewan, then they must shoulder some of the responsibility for this condition of affairs. The government of the leader of the opposition has moulded the policy of this country during the past nine years, and if, as they admit, we are faced with blue ruin, whose fault is it? Let us ask ourselves that question. There can be but one answer: Out of their own mouths they condemn the policy which the Liberal government have been following during the past nine years. They go further, they condemn the leader of the late government in the policies which that government has been following.

Then again, Mr. Speaker, the late government have had as their supporters during the past twenty-five years, a Liberal administration in the province of Saskatchewan, ready to jump at any time at the crack of my right hon. friend's whip. We on this side of the house who represent constituencies in Saskatchewan know full well the ramifications of the Liberal machine in that province in both the provincial and federal fields. We know of the ramifications of the Jacques Bureau and Bronfman affair; we know that as a result of the findings of three eminent judges, provincial and mounted police were used by the Liberal party as political workers to further the cause of Liberalism in Saskatchewan. Now our hon. friends opposite come to the house, stand up in their places just eight months after the Conservative government has taken over the reins of office, and tell the country that the government of the day is responsible for the conditions that exist. Was there ever a more ridiculous statement? Hon. members opposite are fooling no one but themselves.

A great deal has been said about election promises. Permit me to quote an editorial which appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, September 27, 1930. The article goes on to say:

> However far the discussion may range on the intrinsic merits of Mr. Bennett's tariff policy, there can only be general agreement on the vigour he has displayed since he took office, and on the speed and thoroughness with which he made his ideas effective in Canada's fiscal system. In six weeks Mr. Bennett has selected his ministers, formed his government, revolutionized the tariff schedules, made a drastic upward revision of the dumping statute, created a $20,000,000 fund and scheme in aid of unemployment, and in two weeks' time pushed through the house, with the forced approval of the opposition groups, a mass of the most drastic and contentious legislation ever brought down in a Canadian parliament. There is something heroic in these accomplishments, and Mr. Bennett deserves all the credit which his political feats entitle him to receive.
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> If his promise to give the country parliamentary action was perfectly sincere, his declarations of policy, it can also now be seen, were inspired by a sincerity equally deep. When Mr. Bennett was trumpeting his tariff doctrines on the compaign platforms it was natural to allow for a certain amount of exaggeration in the statements, and to assume that when they came to be reduced to practice an inevitable modification would take place. This was an entirely wrong assumption. . . . There is an intrepidity about his unqualified inauguration of his projects which commands respect entirely apart from other considerations. Whatever the future brings him it can never be said that he displayed either weakness or doubt when he became Prime Minister.

This is what the greatest Liberal organ in western Canada has to say about the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) It is a conclusive answer to the leader of the opposition when he speaks about broken promises. I would like to congratulate the government of the day on calling the house together for the short session in September last. The unemployment relief measures passed on that occasion have helped thousands of our people through the past winter, and have relieved hardship and suffering. I desire to quote some figures as to the relief work done in the con-

stituency which I have the honour to represent. I quote from a letter written by the city engineer of Saskatoon under date of March 6, 1931. It goes on to say that as a result of the unemployment relief measures passed in the House of Commons during the short session the city of Saskatoon was able to give 287,576 men hours' work. It spent $136,895 in wages prior to the 6th day of March, and gave employment to 1,826 different married men.

I want to take this opportunity of congratulating the Prime Minister on his contribution at the Imperial and economic conference held in London last fall. As a result of these deliberations the Prime Minister succeeded in bringing about a continuance of the deliberations of the economic conference to be held in Ottawa some time during the coming summer, and I look forward with confidence to the result of these deliberations.

In western Canada we are confronted with unusual conditions and my hon. friends opposite, by their continued blue ruin talk, their whispers of death, are not contributing anything looking to a solution. This is no time for that sort of idle talk. I have heard laboured arguments trying to place the responsibility for the low price of wheat at the door of the government of the day. I am going to read an article which appeared in a British journal, and there were many such articles. The article in question is copied by the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix in an editorial under date of March 5, 1930. It reads:

Those who deny that there is hostility to the wheat pool in Great Britain would have difficulty explaining a front page article in a recent issue of The People, a popular British paper. It is headed: "Vast Gamble to Hold Prices Up At Our Expense: How Canadian Pool Stored Its Grain to Squeeze Money Out of Our Pockets." These headings are in large type and are followed by a two-column article from a special "city correspondent." The following are typical paragraphs:

Now, since Canada is the greatest wheat-producing country in the world, what the wheat pool has really been trying to do is to make a corner in wheat. And now it looks like being beaten, exactly as every private wheat gambler has been beaten in the past, by the visible supply.

For wheat is a commodity which can never be really cornered. Vast though the Canadian crops may be, wheat is growing in other countries all over the world. And last year the Argentine stepped in and sold us quite enough grain to make up for what Canada was holding back.

In this connection I am amazed at a piece of impudent "special pleading" in the pro-wheat-pool press. Let me give a quotation:—

"The Canadian farmers, through their wheat pool, declared: 'We ask a fair price in keeping with the general standard of living in Canada.'"

[Mr. F. R. MacMillan.]

I ask this question: Had the present government anything to do with such propaganda as this? These articles appeared during the term of office of the late Liberal administration. I wonder if any hon. member sitting to your left, Mr. Speaker, who is a farmer from Saskatchewan and a member of the wheat pool, took any action as a result of such articles as the one I have just read? If they did, no one ever heard about it. The country is looking for constructive criticism and not the vapourings of theorists. I am not speaking for or against the wheat pool, but it is only a waste of time to try to make out that the government of the day is in any way responsible for the low price of wheat.

A great deal has been said about the effect of the tariff changes made during the short session, and hon. members opposite have tried to establish that commodity prices are going up as a result of these tariff changes. I am going to read an article which appeared in the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix on December 11, 1930, and I do not think any hon. member will be guilty of saying this is a Conservative paper, because it is one of the Sifton string. The gentleman who gave this interview to the press is a strong Liberal supporter, and therefore his remarks in this connection should have some weight with his colleagues on the opposite side of the house. This is from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix, under date of December 11, 1930:

Price cuts in many commodities, some as great as 35 per cent, will do much to bolster Christmas retail trade in Saskatoon and the province generally, in the opinion of W. L. McQuarrie, provincial secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association.

According to Mr. McQuarrie, prices in nearly all departments of the retail trade have been dropping steadily for several months. Groceries and other foodstuffs have been sold at a very close margin for some time, investigation has shown, and at the present time many varieties of canned goods are being retailed at production costs. The retail prices of all groceries have been reduced, Mr. McQuarrie points out, with the possible exception of jam. The reductions for the most part range from 10 to 15 per cent, and sugar is being retailed at a figure very close to wholesale cost.

Cuts have also been recorded in men's and women's clothing, 20 to 25 per cent; furniture, 15 to 25 per cent; hardware, 10 per cent, with a few articles down 30 per cent; meat, 20 to 35 per cent; jewelry, 10 to 15 per cent, particularly silver hollow-ware and English china. While these reductions apply particularly to retail stores in Saskatoon, it is believed that prices have taken a corresponding drop in the trade in other cities and towns of Saskatchewan.

A survey of prices showed that articles of men's and women's clothing, such as overcoats, shoes, silk and woollen dress goods, ladies' ready-to-wear and millinery had dropped 20

and 25 per cent during the past four months. In ladies' furs the reduction runs from 20 to 30 per cent, and in hosiery—

Such as my hon. friend from Weyburn (Mr. Young) displayed the other day, the reductions according to the secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association, have been from 15 to 20 per cent.

An hon. MEMBER: What is the date of that?

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): I am quoting from the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix of December 11, 1930.

It is a strange picture, Mr. Speaker. We have Liberals in the House of Commons stating that these very articles are higher in price as a result of changes in the tariff, while at the same time their supporters in the field, whose business it is to know, are giving the country actual data as to the reductions in prices that have taken place on a large scale. Consistency, thou art a jewel!

I am satisfied, Mr. Speaker, that the appointment of a royal commission to look into the effect which trading in futures on the Winnipeg grain exchange has upon the ultimate price which the farmer receives for his grain is a move in the right direction. I am of the opinion that the commission should be able to decide this question in a satisfactory manner.

I should like also, notwithstanding the remarks of some of my hon. friends opposite, to convey my thanks to President E. W. Beatty, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and those associated with him, for coming forward at this time with a constructive plan looking to the gradual diversification of farming in districts in the prairie provinces where mixed farming can be carried on successfully. Some hon. members opposite from the province of Saskatchewan have belittled the Beatty proposal to loan money to western farmers at low rates of interest in an endeavour to help solve certain aspects of our economic situation. This proposal did not in any way suggest that the farmers of Saskatchewan should all diversify their operations. Far from it, but my hon. friends opposite well know that there are great areas in Saskatchewan where more diversification is desirable. Would my hon. friends opposite be prepared to go back to Saskatchewan and tell their constituents that they do not want cheap money? Why confuse freight rates with the Beatty proposal? Perhaps something might be done towards lowering freight rates. Certainly it is desirable, if it be possible. But that has nothing whatever to do with this farm loan scheme.

Mr. DONNELLY: When shall we be able to get this money?

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): After you fellows stop barking so much.

I wish to quote a few figures in respect to the development of the live stock industry in Saskatchewan and the farm situation generally. These figures are taken from the report of the Saskatchewan Royal Commission on Immigration and Settlement, which report was submitted to the government of Saskatchewan on September 10, 1930, and therefore is the latest reliable authority available. Turning to page 95 of the report I find that the total capital value per farm in Saskatchewan is given from 1901 to 1926. I shall not read all the figures, but I find that the average value of farm property per farm in Saskatchewan in 1916 was $10,603, and in 1921, when the late government came into power, $13,814. In 1926 the value had gone down to $11,405, and it is down still further to-day. I will now give the figures of the land value per farm, as given in this report. In 1921 the land value per farm was $8,878, and in 1926, $6,951.

Let us look at the picture so far as buildings are concerned. The value in buildings per farm in 1916 was $975; in 1921, $1,812, and in 1926, $1,825. Implements and machinery had a value per farm in 1916 of $855; in 1921, $1,479, and in 1926, $1,439.

Now let us get a picture of the live stock business. The capital invested in live stock per farm in Saskatchewan was as follows:

Year	Capital invested in live stock, per farm
1901	$ 931
1911	1,218
1916	1,851
1921	1,645
1926	1,190

It will readily be seen from the figures which I have just quoted that the capital investment in buildings, implements and machinery has practically doubled since 1916, while the capital investment in live stock has decreased by $700, or nearly 40 per cent between 1916 and 1926; and if the figures were available for the year 1930, I am satisfied that the capital investment, so far as live stock is concerned, would just be half what it was in the years 1916, and would be down to the amount of capital investment in live stock for the year 1901, which was $931 per farm. Surely the Department of Agriculture of the

late administration has some responsibility in this connection. These figures were readily available to the department at any time.

The capital investment in what might be termed frozen assets has doubled, and the capital investment in the productive end of the business, so far as live stock is concerned, has dwindled until it is now about the same as it was thirty years ago. In view of these figures it is amazing that some hon. members opposite speak belittlingly of a scheme advanced to right this situation.

I believe that the government should seriously consider the question of building a packing plant in western Canada. I am of the opinion that closer cooperation between the departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce is long past due. The operation of a government packing plant as a promotional propaganda instrument on behalf of the live stock industry looking to the opening up of the British market, and working in close cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Commerce, would ultimately find markets for our live stock and more particularly pork products.

Some will say that such a plant would not pay. Perhaps it would not. The idea of such an innovation is to get into the British market, and once properly established in that market, with the assistance, in the field and on the farms, of the Agriculture departments, both provincial and federal, I believe our farmers would soon supply the regular flow of uniform and standard products required by the export trade. Such a plant would be in the interests of the packer as much as the farmer, and is not meant in any way to supplant the packer. Opening new markets is a costly affair and with our over-capitalized packing industry in its present condition, I do not look for much relief in that direction.

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, the mover of the subamendment has this afternoon dealt with agricultural conditions. In the time at my disposal it is my intention to deal with industrial conditions as they prevail in the Dominion. Before doing so, however, I wish to make some brief comments on the speech to which we have just listened. The hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. MacMillan) has referred copiously to statistics to show how well off are the farmers in the province of Saskatchewan. Those same statistics could be utilized to show the fortunate position of the average person in the whole Dominion. According to figures which I read recently I find that the average wealth per person in Canada amounts to $2,995. On the basis of those figures my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), who happens to be the father of six children, would be worth about $24,000. The greater the per capita wealth of the individuals in a province the greater is the indebtedness of those individuals who happen to live there. The per capita wealth of the farmers of Saskatchewan is represented by mortgages and loans on their property owned by the wealthy financiers of eastern Canada. The greater their debt, or the greater their per capita wealth, just that much greater will be their difficulty to meet their obligations. So far as the speech of the previous speaker is concerned, that is all I wish to say.

My purpose in seconding the subamendment to-day was, if possible, to bring home to the government the gravity of the existing industrial situation as it affects the workers of the Dominion of Canada. So far this session the attitude of the government has been somewhat disappointing. We have had very little opportunity, in fact no opportunity at all, to obtain from the government a declaration as to what its policy may be on the question of unemployment. In the special session held last September there was a great rush to finish the work in hand because representatives of the government had to go to England to attend the Imperial economic conference. Then, some months after the conclusion of the special session we met in regular session. We experienced a similar difficulty when before the Easter adjournment we tried to discuss the unemployment problem. Again we found it necessary to rush through the estimates. A few days ago we tried once more to raise the question of unemployment but something stood in the way of allowing parliament to discuss a matter which after all is the most important problem with which we have to deal.

There has been very little said by hon. members on the opposite side of the house with regard to the unemployment situation. The few hon. members who have spoken and have dealt with labour problems have at times gone out of their way to attack the small labour group in this house. If hon. members on the Conservative side of the house wish to lodge an attack I have no objection. However it is well that we should know exactly how they stand on this question of unemployment. We have been told that the party in power assumed office with a mandate to do certain things. That is perfectly true. The mandate on which they were elected was, first of all, to remedy the agricultural condition existing throughout the country and secondly the unemployment condition which

prevailed last year. May I say that the party in power did not gain office because of its virtues. As a rule no party which attains office does so because of any particular virtues it possesses. As a rule a political party defeats itself. Prior to the last election the Liberal party managed to defeat itself either through lack of action or through not being cognizant of some of the problems which at that time were agitating the people. In July last when the Liberal party appealed to the people they were rejected because they had not dealt with those important problems with which the people thought they should deal. As the Conservative party was the only alternative naturally it came into office. They did so bearing a definite, fixed program. As stated from many platforms they assumed office for the purpose of ending unemployment. In the city of Winnipeg there was emblazoned on many a panel the statement "Vote for the Conservative party and banish the spectre of unemployment." Such statements as that had quite an effect upon the people of Winnipeg. As they affected the workers of the city of Winnipeg so they affected the workers throughout the length and breadth of Canada. As I have said the people of Canada rejected the Liberal party and placed the Conservative party in power. I would ask hon. members to bear in mind that human beings have elected us to parliament. However after my hon. friends opposite were elected apparently they thought that human beings did not count and the only things which counted were the moneyed interests. They have forgotten all about the human beings. Parliament should be an instrument to redress the grievances from which the people are suffering. Unless a parliament does that it must lose its hold upon the people of a country. The people of Canada look to this parliament to redress their grievances. The unemployed and the farmers look to this parliament for assistance and expect action from us in dealing with the questions which concern them at the present time. Has parliament functioned in that manner? Is there anyone in this house to-day who will say that up to the present time or during the past eight months this government has been in power it has functioned in redressing the grievances from which hundreds of thousands of Canadian people are suffering? I venture to say nobody in this house would be bold enough to assert that parliament has even attempted in a proper way to redress those grievances. We have heard it stated on many occasions by my hon. friends opposite that the government has carried out the promises which it made during the last election campaign. May I say Mr. Speaker, that up to now nothing of the kind has happened. It has attempted to deal with these questions. It called a special session of parliament and introduced legislation but that legislation has been entirely ineffective and insufficient to deal with the problems of the day. As many of our hon. friends opposite have said, it is quite true that the government of the day is a government of action. To be merely a government of action, however, is not necessarily of supreme importance. The important point is that we must have action of the right character and if we do not have such action it would be far better if we had none at all. I am inclined to think that some of the remedies suggested by the government to deal with present problems have proved to be no remedies at all. Because of that fact and because of the fact that to-day this parliament is not attempting to deal with those fundamental questions, parliament is losing its hold on the people. I am anxious to see this parliament assume its rightful place in the affairs of the nation. However we have now been in session since March 12, five weeks, and nothing has been done. There must be something wrong with our parliamentary system when we cannot get down to fundamentals and deal with problems with which we are supposed to deal.

Mr. COTNAM: The hon. member is talking too much; that is the reason.

Mr. HEAPS: Will the hon. member rise in his seat who made that statement?

Mr. COTNAM: I say that the hon. member is talking too much; he takes up the time of the house and does not allow parliament to function.

Mr. HEAPS: Now we have the reason parliament has not functioned. We met on March 12 at which time we were told, in the speech from the throne, that we were faced with a grave situation. Yet although we should have met two months earlier we are told we are talking too much. If my hon. friends opposite were sincere in their desire that this parliament should do something on behalf of those in distress, we should have met in the middle of January instead of in the middle of March. What have we been doing since we came down here? For my own part, I have been trying to get some action from the government, and every time I have risen in my place and asked for action I have been met with a blunt refusal; yet we are told that this is the government of action.

Now, I spoke for a few minutes on redressing the grievances of those who are down and out—the men who are out of work, the

men on the farm who are in a desperate situation. What is the attitude of the government in redressing the grievances of those who are wealthy? When our industrialists and financiers come down to Ottawa to meet the government they are given everything they ask for, and in some cases we were told during the special session that they were given even more than they asked for. What is the attitude of the government when we ask for redress for the grievances of the great masses of the people? We are told that we are talking too much, that we are wasting time. The very fact that we have been in a position almost of stagnation has tended to discount the term "politician." When you go on the street and meet a man and say you are engaged in politics, you find that the term has almost a stigma attached to it, instead of being regarded with honour. This change in the attitude of the people towards politics is owing to the fact that we sit here day after day, week after week, month after month, and, as I said before, do not attempt in a fundamental way to deal with the pressing and urgent problems that now confront the country. When the wealthy man comes to this city and asks for redress of his grievances, we almost cringe before him; but when the poor man comes here for redress of his grievances we spurn him and tell him to go elsewhere. The other day the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) told the delegation who came to see him that he was opposed to giving the dole to the workers of Canada. Certainly we are all opposed to giving men and women something for nothing. But to-day the wealthy classes of this country are receiving doles at the hands of the government, and there seems to be no limit to their desire for more of this favourable treatment. Probably when the budget comes down we shall find that a few more doles are to be handed out to our industrialists. To-day masses of our people are unemployed and suffering abject poverty, while side by side with that abject poverty we have a tremendous accumulation of wealth. I submit there is something wrong with any economic structure that forces hundreds of thousands of our kith and kin to go into the bread line or the soup kitchen in the face of all this wealth.

Now, sir, the question is, have we under these circumstances got to admit our helplessness? So far nothing has been foreshadowed, either in the speech from the throne or by any hon. minister, as to what is going to be done to meet this emergent situation. The existing economic crisis, both as it affects the farmer and the labourer in the city, constitutes a challenge to parliament, and unless we are prepared to meet that challenge I am afraid to predict what the consequences are likely to be. Day after day we receive letters of a kind that I would hate to read to hon. members. People whom we do not know, people whom we have never seen, are sending us most pathetic appeals—appeals of a character, as I have said, that it is hardly possible for one to read to the house. Yet what are we doing under the circumstances? Very little. In fact when my hon. friend from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) rises in his seat and begins to deal with our economic problems and tries to state the viewpoint of his party, he is continually met with the cry, "Russia, Russia." There seems to be a holy horror of that country on the part of certain hon. members. Russia is not causing me half as much anxiety as it seems to be causing some hon. members opposite. I have never heard any of those hon. gentlemen shout, "Italy, Italy," when my hon. friend is dealing with economic quesitons. If they are opposed to a dictatorship—and I certainly am myself—then I think it would be just as logical for them to be opposed to the dictatorship now prevailing in Italy. But I have not heard suggested in this house any tariff action against Italy because she happens to be in her present political condition. I have no need to go to Russia or to Italy to find a dictatorship, for I believe we have in this country a mild form of it. During the past few months things have been done by order in council and by individuals which really constitutes a usurpation of the prerogatives of parliament. We are having far too much government by order in council. When the whole question of dealing with tariffs, both as it affects imports and exports, and, what is more important, as it affects our relations with other countries, is dealt with by order in council then I say we are really under a mild form of dictatorship. When Denmark recently sent to this country a limited amount of bacon she was told to take it away, she could not leave it here. The attitude of the Prime Minister at the Imperial conference in London last September in regard to trade relations was to make an offer to the British government and say, "You can take it or you can leave it." We tell Russia that we will not take any of her goods, nor can she leave any. All this is being done, may I remind the house, by order in council.

May I deal briefly with the Russian situation? Twelve days or so before parliament met the government promulgated an order in council barring from this country certain

goods produced in Russia. For the moment I am not questioning whether that was a right or wrong action. Personally I am opposed to it, but my time will not permit me to go into the question fully. But I do say this, Mr. Speaker, that if the cabinet is going to take steps which so vitally affect our relations with another nation, such steps ought not to be taken by order in council, but by parliament. Then we are told with regard to dumping by other nations, and particularly Russia, against which this action was taken, that such action was necessary because Russia is dumping her goods into this country as well as into the other countries of the world. But before we condemn Russia I think we might as well look at our own doorstep. Comparatively speaking, probably no country is a greater dumper than Canada itself. I think we have already realized that fact. Every bushel of grain that we export is being sold on the markets of the world at less than the cost of production. In other words, we are selling it at dump prices. Do our government take any action to prevent the dumping of Canadian goods abroad? All they say is, "We will not allow other nations to dump their goods here." I am interested in the attitude the government have taken towards Russia. When they conceived the policy of no truck or trade with soviet Russia there were a great many hon. gentlemen opposite who thought it was an act of statesmanship on the part of the government, and they applauded the action of the government very loudly by speeches and in other ways. No congratulations were too extravagant to give to the government in connection with the action they took in having nothing to do with the soviet republic. I wonder what hon. gentlemen opposite thought—because they have said very little since—when within a week or two after the order in council was passed we invited these same people to be our guests in Ottawa. Should we not have some consistency in the actions of a government? One minute they say, "No trade or truck with Russia" and the next minute our representative at Rome says, "Come over to Ottawa and let us discuss together the commercial relationship between the two countries." Our action in connection with Russia has been answered in the dispatches which appeared in this morning's papers, in which it was stated that soviet Russia has determined to keep out the commodities which are produced in Canada.

If retaliation is the policy of the government let them remember that it can be used by both sides; it is a double-edged weapon. I think it was once described by the late Mr. Asquith as cutting off your nose to spite your face, that is evidently the policy of the government. They are merely cutting off their nose in order to spite their face, and the result of that action will not by any means improve the economic conditions of this country. We say we will not send machinery to Russia because the agriculturists of that country then will be able to compete with the agriculturists here in Canada. Well, if we do not send the machinery to Russia, is it not a fact that we are sending it to the Argentine, whose wheat is in competition with ours? Further, if Canada is not willing to supply machinery to Russia, are there not a dozen other nations in this world quite ready and willing to supply those articles? My hon. friend from Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) says that dozen includes Great Britain, but who is going to be the ultimate loser? We will lose both by reduced imports and reduced exports.

However, perhaps the most interesting as well as the most amusing thing in this whole procedure was the fact that a certain gentleman residing in the city of Montreal came out as an upholder of the action of the government. This gentleman was very much elated over the action taken by the government. He thought the government had done the proper thing; he was opposed to cheap labour, to slave labour, and he thought the action of the government should be commended. I am referring now to one of our great financiers, a gentleman who may be a very great altruist, Sir Herbert Holt, who supported the action of the government. Of course he naturally thought it was wrong to allow the cheap labour of Russia to come into competition with the well paid labour of Quebec, of which evidently he knows a great deal. But the other day the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard) and one of the members from the Montreal district dealt with labour conditions affecting one or two industries, and apparently the labourers are not so well paid as one might suppose. However, in view of the attitude which has been taken by the hon. gentleman who is now occupying the Speaker's chair (Mr. LaVergne) and in view of the fact that so much has been said about slave conditions in Russia I propose to confine myself to conditions in Canada. As I said before and as I want to say again, I am far more interested in the conditions which exist in Canada than in conditions in soviet Russia, and if we are to improve conditions anywhere I want to see them improved here in Canada.

I have in my hand a little booklet which was sent to me by a well known gentleman

who belongs to the Conservative party and who is a supporter of the Prime Minister, and of the Deputy Speaker as well. This gentleman spoke in the Quebec legislature and evidently thought his speech was sufficiently important to be reprinted and sent out to those who might be interested. This speech was delivered in the Quebec legislature on April 2, 1930, and one of the subheadings is, Economic Slavery in Quebec. The author of this pamphlet is Mr. Aimé Guertin, member of the legislative assembly for the city of Hull. I think before we start pointing the finger of scorn at other nations who may be accused of having conditions bordering on slavery in their countries, first of all we should look into our own affairs in this country and should see that our own house is in order. This is what Mr. Guertin says:

When I speak of economic slavery in our own province I am in a position to prove its existence. . . . May I say that much has been claimed in favour of the industrialization of Drummondville; yet, if my information is right, in Riviere du Loup the average is 20 cents and in Lake St. John district, it appears to be 25 per cent, including the lumber camps. . . . Right here in the city of Quebec I have made my own inquiry and questioned the men employed in the streets. To my great surprise I have learned that the prevailing rate is also 25 cents an hour; while in the city of Hull the International Paper Company has taken advantage of the unemployment situation this winter to lower the rate of pay to 20 cents per hour and, on March 6th, the central executive of the Syndicats Nationaux Catholiques of that city deemed it its duty to protest publicly against the prevailing wage rate of 25 and 30 cents per hour. This winter, in Montreal, certain companies are paying as low as 15 cents an hour in certain cases, with the result that the unfortunate workers, driven by hunger and privation, are compelled to accept such a treatment lest their families will be ruined.

Then he goes on to say:

What about the wages paid by our own government; the Department of Highways, of Colonization, of Public Works? The average rate paid is 15, 20, 25 and 30 cents for labourers working on roads and bridges as well as at the Quebec City court house construction.

Then he goes on to point out the condition at Sorel, in the shipyards:

I have yet a word to say, having kept in mind a very typical case, that of the city of Sorel where the most scandalous slavery is flourishing; yes, Sorel, the kingdom of misery and the paradise of speculators, as I have had occasion to say. Do you know that in a city of such importance, and in a regular way during the winter, a rate of $1.50 for unskilled labour and $1.75 for carpenters is paid for a ten hour day?

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, and give you some facts in connection with the textile industry in the city of Hamilton. I have in my hand communications from men employed there and from people who are in a position to know, and this is what they tell me: Since the new tariff has gone into effect there have been great reductions in wages in those industries. We in this corner who belong to the Labour group certainly are not satisfied with the conditions which exist in Canada at present. So far we have not been satisfied with the actions taken by the government. They started off as a government of action; then they went to reaction, and from reaction they have gone to inaction. We are now trying to force the government to take such action as will meet the existing situation.

I could have gone on at greater length and dealt with conditions existing to-day. I would have liked to show how the policies of this government, instead of improving the unemployment situation have in reality affected it most adversely. It may be true that some industries have benefited as a result of tariff changes, but probably for every one which has benefited two or three could be found which have suffered as a result of these changes.

Mr. McGIBBON: Why not give them to the house?

Mr. HEAPS: I would be quite willing to do so if I had the time at my disposal.

Mr. McGIBBON: The hon. member should take part of his time.

Mr. HEAPS: I am forced to curtail considerably my remarks because of the limitations imposed upon us by the forty-minute rule.

Mr. McGIBBON: The house might have been more interested in that part of the hon. member's remarks.

Mr. HEAPS: I have been accused by hon. members opposite of speaking too much and thus wasting the time of the house but now the hon. member wishes me to speak at greater length. I do not know which course I am to follow although I would have liked to satisfy both sides.

We find to-day a change of feeling. We find that throughout this country men and women in all walks of life are beginning to consider seriously the economic situation facing us at the present time. A great many people believe that it is time for a change. I do not refer to a change of government, although I believe there are many people who voting as they did last year feel to-day that a change is needed. I find it so in my constituency, and I suppose what prevails in my constituency will be symptomatic of other constituencies.

Mr. McGIBBON: Do they want the hon. member to move over to this side?

Mr. HEAPS: Yes, they do; they want our party to be the party in power.

Many people think that something is wrong with our whole economic structure; they believe that it has become top heavy and is unable to function properly. They believe the people of the country are not receiving that to which they are entitled. They find that amidst the ever-increasing wealth produced by the toil of the workers in the cities and on the farms, they are daily becoming more poverty stricken. The poverty from which the people in this country are suffering at the present time does not come about because of any shortage of commodities; it is because we happen to have too much of everything. The problem confronting us to-day is that of so adjusting our economic system as to give to every man or woman that to which he or she is entitled, that is, food, clothing, shelter and security of life. To-day they have neither clothing nor shelter, nor have they that security of life.

Unemployment now is considerably worse than it was twelve months ago, and, goodness knows, it was bad then. The seasonal employment which usually offers at this time of the year has not manifested itself. People who usually find employment in the month of April or May are still out of work. Men and women of western and eastern Canada who usually go to the farms at this season and are able to secure their livelihood, still have no work. The men on the farms will not have sufficient work and will be coming into the industrial centres and thus helping to aggravate an already difficult situation.

With the enormous wealth which we have, surely no one will deny that there is sufficient for all. If we are suffering to-day because we have too much of everything, is it beyond the possibilities of the intellect of this parliament that we should get down to business and find ways and means of overcoming the existing economic situation and thus prevent a continuance or recurrence of the conditions which exist to-day?

That is what we ask for and the government will be tested on that basis. The mere fact that it has attempted to put into effect certain changes in our tariff or has prevented the dumping of commodities into this country means very little in so far as the labourer is concerned. The real test of any government is the condition under which the people happen to be living. The test of any government is the contentment, the happiness and well being of the great masses of the people. Here in Canada the great masses of the people are to-day worse off than they have been for many years. We ask that the men, women and children of this country be given an opportunity to live a happy, decent and honourable life. I would like to see this parliament drop some of the petty, party warfare which has been carried on at times and attempt to grapple with this situation in such a way as to permit us to say that parliament has not been deaf to the pleadings of the poor people. When we leave this house at the end of the session I trust that something will have been done to remedy the existing economic conditions.

Mr. J. EARL LAWSON (West York): Mr. Speaker, I was indeed surprised to hear the confession made by the hon. member who has just preceded me (Mr. Heaps). He stated that he has ascertained from a survey of his constituency that many of that majority which sent him to this house have since the last election changed their minds and would now vote otherwise. I listened very carefully to the speech which the hon. member delivered, but like most of the speeches emanating from the group of which he is a member, I find that it contains not one practical suggestion upon which legislation might be based for the relief of the unfortunate conditions with which this country is now confronted.

The hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) said: We have had no opportunity to ascertain from the government its policy with respect to unemployment. If by "we" he meant those hon. gentlemen who sit to the left of you, Mr. Speaker, I think he would have made a more accurate statement had he said: We have given no opportunity during this session to the government to outline or define any policy with respect to unemployment. I am not criticizing any of those hon. gentlemen in opposition who have spoken during this debate because of the fact that they have spoken; this is the time and the place to express the views which they may have with respect to the problems confronting either their respective constituencies or this country. However, I do say that it does not lie in their mouths to complain because this government has not brought down those measures which they allege they desire to see brought down. Since the opening of this session, they have made on an average of four or five speeches to each one delivered from this side of the chamber. I was indeed surprised to hear the hon. gentlemen say that Conservative speakers have not discussed unemployment but have attacked the Labour group in the house. I have listened to most

of the speeches delivered; those to which I have not listened, I have read, but I have not observed in any of them an attack upon the hon. member for North Winnipeg or his colleagues. I would like the hon. gentlemen to remember that they cannot expect to rise in their places and make attacks upon the government and at the same time to remain immune, because they represent some particular class in the house.

Mr. HEAPS: I would refer the hon. member to the speech made in the house by the Deputy Speaker.

Mr. LAWSON: If time permitted I should be glad to enter into a discussion with my hon. friend concerning the excellent speech made by the Deputy Speaker, but at the moment, particularly in view of the speech just delivered by the hon. member for North Winnipeg, I should like to have something to say with respect to labour and labour men in this country.

Before doing so, however, may I digress for a moment to take the opportunity of congratulating my former classmate, the hon. member for Toronto West Centre (Mr. Factor), upon his maiden speech in this house. He gave ample evidence of intellectual capacity and fluency of speech. I was indeed surprised when I heard him, in referring to the address of the right hon. leader of the official opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) use such adjectives as "inspiring" and "masterly", while in that of the right hon. Prime Minister of this country he found only "activity" and "capacity". I was indeed surprised to ascertain that since those happy days of scholastic association he had entitrely lost his sense of humour. I hope, however, if he perseveres in listening to some of the speeches of his colleagues, he may again acquire that sense of humour, even though it be only for the incongruous and the absurd.

For example, when the hon. member for Yorkton (Mr. McPhee) was speaking, I could not help noting that he went out of his way to make an odious comparison between a little animal called the gopher which is found in western Canada, and what he called a good Tory. He said:

> For the benefit of those hon. gentlemen from the east who might not be particularly acquainted with the little animal, I may say that in many respects there is similarity between a gopher and a good Tory. The gopher is a sleek little animal and he pilfers the farmers' grain. In the day of his greatest pilfering he develops a paunch and I would say that gopherism and Toryism might be synonymous terms. They are synonymous because both are pests and humbugs.
>
> [Mr. Lawson.]

As I sat in my place and gazed at the hon. gentleman as he uttered those words, there came back to my mind two lines from Bobby Burns' "Ode to a Louse":

> Ah wad some Power the giftie gie us
> To see oursels as ithers see us!
> It wad frae mony a blunder free us
> And foolish notion.

The hon. member for South Vancouver (Mr. MacInnis), early after his entry into the house, spoke in condemnation of the procedure adopted by the house. He condemned both the right hon. leader of the official opposition and the right hon. Prime Minister because they failed to agree within a very short time upon a panacea for Canada's ills. Yet I noted that the hon. member took forty minutes to convince us that he disagreed with both, and so we were not advanced by that contribution. I would like to remind the hon. gentleman who comes here as a new member, that the standing orders and rules of the house are the result of the collective wisdom of statesmen through centuries of responsible government for the purpose of giving free but orderly expression to all phases of political thought.

The hon. member for North Winnipeg today has reiterated what has been said by some of his colleagues previously, namely, that we of the Conservative party now take a different position with respect to unemployment in this country from what we did when we sat in opposition in 1930. I believe my hon. friend fails to distinguish between the issue before parliament in 1930 and the issue as it is to-day when he seconds the subamendment. Let me ask him to go back for a moment to the session of 1930. At that time unemployment was developing and had developed in Canada to an alarming extent. That development was apparent to all of us in the house except the then government who could not or would not realize the condition which then prevailed. We of the other side believed there was a national emergency, and with a view to procuring some action during that national emergency, the hon. member for North Winnipeg moved:

> "That in the opinion of this house the government should take immediate action to deal with the question of unemployment."

Every Conservative member voted in favour of that resolution. What was the situation at that time? Liberal speakers, one after another, then on the government side, endeavoured to minimize the national emergency which then prevailed in this country. The then Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan) spoke on that resolution, but he proposed not a single measure to relieve the situation. He

told us that the then government was proceeding with public works and was encouraging the railways to go on with further construction. Our friends the Liberal government were always strong on encouraging somebody else to do something. I well remember the speech of the present leader of the official opposition. He took some pains to tell us the extent to which the government desired to encourage the provinces and municipalities to deal with the then emergent situation, not by a contribution, oh, no, but by cooperation in any discussions they might desire to have upon the question. I was reading just the other day the speech made at that time by the leader of the official opposition in order if possible to extract therefrom a definite pronouncement, if he made one, on that occasion with respect to this problem. I confess, Mr. Speaker, that I found it a very difficult task. The right hon. gentleman seldom if ever made a definite pronouncement. The most definite one that I remember during my short time in this house was the famous, "not a five cent piece to a Tory government," and that has become the epitaph on the tombstone of the late Liberal government. I did find, however, that the right hon. gentleman made this statement:

I can see nothing arising out of a recognition of this problem—

That is, of unemployment:

—as a national problem which obliges this federal government, having regard to our constitution and the division of powers under it, to collect taxes from the people generally in order to meet a situation which affects only a certain group of people in some municipalities in this country, but which does not adversely affect the country as a whole.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, at that time the federal government failed to recognize that there was a national emergency in this country, and, equally obviously, from that statement, it was not their intention to take any useful action with respect to the emergency. Under those conditions we of the Conservative party voted unanimously in favour of the Heaps resolution.

Let us consider for a moment the situation in 1931. Within six weeks after being elected to power this government called a special session. We voted $20,000,000, resulting, with the provincial and municipal contributions, in the expenditure of $60,000,000 in this country. We made some tariff changes for which we were condemned, but will any hon. gentleman attempt to prove that by reason of those tariff changes we have not created more jobs in the textile industries and in some others which I could mention? In view of that record of quick action, in view of the intimations in the speech from the throne of further action on the part of this government, do those hon. gentlemen who represent labour in this house, and who have accused us of changing our attitude, expect us of the Conservative party to vote against that government which has done so much to relieve the conditions with which we were confronted in this country?

The hon. member for South Vancouver like the hon. member for North Winnipeg, when he made a speech with reference to the unemployment situation in this country, told us at the outset that he was going to deal with the extent and seriousness of the present conditions; what steps should be taken to meet the situation; the desirability of federal investigation as to the causes, and lastly, what permanent steps should be taken to meet the situation and to provide against these ever-recurring periods of depression. I also re-read the speech of that hon. gentleman to see if I could find therein any constructive suggestion for relief of the situation. I find that he spent a great deal of time telling us of the seriousness and extent of the unemployment situation in Canada, of which the members on this side of the house are fully aware, but I could not find one practical legislative suggestion. His speech was filled with innocuous generalities. It is very easy in times such as these to be a crusader and ride the fiery steed of socialism, clad in the glistening armour of glittering generalities, but when we examine that speech we find that he made only one specific proposal, and that was when he said that the cause of unemployment was the private ownership of the means of production. To prove his case, he asked us to assume that we had all the people in the world assembled in this chamber, which by the way according to his own statement he found such a very dreary place. Then he asked us to imagine if any would go cold and hungry if we had the wealth of the world herein contained with us.

My hon. friend from North Winnipeg today has referred to Russia. Might I suggest to my hon. friend from Vancouver South that he need not take a hypothetical case, which never conclusively proves anything. He has a concrete case of the very doctrine he is proposing in that country which he has compared so frequently in this house with Canada, namely, in Russia. There you have all the means of production owned entirely by the state. Russia is the world's most gigantic corporation and monopoly. True, the individual there may own his boots or his underwear, if he is lucky enough to be able to procure any, but all the means of production are owned by the state, and yet let me remind

my hon. friend that in Russia to-day both the labour man and the agriculturist go cold and hungry, and if the labour man is not hungry, it is because he has partaken of that limited diet of black bread and a sour pickle which would not be tolerated by the labour man of this country.

I am frequently amused, and sometimes I must confess made impatient, by some of my hon. friends who represent a particular class in this house, and who seem to think that none of us in the Conservative party, simply because we were elected to represent the citizens as a whole, have the interests of the working men of this country at heart. There are many of us on this side of the house who have laboured in many activities of life. So far as I am concerned, I was born in the labouring classes. My father was an iron moulder and at one time president of the local union of the city of Ottawa. I, as a boy, have known what it was for the family to endeavour to exist on the then strike pay of seven dollars a week. I have pounded sand in the foundry. I have swung a sledge on steel in the mica mines of the Gatineau valley. I have worked in several fields of activity and endeavour, and I think I know something of the problems of labour and of the labouring people in this country. I want to say to my hon. friends who purport to represent labour in this house that if they will but advocate in this house measures which are practicable, measures which are within our legislative competence, they will receive a tremendous support from the ranks of the Conservative party. But if they merely persist, as they sometimes do, in making inflammatory speeches devoid of practical suggestion, they will not advance the cause which they purport to espouse.

The hon. member for Vancouver South, who purports to represent labour, during his speech asked a question of the labouring men of this country. The hon. member for North Winnipeg has stated in his speech that we constantly talk of Russia. I would remind him that it was in dealing with Russia and comparing it with Canada that the hon. member for Vancouver South, after detailing the unfortunate emergent conditions prevailing in this country at the present time, asked a question of labour in this country. I cannot quote the exact wording of the question, but it was to this effect: "Would not the labour men of Canada prefer the enforced labour of Russia to the enforced idleness of this country?"

Mr. MacINNIS: May I rise to a point of order? My hon. friend has paid a good deal of attention to what I said, but I would ask him to quote me correctly, if he is going to quote me at all.

Mr. LAWSON: Does my hon. friend deny that during the course of his speech he put the question: Would not the labour men of Canada prefer the enforced labour of Russia to the enforced idleness of this country?

Mr. MacINNIS: Evidently the hon. member does not know what I said. I said that in Russia there was enforced labour and that in Canada we had enforced idleness. Does my hon. friend deny that?

Mr. LAWSON: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not deny it because I did not make the statement. At my leisure, I shall consult Hansard on the point, but my recollection is that my hon. friend from Vancouver South put such a question to the labour men of Canada. I say that the question in the form in which it was put by the hon. member was not a fair one to be placed before the working men of this country nor was it one that the working men could answer. The putting of it does not in the least benefit the cause the hon. gentleman professes to espouse. A fairer question to have asked labour in this country would have been whether they desired the enforced labour of Russia at the prevailing average rate of wage of $31 per month for unskilled labour and $41 for skilled labour, or the opportunity of collective bargaining which they have in Canada. It would have been fairer to ask if they preferred the standard of living in this country with its varied diet or the black bread and sour pickle of Russia. To my mind even the varied diet of the soup kitchen in times of emergency is preferable to the conditions under which labouring men in the country to which my hon. friend referred must work. Lastly I would ask labour if they preferred the living quarters, limited as they are to some sixteen square feet and treble the rental for each extra square foot, of Russia or the opportunities for home and family ties which they have in Canada. So far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I want for the working men of this country the maintenance of the system of collective bargaining, the maintenance of family life and our fairly high standards of living. I want for them an opportunity to rear their children in the belief of a Creator and in the immortality of the soul. I want for them the maintenance of free clinics, hospitals and homes for the infirm, even though I must have them at the hands of the alleged much despised capitalistic system. I want for the labouring men in this country a continuation

of progressive and practical legislation which will give labour a larger share of the profits of production to which my hon. friends so frequently refer.

In conclusion I would like to say to my hon. friends that as one who sprang from and still considers himself as part of the labouring class I regret exceedingly the suggestion by hon. members opposite that because some measure is not brought down and passed before we have the opportunity of taking the ordinary parliamentary procedure labour in this country or the unemployed in the ranks of labour will proceed to riot and insurrection. I have great faith in the common sense of the Anglo-Saxon—and that most patient of men, the French-Canadian-worker. I do not believe that they will be in favour of conditions of riot in this country unless they do so under a momentary spell of emotion resulting from speeches delivered by some demagogic leader who is more anxious to express his own views than to advance measures which are most in the interest of labour. If hon. members would content themselves for a short time and give this Conservative government an opportunity to work out the problems of Canada, as our brilliant and honoured leader indicated prior to the last election he would do, we will make, as requested by the hon. member for Winnipeg North at the conclusion of his speech, this Canada a happier place in which to live.

May I say that I believe the labour men of Canada will express their will and their views, as they have in the past, not by riot and insurrection, but by ballot. When the time comes that they determine by their ballots that this Conservative government has outlived its usefulness, we shall bow gracefully to their decision but will carry on, in an united effort, whether it be in government or in opposition, to enact legislation not beneficial solely to one particular class but in the interest of all our citizens.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. A. M. CARMICHAEL (Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, the member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) in his speech this afternoon outlined conditions in our western country so ably and so fully that it is scarcely necessary for me to dwell at any extended length upon those conditions. True, he might have gone further than he did and not enlarged upon the truth in any particular. He might have described the terrible dust storms that that country has experienced this spring; he might have stated the conditions existing there under the present trying weather, and he might perhaps have made his description a little more dramatic. I also had the privilege of being home for the Easter recess, and for two days out of the nine I experienced the worst dust storms that I have ever seen in that western country, and I have been there for a period of some twenty-six years. If hon. members can imagine houses being dark in the middle of the afternoon, automobile drivers having to turn on their lights in the middle of the day and even then not able to see the road, and the impossibility of one who was walking along the street seeing very large buildings more than 150 yards ahead, they will have some idea of the extraordinary weather.

In my immediate district during the past year we had a good crop so far as yield was concerned, and yet the farmers after paying their threshing expenses and their hired help had nothing for their store bills, their garage and other accounts, they had nothing left to pay their indebtedness to the banks and mortgage companies, they had nothing left to pay their taxes. Indeed, in my own municipality there was but 38 per cent of the taxes paid during the past year. And what did the agriculturists have to live on during the winter and meet their operating expenses during the ensuing year? They had nothing left, not even in the districts where there was a comparatively good crop. From what I have said hon. members will readily understand what the conditions are like in other parts of the west where they have had little or nothing in the way of crops.

Last fall the farmers out there in their dire extremity looked to Ottawa to do something. There was an almost universal demand for a pegged price of wheat. Municipalities, wheat pool committees, united farmers' locals, farmers' conventions, and even our three western premiers, were unanimous in asking Ottawa to do something towards helping the struggling farmers. Their idea of what should be done to meet the situation was to peg the price of wheat at a minimum of 70 cents a bushel. Ottawa in its wisdom did not see fit to grant that request. Others thought we should have a set price on our wheat consumed in Canada of at least $1 a bushel. That did look like a reasonable request, it did look as though we had control of the wheat used in our own country, and that it would not be asking too much to set a minimum price on such wheat. But no price was set. Some wise thinkers in my own district got it into their heads that a

reasonable request would be to have a bonus paid by the government based on the number of acres that had been seeded in 1930, and that this would be a fairer method than to set a price on wheat milled for domestic consumption, inasmuch as it would give something to those who had no crop. But nothing came of that proposal. The latest request that I have received from my district is that a bounty should be paid on all grain exported; that is, so much per bushel on wheat, barley and oats. But up to the present time nothing has resulted from that request either.

Thus we have to look to the speech from the throne for any intimation of how these unsatisfactory conditions may be remedied. There is one short passage in that speech which may contain considerable hopes for us or it may not contain very much. It is this:

> It will be your privilege to consider certain measures designed by my ministers to ameliorate existing conditions, to provide further means by which our people may go forward to achieve a prosperity heretofore unattained and to furnish them with all possible safeguards against a recurrence of the present subordination to world forces.

This may mean that the government intends to do something to remedy the conditions to which I have referred. We hope so. But, as I have already intimated, it may be merely a statement with nothing to follow in the way of action.

The amendment to the speech from the throne, as has already been stated in the course of this debate, contains not much more than a negative statement. In fact, if the amendment were condensed to read: "We regret that we are not sitting over where you are," I think this would represent its sum and substance.

In the subamendment—in which I am particularly interested, and to which I wish to address the main portion of my remarks—we have outlined to the house three major requests. First, a committee of this house to investigate conditions and report; second, to consider further agricultural relief; third, a further measure of dealing with unemployment. I choose to take the latter point first, then the middle point and the first point last.

It is true that at the special session last fall by the Unemployment Relief Act we did provide a measure of relief for unemployment. No person can say that the putting into circulation of millions of dollars towards carrying on public works is not going to help unemployment. It does in a measure. Then to further assist unemployment the date for the expiry of payments from the federal treasury was extended from March 31 to, I believe, June 30. That, too, does help. But, Mr. Speaker, the portions of our country that are chiefly helped by that measure are those larger centres of population, the urban municipalities, so far as western Canada is concerned. During the Easter recess I found my own small town, with a population of a little over a thousand, was scarcely able financially to avail itself of the measure of relief afforded under that legislation, for the simple reason that municipalities are required to put up 25 per cent of the cost of the labour on any public improvement, and in addition to that, if a waterwork or sewage system is undertaken, which would require considerable piping, seventy per cent at least of the cost of such piping or equipment must be borne by the local municipality, and not more than 30 per cent can be charged to the federal or provincial government. This simply meant that a small town or village or rural municipality was practically precluded from taking any advantage under the relief legislation of the special session. They could not put up the 25 per cent of the labour plus the 70 per cent or more of the cost of the material.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, as a further measure of relief, that we continue Dominion public works in the way of Dominion public buildings. We need public buildings throughout our western country, although possibly in our eastern provinces we are very well supplied. I know that that is not the case in the west. We need post office buildings in our large towns out there, and the undertaking of public buildings or public works by the Dominion government, in conjunction with provincial governments, still would keep money in circulation and give employment to those who are out of work. Then, as another suggestion, I would remind hon. gentlemen that the Conservative party of Canada is committed to a trans-Canada highway, by a vote in this house and by a preelection pledge given last summer. They are definitely committed to a trans-Canada highway, so why not undertake that scheme now? I know finances are low; I know it is difficult to make ends meet in our federal budget, but I also know a few other things in regard to conditions in this country. I know that if a war were to break out we would find money for that purpose, so why not find it for conditions which now exist in our country, for which something really must be done? As far as Saskatchewan is concerned, we have room for the expenditure of considerable public funds on the trans-Canada highway, if it were directed through the middle portion of the province. That would give a large measure of relief to agriculturists, who need it at this time.

Now I will leave that point and take up the question of agricultural relief. This is something which the federal government also has undertaken to remedy. So far as the province of Saskatchewan is concerned, some action has been taken to give some agricultural relief. I am not sure it is all that should be done, but something has been done. The provincial government have passed what is called the Rural Municipalities Relief Act of Saskatchewan. By that act municipalities are enabled to borrow from the banks, at a rate of interest not exceeding 7 per cent, sufficient funds to grant relief to their ratepayers for the purchase of flour, coal, wood, fodder, gasoline and motor oil. The provincial government may guarantee the loan and may reimburse the municipality, and the borrowing for these purposes does not curtail the borrowing power of the municipality for any other purpose. That looks very good; it looks as though the onus is placed upon the municipalities, and if they take action relief should be forthcoming. While I was at home I learned that some municipalities did take action and are granting this relief, but other municipalities have not taken action. Their councils met and, after consideration, they decided that the scheme was not a good one for them to undertake at the present time, and they turned it down.

Perhaps if we knew all the conditions that are imposed upon a municipality undertaking to pass a by-law for such relief we would not question the wisdom of the councils in what they have done. First, the municipality must pass a by-law; second, they must have the by-law approved by the provincial government; third, the municipality must issue a note to the provincial government for the full amount of the seed grain, due in the fall of 1931; fourth, the municipality must purchase the seed; fifth, the grain must be inspected by a government seed inspector, who will come around at his leisure and make his inspection before it can be purchased and used; sixth, the price is to be the price of grain at Forth William, less the freight, plus five cents a bushel for cleaning; seventh, the seller of the seed must wait for payment from the provincial government; eighth, a caveat is registered against the farmer's land and a promissory note is taken from him by the municipality, and ninth, the municipality must collect the accounts and bear 25 per cent of the ultimate loss. When all these conditions are imposed upon a municipality, with the time almost upon them for seeding operations, I do not wonder that some of them have turned down the scheme, when you bear in mind the further fact that they carry liabilities running into many thousands of dollars in the way of outstanding taxes and other accounts which they are unable to pay. Schools are dependent upon them for further operations; telephone companies are dependent upon them as well, and there are other schemes which have been undertaken and which are dependent upon the municipal councils for their maintenance and upkeep. So we can hardly question the wisdom of a municipal council in turning down this scheme. It is unfortunate, however, for the poor farmers residing in any municipalities where the scheme has been turned down by the council. They have no hope; they are left stranded financially. I have here a letter from the secretary of the United Farmers' lodge in my own constituency. In part it reads as follows:

> The farmers in this part of Saskatchewan are in very bad circumstances this spring. Our municipal council decided not to extend relief for gas, and so forth to farmers, and I know of two cases within five miles of my place that I do not know how they can seed. One man has an engine and only four horses with about 600 acres of wheat to seed; the other man has one section of land with an engine and only two old horses. Neither one of these men has any money and cannot get any and cannot get gas for their engines without money. Both these men have large families and it is quite apparent that unless conditions change quickly the country will have to feed these families.

That is just an illustration of conditions which exist in communities where the municipalities have refused or failed to grant relief.

Then as a further measure of agricultural relief I would suggest that something be done in connection with the price of gasoline out in our western country. I am going to mention in a few moments something that has been done already with regard to the price of gasoline, but it has not been for the benefit of the struggling agriculturists. First, however, I have here a letter from my municipal council protesting against the price of gasoline and the high freight rates. They say in part:

> We find upon examination of freight bills of tank cars of gasoline coming to this point that they are billed with the rate figured on the basis of eight pounds to the gallon, and when a gallon is weighed out it turns the scale at seven pounds. The average car will run over 6,000 gallons so that the consumer pays freight as a rule on 3 tons of gasoline which is not carried by the company and never received by the dealer, which turns out roughly at $50 per car.

Then further on:

> In the present depressed condition of agriculture we are requesting the government of

the province and of the Dominion to give consideration and relief in the form of a half freight rate.

That is a suggestion which I pass on to the government, and here is another suggestion in the same connection, sent me by the secretary of a cooperative association:

We have to request that you protest in parliament against the difference in gasoline prices here and in Oklahoma where gas is reported to be selling as low as 1¾ cents per gallon in the field. In view of general conditions here it is held that gasoline prices should be much lower than they are.

I have in my hand a Canadian Press despatch clipped from a newspaper under date of March 26 of this year, which outlines the action taken by the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ryckman). I wish he were here to listen to what I am going to say. In part the clipping reads as follows:

Values for duty purposes have been fixed by Hon. E. B. Ryckman, Minister of National Revenue, on refined gasoline entering Canada from the United States. In a bulletin issued to-day to customs and excise officers values for import purposes were placed on gasoline for various refining areas across the border. The new regulations come into effect immediately.

The next paragraph gives the values fixed by the minister, and the following paragraph reads:

The effect of the new regulations is that if gasoline is brought into Canada at lower than these figures, the dumping duty automatically applies. Price cutting in some parts of the United States, which in some quarters has been described as a "gasoline war," is understood to have impelled the Minister of National Revenue to take action to prevent Canadian refiners suffering from unfair competition.

It is too bad about our Canadian refiners. They might not be able to declare as large dividends if gasoline came in from the United States where a price war is in progress, but what about our struggling agriculturists who have no money with which to buy gasoline; what about the ones of whom we heard this afternoon, eighty per cent of whom are on the verge of bankruptcy? I wish the hon. Minister of National Revenue would put on a pair of agricultural goggles for a few days through which to look; he has been looking through the manufacturer's glasses so long that he has lost sight of the farmer's viewpoint. I am sure that the government has no desire to see this condition continue. Surely the agricultural industry is of as much, if not more, importance to Canada than that of a few refiners who are trying to make all the money they can. Let them make all the money they can, but they have no right to penalize the agricultural industry by means of protection received from this government. If there is price slashing going on in the United States we should have the benefit.

I have another suggestion to make in regard to agricultural relief, which is embodied in a resolution passed at a farmers' meeting in my constituency. The secretary advised me that there were 150 ratepayers present, and the resolution reads as follows:

Whereas both our provincial and federal governments have recommended an extension of live stock production on western farms, which has resulted in an enormous increase in the number of hogs in the breeding pens in Saskatchewan, conservatively estimated at two to three times the number of a year ago and which can be still further extended,

And whereas the present high cost of processing and transportation prevents competition with Danish pork products on the British market.

Therefore be it resolved that we urge the federal government to give immediate consideration to—

1st. The construction of two or more processing plants at western points.

2nd. Establishment of an outlet for quality pork products on the British market.

3rd. Strict grading of the finished product under governmental supervision to insure that a market once established may be held.

4th. Adjustment of freight rates to reduce the heavy charges now obtaining.

The matter of interest rates has been discussed quite extensively and it is not necessary for me to enlarge upon this question. My own personal experience with the banks is that they are willing to lend money whenever there is a possibility of its being returned. One bank manager told me that he could not see any possibility of the farmer repaying even the smallest loan out of his farming operations of 1931. That is the reason the banks are not lending money to farmers. However, they are not the only sinners in western Canada in connection with the rates of interest. While I was home during the Easter recess I interviewed the manager of a mortgage company in the city of Saskatoon in connection with a mortgage which had been placed upon a farm in my home district. The amount of the mortgage was $1,500 and it had been in force some eight or ten years. I approached the manager with a view to having an adjustment made on the interest rate of 8½ per cent, and the only concession I was able to obtain was that if the mortgage could be put in good shape through the payment of last year's interest, and a further payment of $7.50 made for the writing of a new mortgage, the manager would recommend to the board that the interest rate be reduced to 8 per cent. This mortgage is being carried by a widow with four young children. She is finding it almost impossible to make ends meet, and yet she is being forced to pay an

interest rate of 8½ per cent. I could go on and enlarge in regard to land agreements, and the interest being charged. Many farmers have found it impossible to pay the interest. In some cases they have asked for a rebate and that they be allowed to continue the agreement for two or three years without the payment of interest. I hope that some redress will be made along these lines.

The next point raised in the subamendment is the formation of a committee to inquire into the economic condition. A few years ago many complaints were being received in regard to immigration. This matter was brought before the house and the government of the day very wisely referred the matter to the committee on agriculture and colonization. This committee was given a wide scope to investigate the matter; it was empowered to call witnesses, form a judgment and make a report to the house. That is what is asked for under this subamendment, that a committee of the house be formed and that this matter be turned over to it for investigation. It should have the power to call witnesses and to investigate and discuss the matter from every angle. Expert economists could be called in order that the committee might have the benefit of their knowledge.

Man's genius is great. He is able to travel on and under the water; he can travel at great speed upon the land in railway trains and motor cars, and under the land in underground trains. He is able to travel through the air at tremendous speed. He has girdled the earth with his voice by means of radio. He is able to telephone over thousands of miles and hear the voice of the person being spoken to. He is able to accomplish wonderful things through his God-given wisdom, but when it comes to a situation where there is an abundance of food—our granaries in many cases bursting with grain—and at the same time thousands of people are face to face with starvation, man seems impotent to solve the problem. We see men riding the freight trains from town to town, begging for something to eat and hunting for jobs. With an abundance of food, with vast numbers of people seeking work, we cannot bring the two together. What is the matter with us? Are the brains in this House of Commons not functioning properly? We come here from all parts of this Dominion and seek to do the best we can for those who have need of help, and surely at this time when people are actually starving, something can be done. I have seen men drop off the freight trains at my own home town and go from door to door begging a meal. I believe the majority of these men are willing to work if they can get something to do. The farmers cannot employ them to any great extent, or if they could they cannot afford to pay very much because they would be unable to get it back from the land.

I noticed when returning to Ottawa that every freight train that passed contained its quota of men taking a ride. When these men get hungry they jump off and try to beg a meal. How long are such conditions going to continue? Surely a committee should be appointed by this house to investgiate these things. If there is any remedy we should know of it. Such a condition is nothing less than a national evil. Surely we do not expect to sit here for three or four months and pass only estimates and a few amendments to acts and then go home and shut our eyes to what is going on. Surely there is some way to get around it. In my opinion a committee of this house would be the best means of inquiring into this question and I hope the government will see its way clear to adopt the suggestion.

The other suggestions that have been made as to assistance to agriculture and further unemployment relief are important, but they are not of as great importance as the appointment of a committee of the house to try to solve the problem now confronting us. Such a committee could suggest a remedy to parliament and we could then act upon it. Suggestions have been made in the house by different members. One hon. member suggested that deflation of currency would be a cure; another suggested that bringing down wages and the cost of living and tightening our national belt would be a cure. A number of splendid suggestions have been made. I hope some of them will be taken into consideration, and that we shall be able to act upon them. Therefore I strongly urge upon the government the idea of having a committee appointed by the house to take action at and report during this session. Such a committee could inquire into the cost of producing farm products, the selling price of the same, and the spread between the two. They could also inquire into the cost of manufacturing articles, the selling price of the same and the spread between the two. I notice from a report and I am informed by the Bureau of Statistics that the drop in the price level of agricultural products is much greater than that in the price level of manufactured articles. I have in my hand a statement showing that for the month of March, 1931, in comparison with the month of March, 1930, the drop in the price level of manufactured articles was 14 per cent, whereas the drop in the price of agricultural products was

35 per cent. Why is that? Are we as agriculturists to be forced to pay more than we should? A committee could inquire into that and get at the facts of the case. There are many other matters concerning which they could form a judgment and report to the house.

As a last thought to leave with the house I am going to read a quotation from a statement made by a man who is considered an authority on finance. It represents very largely my own thought, but if I gave my own thought it might not be accepted quite so readily. This is a statement by Roger Babson, of the Babson Institute, who is an authority on finance. He has this to say in regard to present economic conditions:

> Apparently people to-day are not only tired out physically, but are discouraged. They lack the faith which is essential to personal or national progress. Accompanying this lack of faith is a disrespect for law, order, and experience. Faith, to be effective, must be backed up by righteousness. Faith cannot be bought and quickly obtained when in trouble—like medicine. Faith must be acquired slowly before it is needed—like education. Faith comes through patient devotion, right living, and service to others.
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> A great mass of wage earners, executives, and young business people have never before witnessed a severe business depression. Ever since Germany declared war in 1914—with the exception of a very short readjustment period after the war ended—there has been a constant demand for labour.
>
> In view of the steady work and easy profits. . . . this new generation has felt sufficient in itself. Sabbath schools and churches have been neglected; family prayers have been given up, and Sunday has been made a common holiday. Hence, unlike previous generations, a large percentage of the people now unemployed, or losing money in business, have no faith upon which to fall back. When employed or making money, they did nothing to store up spiritual reserves, and hence have none to draw upon now that employment and profits have vanished. As a result great masses of people are discouraged and know not where to turn. The material wealth upon which they solely depended has gone. They have no spiritual wealth upon which to draw, and they are tired out physically. What is true of individuals is also true of nations.

He goes on to say:

> More religion—rather than more legislation—is the need of the hour.

I agree with Roger Babson. By legislative enactments we can cure some of our ills, but as this economist has pointed out, we can perhaps help ourselves also to cure some of our individual and national ills.

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to make a few observations before the debate closes. First I should like to say how glad I am that the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has returned from Great Britain safely and in good health and that he is now engaged in administering the affairs of Canada in a manner at least pleasing to himself. Some people are very hard to please. I recall that the present Prime Minister, when he was leader of the opposition, advocated the repeal of the New Zealand treaty, a higher tariff against the United States, and a greater trade preference to Great Britain. When the King government put the whole three into effect, he then took the position that the then government had forsaken the country. From that it will be seen that it is very hard to please the hon. gentleman.

The Prime Minister, before he returned to Canada, took the time to visit old Ireland. I know he would be received with the greatest respect in the emerald isle, both in the north and in the south, because the Irish people have always shown the greatest respect to Canadian public men. So I hope that when the Prime Minister met the President of the Irish Free State, he assured that gentleman that the Hon. Howard Ferguson, who was then Premier of Ontario, was not representing the views of the majority of the Canadian people when, during the last federal election, he referred to that gentleman in such a contemptible manner. I hope the Prime Minister assured the Irish people that it was not because of that contemptuous reference that Mr. Ferguson was afterwards appointed to the high position of the representative of Canada in London. I mention this because, when I read the statement in the press, I thought at the time it was a peculiar position for a gentleman who was contemplating that in the event of a change of government he would go over to England to unify, or "cement," as he himself said, all the countries which comprises the British commonwealth of nations.

During the last election, however, Mr. Ferguson made many statements which were not in accordance with facts. Hon. members will all have read how, for instance, he said that three of the Ontario Federal cabinet ministers would be defeated. Everyone knows now that they were all elected. He repeated time and again that the then Minister of Labour was bound to be defeated, and hon. members all know now that that was not in accordance with the facts. He also stated that he had seen train loads of immigrants being brought to this country from Europe at the public expense, and he said that he had protested to Ottawa with regard to the matter.

When he was challenged from the public platform, he said that a station agent had told him so and his protest to Ottawa had been to Sir William Clark, British representative in Canada. It is a peculiar incident that just at the time Mr. Ferguson was complaining about too many immigrants coming to this country, I had sent to me an English newspaper showing the Ontario government advertising for more immigrants and, indeed, guaranteeing them free passage to Ontario. I am sure hon. members will not forget, when Mr. Ferguson returned from Europe in 1928, the criticism that he levelled against the Immigration department. Hon. members will not forget, I am sure, how he pointed out that as long as the Immigration department used red tape, denying, as he said, the entrance of men with cauliflower ears, bow legs and squint eyes, Canada was not going to get the full complement of immigrants she was entitled to receive. I mention that just to show that Mr. Ferguson is given to misrepresentation, and those who know him best do not take all he says seriously.

I have not time, Mr. Speaker, to deal with the whole speech from the throne in forty minutes, but I can, however, agree wholeheartedly with its first sentence, which says:

> I welcome you to your duties at a time when the nations of the world are passing through a period of great economic depression.

I would like hon. members of the government to explain how it is that economic conditions have changed so rapidly and have now become world-wide, because both before and during the election the Conservatives emphatically stated throughout the country that it was only Canada that was passing through a period of depression, and that because of the fiscal policy of the late administration. I am sure that the people of Canada will accept this confession of misrepresentation, and at the proper time deal with it.

Many hon. members who have spoken have already shown very clearly that the government has failed to fulfil its election promises, especially with respect to unemployment, and as yet there has been no answer from the government benches. I think I am safe in saying, Mr. Speaker, that the views of the members of the opposition have so far been treated with an indifference which I feel sure has not been equalled in any parliament since constitutional government has been established.

I listened with a good deal of interest this afternoon to the hon. member for West York (Mr. Lawson) and was struck with the ability of that young gentleman in presenting his views to the house. I was sorry, however, to see him devote so much of his time to a criticism of the three Labour members in the far corner of the chamber. He seemed, as I listened to him, to leave the impression that the three labour members had not offered any constructive suggestions with respect to the unemployment situation. I would remind him that the government of which he is a supporter was elected to end unemployment, without any suggestions from other members of the house. I would also remind him that when the members on this side of the house asked what was the policy of the government with regard to ending unemployment or for unemployment relief, they received no definite answer. The hon. member for West York sought to leave the impression that about all the three Labour members of the house did was to indulge in inflammatory speeches. Well, Mr. Speaker, I have listened to these three members representing labour both inside the house and outside, and I can safely say that for violence, and any inflammatory tendency, their speeches do not begin to compare in the slightest degree with those that were made by leading Conservatives throughout the country during the last election campaign

I fear that the hon. member for West York this afternoon did not correctly represent the position of the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. MacInnis). The hon. member for Vancouver South, as I heard him speak the other day, was simply answering the arguments that had been made by the deputy speaker (Mr. LaVergne) as to conditions in Russia. He pointed out that it had been stated that there was forced labour in Russia, and he went on to show that while there was forced labour in Russia, there was enforced idleness in Canada, and I think every hon. member will agree that that is true. Anyone can read the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver South as they appear at page 187 of Hansard, and I am sure that the hon. member for West York, if he will read them, will agree that he did not correctly represent the position taken by the hon. member.

The hon. member for West York also complained of the lack of constructive suggestions from the Labour members of the house. Let me remind him that the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) has made many suggestions in this house which have been of a constructive nature. If hon. members will look at the order paper they will find a constructive suggestion standing there in his name. At the last regular session of 1930

the hon. member for North Winnipeg made a constructive suggestion which was supported by the Conservative party generally. But I must confess that the hon. member for West York lightened my heart somewhat this afternoon when he said that if any constructive suggestion did emanate from this side of the house, it would find hearty support in the ranks of the Conservative party. Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I anticipate that when the votes are taken on the amendment and the subamendment, which contain many constructive suggestions, these amendments will receive many supporters on the other side of the house.

There is one paragraph in the speech from the throne to which I wish to refer, and that is with regard to old age pensions. That paragraph reads as follows:

> 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.

In that connection I would point out that when my hon. friends opposite were appealing to the electors and making definite promises to them, there was no qualification whatever no mention with regard to the economic situation or the condition of the national exchequer, but a definite promise was given to the electors of this country that these things would be done immediately the Conservatives were elected to power. The Liberals knew that there was a general world-wide depression. They knew what effect it would have on the national exchequer, and they were honest and fair with the electors. But the people of Canada were promised these things in a very definite way by the Conservatives, and we of His Majesty's loyal opposition now want to see these pledges fulfilled. But no matter what steps are taken by the Conservative government with regard to old age pensions the people of Canada will not forget that it was a Liberal government that first placed this scheme on the statute books of Canada. Through this action of a Liberal government about 60,000 aged Canadian Citizens are receiving pensions to-day, and this in spite of Conservative opposition.

[Mr. Heenan.]

Although the unemployment question was one of the main issues during the election, and the present Prime Minister, with his supporters, made definite promises to end unemployment, no mention whatever is made in the speech from the throne which would indicate the end of unemployment in this country, nor is there an indication that the government intends to relieve unemployment.

I am very glad, Mr. Speaker, to be here with you having been elected again for the constituency of Kenora and Rainy River. It is generally known that my friends in that riding were given a hard time during the election; as most people know the whole resources and influence of the Ontario government were used in an effort to defeat me. You will note I said my friends in that riding were given a hard time, because it was they, and not I, who won the election. I happened to be away in other parts of Canada during most of the election campaign. However the electors in that part of Ontario were prepared. They knew every known device would be used by a few would-be politicians. The people knew that there was nothing too low for a few, a very few it is true, who were behind the Conservative candidate, and in that they were not disappointed.

What were the tactics used by a few of our opponents in that riding? Their tactics had been well considered and studied since 1923. After the provincial election in 1923 when a Conservative government was elected, road and highway work was practically closed down. The discrimination and persecution of the settlers began. That went on until 1926 when there was another provincial election, and then the gentleman chiefly responsible for advising the government had his opportunity. He was elected to represent the district promising highways, byways and roads. However, in the next general election, three years later, in 1929, he was defeated because of his neglect of the district and his failure to carry out the promises he had made during 1926 campaign. As the federal election approached, the unemployment situation was blazoned out with front page articles in the local paper, and an effort made to create the impression that it was the then Minister of Labour who was responsible for the conditions. However, although the unemployment situation is much worse since then, the same paper very seldom mentions the fact, showing quite conclusively that it was not the unfortunate unemployed about which they were concerned but rather their desire to make political capital out of the situation.

We feel certain that it was from this source the then leader of the opposition was advised at the end of the last regular session to oppose the extending of the ballot to between five and six hundred citizens located in the Patricia district north of Kenora, the reason being, as was quite evident from the words of the then leader of the opposition, at the time he opposed the measure, because the people up there did not vote right in the last provincial election. At page 2818 of Hansard, when the bill to extend the vote to the people in Patricia district was before the house, Mr. Bennett is reported as follows:

> The object of this legislation is to take from one electoral district a small area and give it to another for the benefit of the Minister of Labour because there were a few votes given in favour of the candidates whom he supported at the last provincial election.

This is but another example of the persecution and punishment meted out to people by a few politicians in that part of the country to those who do not vote for the Conservative candidate.

In connection with the paper industry in northern Ontario it was evident that members of the Ontario government who intended taking a leading part in the federal election in our particular end of northern Ontario, knew that the people expected the provincial government to press the newsprint industries to carry out their agreement with the crown, and operate the pulp and paper mills in accordance with agreements. I need not tell you the newsprint mills are not carrying out their agreements so far as operating is concerned. Generally speaking, these agreements provide that in default of the grantee keeping said pulp and paper mills in operation after the erection thereof, or keeping the required number of persons employed, the crown may revoke the right, licence, or permit to cut the forest products, and upon revocation, all rights of the grantee shall become ipso facto null and void, and all securities or moneys paid as a deposit or bonus shall be forfeited to the crown. The members of the Ontario government knew that the people in northern Ontario were fairly well acquainted with these agreements, and knew that during the election they would be asked why they were not forcing these concerns to live up to the agreements. So the Ontario authorities sat still while the strike which was pending in the mills at Fort Frances, Fort William, and Kenora, took on a serious aspect.

The employees were entitled to an increase in wages in accordance with an old arrangement, because of larger and faster machines. The men were denied this increase, and they voted to strike, and it was thought that if the men went on strike it might kill two birds with one stone. It would give an excuse to the management of the plants and to the provincial government to say that the plants were closed down because of the action of the employees, and at the same time serve as a good opportunity of breaking up the labour unions. However, that did not materialize. The men settled for less than was coming to them. The fact is that the plants have practically been closed down since that time. The Ontario government has failed to compel the companies to operate these mills in accordance with the agreement, but the settlement of the labour dispute put the responsibility where it belonged —on the Ontario government instead of on the workers.

The Minister of Lands and Forests of the province of Ontario got into a very tight corner when he was in the constituency of East Algoma. He is reported to have said that the reason the paper mills had not been operating was because of the policy of the King government. He is reported to have said that the King government permitted the exportation of pulpwood from this country and the manufacture of it in the United States rather than in Canada. Everyone knows that that argument was absurd. Supposing we were to take the word of the Minister of Lands and Forests, let me ask this government what they have done since that time to open and to operate the pulp and paper mills in northern Ontario. What have they done in regard to the exportation of pulpwood?

There was one other political trick which was attempted in my riding during the last federal election. As is known, there were many men out of employment during that time. Unemployed strangers were brought into our district on railroad trains by Conservative workers. Some of these were British trainees sent out by the British government. They had letters from the British Ministry of Labour. They were lodged in a Kenora hotel, and were used to show the letterheads on those letters of the British Ministry of Labour, and to tell workmen that the letters were from the Canadian Minister of Labour, who had promised them jobs if they came to Canada. Some of what I am telling you now, can I am sure be found on the records of the Department of Immigration, as I had an officer of that department investigate the affair at that time. Anyway, when the fraud was exposed these men were taken

out and given jobs on Ontario government highway construction while many of our own settlers in that district were denied work. This mind you, was done in the name of the Conservative party, and I ask, is it any wonder there were many decent minded Conservatives who expressed contempt with such tactics, and I am sure voted accordingly?

I could go on and tell of other tactics equally as contemptible, but I will only refer to one other. A leaflet was circulated in parts of my riding with reference to a certain fraternal society. It is so base, so vile and indecent that I will not take up the time or insult the intelligence of hon. members by dealing further with the matter at this time. The good citizens of my riding, characterized it for what it was—an infamous falsehood.

Propaganda such as this cannot help but fail in a country such as Canada, where we have broadminded, sensible, intelligent and tolerant people. It failed in my riding during the recent election. It failed because the people have known me for the past twenty-nine years. The business men knew that I had fought for the rights of that district in regard to its industrial development against great odds. The farmers did not forget that while I was a member of the legislature, I secured for them many miles of roads and highways, financial assistance for schools, and community halls, and therefore they accepted this propaganda with the usual grain of salt. The workers know me because I represented them for many years in the industrial field before I entered public life, and they did not forget that I had a hand in securing valuable legislation in their interests.

On Friday last the hon. member for East Algoma (Mr. Nicholson) referring to the member for Kenora-Rainy River, suggested it would be an excellent act if some one introduced me to the Minister of Labour from 1926 to 1930. He sought to leave the impression that I was not consistent in my attitude towards certain reforms. Well, Mr. Speaker, I am ready for the introduction, because the workers know (1) that I had a hand in securing increase in wages for settlers and workers on Ontario government work in my riding; (2) I had a hand in securing valuable amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act; (3) in securing the establishing of the Mothers' Allowance Act; (4) in securing the establishment of the minimum wage for women and girls; (5) that I secured an undertaking from the railway companies to place men in positions after being injured in their employ, when they could not follow their former positions; (6) that I moved and had passed in the legislature on April 14, 1924, a resolution to provide fair wages in industries using the natural resources of the province; (7) that I advocated in the Ontario legislature the establishing of a system of unemployment insurance; (8) that on April 14, 1924, I moved a motion in the Ontario legislature to provide an eight-hour day on all public and private industrial undertakings.

(9) The workers also remembered that after the change of government in 1923 the Conservative government introduced a measure in 1924, designed to destroy the Workmen's Compensation Act, and they knew that I, as their watchdog, raised the whole Labour forces of Ontario to protest against this measure, resulting in having the bill withdrawn on its second reading. I happen to have a copy of the Toronto Evening Telegram, of July 22, 1924, which comments upon this action at that particular time. It says:

> The bill was withdrawn, although the government was, even at the time it withdrew the measure, mystified at the sudden manifestation of opposition. Then it was learned that Peter Heenan, who is a member of the railway brotherhoods had sent out frantic wires to the various lodges within his reach, asking them to oppose the bill.

The Toronto Telegram stated further,

> There is little doubt but that the provincial government will at the next session of the legislature again bring in its bill to reconstruct the Workmen's Compensation board by creating a board of review.

In that connection, Mr. Speaker, let me point out that although the Toronto Telegram, which paper is very close to the Ontario government, prophesied that the measure would be introduced at the next session, seven years have passed, and I am glad to say the measure has not been reintroduced since, and I doubt if it ever will be.

Now, coming to federal affairs, I want to introduce the member for Kenora-Rainy River to the Minister of Labour from 1926 to 1930 for the benefit of the member for East Algoma. It will be found that during that period there was passed, in the interests of the workers, such legislation as (1) the Union Label Act; (2) the extension of fair wages policy to the industries using our natural resources and coming within the jurisdiction of the federal government; (3) the passing of an order in council to prohibit the bringing into Canada of labour under contract; (4) the establishing of the eight-hour day for government employees who were required to work longer than eight hours, without any reduction in wages; (5) the inauguration of a national council for the Civil Service; (6) the passage of an act to give a measure of justice to postal

workers in western Canada; (7) the passage of a bill to provide pensions for all Canadian National Railway employees; (8) an act to provide an eight-hour day and fair wages on public works and on all public contracts; (9) and the passage of what I consider the most humane of all measures, an act to provide an old age pension system for Canada; an act, by the way, which, although declared by many Conservatives as unworkable, is to-day paying out pensions to approximately 60,000 Canadian aged citizens.

(10) The workers also know that the King government referred the question of unemployment insurance to the provinces and that some provinces have declared in favour of legislation to this end.

The workers knew also that during the four years I was Minister of Labour I endeavoured to the best of my ability to give them a square deal, and a square deal is all the workers of Canada ask for. They also knew that during that period the wages of the workers increased on an average of over 15 per cent; and by the way, although the Conservatives promised during the election higher wages, the wages of the Canadian workers to-day are being reduced. Yes, Mr. Speaker, let me tell the member for East Algoma, I consistently advocated a permanent system to deal with unemployment before I was a member of the cabinet, and while I was a member of the cabinet, and that I intend to persist in advocating the establishment of such a scheme.

The members of the Ontario government who were opposing me during the last election, and their henchmen, knew that the workers in my constituency would not forget those things, and so they attempted to misrepresent my position with respect to the national highway. In order that the house may understand the matter I propose to give a brief history of this proposed highway. My first official connection with it was at the formation at Dryden, Ontario, in the month of November, 1919, of an organization known as the Central Canada Colonization and Highway Association. Let me say that at the formation of this organization, with representatives from Manitoba to east of the head of the lakes, no suggestion was made that the federal government should contribute towards its construction. In March, 1920, the executives of this organization, with a prominent Conservative as its president, presented a memorial to the Ontario government, requesting the construction of the highway, and not one word or suggestion was made as to a contribution of one cent from the federal government. I was the Member for the Kenora district in the Ontario legislature. I urged the government to send surveyors out, which was done, and in 1921 contracts were let to stump and grub the section from Kenora to the Manitoba boundary line, and some grading was done between then and 1923.

The government changed in 1923 and the work was practically closed down. I urged the new government to continue the work which had been started. In 1921 Hon. James Lyons, then Minister of Lands and Forests, made a statement at a public meeting at the head of the lakes which can be found in the Fort William Times Journal of May 30, 1924. He definitely promised that the highway to the Manitoba boundary would be completed within three years and that the road eastward to the Sault would be undertaken at once and completed within the next seven years. Again there was not a word of suggestion that the federal government should contribute anything towards the cost. The work was not proceeded with, except in a very small way, notwithstanding the fact that the promise was repeated many times afterwards. During the 1926 provincial election the Ontario government again promised the highway, but after the election the people were again disappointed.

In 1926 I had the honour to be taken into the federal cabinet, and it was after that that a few politicians thought it would be a good political move to raise the cry of federal contribution. They thought that this would serve two purposes; it might have the effect of embarrassing the King government, and at the same time of making the citizens in that part of the country forget the definite promise made many times, and it would serve as an excuse for not fulfilling of those promises. We find that in the Kenora Miner and News of June 4, 1930, the Minister of Lands and Forests is reported to have said at Sault Ste. Marie, on June 3, 1930, that the prosecution of this work depended to a large extent on the attitude of the Dominion government. He said that the Dominion government had not yet accepted the proposal of the province to undertake the work on a 50-50 basis. The citizens of my part of the country have been hoodwinked, betrayed and disappointed by these political gentlemen, but in spite of all this I was elected again.

I want now to make these gentlemen swallow their deliberate misstatements. I hold in my hands sessional paper No. 96, which was brought down upon my motion for the return of all correspondence between the two governments in connection with the highway. I

have here the answers from all departments of the government, showing there was not one line or one word of correspondence from these departments making such an offer as Mr. Finlayson stated, or even a request for any assistance. However, I am glad the question has been raised, because it is quite evident that the Ontario government never intended to do much but play politics in connection with this highway, but now we have a definite promise, made by the present Prime Minister during the last election, that the federal government would construct a national highway, and I am glad to have been elected to remind the government of that pledge.

The people in northern Ontario want action, Mr. Speaker; we want a highway built. We do not want any more political trickery, and let me say that no matter how much money is asked for this highway, it will have my support and vote. No matter how much a Conservative government spends on this highway it will not compensate the people of northern Ontario for the many years they have been deprived of it, because of the political manoeuvring of a few politicians.

Mr. I. D. MACDOUGALL (Inverness): Mr. Speaker, we have had rather an unduly protracted debate, and were it not for the fact that I made certain specific promises to certain of my people in the province of Nova Scotia I would not for one single instant prolong this debate.

It is customary on an occasion of this kind, Mr. Speaker, to convey congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the address. May I mingle my felicitations with those already offered by hon. gentlemen on all sides of the house on the very high degree of excellence to which each of these speakers attained in his maiden speech in the House of Commons. To those of us in whose veins pulsates French blood it was a matter of great satisfaction that the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Bennett) should have selected to move the address in reply a French speaking member of the House of Commons. He has thus exemplified his high regard for the language of that cultured race and his determination to see that language given its proper position at all times in the parliament of Canada. To those of us who come from the maritime provinces it was particularly gratifying that the French speaking member who moved the address was a member of the French Acadian race. The achievements and sacrifices of that splendid race are written large upon the pages of maritime history. They constitute to-day a very large percentage of our population, and they make a notable contribution to all that is best in our economic, social and intellectual life in the maritime provinces. Coming as I do from a constituency which is thirty-five per cent French Acadian I wish to thank publicly the right hon. Prime Minister for the signal honour which he has done to this great race by selecting for the first time a French Acadian to move the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

As I listened to the marathon effort of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), there was brought to me as never before the full realization and significance of that ancient but pithy expression, "The mountain laboured and brought forth a mouse." In extenuation of his four and a half hour speech my right hon. friend said that for months he had maintained a stoical silence, that he had locked himself up in the fastnesses of Kingsmere in order that he might not embarrass the government. Well, Mr. Speaker, does my right hon. friend suppose that at a time of economic necessity like this, the sole function of a leader of an opposition is to embarrass a government which is trying to carry on the business of a country? Surely he would not suggest that for a moment. In regard to the stoical silence that he maintained, may I say that the right hon. gentleman is leader of a certain section of public opinion in this country. He is the leader of what was once a great political party, and the people of Canada had a right to expect a constructive contribution from him. If there was anything of constructive nature that he could offer as a solution for the problems which confront the Canadian people at this time, I think he did not do well to remain silent during those months.

My right hon. friend's speech dealt first with the record of his administration. Well, Mr. Speaker, there is no need to take up the time of parliament in following my right hon. friend there. That record was discussed in every constituency in the Dominion of Canada from Cape Breton to Vancouver, and on that record my right hon. friend and his administration were judged by the people. A great majority of the people of Canada judged that as a result of that record my right hon. friend henceforth should sit over there rather than over here. So there is no necessity to follow my right hon. friend when he talks about legacies, though I did notice that when he spoke about the legacies left by his administration he rather conveniently forgot to mention that during the time his administration were in power they brought about an increase of $500,000,000 in the funded debt of the Canadian National Railways. That was

one legacy which his administration left to the taxpayers of the Dominion of Canada, but he did not mention it. However, after all, as I have said, my right hon. friend has been tried upon the record which he paraded in that four and one half hour speech, and on that record he has been condemned, so why resurrect a political corpse? Why should we flog a dead horse?

Now I wish to take up some of the other points in the speech of my right hon. friend. He then proceeded—I make this statement very candidly— in a manner which I think was unworthy of his culture and his high intellectual attainments, unworthy of the very important position which he holds in the public life of this country. He tried by subterranean methods to create in this country the impression that the right hon. gentleman who is leading the government is a czar or a dictator, that in him the ego is exaggerated. I think that was very unworthy of my right hon. friend. It offers nothing of a constructive nature either to the people of Canada or to this parliament. The leader of a great political party should not in this house stoop to the use of what cannot be otherwise described than as cheap, demagogic language.

Continuing as to the use of the personal pronoun, he attributed autocratic tendencies to my right hon. leader, but may I suggest that if any hon. member of this house will take the trouble to read the speech made by my right hon. friend he will find that the personal pronoun "I" is used in such statements as, "on such and such a date I said this," or "on such and such a date I argued this" exactly 797 times. When my right hon. friend accuses the Prime Minister of egotism I would suggest that he first "cast the beam from his own eye."

My right hon. friend had something to say about the embargo which has been placed against importations from Russia, forgetting, with that lack of consistency which has ever been the dominating feature of his public life, that in 1927 he did exactly the same thing. One of the reasons why we have a disturbed economic condition throughout the world is because of the tactics adopted by Russia. What is the philosophy behind the Russian five-year plan? Some hon. gentlemen may not like my saying so, but the philosophy behind that plan is to depress wages in Russia to a point where production can be carried on at the cheapest possible rate and to dump the products thus produced on the markets of other countries so that they in turn will have to depress wages, thus causing industrial stress and turmoil leading to revolution in other parts of the world. Let me read a statement made by the right hon. gentleman when he was far removed from the passion and prejudice of politics. I quote from Industry and Humanity, where he says:

> Where consumers extend their patronage to unscrupulous competitors, a handicap is immediately placed upon those who are preserving peace in industry and securing the welfare of working people.

That is what motivated the action of the right hon. the Prime Minister. He was trying to preserve peace in industry in Canada and other countries of the world when he placed an embargo upon importations from Russia. However, there is another phase to this Russian question, and I think the house and the country are indebted to the hon. deputy speaker (Mr. LaVergne) for bringing it to their attention. Some people may not wish to speak about it, but there is a philosophy behind bolshevism. It is not only an economic theory. The churches in Russia which were built to render adoration to an eternal God have been turned into places of amusement. The marriage contract is no longer recognized. The sanctity has been taken from that which has been the very bulwark of western civilization. What is the position of woman to-day in Russia? She is used merely as an instrument to satisfy the worst animal passions of man. That system which strives to drive out of the human heart the love for an adoration of an infinite God, R. B. Bennett says shall not prevail in Canada, in spite of what the leader of any other party in this house says.

I notice that my right hon. friend did not spend very much time in discussing unemployment. That is a very delicate question with him. He attempted to criticize my right hon. leader because he had made available to the unemployed people of this country a sum of $20,000,000, which in turn permitted of an expenditure of some $80,000,000 by the different provinces and municipalities. What is the record of my right hon. friend on this question of unemployment, and what is the record of the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Heenan)? I remember standing in my place here before the dissolution of parliament and asking the hon. gentleman, who at that time was the Minister of Labour, how many unemployed there were in Canada, and as I asked that question I knew that at that time there were 200,000 Canadians out of work. My hon. friend would not reply to that question because he said that it was not a gentlemanly question to ask in parliament. That was his contribution to the unemployment problem. Then we have the famous speech of my right hon. friend, which speech has

gone down in political history and will remain there as perhaps one of the most shameful public utterances ever made by a public man in a high place in the parliament of Canada.

My right hon. friend then dealt at great length with the Imperial economic conference. As I said before, my right hon. friend has not the greatest reputation for consistency, and when one makes a speech of that length it must be very hard to be consistent. It is said that the devil gets into a long prayer; he certainly gets into a long speech. As an example of the inconsistency of my right hon. friend, I would mention his criticism of the Prime Minister for not making known at the special session what he was going to say at the Imperial conference. The words of the right hon. gentlemen appear on page 29 of Hansard, as follows:

> I want to say to my right hon. friend that he did not treat parliament fairly in his attitude with respect to the Imperial conference. I asked him politely at the beginning of the special session to give us a statement of what he intended to do at the Imperial conference, to make known his policies. He was also asked by, I think, the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Garland) to advise parliament along those lines. He spoke on the Imperial conference two or three times, but he never told this house what he had in mind. I say that was not fair to parliament and it was not fair to the country.

Then on page 31 he said:

> I say he should tell us very plainly what his particular policies are going to be, and his attitude with respect to the questions which may come up at the Imperial conference.

The house then rose for dinner, and after recess my right hon. friend took up again the question of the Imperial conference. He spoke about the atmosphere that should be created, the method of approach that should be followed and said, as appears on page 33:

> It is important to keep in mind that conferences are exactly what they are termed to be —they are conferences. They are neither cabinets laying down imperial policies, nor are they parliaments in which members meet to discuss in public matters of mutual concern. Unless it were understood there was to be a certain method of approach and a certain amount of privacy thrown around the proceedings at the outset, it would be impossible to get governments to go into conference with each other. If my right hon. friend says that all that is to be discussed at a conference ought to be proclaimed from the rooftops right from the outset, that all should be made known, I would say that if that is to be the known procedure, governments will refuse to go into conference with each other. They must be secure to a certain extent at least until all positions are known against having their positions publicly criticized.

Yet for half an hour he criticised my right hon. leader because he did not tell, at the special session of the House of Commons, just exactly what he was going to say at the Imperial conference.

There appears to be in some quarters an impression that the Prime Minister of Canada should have gone to the Imperial conference bearing in one hand an olive branch and in the other alms for the British people. Why should any prime minister of Canada have to go to England bearing an olive branch? In 1914, 500,000 Canadians went overseas each bearing an olive branch of good-will towards the empire, and in bearing it aloft, 50,000 of them died. Why should there be any estrangement between Canada and Breat Britain? To talk about estrangement and strained relations is the merest nonsence. No matter what government may be in power, whether it be Liberal or Conservative, the heart of Canada is British to the core, and there will never be strained relations between Canada and our great motherland. As regards going overseas, offering alms such as my right hon. friend was going to offer in the Dunning budget, may I say that the honour, glory and reputation of the British people, the British spirit itself, were never built up on the basis of special privilege or on the receipt of alms. The British people do not want anything of that kind.

I fear there is a motive behind all this talk about strained relations with the motherland. At the Imperial conference the Prime Minister achieved a personal triumph never achieved there before by any other prime minister in the history of Canada, a fact attested to by the better press of England. Another thing that I believe never happened before in an Imperial conference is that the Prime Minister gave a lead to all the other British dominions and was followed 100 per cent by the premiers of those other dominions. But apart from all this, the central point to remember about the Imperial conference is that it is not over. No one on that side or this side of the house or out of it can say that the Imperial conference has been a failure. Why all this talk by my hon. friends opposite about strained relations with England? Because they know the Imperial conference is meeting in August for the first time in Ottawa, the capital city of our country, and they are trying to create an atmosphere of prejudice, because they are afraid, not that the Imperial conference will fail, but that it will be a success. I say to the representatives of the once great Liberal party: if that be their attitude—and no other explanation of their conduct is possible—in regard to this matter—

Mr. FRASER (Northumberland): We want to prevent further mistakes.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: The hon. member ought to repeat that to the people of his constituency. I think they will prevent any further mistakes.

That is the position with regard to the Imperial conference, and I say to the leader of what was once and may yet again be a great party in Canada, the Liberal party, that to take an attitude of trying to create a prejudice about the conference before it sits in Ottawa, is doing poor justice to himself and none at all to the great party which he leads and the great Dominion to which he belongs.

There are a few matters of a provincial nature to which I wish to make reference. Some time ago—and this is why I have participated at all in this debate—I gave a promise to the representatives of 13,000 coal miners in Nova Scotia that I would try to see that in the budget to be brought down something would be done for steel and coal in that province. My right hon. leader (Mr. Bennett) is not in his place to-night, but I want to convey this message to him now, that the people of Nova Scotia are intensely sincere and in earnest about this question. There is no need to elaborate it. The arguments in favour of a national fuel policy were presented to my right hon. leader and the members of his cabinet by a man whom I consider to be the ablest man who ever entered public life in Nova Scotia since the days of Sir John S. D. Thompson. I refer to the present Premier of Nova Scotia, the Hon. Gordon S. Harrington. Nothing can be added to that case. The arguments were presented and the cabinet have the matter before them. I wish to say frankly and fearlessly to my right hon. leader and his associates in the cabinet that if, when that budget is brought down, there is nothing in it for steel and coal, I certainly, on account of the promises I have given to the miners in Nova Scotia, will not be able to vote for the budget unless it makes some provision for the steel and coal industries in my province.

Another question of great importance to the province of Nova Scotia is one that has been much discussed by our people; it is one upon which there is practical unanimity, and it is that the people of Nova Scotia feel that they should have the Canadian Pacific railway extend into that province. They feel that they ought not be the only province in Canada to be denied the public service that can be rendered by this great Canadian institution. I make that statement not to deprecate in any way the splendid work being done by the Canadian National Railways in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada. We feel it would be of great economic benefit to Nova Scotia if the Canadian Pacific Railway could be induced to enter that territory. Nova Scotia needs the Canadian Pacific Railway; the port of Halifax needs its ships, and I suggest to my hon. friend the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) that he should take under advisement the question of calling a conference between Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways, Mr. E. W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific, all the members of parliament from Nova Scotia, Liberals and Conservatives alike—for this is not a political matter—and representatives of the city of Halifax, to see if satisfactory terms cannot be arranged for the entry of the Canadian Pacific into Nova Scotia.

One other question in which we in Nova Scotia are all interested is that referred to by the ex-Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan), the matter of old age pensions. Certain specific and definite promises have been made in that regard, and the people of Nova Scotia, who were unable to participate under the old act, because it would cost them $2,000,000, and the drain on the treasury would have been too great, expect that this government will substantially increase the federal contribution for that purpose. I hope that will be done. I know how difficult the financial situation is, but I hope the people of Nova Scotia will be enabled to take advantage of an old age pension scheme under which the federal government will pay the major portion, because the finances of the province do not permit them to take advantage of the act as it stands at present on the statute books of Canada. Those for the moment are the matters in which we are particularly interested in the province from which I come.

Canada to-day is passing through a period of depression. We have been caught in the backwash of a world-wide depression. There may be a disposition on the part of certain sections of our population to be pessimistic, to think that the future of Canada lies behind us, to think that we cannot emerge from the difficulties that confront us. Let me say, sir, that this is no time for a spirit of pessimism, this is no time to peddle pessimism or to spread gloom. This is a time in our country's history for courage and vision and for constructive statesmanship such as is being offered by my right hon. leader. It is a time for cooperation between political parties, and if we do cooperate, if we have confidence in ourselves and in our country, confidence in

our resources and in our illimitable possibilities, Canada will emerge triumphantly from this period of depression, and emerge sooner than any other country in the world. To those who are gloomy about the outlook may I quote, in closing, the words of the poet Lowell, applied in a different direction but I think equally applicable to Canada to-day, "Her mirror is turned forward to reflect the promise of the future, not the past."

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): I do not propose, Mr. Speaker, in the short time at my proposal to enter into any attempt to analyze the statements that have been made by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Macdougall). I congratulate him upon his eloquence and upon the extraordinary ability he has displayed for debate, even if it be debate of a political character. I would submit, however, that in his latter sentences he discussed the necessity of abandoning what he called pessimism. I agree with him. He offered as his substitute for realism that amazing outworn, useless trash and balderdash known as having faith that we will somehow or other in the future because of our inherent resources, and so forth, pull out of the present depression. We have heard that in every depression; but it has not prevented their recurrence. A thing which this house and all members even like my hon. friend should be interested in is rather the permanent solution of the situation such as has recurred now for at least the fifth or sixth time in the history of this country.

Before I get down to the material that I wish to discuss to-night, may I felicitate His Honour the Speaker upon his elevation to that position and convey my congratulations to all those—I include them all—who have taken part so earnestly and so sincerely in this debate.

I also wish to tender my heartiest welcome to the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) on his return not only to health but to us in this house. I have sat with him for some time, and I have always found him to be a very fair but a very vigorous political debater.

Much has been said about agricultural conditions and the depression in agriculture. I intend to refer to this later, but first I feel it my duty to deal with another problem which is also of interest to my constituency. We have thousands of miners who are dependent on the coal industry. The conditions in those districts this year were positively deplorable. I could if I would, but I have no desire to do so, harrow the very heart of every man and woman in this house, with actual stories of the misery and suffering that these people have had to endure as a result of the conditions under which they are now placed because of unemployment. I could tell them of children fainting in school for lack of food, of men who dropped over on the streets because they had given everything they had to their families. I could tell them of men without a day's employment for months on end, and without a cent of income. I could also point out that these municipalities in many cases are so poverty-stricken as the result of long-continued depression in the industry that they are not even in a position to cooperate with the federal and provincial governments in providing the direct relief necessary. I have in my hand a letter from one of those districts, the Rosedale district, in which there was temporary employment this year. I am informed that this letter was written following a meeting of the Rosedale local of the United Mine Workers of America, in full session of 310 members. They respectfully wish to bring to my attention the fact that they have had only twenty six day's work in three months. Only twenty-six day's work in three months, and only a part of the population actually working. The letter continues:

> We are sadly in need of work of such a nature as will enable us to carry on. Partial relief together with the odd day's work in the mines would keep us going. This of course does not include the Star mine of about 150 miners, who are in a similar position.

I have other letters here much to the same effect, pointing out that even in the town of Drumheller where an attempt has been made to meet the situation, on March 17th last provision had been made for only $3.25 per week per family of five persons. In all humanity and decency, how can we expect a family of five to maintain themselves even in food alone on a sum of $3.25 per week? Fortunately that did not endure too long. I find by a subsequent letter that the married man on unemployment relief is now allowed $6.40 a week. No provision has been made for the single men; the municipality apparently is not in a position to make provision for them. In inviting the attention of the house to these facts, I would urge the government to make some real effort to solve the problem of the coal miners in my province. It is a problem that has been enormously hampered by the over-capitalization and overdevelopment of the mining industry. This ministry is not itself directly responsible for the problem. Previous ministries have helped to create it. I remember that my hon. friend from Macleod (Mr. Coote) and others of this group visited the ex-Minister of the Interior

(Mr. Stewart) time and again and suggested that all leases should be cancelled that were in arrears, that no new leases should be given to others, that the entire industry should be limited to the then existing development. Our representations were apparently in vain. The transfer of the resources has now taken place, and cooperation between the two governments may be necessary. Legal aspects will be involved which may complicate the situation further. But irrespective of all that, I do urge upon the ministry with all the strength I have that they make some effort to solve the problem of many thousands of miners in my province who are without a future.

We heard much during the last election campaign of a fuel policy. I have waited patiently for some pronouncement from the ministry, either during the recess since September or during this session, with respect to that matter. None is forthcoming. I do not know what the government is going to offer to the coal industry in Canada, but I am almost despairing of any action because the right hon. the Prime Minister on his return from England gave an interview to the press, which I find reported in the Morning Albertan of January 23rd last, as follows:

> The working out of a national fuel policy is an easier matter on paper than in actual practice. His own view was that the fuel problem would probably be solved by chemists and scientists.

What a ghastly come-down from the brave words spoken at the time of the election! Then all that was necessary was to elect the right hon. gentleman and his party, whereupon at once some mysterious and magic fuel policy would emerge that would rehabilitate the industry, give it full working time and ensure its progressive growth. On top of that my hon. friend the Minister of Mines (Mr. Gordon) quite intelligently but quite depressingly made a speech in Toronto on February 16 in which he intimated, by implication at least, that because of the tremendous cost of moving coal from the west down to the central provinces where it is required—$53,000,000 annually—the difficulty was apparent. I agree with the hon. minister, but that does not absolve the administration from the responsibility placed upon it in connection with the opening up of all these mines and permitting the over-capitalization and over-expansion of the industry without regard for markets. However that is a problem this government has inherited; I wish them well and will give them all the cooperation I can in its solution.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make one further remark in connection with the local situation. Hon. gentlemen opposite are sometimes inclined to discount some of the descriptions of conditions recounted by hon. members in this corner of the house. Particularly do I notice their interjections and expressions of disgust, at least of disapproval, of the utterances of my hon. friends in the Labour group. It is claimed that even I exaggerate at times.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I do not see how anybody could exaggerate existing conditions. The English language does not provide words which could exaggerate them. I would recommend that hon. members go down to the Union mission some evening when they have nothing else to do and see the men lying around on the floor with vermin crawling from one to the other. They could see the conditions under which those men live, and they are not all men who do not want work either. Many of them are very decent Canadians. Probably hon. members would prefer to go down to the veterans' shelter. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the veterans' shelter—think of it! The present administration assumed office on the strength of promises it had made to solve unemployment, and yet the situation is so bad in this city that the members of the Canadian Legion, finding that the returned men were walking the streets or lying on the floor in the Union mission, of their own volition created a little institution down on Wellington street that has been a life saver for many veterans. The institution subsists chiefly through voluntary contributions from friends among the legionaires. A newspaper item published recently, describing what this institution had done, stated that during the winter they had given 450 unemployed veterans shelter. They had given 35,000 meals and 10,000 beds. Think of it, four hundred and fifty returned men, veterans, of the city of Ottawa, subject to the charity of their fellow veterans under an administration that was going to cure or remove all these difficulties. Yes, Mr. Speaker, to such a state have conditions come. When the men who served overseas cannot find employment and are forced to walk the streets or take shelter in missions of welfare societies it is most unfortunate. I visited the shelter and I want to pay tribute to the splendid work being done by the committee in charge.

I have no hesitation in mentioning the names of those men. They are Lieutenant Colonel Girouard, Captain Wayling and P. R. Cronsbery. These men not only have tendered their services unselfishly and generously but

from time to time in order to keep the work going have undertaken to make collections from among their friends. Also they have secured some assistance from the city council. The men aided in that institution are not floaters or drifters or non-workers; they are decent self-respecting Canadians who served their country overseas. Is it not a disgrace that in a country where we have an abundance of everything, our returned soldiers should be forced to walk the streets or be subjected to the charity of their fellow soldiers? Is it not enough to make one believe that there might be some truth in the lines scratched on the rock at Gibraltar about one hundred years ago by a sentry on duty—words that may still be found there:

> God and the soldier all men adore
> When danger threatens in time of war;
> But when war is over and peace is plighted
> God is forgotten and the old soldier slighted.

We have a situation in industry and throughout the nation to-day that is the nemesis of a competitive, commercial, capitalistic system based on profits and interest rather than on human needs and requirements.

My hon. friend who has just taken his seat may declaim as he will against Russia. With much that he has said I agree. I come to him however and ask a question: Show us how the capitalistic system has justified his optimism. Mr. Speaker, I say to you that as surely as I am standing in my place to-night this system under which we have suffered so long is undergoing a drastic and rapid change. The change may be imperceptible to many of you; but it is changing, it must change. There is no use for the lotus eaters either opposite me or to my right to console themselves with the pleasant drug of fatuous optimism and say that things will right themselves in time. Things will right themselves under the existing intelligence and education of our people only when a greater measure of justice is done to them than has been done in the past. If you wish, I could give corroborative evidence of the condition of affairs. Let us take for example the president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad. The president of that great capitalistic concern, making a speech not long ago in the city of Philadelphia, had the temerity to say in an open meeting that he would steal before he would starve. When a man in that position would make such a statement what can we expect of the unfortunate who have not anything to keep themselves or their families, who go home to their crying children and weeping, depressed underfed wives? My hon. friend who has just taken his seat may not like to hear these things, but they are inevitable. The government must take the necessary steps to assist in the modification of the system, in so far as we can as a nation, to prevent any crack and break which must come. I would presume that a Presbyterian minister would be a respectable witness, would he not? A Presbyterian minister, Rev. Jesse H. Baird, has said:

> Within a month a discouraged man stood in my study and wept out those words, applying them to himself. "I am one of the men the world doesn't need. It has decided that a lot of us must either beg, steal or starve."
>
> The criticism hurled by the radicals is just, that our civilization is organized for the protection of property rather than for the protection of life.
>
> If a group of hungry people should attack property in our city and try to appropriate it for their needs you and I would have policemen there to kill them if necessary rather than allow them to take the property.
>
> But if one of these cold mornings some family should be set out on the sidewalk without shelter, food or raiment, because they cannot get work in order to get money to pay their rent, there would be no officer of the law present, as your representative or mine, to stop the process in the interest of human life.
>
> In fact, it would be our officer of the law who would be throwing the people out on the sidewalk, for the protection of the property rights of the landlord.

Yes, kick them out on the street. There is as keen an indictment as can be made of the system under which we operate. The day is past when interest, dividends and poverty should take priority over human rights. Every man or woman in this country is entitled to a living and entitled to an opportunity to work at a wage which will supply not only him or her with the necessities of life but will give a measure of that culture to which he or she might aspire.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I approach the biggest problem in Canada at the moment, the problem of our wheat. Probably my remarks should embrace all forms of agriculture, because we are all more or less affected in some degree. Here we have this great industry, the first source of Canada's wealth, the first occupation of our people, 33 per cent of all the population of Canada directly employed or directly sustained by it, producing 51 per cent of our exports in normal periods and 38 per cent of the annual production of the country. To what a pass has it come! You have heard the speech of the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) this afternoon, you have heard other speeches from members in this corner of the house, also from members to my right, you have heard even from hon. members opposite, western

Conservatives, who have come down here and painted a dismal and gloomy, but truthful picture of western conditions, and no one has overpainted the actual conditions. Yet we find that Mr. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, admits "it is axiomatic that Canada cannot achieve prosperity until the western situation is relieved." True. We turn to a memorandum presented to the Minister of Agriculture by the organized farmers of Ontario, in which they say:

Agriculture in Ontario may be said from the economic standpoint to be in a deplorable state.

So we are not alone in our misery in the west.

Of course some of our urban friends are not yet persuaded that this is true. The farmer to them is surrounded on every side with the necessities of life; they do not see him standing in the breadline with the unemployed and penniless. Yet, if immediate settlement were demanded for all loans, mortgages and current liabilities, all that keeps him from the breadline would vanish.

That is the opinion of the officially organized farmers of Ontario. I could give other quotations indicating the importance of this industry to the country, but I need not go further than cite a speech made in this house by the right hon. leader of the government himself. On September 16, at page 243 of Hansard, hon. members will find that he said:

It is within the mind of every hon. member of this house that the greatest industry in this country is the farming industry and that the greatest part of that industry is the growing and marketing of grain which has to do with the annual production of a vast amount of our national wealth. The reason we are so dependent upon the grain industry for our purchasing power is largely because it is the quickest way by which new wealth can be created year after year, and because of that this country in days gone by—as I trust will be the case for many years in the future—has looked to that as the great basis of our purchasing power. The difficulties which have been experienced during the past year or two by the producers of grain are known to every member of this house.

Those difficulties have not lessened any since September last.

Last year I did think, and I have not changed my opinion since, that some action might have been taken at the critical moment last fall—

Referring to the fall of 1919.

—by the national government to have been of some assistance to the grain trade and the grain producers of this country.

The right hon. gentleman did not elucidate his meaning further, and to this day I am at a loss to know what he meant. He continues:

Those who had to administer the grain act and who were charged with the responsibility for promoting the trade and commerce of the country thought otherwise and so no action was taken, with what I believe to be more or less unfortunate consequences.

The election took place, promises were freely given and freely accepted, and in September the house sat. Let me quote what the leader of the government said in this house in September last. He knew the conditions, they had been pointed out by members in this corner of the house in realistic language; he knew of the poverty-stricken and almost destitute situation of the average farmer in western Canada. What was his response to the needs of the situation?

But, I may add, that the particular and urgent problem of the marketing of Canadian wheat is receiving the further attention of the ministry, which is giving consideration to the most effective means of meeting the difficulties which now confront the basic wheat industry.

Now, what has been the result? The administration was giving consideration to it. We have not heard one word of result; we do not know what they have done; there is no appearance of their having done anything I continue the quotation; the right hon gentleman then says:

At this moment I will not detail the steps that have been taken—

And they have not been detailed at all yet, Mr. Speaker.

—but I am hopeful that at least they will be of some benefit to our grain producers.

Well, may I tell the right hon. gentleman that we have not felt the benefit?

A review of the causes underlying the present unsatisfactory situation is being carried out—

A review is being carried out.

—and it will be the purpose of the government to take whatever action it properly may take to ensure the prosperity of that industry upon which the welfare of the country is dependent to such a large extent.

Now, what has been done I ask any hon. member of the ministry what has been done? We have not a word from them either in public or private. The fact is that they find themselves impotent; they cannot do anything apparently, or at least they are unwilling to. What, on the other hand, is the position of almost every other civilized grain-growing country in the world? There is hardly one of them that has not taken some direct means to relieve the condition of its grain growers and wheat trade. Let me just run over a few in passing. Germany directs the grain marketing activities of that country

through government regulation. France regulates grain imports and exports. Switzerland exercises a vitual government grain monopoly. In Norway the grain trade has been in the hands of a government monopoly since 1929; and in that country, by the way, a committee of seven members control the entire import and export of grain, and their annual budget provides for $32,000,000 a year. Imagine it, Mr. Speaker, in a small country where the business in grain is as nothing to the business we do, nor is it as vital to their economic life as it is to ours. Yet they plan and establish a government monopoly and create a fund of $32,000,000 a year to look after the necessities of their grain farmers. In Poland the government distributes bounties on export grain, paying the bounties through a monopoly known as the Grain Exporters Company. In Latvia the government purchases all wheat and rye at prices well above the market price, accepts the loss, and sells the grain to the millers and dealers and consumers of the country. In Esthonia there has been a government grain monopoly since July 19, 1930. In Lithuania the same. In Austria a government monopoly has been under consideration, and quite probably it has been put into effect by this time. In South Africa legislation has been introduced for a compulsory wheat pool as soon as 75 per cent of the growers signify their desire for it. In Hungary, Yugoslavia, Roumania and Bulgaria they are likely to have national and international control. In Bulgaria the most interesting experiment of all has been carried out, and a similar plan is receiving a great deal of consideration in western Canada at the present time. Following a wheat crisis in Bulgaria late in 1930, caused by low prices and the impossibility of selling to advantage on world markets, the Bulgarian government instituted a scheme for buying grain at prices somewhat higher than world levels and paying for it with special currency, which was receivable for taxes on agricultural land. This scheme amounts almost to a virtual remission of taxes to the farmers producing grain in that country. The other day the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine) pointed out very clearly to the house the distinct handicap under which agriculture suffered as a result of tariff protection, and he submitted that if, as appeared to be the case, both political parties in this house likely to control government for some time were inseparably wedded to the principle of protection as a policy, then the time had come for the present administration, unequivocally and determinedly tied to that policy, to provide some compensation to agriculture for the losses entailed as a result of the benefits and special privileges given to our manufacturing industries. No better method could be adopted than the Bulgarian method, which has also been applied in modified form by Hungary. And so we pass on from Hungary to Roumania and Jugoslavia, and then into Russia itself where you have complete control. Canada is the only major wheat-producing country that I know of, with the exception of the Argentine, where a measure of government control and modification in the interests of agriculture has not taken place. Why, even in the United States of America the much condemned federal farm marketing board which now has been abolished did succeed in holding up the price of wheat to the growers last year by at least fifteen or twenty cents per bushel. That was of enormous benefit to the farmers; it helped them carry through an almost desperate and hopeless condition, but in spite of its pledges and promises, in spite of the knowledge on the part of the Prime Minister of conditions in western Canada, coming himself from the city of Calgary in the province of Alberta, this government have been utterly inept in this matter. They have done nothing. What are they going to do? They have not said; they are leaving us to drift at the mercy of a merciless banking system and a demoralized market.

Now we come to the next point: What do I suggest in regard to this? Quite recently Mr. Speaker, we had news despatches to the effect that Hon. Howard Ferguson had moved the adjournment to London of the international wheat conference, then being conducted in Rome, and that he had moved that the London meeting should consist solely of exporting countries. I agree with those who have been criticizing the separation of the exporting from the importing wheat nations; I submit that such action in itself, whilst it may have been inevitable and impossible of avoidance, does indicate or should indicate to every thoughtful person the immense difficulties involved in this question. I think it does; I think everyone who studied the meeting at Geneva or the subsequent meeting at Rome is convinced of the immense problem of welding into a united whole the general opinions of the importing and exporting wheat growing countries. Yet every authority on the subject realizes now that there must be a measure of international control if the future market for wheat is to be sustained on a stable basis. The point is this: Mr. Ferguson adjourns that meeting to London, and what does he say? This statement

is corroborated by the right hon. Prime Minister, in answer to a question in this house. This is what he says:

That it is desirable that delegates of countries exporting wheat, namely: Argentine Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Hungary, India, Poland, the Union of Soviet Republics—

By the way, the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat should send a copy of his speech to Mr. Ferguson.

—Roumania and Jugoslavia should meet together as soon as possible to organize—

To organize what?

—to organize on an international basis the exportation of the crop year of 1931-32.

That is well and good, but how can this government, through the right hon. Prime Minister or through the London high commissioner, Mr. Ferguson, adjourn a meeting of this kind for the purpose of narrowing the discussion down to the international organization of the export of the wheat crop of 1931-1932 without committing themselves to a national control of the wheat crop of this country? How can you effect international control until you have national control? I agree with the idea; I think it is essential, and I urge the Minister of Trade and Commerce and anybody else interested on the other side of the house to do everything they can to induce the Prime Minister to establish forthwith a Canada wheat board to take control of a crop which is almost worthless to the farmer at the present time. It is worse than worthless to him; most of the crop, as other hon. members have said, was harvested this year at a loss to every farmer on every bushel and every acre. Now we have the pitiful picture of these poor chaps out there who have nothing else to which they can turn their hands, who have machinery rusting and land lying fallow, who have no other hope whatever than to take a chance on another seeding. They are going ahead, miserably and despairingly taking a chance, looking vainly to this administration for some guidance or some ray of hope.

I ask what hope there is. Where is the future for the market next fall? Is any extension of the market probable? Is there any possibility that the market price of wheat will rise? There is not a possibility on the horizon at the present time. I ask any hon. member who may follow me in this debate to tell me of one economic fact that offers any encouragement to farming or any other industry. Take any authority you will, from the Chase National City Bank of New York to the Bank of Nova Scotia. Take the Bank of Montreal; take the Investor's Review of London, England. Every one of them points out time and again that the whole future, whether for industry or for agriculture, is hopeless until something is done which they themselves admit will not be done. That is, they say it is hopeless unless we have international control of the monetary system.

There is much one could say in connection with these matters, Mr. Speaker, but I do want to impress upon the ministry that at the present time the men in the west are going ahead and seeding what they can. They have very little money,—practically nothing in cash. Any they may have is something they have retained instead of paying their debts. If they were wise they anticipated the situation and did not meet all their liabilities last fall. They have not paid their taxes; the indebtedness to municipalities and individuals is simply gigantic. There is outstanding $43,000,000 or more in farmer debts to the rural stores in the province of Alberta alone, and the only thing we are offered now, as the hon. member for Acadia said, is advice. We have had lots of advice from different people. We have had advice from Mr. Beatty with regard to live stock. Yes, he was going to float a marvellous revolving fund of $5,000,000 to put western Canada into the live stock business on a decent basis. As a long distance plan that may have some merit, but as an immediate relief it is hopeless. In addition, it is interesting to note that, so far as my information goes, the whole scheme has collapsed through lack of financial support. Private financial interests are too wise; they know the condition of agriculture just as the banks know it, and they are not prepared to lend money with the present productive value of the average farm in western Canada. You cannot get them to put up the money. Why has not that $5,000,000 fund, about which the right hon. Prime Minister waxed eloquent in his speech at Regina, developed? We cannot even get cattle from the Department of Agriculture under the agreement made last September; apparently there was not enough of the proper type. Whatever the reason, there is the situation.

Then we have been offered another solution for the western farmer; we have been told to find a market in China. The total imports into Canada from China in the year 1928 amounted to $2,572,000, and our total exports amounted to $5,040,000. The greatest single item of importation into Canada from China, one of the products which we must accept in exchange for wheat, was nuts, which amounted to $900,000. That may account for a lot of the advice we are getting.

Then we are advised to go into diversified farming. The farmers of Ontario have pointed out that this would seriously affect the eastern markets. The only single arm of agriculture in my province that paid last fall was hog production. What was the ultimate effect? Before any advice had come from the abattoir controllers and the private packers of this country, the farmers themselves had plunged into hog production to such an extent that the provincial minister of agriculture rose in his place in the legislature and, almost with tears in his eyes and in a trembling voice, expressed the fear that the coming spring market would show a surplus of over 300 per cent. Where are the hogs to be marketed? They will be marketed down in Ontario, of course, smashing the market for the producers here, May I ask if diversified farming has made the farmers of the province of Ontario well-to-do? Read their own manifesto to the government, and discover the truth.

We cannot minimize the situation. Canada's wheat income declined by nearly $350,000,000 in two years. In 1928 we had a crop of 550,000,000 bushels, in round figures, for which we received good, fair prices. The next year we had a crop of only 309,000,000 bushels, with falling prices. Then in 1930 the crop amounted to some 340,000,000 or 350,000,000 bushels, with prices much lower than prevailed in 1928. The decline, both in volume and in price, meant a loss in two years of $350,000,000 in national income. You cannot take that amount out of the people of this country and not materially affect the welfare of Canada. Take all field crops alone; the field crops in Canada this year declined in value, as compared with last year, by some $318,000,000. Yet we find on the other hand the price of those things which we have to buy stabilized or pegged by artificial methods of special privilege at a figure but slightly below that of their highest peak. It is nothing else but scandalous, a coldblooded method of defrauding and swindling the farmer. We have the hypocritical advice: cut your costs of production, yet the price of everything we have to buy has been held up to the limit.

I wish I had the time to enter into a discussion on the international aspect of this matter. I hope the government will establish a federal wheat board, as it offers the only hope for those who are now sowing their crops. It is the only thing which would justify Mr. Ferguson's adjournment of the international wheat conference, and it is the only thing which will enable Canada to undertake in an organized manner the carrying of the western producers over this period of depression until the better times of which we hear so much have arrived.

It is claimed internationally that this depression should be laid at the doors of a wrong monetary system. Mr. Neill of the Royal bank says so; Sir Herbert Holt admits that there is something wrong in that direction. The great bankers are to-day realizing the crime of the uncontrolled, unregulated and stupid financial system to which the world is now subjected. These men say that this condition of affairs will continue if we do not take international action. Then along comes a gentleman who says that the first thing we have to do is to cancel the war debts. Mr. Beatty said that in Toronto and Sir Herbert Holt echoed it; Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Warburg in the United States made a similar announcement. I shall never forget that occasion back in 1923 when the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) rose in his place and moved, as a gesture of the action that should be taken by the nations of the world towards economic stability, the cancellation of Germany's war reparations to Canada. I had the honour of supporting him at that time, and the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine) did likewise. But what was the attitude of the house? The Minister of Trade and Commerce and the then Minister of Labour, Mr. Murdock, assailed the proposal in language as vituperative, abusive and unjustifiable as any I have ever heard. They condemned the proposal utterly and abjectly. But what happens eight years afterwards? Sir Herbert Holt recommends it, Mr. Beatty recommends it, and other financiers and international economists are recommending it. It will have to come. You are eight years behind, as are most administrations. One of the primary requisites of the solution of the present situation is the cancellation of international debts and the calling of an international meeting to deal with this question of international currency. It has been proposed that there should be a distribution of gold equitably throughout the countries of the world, a reestablishment of currency on a new basis. Well, if this comes to pass let us have plenty of it. Even Mr. Neill admits the need for an effective supply, because he says:

> It would seem that if the effective supply of money is kept in the right relation to production of commodities the phenomenon of a declining average price level will not occur.

He is quite right. I regret that time will not permit my continuing this discussion, but other opportunities will present themselves.

On motion of Mr. Simpson (West Algoma) the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Guthrie the house adjourned at 10.25 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

PRIVATE BILL

FIRST READING

Bill No. 32, respecting the Montreal Central Terminal Company.—Mr. Bell (St. Antoine).

COMPANIES ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. JOHN T. HACKETT (Stanstead) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 33, to amend the Companies Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. HACKETT: By an amendment passed last year, auditors of companies were precluded from being or becoming directors of those companies. This amendment would make an exception to that law in the case of small private companies to the shares of which the public is not invited to subscribe.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT

Mr. G. R. GEARY (South Toronto) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 34, to amend the criminal code (Trade marks).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. GEARY: The amendments to the criminal code proposed by this bill are designed to cover what are apparently omissions in the code and to implement generally the purpose for which those provisions were originally placed in the code. The matter is one that can be explained more fully in committee, but that is the general purpose of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

PROTEST OF TORONTO BOARD OF CONTROL AGAINST ALIENATION OF POWER RIGHTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. SAMUEL FACTOR (Toronto West Centre): May I be permitted to direct a question to the Prime Minister on a matter of public interest? Following Your Honour's injunction of yesterday I shall be as brief as possible. The question is based on a letter which I have received from the Board of Control of the city of Toronto and which reads:

> I have been directed by the board of control to bring to your official notice as the elective representative from this city that, whereas the city of Toronto has made a very considerable investment in respect to harbour and hydro developments, therefore the said city of Toronto does vigorously protest against the passing of any legislation by the government of the Dominion of Canada which would prejudicially affect the ultimate deepening and use of the St. Lawrence river as an ocean-going waterway.
>
> This city of Toronto most strenuously objects to the further disposal of any hydro power rights to private corporations, being of the opinion that the great power water courses are the natural heritage of the citizens of Canada and should be preserved for all time to come for the benefit of the people at large.
>
> The board would therefore request that you be good enough to advise them as to what progress has been made in reference to the plan for the deepening of the St. Lawrence river waterway and to notify them immediately of any proposed legislation either in this regard or in reference to any application of private corporations for the further diversion of power water rights.

Mr. SPEAKER: In view of what was said at yesterday's sitting, I think the hon. member must realize that the question he is now undertaking to ask is one that should appear on the order paper. The matter is not urgent. It is a matter to be dealt with by the house in the future, by legislation, if at all, and it is not at the present moment being considered. I would ask the hon. member to put his question on the order paper.

Mr. FACTOR: May I be excused as a new member? I have not put the question yet. May I put it?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is laying the foundation for a question which, on the face of it, is one which should go on the order paper.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Is the hon. member not allowed to put a direct question without any foundation?

Mr. SPEAKER: That depends entirely upon the nature of the question.

Mr. FACTOR: The question is: Has the government received any application from private corporations for further diversion of water-power rights in the St. Lawrence river?

Mr. SPEAKER: In my opinion that is a question which should be placed on the order paper.

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. F. DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of the press despatch this morning stating that the Imperial economic conference will be held in Ottawa next August, I wish to ask the Prime Minister whether it is the intention of the government to indicate before prorogation what their trade proposals will be?

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems to me that is certainly a matter of governmental policy to be disclosed by the action of the government.

Mr. DONNELLY: I am simply asking whether the Prime Minister will indicate before prorogation what their trade proposals will be.

Mr. SPEAKER: That also is a matter of policy, whether the Prime Minister chooses to indicate or not.

SALE OF GASOLINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. I have in my hand two letters, parts of which I shall read in order that the question may be made clear. The first letter is dated Sedley, Saskatchewan, April 6, 1931, and reads:

> We had an interesting meeting Saturday night at Riceton comprising farmers over a large area (most of Lajord municipality), and formed an association chiefly to purchase gasoline.
>
> This is a big question. There is now apparently seven cents spread between wholesale and retail in this district and we can probably get back about five cents in patronage dividends.

That is the first letter. That is to say, the farmers at this meeting formed a cooperative association.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the hon. member directing a question to the government or to a member of the government?

Mr. YOUNG: I am directing it to the Prime Minister.

[Mr Paul Mercier.]

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, proceed to do so. The time of the house at this stage must not be taken up with reading long letters or extracts. If the hon. member wishes to direct a question to the government on a matter of public importance or urgency, well and good. He knows the rules as well as any other hon. member.

Mr. YOUNG: I will accept your ruling Mr. Speaker. The question is this: I have here evidence that the Imperial Oil Company at Regina—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

An hon. MEMBER: Ask the question.

Mr. YOUNG:—is refusing to sell gasoline to cooperative associations organized to buy gasoline for their own use. In view of the fact Canadian refiners of gasoline are thus refusing, I ask the Prime Minister: Will he remove the duty from gasoline and allow the farmers to bring it in from the United States?

An hon. MEMBER: Who says that is a fact?

Mr. BENNETT: Put the question on the order paper.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister is under no obligation to answer the question.

Mr. YOUNG: The Prime Minister may not be compelled to answer the question, but—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member may put his question on the order paper; the Prime Minister has not answered it.

Mr. YOUNG: The Prime Minister can if he likes refuse to answer, but the people of the country will form their own conclusions as to why.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LOCAL LABOUR ON VANGUARD—MEYRONNE BRANCH

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. F. DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): I wish to ask the question of the Acting Minister of Labour. The Canadian Pacific railway are building a branch line from Vanguard to Meyronne, Saskatchewan, in my constituency, and they are receiving some assistance from the $20,000,000 grant from this government. I understand that local men in that district are being discriminated against and that outside men are being brought in, even Americans, who are being hired to work on this railway at from fifty cents to one dollar per day. I would ask the Minister of Labour

to have this matter investigated and to see that heads of families who are at present obtaining direct relief from the municipalities receive first consideration, and that the fair wage be paid.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration): A number of instances have arisen where complaints have been made with respect to the rate of wages paid on works in respect to which the federal government is contributing under the unemployment relief scheme. In all cases the Department of Labour promptly sends out an investigator, and if it is found that the proper rate of wages is not being paid, advances by the federal government are withheld until the matter is adjusted. That will be done in this case if it is found that such a situation as the hon. member for Willow Bunch (Mr. Donnelly) indicates is in fact in evidence. Whenever such a situation is brought to the attention of the department from a dependable source, investigation is promptly made.

Mr. DONNELLY: Will the minister assure the house that he will have this matter investigated?

RAILWAY COMMISSION VACANCY

On the orders of the day:

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James): Would the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) be good enough to intimate when the government intends to fill the vacancy on the Board of Railway Commissioners?

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The matter is under consideration; the appointment will be made in due time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Monday, April 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Max D. Cormier for an address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, the proposed amendment thereto of Mr. Mackenzie King, and the proposed subamendment of Mr. Gardiner.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Since this debate began nearly a month ago, there have been a great many developments both inside this house and in the country at large. I should like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to make a few remarks with regard to the subamendment which has been proposed from this corner of the house. The particular form which the subamendment has taken represents somewhat of a compromise between the various groups in this corner of the house. We have found that in a great many ways the farmer and labour groups can work in close cooperation, but I must say that in some respects labour would state its case just a little bit differently from the case stated by the farmers—possibly because the needs of the agricultural workers are somewhat different from those of the industrial workers. Had we of the labour group been proposing our own amendment, impossible under the circumstances, we would like to have expressed ourselves somewhat in these terms:

> We are of the opinion that there exists in Canada an economic condition that constitutes a national emergency which can be met only by extraordinary measures.
>
> We regret that there is no indication in the speech from the throne of any provision which will adequately meet the pressing needs of hundreds of thousands of industrial workers and agricultural producers.
>
> We believe that present conditions demand the mobilization of our natural resources, technical equipment and financial machinery, to provide a decent livelihood for the people of the Dominion. In our opinion this involves the abandonment of the present wasteful and inefficient competitive system and the adoption of cooperative principles both in our domestic and international relations.

We agree in the forepart of our resolution that in Canada to-day we do face a national emergency. We in the labour group would like to go so far as to say that under those conditions we should mobilize the entire resources of this country. When the war was on we found it necessary to call upon various industries to contribute. Those in authority introduced conscription. It was felt that the emergency was so great that the entire resources of the country should be mobilized. Finances were forthcoming for the very great effort which the nations of the world had to put forward at that time. Whilst we would not say that the emergency at the present time is so acute as that which prevailed in 1914, we do say that the emergency is great enough to call for the mobilization of all the resources of this country.

I should like to remind the house that the bankers owe their position very largely to special privileges granted by this house. I would like to remind the house that the railway people owe their franchises to special privileges granted by the Dominion of Canada, and so on right along the line, and there seems to be no reason why, when hundreds of thousands of people are on the verge of

starvation, the financial and industrial resources of this country should not be used to the limit in trying to provide for these special needs.

Of course, in the statement which I have just read, we go a little bit further and suggest that the present competitive system is hopelessly bankrupt. We suggest that the only real solution is by the adoption of co-operative methods, rather than by the maintenance of the present competitive system. I am quite aware that that doctrine would not be acceptable to the majority of the members of this house, but I should like to put it forward as the ultimate objective of this little group and of the people we in this corner of the house represent.

I would claim, Mr. Speaker, that the sub-amendment which has been evolved by the different groups in this corner of the house is preeminently a practical and sensible proposal. We first of all call attention to the fact that there is a national emergency that calls for extraordinary measures. I think that after the speeches which have been made here during the last few weeks no one can very well deny that we do face a national emergency. That is not, I would say, the fault of the existing government. I believe that the conditions which we face are world-wide in character, and that would suggest some world-wide causes. I would not lay the whole blame upon the present government. I would not expect the present government, at least, if they are wise, to assume the responsibility of undertaking to correct the great social evils which face us at the present time. I think that the government would be well advised to afford an opportunity to this house and to all parties in it to cooperate in trying to find a solution. I am not here suggesting merely a means of letting the government out of a tight corner. I think that the Conservative party made promises which they ought to try to implement, but which I do not believe it is possible for them to implement. In view, however, of the difficulties of the situation I think that we on this side of the house, whether of the official opposition or sitting as independent members—we ought to be sitting on cross-benches rather than strictly in opposition—should be willing in the face of this emergency to do what we can at the present time to help in solving the problem. I do not think that the problems which face the farmers and the industrial workers of the cities to-day should be made a football for the party game that is played in this house. It seems to me that for a time at least we should rise above that.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

I would join with the other hon. members in this corner of the house in urging that at this session of parliament one of the best things for us to do would be to appoint a strong committee in which there would be representatives, as on all committees, from the different parties of the house. It should be a committee on which the best men in the house would be placed, and such a committee should seriously consider the whole economic situation. This is not a matter for the next few weeks or the next few months; we should consider the entire economic problem in Canada which forms part of a world condition. Unless we allow this situation to drift from bad to worse, and if we are to use our brains at all, it seems to me that something should be done. The public is looking to parliament to study this situation and to give a lead as to what policy might best be adopted. Those of us who have sat in the house for any length of time know perfectly well the dangers of committees; matters under consideration are apt to be shelved. The fact that a matter has been referred to a committee could be taken by the government as an excuse to defer further consideration. To obviate anything of that kind we have urged two very practical and immediate steps. The first is:

> That the failure or inability of our banks to provide the credit which is essential to our farmers in respect to their spring operations, render it imperative that consideration be given to some system of federal assistance, whether directly, by way of bank guarantee, or otherwise.

I agree, Mr. Speaker, that it is not for those of us who are outside the government in any way to dictate the particular form that this assistance should take. We are here to point out the needs of the people, and some of us to point out particularly the needs of the people in the west. Even after this long debate I think perhaps hon. members from eastern Canada do not realize the special difficulties which confront the western farmer. Those of us who come from the east know more about eastern agricultural conditions. Years ago if a man had no fuel on the back lot of his own farm he could go to his neighbour and cut down fuel to supply him for the winter. He could always call upon some of the other people around him to give him some assistance. In the west however, conditions are absolutely different. The great transcontinental systems were pushed through ahead of settlement, and when agricultural operations were begun up-to-date machinery was used. Life in the west has been built up on the basis of the use of modern agricultural machinery capable of producing large quantities of grain for export trade. Now that export

trade has been cut off we find ourselves at a loss to know what to do next. Take for example the question of gasoline which already has been raised several times in the house. I know there are some people in the east who say that if the farmers cannot buy gasoline for the machinery required to put in their crop they should use horses. That may sound very well in theory but in many parts of western Canada the farmers dispensed with their horses several years ago. They believed that motor machinery was the best, the most economical and the most efficient and with those reasons in mind they let their horses go and invested in tractors, combines and other up-to-date machinery. They require gasoline to operate that machinery. Now they face the situation where they cannot go to the bank and get $40 or $50 in order to buy gasoline. What are they to do? They cannot go back to the use of horses in a short time, and they cannot get them from their neighbours. Further it would take some years to breed the horses necessary to carry on their work. Those farmers find themselves absolutely handicapped and I am assured by correspondents, especially by those in the province of Saskatchewan, that a great many farmers will not be able in the next week or two to sow their crop unless they receive outside assistance. If for their own reasons the banks refuse to give help it sems to me we are within our rights when we put forward the eminently reasonable proposition that the government should step in at this stage and help the farmers in their immediate and present difficulties.

There is a second request or suggestion to which I shall refer.

That the serious situation which still prevails in respect of unemployment demands that consideration be given to some immediate action looking toward increased employment and a further measure of direct relief where such is found necessary.

A few days ago the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) attempted to introduce a discussion of the riots which had taken place in Winnipeg and elsewhere, but he was prevented from doing so. The ground was taken that the subject he placed before the house did not represent a matter of urgent public importance. I think the question might naturally arise: What will be a matter of urgent public importance? If a riot in the city of Winnipeg in which according to the papers some 6,000 unemployed men were engaged and where a number of people had to be taken to the hospital on account of injuries received, does not represent a matter of sufficient public importance, how big a riot must be staged so that it may be termed a matter of public importance and we may be given an opportunity to discuss it. I think that is a question which might very well be asked. In fact, it is already being asked. I admit, Mr. Speaker, that those who took charge of these demonstrations the other day belonged to the communist party. In order that the house may be very clear and that I may be permitted more freely to discuss this matter let me reiterate that I do not belong to the communist party. It has directed its energies more largely against the Labour group than against the other political parties in this house. The official organ of the communist party of Canada, The Worker, which is to be found in the reading room, where I occasionally read it, on March 21, 1931, published the following:

The treacherous labour parties of Woodsworth, Heaps and Company.

And again:

In Winnipeg, as everywhere, the I.L.P. fakers are the righthand men of the fascist police administration.

On March 7, this same official organ of the communist party published this statement:

The Abramoviches, the MacDonalds, the Blums and the Crespiens of Europe have their counterparts in Canada in the persons of the Woodsworths, the Heapses, the Moores and the Moshers.

Referring to a speech which I had given before a service club in Brantford the paper contains the following item:

The labour-hating bourgeoisie of the Kiwanis club had the pleasure of listening to a social fascist address them at one of their blowouts.

Referring to myself I find the following:

This slimy pacifist bleated out a lot of vague (but dangerous) banalities of a general character but when he got down to cases he soon showed his hand. . . . He (Woodsworth) is either a fool or a liar . . . . the faker.

Mr. GEARY: That is nasty of them.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That is the attitude of the communist party towards myself and the group with which I am associated. After the pilgrimage the other day of the group of unemployed led by communists I find this:

The demonstrations of February 25 and April 15 were but dress rehearsals of the demonstrations yet to come. The demonstration of May 1, international labour day will be a continuation of them and will surpass them all.

That article is contained in The Worker of April 18. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is too serious a matter simply to be off by the suggestion which has been made in this house that any man who introduces a question of this kind is promoting riots. I would urge that if the situation is so serious

that statements may be made in newspapers to the effect that such demonstrations are going to take place in the future it is high time that this parliament discussed the matter. I would point out further that comparatively speaking there are but few communists in this country. But if there is dissatisfaction and if there is want, there is bound to arise a group who will champion the cause of the needy and perhaps play upon the emotions of those who are suffering so much. Passing from Winnipeg to the east—I find in the Montreal Herald this paragraph with regard to the riots that took place last Wednesday in Montreal:

> The cops, particularly the plainclothes men, were none too gentle. It was no uncommon sight yesterday afternoon to see some mild-eyed and sheep-like appearing pedestrian propelled half way across the road by the toe of a constable's boot. Many times the whack of fist on face resounded through the streets.

Well, I call that brutal treatment, whether by constituted authority or not, and I would suggest that the way to solve unemployment is not by increasing our police force and encouraging their brutality, but rather by attempting to get at the underlying economic causes.

Let me say that the position even of the communistic group so far has been quite correct. The communists headed the unemployed men in their march to the city halls and there pleaded their case. Further than that they went to the provincial governments—at least they did in my own city of Winnipeg on Wednesday last—begging that something be done for the unemployed. The unemployed have been put off by vague promises ever since last summer. When the elections were being held last July in Winnipeg the municipal authorities were feeding nearly 3,000 people. We were told that the summer would solve the situation. Summer came but there was no marked improvement and all these people have been on the unemployed list day after day, week after week, month after month. During the winter they were told that as soon as spring opened up all the unemployed would be able to find work. It is only a few days ago since I received a letter containing four or five closely written sheets of names of the Swedish unemployed of my home city, asking me if I could not do something to get them jobs on the new Hudson Bay railway or up at Churchill. These Swedish people we all know are among our finest immigrants. They were brought out here under representations that they were to get jobs. They have done good work in the past. Hundreds of them—I am not exaggerating—in my home city alone during the winter were fed at first by their own mission churches, and later by the municipal authorities; now with another summer opening up they do not know what to do. Let me say again that recently at one of the meetings of this Swedish group a communist tried to interfere and break up the proceedings, but he was thrown out. That, however, does not solve the problem of these hundreds of Swedish unemployed, who are among the very best of our citizens. What are we going to do about the matter? We have this situation right across the country.

Yesterday the member for West York (Mr. Lawson) in the course of his speech—a speech for which I have to compliment him; it was a very fine effort indeed, and I think every one was impressed with the wonderful parliamentary ability shown by the hon. gentleman—made one or two statements to which I must take exception. He suggested that we in this corner represented a particular group of people, while he represented all the citizens of his constituency. Now, I do not like that attitude at all so far as I myself am concerned. I take it that since I was elected by a very considerable majority I can very well claim to represent all the citizens of my constituency just as much as he claims to represent every one in West York. At the last election I was not opposed either by the Liberals or the Conservatives, so the two old parties must take their responsibility for having allowed me to come back again. But we of the Labour group do represent a particular group which up to recent years has not had a chance to voice its needs on the floor of this house. And I would urge it is extremely difficult for any one but a lawyer to represent everybody in his constituency. For instance, I have the grain exchange in my constituency, but I do not think any of my farmer friends throughout the west will accuse me of representing the grain exchange and at the same time pleading for the farmers of the prairies. I have also a large number of bankers in my constituency, at least the offices of several of the banks are there, but I do not think the bankers themselves would say that I represent them at the same time as I am representing the needs of the common people of this country. I have nothing against the bankers individually, they are a decent enough lot of men, but I do say I am not representing the policies of the banks when I come here and plead for the needs of the common people of the west. So I would suggest that this statement of the member for West York is altogether a misleading way of stating the position. I contend that we stand here, not representing this, that and the other interest

in our constituency; we represent a certain group that hitherto has been almost without a champion. We come out flatfooted on that point. Again, the member for West York suggests that we "purport" to represent labour, Well, when labour has returned some of us to this house for the past ten years I do not think that that word is in very good taste. Surely we represent labour because the labour men have as much right to be a party as have the farmers or the Liberals or the Conservatives. He suggests that we persist in making inflammatory speeches devoid of practical suggestions. Again, I say that is a purely gratuitous remark to make. I do not think any of us can be successfully charged with making inflammatory speeches; we are simply pointing out the facts in the situation. Further, it cannot be said that we have failed to put forward certain suggestions. If you, Mr. Speaker, will look at the order paper you will find it contains motion after motion, put forward by members of this group; and that has been the case ever since I have been in the house for the past decade. If any suggestions of a practical nature have been put forward, they have come largely from the members in this corner. We have made these suggestions during the present debate, and if I had the time I should be glad to attempt to make them again before I sit down. We have put forward what we regard as practical suggestions. Of course, they are rejected by hon. members on the other side, by the government powers, as being impractical. Well, in that case I suggest that it is distinctly the part of the government to make suggestions. In fact I think we are all sufficiently familiar with parliamentary procedure and British traditions to recognize that fundamentally it is the government that is responsible for policies. It is our part to show the need for certain legislation; it is the government's to work out the policies. If the government wants suggestions, right in our subamendment will be found a few practical suggestions, and it is for the government now to say whether it will accept these in the spirit in which they are proffered or whether it will arrogantly brush them aside and say that in its own way it will solve the problems now confronting the country.

The member for West York states that all he wants for the working people of the Dominion is the maintenance of the system of collective bargaining. Let me say to him that to-day there are very few workers who are allowed to bargain collectively. The vast majority of our working people are outside the trade unions altogether, and when they are members of such unions they usually have to go on strike in order to maintain the principle of collective bargaining. The hon. member for West York says all he wants is the maintenance of a family life and fairly high standard of living. That is all we want, but those standards do not exist to-day. You have only to turn to the official records of the Department of Labour to find that statement amply corroborated; you have only to refer to the evidence given before our committee on industrial and international relations to find ample corroboration, and you have only to turn to the pages of Hansard for the last few weeks to find how much below those standards our people are at the present time. That kind of thing is simply an attempt to divert public attention from the real issue.

I noticed that the hon. member for West York, posed—I was about to say—but since I objected to his use of a word of that kind I will withdraw that word and put it this way. His name appears on the letterhead of the Canadian Workers' Association as legal adviser. I hold in my hand a communication from the secretary of that organization stating that their association is running a series of three mass meetings in the interests of unemployment insurance. The first of these meetings will be held on a certain date, and one of our group is asked to be present. I would suggest that this question of unemployment insurance is one of the things we have been bringing forward year after year, and it is on the order paper again this year in the name of my colleague from North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps). If the hon. member for West York is really serious in his interest in the working people I would urge that he use his influence with the Prime Minister to see that there is enacted at this session of parliament a measure of unemployment insurance. The hon. member for West York, unfortunately, in having a fling at labour is really more or less following in the lead of the Prime Minister himself. The Prime Minister said the other day:

> No good service is being done to the country by the exaggerations made by some of those who have addressed the chamber this afternoon.

I object to that form of statement. I do not know whether the Prime Minister was referring to me, whether he was referring to my colleague or whether he was referring to some of the farmer members who had spoken. It seems to me that if we have exaggerated or if we have misstated the case it ought to be clearly understood what man has made the exaggeration or the misstatement, and then

we would be in a position to answer. The Prime Minister then went on to discuss the academic question as to whether the rich man should put his money in the bank or should spend it lavishly. The Prime Minister was rather of the opinion, I gathered, that it would be better to spend his money lavishly than to put it in the bank. I always imagined that he had such a high regard for the banks that he would have thought that putting it into the banks would be the surest way to put it into the channels of industry.

The Prime Minister suggests that the rich man should spend his money lavishly. Our contention in this house is altogether aside from that. Really we are not very particular as to whether the rich man saves or spends. What we are trying to say is that to-day, under the existing conditions, no man has a right to millions and no corporation has a right to the power which millions give. It is not with us the particular question as to how this or that man spends his wealth; the point is that wealth comes to-day because of the social privileges which are being given by governmental authority, and if there are those to whom wealth comes almost automatically while there are those who have so little of it that they are on the streets to-day, our contention is that there should be a readjustment in our regulations, in our forms of administration and in our laws themselves so that there may be a more equitable distribution of that wealth, which I think every thoughtful man will concede is produced not through the efforts of any individual or any particular group of individuals but which is produced as the result of the efforts of thousands and tens of thousands of people working to-day, as we work, collectively.

That is the position we take, and that is the situation to which I would like to direct the attention of the house. The other day my good friend the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Mullins) undertook to question some of my statements. He was good enough to say that he did not think I would mislead the house, because he said I had been the minister in a church years ago which he had attended. I am very thankful to him for the very great kindness that underlay his statement and which has persisted during the last twenty-five or thirty years, but when he proceeds to make this statement I feel that I must take exception to it. Referring to myself, he asked:

> Why is he bringing in these things and knocking down the price of lands?

That, Mr. Speaker, is the kind of statement which I think should be challenged. I recall twenty-five years ago, when I was connected with the church, when a man told me that I ought not to talk about certain things because I was "knocking" the price of real estate. At that time I was living down in the northern part of my city of Winnipeg among the foreign born, and an epidemic was sweeping the country that summer, a child's disease, of which nearly 200 children in my district died within a fortnight. They were dying in North Winnipeg almost three times as quickly as they were dying in the other parts of the city which had better opportunities for caring for the children, and when I put this statement in a diagram and wanted to show it at a public health exhibition which was then being presented in my city—and this was twenty-five years ago—one gentleman belonging to the real estate board objected and said, "Oh, no, you must not exhibit that chart. It would knock real estate."

I had one of my own children lying ill at that time, Mr. Speaker. We had a good doctor and good nurses; the child had good care and we pulled the little chap through. The children of my neighbours, however, were dying by the score, and I remember one day being called to conduct a funeral service over the body of one of these children. We went out to the grave side; there were twenty little fresh made graves all in a row. There was the grave into which we were to lower the tiny body, and behind that were half a dozen graves half dug. The children were not dead yet, but the grave diggers were getting ahead with their work. I was supposed to read the funeral service so familiar to many of us here; "For as much as it has pleased Almighty God, in his wise providence to take out of the world the soul of the deceased." I said in my heart, "That is not true." I knew the reasons for the death of those children. Those reasons were bad milk, bad housing and bad social arrangements, and I was not going to blame any God with being responsible for it.

That was one of the big events in my life, Mr. Speaker, and when I was blamed for trying to get better health conditions, and when they said it would knock the price of real estate, the situation presented itself to me in this way: if it was my duty to read the funeral service over the body of a dead child it was much more my duty to save the children then living. I would urge upon this house that the welfare of the men, the women and the children of this country is worth much more than the price of real estate in the constituency of Marquette. I know my hon. friend does not really believe the contrary; he did not think of the implications. I would not

dare to say that he was hardhearted; the hon. members of this house are not hardhearted but they do not realize the conditions which prevail in many parts of this country.

When the unemployed interviewed the Premier of Manitoba at Winnipeg the other day he called their attention to the fact that that province had passed a resolution about a year ago urging the Dominion government to call a Dominion-provincial conference to which all provinces would send representatives to consider the advisability of amending the British North America Act so that the Dominion government could establish a Dominion-wide system of unemployment insurance. This is what we are urging upon the government. I find that requests of this sort are beginning to come in from other parts of Canada, even from eastern Canada. Only to-day I received in my mail a resolution passed by the township of East York, to this effect:

. . . . realizing the appalling situation existing in the township of East York and throughout this country in general through unemployment. and further realizing that unemployment is getting beyond the control of the local municipalities,

We hereby demand that the federal government pass legislation as soon as possible to bring into force unemployment insurance, on the same principle as exists in Great Britain.

I do not believe the ratepayers of East York are communists even though they use the words "we demand."

I have received many letters from many parts of the country. These letters are sent to me particularly because I represent a distinct labour group in this house, and because I have spoken on unemployment. As all hon. members know, when one speaks on any subject of general interest many people send him letters and resolutions. The following was received from Calgary—I select this one because that is the city of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). It reads:

Yesterday the Calgary employment bureau here had registered 2,848 men for whom no work was available. This number will shortly be augmented by the closing of the relief camps. Housewives report that increasing numbers of men are asking for food at their doors. Private citizens are continually giving meal tickets and orders for beds, as well as cash donations, to unemployed men. Small grocers and rooming house keepers are burdened through extending credit to men on part time relief work or without work. We feel it would be fairer to the citizens and better for the men who are unemployed if they could be supported by relief or relief work of which the cost is borne by all taxpayers.

I will not take the time of the house to refer to other resolutions, but these are typical examples. A despatch, dated April 9, from Sudbury, to the Toronto Star, reads as follows:

Sudbury's unemployed has reached 3,438, of which 450 are married men with families. The soup kitchen is still serving an average of 450 meals a day. The city is also supplying 170 families with bread, clothing and fuel.

The papers are full of such stories. Only yesterday I noticed the following in the press as coming from Sturgeon Falls:

A pathetic climax to the period of destitution which has left many citizens of this northern community starving and ragged was enacted yesterday afternoon at the little town hall when a band of citizens, men and women, asked permission to send their children barefooted to school.

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I desire to take up a few minutes' time to bring to the attention of the government a matter which I would have brought up on the orders of the day were it possibe to get satisfaction at that time. I refer particularly to the conditions existing in one of the towns in the coal district of the Crowsnest pass, and I do not think I could do better than to read a letter which I received from the secretary of the Mine Workers' Union. This letter is sent from Bellevue, dated April 8, 1931, and reads:

I was instructed to write you and let you know of the conditions in Bellevue at the present time. The mine at Bellevue is only working one or two days per week and has only worked twenty-two days for the three months of the present year.

We have now about forty men laid off and taking the manager at Bellevue at his word, there will be 180 men laid off by the 15th of April. Blairmore will no doubt be in the same position as we are.

At our regular meeting last Sunday we passed a motion to the effect that we are in favour of everyone getting a share of the work that is going with no men laid off. This motion was passed unanimously with around 120 present.

I would draw the attention of the house to the following sentence:

It was the general opinion of the members present that if we must starve then let us all starve together.

Our committee will meet the general manager on Friday and in the event of the manager failing to comply with our request for a fair share-up of the work, I will immediately write you.

I have another letter from the same man, dated April 16, which reads:

About a week ago I wrote you in regard to the awful conditions that prevail in the mining camp at Bellevue. As I stated in my last letter to you I would write you as soon as we had our interview with Mr. Vissac.

We passed a motion at our last regular meeting which was passed unanimously by a well attended meeting. Our motion was to the effect that we want a fair share-up of the work that is to be had with no men laid off.

Our committee met Mr. Vissac on the morning of the 14th April and the general manager of the West Canadian Collieries made it plain to us that there would be 100 men laid off and in the near future, if things do not pick up then there will be some more men laid off. The same number of men will be laid off at Blairmore.

Our proposition which you yourself must admit is very fair was turned down by Mr. Vissac and we feel that the general manager's attitude is anything but fair.

You must readily understand if this laying-off of men is carried through it is going to cause much trouble in the Pass as no doubt the other companies will follow the lead of Mr. Vissac.

It seems that the mines here are not being operated in the best interests of either the worker or the country and we appeal to you to intervene on our behalf and use all the influence you have to get for us the very fair proposition we put to our general manager Vissac. To throw a few hundred men on an already overstocked unemployment market at the present time appears to be very bad policy.

This letter is signed by the secretary of the Bellevue Miners' Union.

As there is no Minister of Labour in the house I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Mines (Mr. Gordon) to take this matter up and endeavour to arrive at a satisfactory solution. I would again draw the attention of the house to the words, "It was the general opinion of the members present that if we must starve then let us all starve together." I do not think that resolution exaggerates the true condition of affairs. These men worked only 126 days last year. Some of the outside men draw only $4.40 per day and hon. members who are good at mental arithmetic can figure out just how far that will go towards providing the decent standard of living to which the hon. member for West York (Mr. Lawson) referred yesterday as being a desirable condition for Canada. These men and their families are in absolute want. I know of one case where a man had $3,000 in the Home bank when it failed and he still has $1,500 coming to him in theory. He is forced to draw relief in order to keep from starvation, his family consisting of a wife and six children. He was a very thrifty man and he did the best he could, but he is forced to draw relief from the town of Blairmore.

The condition at Bellevue is particularly serious. This is a small community and I am sure there is no possibility of relief, either direct or indirect, being given to the miners out of the $20,000,000 voted for unemployment relief as the town of Bellevue would be unable to pay their share of the expenditure necessary. No wonder the secretary of the Miners' Union says that if all these men are laid off, there will be trouble. There are five big mines in this area. If the other five mines follow the same policy that has been inaugurated at Bellevue, it means that about 1,000 men will be laid off within the next week or two. What are these 1,000 men to do? This mining area is located in the mountains; there is no farming country around it where these people can go, and they have not the money to move out in any case. I have examined the pay slips of some of the miners at Bellevue; I have noted one case where a man worked every day the mine was open during the months of January and February, and for those two months he averaged $26.65 per month. Those are the net wages he received. He endeavoured to keep himself, his wife and four children on that. Now the proposal of the management is to lay off a large number of these men and to divide up the work amongst the men whom they retain on the pay-roll. I again ask the government to send a man from the Department of Labour into that camp to try to arrange a satisfactory solution of the difficulty between the company and the men. If those men have to be laid off, this should not be done until some provision is made for them and their families when that lay-off occurs, because the day their names are removed from the pay list, that day their credit will be stopped at the stores. What, then, are they going to live on? The community cannot give them direct relief and it will be a crime if this action is allowed to be taken by the management unless some provision is made to take care of them.

May I say that I am glad the subamendment has been moved by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner). I could not honestly vote for the motion. I took the trouble this morning to look up the motion, the words of which are rather striking. The hon. member for Restigouche-Madawaska (Mr. Cormier) moved:

> That a humble address be presented to His Excellency the Administrator of Canada, to thank His Excellency for the gracious speech which he has been pleased to make to both houses of parliament, at the opening of this session.

Those are very grateful and humble words. I thought: What is in the speech from the throne that we should be so very grateful for? I read over the speech from the throne and I could find in it very little to make me really thankful. Of course in this case His Excel-

lency means the Prime Minister and it does not seem possible that the speech from the throne could have been written by the same man who delivered such eloquent speeches during the election campaign. If this speech from the throne were in line with the speech, for instance, delivered at Winnipeg with which the campaign was opened, we might thank His Excellency for it. I have in my hand a clipping taken from a United States publication reading:

> The contrast between the Republican campaign assurances and the present reality is pretty vivid.

By the change of one word that fits the case here very nicely. Then it would read:

> The contrast between Conservative campaign assurances and the present reality is pretty vivid.

I can find no reason why I should vote for the motion for the address. The amendment moved by the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) does not suit me very well; it is entirely negative in character, and at a time as serious as this we certainly require some very constructive proposals. I am pleased that the subamendment has been moved, because it suggests something constructive to the house. It contains three very definite proposals: the appointment of a committee to examine into the causes and extent of the present depression and to suggest action to relieve present suffering, correct the present situation and render less probable the recurrence of such disasters in the future. That is surely a worthy suggestion to make to the house. Already in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne some suggestions have been made, and I think they should be considered by this committee. This is surely so reasonable that the government will accept it.

The second suggestion which we make is federal action to secure the granting of sufficient credit to enable the western farmers to put in their crops. The government must be convinced of the necessity for that. Speeches delivered by some of their own supporters from western Canada should be quite ample to convince them in that regard.

I want to read just one paragraph from a letter which I hold in my hand, because I do not wish to take up any more of the time of the house. This is a letter which I received this morning from a very reliable gentleman in my constituency. He says:

> We have been encouraged in the use of credit and the present is no time for its withdrawal. The banks have almost closed down entirely on credit and farmers who have turned over to tractors are finding it almost impossible to finance seeding operations.

I cannot refrain from reading the last paragraph of the letter, because it deals with the question of unemployment which we have emphasized in our subamendment.

> It looks to me as though the situation was getting worse, unemployment increasing, wages coming down and no opening at all for those completing their educational training and looking for positions. I believe the situation is worse in this class than any other. Numbers of trained boys coming on and large numbers being let out of salaried positions every day. The Canadian Pacific Railway has let most of their employees out here, men with years of training and service. Speak of communism and socialism as you will, at least it can show nothing worse than the present situation in capitalistic countries.

I do not think I can do better than close with that quotation. Surely in the face of the conditions which have been so fully set before the house, the government should be willing to accept the subamendment which has been moved from this corner.

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): It is a matter for regret that the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and the government assume the attitude they do towards questions directed to them on the orders of the day. If information is asked for in the house, especially at a time like this, it is in the interest of the government to furnish it as far as possible. Though I cannot agree with the Prime Minister in any of his policies, I have a certain personal regard for him, and I do not like to see him adopting in this chamber a practice that will tend more and more to shake the confidence of the people in his sincerity and integrity.

This afternoon I tried to ask him a question and I endeavoured to lay a foundation to explain what the question would involve in order that he might intelligently comprehend and answer it, but I was denied the privilege so I shall take this opportunity of explaining to the house exactly what I had in mind. In a portion of my constituency there is a considerable stretch of what we call heavy land. It is very productive land, level, of uniform quality and texture, and it lends itself to tractor farming. Practically all the farmers on this land have gone in for tractor farming, many of them having entirely done away with their horses. Economic conditions of late have made it necessary for those farmers to look closely at every cent which they have to pay out. They must cut costs wherever possible, and they find that the price which they have to pay for gasoline is seven cents higher than the wholesale price. On the 6th April of this year, the farmers of one of those districts held a meeting at the village of Riceton and formed a cooperative

association to buy their own gasoline. They figured that by so doing they could save five of the seven cent spread between the wholesale and the retail prices. I did not intend to read as much of this letter as I am going to read now, but as I have time I shall read a little more of it to let the house appreciate exactly what was in the minds of these farmers. The letter reads:

We had an interesting meeting Saturday night at Riceton comprising farmers over a large area (most of Lajord municipality) and formed an association chiefly to purchase gasoline.

This is a big question. There is now apparently seven cent spread between wholesale and retail in this district and we can probably get back about five cents in patronage dividends and I have been prodding our boys in Saskatchewan house re gas price during session but little has been done. Mr. Stewart gave notice of a bill but withdrew the bill. I understand from Dr. Urich that the reason given was an agreement with the Dominion government. I asked Mr. Patterson (Milestone) Saturday night about it and he practically admitted that the oil companies bluffed the government out of it and that the government learned that the price would probably go up instead of down if an investigation was started into prices.

These farmers formed a co-operative organization to buy their own gasoline. They were located in the village of Riceton, where there were three storage plants for gasoline owned by three different private oil companies. The farmers went to one company and said, "We will buy your plant if you care to sell it, and if you do not, we will build another one." So the company decided to sell their plant to the farmers and the following letter, of which I shall read a part, is the sequel to that deal. It is written by Mr. W. S. Kirkpatrick, managing director of the Puritan Oil Company Limited, which is the company that sold its plant to the farmers. It is dated Regina, April 14, 1931, and reads in part as follows:

On April 10th we disposed of one of our bulk plants, located at Riceton, Saskatchewan to the Riceton Co-operative Association, an association membership composed of farmers throughout that district. At Riceton in addition to our former plant there were also the Imperial and B. A. located at this point with bulk storage. On Saturady morning I interviewed the manager of the Imperial Oil Company in regard to shipping a carload of gasoline to this Association at Riceton. Their manager apparently was very much put out with the thought that this association was formed at that particular point. I might state had we not sold our plant to them, it was their intention to erect a fourth set of tanks, and there was no business in that particular community for four sets of tanks, in fact there is not sufficient for three.

At the time of ordering this car their manager informed me that it would be impossible to get a shipment out on prompt shipment as they were some forty tank cars behind in shipping. In less than five minutes, without any further information he increased this to fifty cars back ordered. A few moments later he called the refinery superintendent on the phone and while he did not repeat any figures which were given him by the refinery superintendent, the amount was increased to seventy-five cars back ordered, and that he did not know when a shipment could be made, although they were desirous of the business. The writer called him this morning to see if the shipment had actually been made as yet, and he informed me that it had not and did not know when it could be made on account of the shortage of cars and back orders.

I got in my car this morning and drove by their plant to see how many cars actually were available, as we are very positive it was nothing but a stall to keep these people from receiving gasoline. I found in actual count the following on trackage west of the refinery, 38 empty tank cars stored. Sixteen of them were Imperial Marvelube red cars and green cars, the balance T.C.L.X. Quite a few of the T.C.L.X. cars I might state are used for the Imperial and B. A. shipping. I then drove to the back of the refinery loading rack, and counted 22 cars stored back there. I might state it was impossible to see all the cars that were stored on account of tankage, but would judge there were possibly six or eight that were not visible.

We might also state that the refinery at Regina on account of storage being full and their country storage being full have been laying off men continuously and are only operating the refinery on a skeleton crew endeavouring to reduce their stocks previous to operating on full capacity.

We are absolutely positive that this is simply a stall to keep this co-operative association from having supplies, and thought at this time this information might be valuable to the organization.

There is a postscript which reads as follows:

P.S.—This morning we offered to furnish the Imperial Oil an empty tank car if they were still short to handle this shipment, and their local manager refused to accept this offer.

That, Mr. Speaker, is the situation. The Imperial Oil Company at Regina, having the only refinery in Saskatchewan, have deliberately set out to deny to the people of that country the right to buy oil or gas from anyone except themselves and at their own prices. When the farmers undertook to form a cooperative association to buy their own oil and gas, this company refused to furnish them with gasoline on the pretext that it had no cars, when about eighty empty tank cars were standing on their siding. I asked the minister a few moments ago if he would remove the duty on gasoline to allow the farmers to bring it in from the United States free of duty. If he will not, I would ask the government to make an investigation into

this case and to see to it that effective measures are taken to compel the Canadian oil refineries to furnish gasoline to whomsoever wants to buy it and has the money to pay for it. That is the least which the government can do in view of what it has done to increase the price of gasoline and other articles to the farmer.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): Now that my hon. friend from Weyburn (Mr. Young) has introduced the question of the gasoline tax I would like to mention a condition that obtains in the west. At the session last September a duty of 2½ cents was imposed on gasoline, which previously came in free. I protested at the time and suggested to the government that they should allow the same exemption as obtains in the province. The province imposes a tax of 5 cents a gallon on gasoline, but exempts farmers and fishermen from paying the tax when the gasoline is used in their operations, and machinery is provided by which they can get a rebate. But the government last September imposed a tax of 2½ cents and made it apply on gasoline used by fishermen. They also made a change in the customs tariff and in the Customs Act, and it is in connection with the operation of the latter act, I fancy, that the trouble of which I now wish to speak has arisen more particularly. The fishermen on the west coast engaged in trolling compete with the United States fishermen in the open ocean beyond the three-mile limit, where, of course, the ocean is as open to the American fishermen as it is to our Canadian fishermen, but the market for the class of fish which our Canadian fishermen on the west coast catch at this season of the year is almost entirely in the United States. The United States has a duty of 2 cents a pound on fish entering that country shipped by Canadians. That alone gives the American fisherman an enormous advantage over his Canadian competitor. If we are going to increase that handicap by a tax on gasoline—the Canadian fisherman has to pay 24 cents a gallon for the class of gasoline he uses in his little fishing boat as compared with 8 cents a gallon—the Imperial gallon in both cases—which the American fisherman pays in Seattle—it will be readily understood what a great handicap is imposed on our citizen fishermen. I am told by those in a position to know that the cost of gasoline amounts to from 30 to 35 per cent of the operating costs, so it can be seen at a glance under what a serious handicap our Canadian fishermen operate.

It is not so much that American gasoline is being dumped into this country. It is not being dumped. It is being offered for sale in Canada at the same price as it is offered for sale in the United States, but the customs officials out there are now seeking to impose the dumping duty, not on its merits as we know the dumping duty, but in a roundabout way. To be applied on its merits the dumping duty must be applied to an article which is sold in Canada cheaper than in the country of origin. But the customs officials are seeking to impose it by way of a fictitious condition which they create by resorting to subsection 2, I think it is, of section 36 of the Customs Act, under which they say that the value for duty purposes—I am quoting the act from memory—shall in no case be less than the cost of production in the country of origin, plus a fair profit, plus freight. In that way they will be entitled to fix the value so as to allow the dumping duty to be put on and bring the cost of the American gasoline up from 8 cents to 24 cents a gallon. I would ask the minister in charge of this matter, when he is taking steps to guarantee cost of production plus a reasonable profit, whatever that may be, plus the cost of freight for the American manufacturer of gasoline, would it not be better first to guarantee to our Canadian fishermen the cost of production plus a reasonable profit, plus freight to where his product is sold. It is going to make enormous and untenable difficulties for our Canadian fishermen and I would suggest that in this particular matter the provisions of section 36 of subsection 2 might be waived or at least ignored.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the house ready for the question? The question is on the subamendment.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Before the amendment to the amendment is put, Mr Speaker, I should like to say a word with reference to its nature and to what has been said of it by way of comparison with the original amendment moved by myself.

The amendment of the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), which, as has been said this afternoon, represents the collective thought of the independent group in this house, is in the nature of an addition and expansion of my amendment. It is in no sense contradictory of it. It in fact corroborates the representations of the amendment. The subamendment is more comprehensive; it is more suitable as an

addition to the amendment I have moved than as a substitution for it. Had I been moving my amendment at this stage of the debate I would probably have made it more comprehensive. The subamendment, it is true, as it stands is an alternative to the amendment I have moved. I am prepared to admit that as an alternative in certain of its features there is much to commend it. I believe hon. gentlemen at the far end of this chamber equally believe that my amendment has also very much to commend it.

When I moved the original amendment the house had before it only the speech from the throne. In that speech there were indications that in the course of time the house would be favoured with some concrete evidences of the intentions of the government to meet existing conditions which, according to the speech itself, were regarded as exceptional and serious. For example the speech from the throne contained the following words:

> It will be your privilege to consider certain measures designed by my ministers to ameliorate existing conditions—

Also the following:

> 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 presence of this statement in the speech from the throne would indicate that to meet the existing situation, the government had had in mind the enactment of additional measures.

It is usual, Mr. Speaker, in a debate which lasts for a considerable period of time and in the course of which the administration is questioned with respect to proposed legislation that some member of the ministry on behalf of the government gives to parliament at least an intimation of what may be expected. Although this debate has run on for more than five weeks we have had from the ministry in that length of time no expression whatever of its intention in regard to legislation of any kind to meet existing conditions which admittedly are of a most serious nature. The two features which have been stressed by all hon. members who have spoken on this side of the house, regardless of the group or party to which they may belong, were first the seriousness of the agricultural distress and secondly the extent and seriousness of unemployment in urban centres. With regard to these all important matters hon. gentlemen opposite have sat as dumb as oysters. We have had no expression whatever from the ministry as to what they intend doing to meet existing difficulties.

May I mention a further circumstance. We are differently situated with respect to this debate on the speech from the throne than we have been in respect of others which have taken place in parliament. Owing to the lateness at which the session was called there have been on two or three occasions motions to suspend the rules of the house in order that the ministry might proceed a stage further with necessary business. Such action was essential in order to vote the salaries of civil employees. The estimates for the present fiscal year were placed upon the table of the house and are now before us. Ordinarily they would not have been available to hon. members until after the completion of the debate on the speech from the throne. However they are now in our possession and we have had an opportunity to peruse them. I venture to say there is not an hon. member of the house who can point to a single proposed expenditure which in any way is intended expressly to meet either the acute agricultural distress or the unfortunate situation existing with regard to unemployment. That very materially alters the position from what it was at the time I proposed the amendment which appears in my name. Hon. gentlemen in the far corner of the house have had the benefit of a discussion stressing immediate needs which has lasted over five weeks. They have knowledge of two very important facts, one positive in its nature, the other negative which I had not at the time I moved my amendment. The first of these is the positive evidence as shown by the estimates that no special provision is being made to meet agricultural distress in the rural districts or the extensive unemployment in the cities and towns. Evidence of the same thing, negative perhaps in its character, is to be found in the complete silence of the ministry, notwithstanding the representations which from time to time have been made to them during this debate. For those reasons I feel that hon. members in the far corner of the house are at this stage entirely right when they come forward with a subamendment which urges upon the administration immediate action in regard to those two all important phases of our national economic life.

I wish to direct a further remark particularly to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister.

Owing to the serious conditions of the country at the present time, I think he owed it to the people's representatives in parliament to have been present in this house, and to have listened to the speeches which have been made during the course of this debate. I know he has many onerous duties to perform which of necessity demand much of his time. As Prime Minister of Canada and as leader of the House of Commons his place while the house is in session is in parliament. Had he chosen to absent himself occasionally during or for an afternoon or evening, I would not have raised my voice in criticism, but I venture to say that with the exception of listening to me, during my very long speech, he did not extend a similar courtesy to a single hon. member on this side of the house. It is true he was in his seat while one or two of his own members spoke, but those instances were few indeed. The right hon. gentleman invariably chose to leave his seat immediately following the order to proceed with this debate, and throughout the whole of the five weeks and more he has been in the house for only a very short time. If he had remained here I have no doubt he would have been very much impressed by what has been said by hon. members on this side of the house as to the need of immediate attention and the need of going with greater care into the causes contributing to existing conditions.

Not only has the Prime Minister paid no attention to the debate but his ministers likewise have contributed nothing in the way of an expression of view on the part of the government, and nothing to indicate its attitude. It is true the house was favoured by a contribution to the debate from the Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) and the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré), but there was not a word in the speeches they delivered with reference to government policy. Notwithstanding the fact that on the treasury benches are many hon. gentlemen who have had wide parliamentary experience, we have not heard in the course of this debate a single word from one of them. I affirm, Mr. Speaker, that in this attitude the government is not carrying on the business of the country in a parliamentary way. It is not fulfilling its function as a government when, in a debate as important as this one, no member of the administration has chosen to make or been permitted to make a single contribution with respect to the all-important matters under discussion. I am forced to the conclusion that in the matter of its own views the ministry feels insecure; it must feel that its policies are not as mature as they should be. It would certainly appear that there is need for something in the nature of counsel and advice to be secured perhaps by further investigation. Holding that view, I confess to a very real sympathy with the major proposal of the subamendment which has been moved and which suggests that:

> Your Excellency's advisers should give consideration to the appointment of a special committee of parliament, to which committee would be assigned the duty of examining into the causes and extent of the present depression.

That is very moderately and very carefully worded. It places nothing in the way of compulsion upon the administration. It is a mere suggestion that the ministry give consideration to the appointing of a parliamentary committee. I agree with one hon. member who spoke this afternoon in his view as to the limitations of parliamentary committees to achieve anything in a short time; but in a situation such as now exists I certainly think that a committee, which would have upon it members of all parties in this house, and would have the privilege of bringing before it representative individuals from all parts of the country, might do very much in the way of bringing about that cooperative spirit which has been referred to as being so desirable between all parties in the house at a time such as the present and with respect to a great public emergency such as is to be found in more than one phase of the existing economic depression. With that part of the subamendment, I feel myself in entire accord.

The subamendment continues with respect to what is desirable in the interval, between the appointing of a committee and its findings and makes in this connection two concrete suggestions. One is that the administration should give consideration to some scheme of federal assistance to the farmers with respect to their spring operations. When I first heard that clause being discussed I felt it might be taken as a reflection upon the banks that in some way they had failed to discharge their full duty. From a perusal of the clause, however, I do not think that such could have been the intention and such is certainly not its meaning. The wording as a matter of fact makes it clear that the situation is such that the banks would not be doing their duty were they to attempt to make certain loans in the existing circumstances. At least it seems to me that the clause is capable of that interpretation. It reads:

> (a) That the failure or inability of our banks to provide the credit which is essential to our

farmers in respect to their spring operations, render it imperative that consideration be given to some system of federal assistance, whether directly, by way of bank guarantee, or otherwise.

The member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) will correct me if I am wrong, but I take this to mean that the banks find conditions in the farming areas throughout western Canada are such that they would not be justified in making loans on the security which they are able to obtain. That being the case, and this being spring, and spring operations being impeded through the dire necessity of many of those in the rural parts of the country, the subamendment suggests that the federal government should consider some form of assistance to meet the emergency. My recollection is that over and over again the government has at times of distress given substantial assistance to farmers in connection with their seeding and other agricultural operations; and if there ever was a time when something of the sort would seem to be necessary, that time it would seem is the present.

The other clause of the subamendment is:

(b) That the serious situation which still prevails in respect of unemployment demands that consideration be given to some immediate action looking toward increased employment, and a further measure of direct relief where such is found necessary.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the necessity of some such step must appeal to every hon. member. The need for immediate assistance being granted to meet the existing situation of unemployment has been made more obvious than ever, and the ministry, if it agrees to that particular request, will only be carrving out what at one time or another it has stated was its policy.

In these circumstances I feel that I should like to support the subamendment, and I intend to do so. If the subamendment carries, a special committee will be appointed which will go into all phases of the present industrial situation. That special committee will not proceed very far in its investigation before it will discover the truth of what is alleged in the amendment I have moved. The amendment which I moved some five weeks ago expresses the opinion that if certain proposals—

—and certain other of the policies of the government are persisted in, as would appear to be the intention of the government as outlined in the speech from the throne, the very serious condition which exists at the present time will be intensified rather than relieved.

I believe it to be true that every hon. member on this side of the house who has spoken, no matter to which group or party he belongs, has given expression to the view that the tariff increases made at the special session have tended to make conditions in Canada worse rather than better. If a policy of further tariff increase is going to be persisted in, we may look for the economic condition of this country being made even more difficult then it is at present.

Just this word in conclusion. In reference to the amendment which I have moved certain hon. members have said that it is largely negative in character. They have so characterized it because in their view it does not propose some concrete measure such as they have proposed in their subamendment. May I say that what is preventive in its nature may be much more positive in character than anything that may be remedial. The measures which hon. members in the far corner are suggesting are largely remedial in character. If there had been preventive measures adopted at the outset then there might not be any necessity for the remedial legislation they are seeking at the present time. We have before us a clear demonstration of legislation which was enacted at the special session working a positive injury to the agricultural and indeed to other interests in this country. My amendment states that to persist in that policy, as the speech from the throne implies the government intends to do, will only serve to make matters worse. I submit that I am making a positive, not a negative contribution to the relief of the existing situation when I ask this house to declare that the government should discontinue a policy which has already proven inimical to the best interests of the country. If the subamendment does carry, we will have the opportunity for a fuller discussion. If it does not carry, I hope the amendment which I have moved, and which is in the nature of an alternative, will receive substantial support, and that between the two we shall get from hon. gentlemen opposite at least something in the nature of definite action.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, most hon. members of this chamber have seen exhibitions of vacillation on more than one occasion by the right hon. gentleman opposite (Mr. Mackenzie King), but he has never done himself quite as much justice as he has to-day. He has never made it more clearly apparent to the people of this country than he has this afternoon, that he has no fixed opinions beyond getting a few votes to support any amendment that may be in opposition to the government.

Behold the spectacle. On the 16th day of March, 1931, the right hon. gentleman moved,

as an amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne, an amendment reading as follows:

We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that this house, while recognizing the serious economic conditions prevailing throughout the world, regrets that the policies of His Majesty's government have not only failed to afford a remedy for employment and agricultural distress, as pledged by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, but have served further to prejudice the deplorable position of the agricultural interests, thereby causing additional unemployment and substantially reducing the national revenue.

The house believes that the proposals made to the Imperial economic conference and the manner in which they were submitted and discussed by the Prime Minister of Canada were responsible for the failure of the conference to accomplish its purpose in London, and that the successful development of Canada's trade relations with Great Britain has been adversely affected thereby.

The house is further of the opinion that, if these proposals and certain other of the policies of the government are persisted in, as would appear to be the intention of the government as outlined in the speech from the throne, the very serious condition which exists at the present time will be intensified rather than relieved.

Last evening a subamendment was moved in this chamber by a representative of the group opposite to my right to strike out of that amendment all the words after the word "That," and to substitute for it a demand for a committee. In other words, the right hon. gentleman has now seen fit to abandon his censorious attitude of the past five weeks. He is no longer condemning the attitude of the government in respect to the Imperial economic conference; he is no longer denouncing the attitude of the government in respect to its policies. Now he says, "I am content now to accept a little amendment that comes from the group in the corner. Peradventure we will all vote solidly against the government, and all we want is a committee."

That is the spectacle which has been placed before the people of this country. That is the exhibition which has been given. Let the people of Canada know that the Liberal opposition in parliament has no policy and no position, and never had a policy or position except one of destruction. When they find something a little milder than the destruction which they endeavoured to promote and could not secure, they accept it because they say it will let them all vote against the government. That is the position. Is it any wonder that numbers of them hung their heads when they heard the right hon. gentleman say, "I accept this subamendment"?

Mr. BOURASSA: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: Is it any wonder the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) can no longer contain himself from laughter? Imagine the spectacle in this house of an opposition which day after day and week after week thundered and pounded their desks in opposition to the government, decrying its policies, denouncing the economic conference and all its works, now saying "We take all that back; we would like to have all those words struck out. All we want now is a little committee to inquire into the matter."

That is the position. Oh, could anything be more insincere? Could anything be more ridiculous or could anything be better calculated to make the Canadian people glad and proud to think they put the proper value upon the government that was, the party which is now in opposition, on the 28th day of July last?

The right hon. gentleman has suggested that I should have been more in my place during the progress of the debate.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, the evidence that has now been given indicates that I should not have been here at all. The evidence now given indicates that I should not have been here at least until last night, and that all this time has been wasted, because the right hon. gentleman has abandoned everything that has been said during that time. That is his position.

I would like to say this word in addition. The right hon. gentleman knows that at one time he was leader of the government, and he knew then what were the demands upon his time and how little time he was in the house during such a debate.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: He sat in the house.

Mr. BENNETT: He did not. I happened to be in London a short time ago, and I know that the leader of the government there was not in his place all the time. He left the house in competent hands, and this house and this government always have been in competent hands when I was absent from the chamber. I was always within the precincts of the chamber; I was only a few feet away discharging duties somewhat more onerous than listening to the observations made by hon. gentlemen opposite, which would not have been a very difficult task. They know perfectly well that the year before, when they heard the opposition complaining that the Minister of Finance was not in his place when the debate was proceeding but was receiving delegations instead, which the opposi-

tion of that time thought was taking up too much time, the government of the day said he had to see delegations and to meet people who came to call about public business. I assure this house that I have not been shirking my duties in any sense by not being in this chamber, and now I can see no good, whatever doubt I ever might have entertained, which would have resulted from my being in the chamber, in view of the attitude of the right hon. gentleman that all this discussion has been mere piffle and a waste of time, and that the really important thing is to appoint a committee and waste no further time in these denunciations of policies, economic conferences and so on.

I do stand here to-day to express, as far as it is possible for any member of this house to express, regret that the exaggerated statements that have been made with respect to conditions in the west should have been circulated broadcast through this country. I am here to say further that I regret deeply that hon. gentlemen have lent themselves to policies to which, in days gone by, they said they would never be a party. Who does not recall, in 1927, 1928 and 1929, when we ventured to criticize the government, the observations which they then made to the effect that we were injuring the country, that we were pessimists, that we were doing a harm to Canada? Now, broadcast throughout this country and in other countries, have gone statements that cannot be substantiated in any manner or form. It is true that in a few isolated cases you may be able to find hardship; of course you may. There never has been a time when you could not do so, but there are the same people in western Canada to-day as have been there in years gone by. It is the same country; the people have the same high courage and the same determination, except to the extent that the lowering of prices by world conditions, to which I shall presently refer, may have made them less optimistic of the immediate future than they have been in the past.

It ill becomes hon. gentlemen here, who know of an isolated case here and another there, to draw a general conclusion in respect to conditions in western Canada. I can say that in western Canada there are tens of thousands of farmers who have deposits of money in the banks. It is true that there has been great hardship encountered by many farmers, for two reasons, first because of crop failure, and second because of low prices for the crops they did produce. The hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) himself lost his crop during two succeeding years through no fault of his own but through the action of the elements, through drought or hail, and last year, when there was a larger crop, the price —for reasons which I shall presently indicate— was such as did not leave any profit in return for the labour and money expended.

But because you happen to be in opposition is that a good reason to say that you shall at once decry your country? Is it a good reason to say that the people who a few short years ago gave you support are now people who have lost their courage and initiative and power of development? Is that the attitude to take? Is it the right attitude, to say all is lost because you happen to be for the moment defeated? Is it right to take an attitude of pessimism because the people were optimistic and got rid of you? Are those reasons that should govern men in the conduct of the serious business of this country? Then we hear them prattle about cooperation, after they have denounced the country in every way in which they can think, endeavouring to embarrass the administration.

If hon. gentlemen opposite want to know why there has been no declaration of policy during the progress of this debate, they need not do more than look up the rules governing parliamentary practice and procedure. They will find that in Great Britain the speech from the throne is not given precedence over all other business of the house. The business of the house is transacted; bills are introduced; second readings are given; discussions go on, and the ordinary business proceeds, but here we see fit, for reasons best known to ourselves, to give precedence to the address in reply to the speech from the throne over all other business, and in that way we preclude the possibility of measures being introduced or policies declared. Every member of this house who is familiar with parliamentary practice and procedure knows that is so, and in the days of Macdonald and Laurier one day or two days finished the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne.

Mr. BOURASSA: Not always.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman is quite right; that was not always the case, but happened very frequently. Over a long term of years, one day finished the debate, then two days, and sometimes a week. Now we have been discussing the speech from the throne for five weeks, and during all that time hon. gentlemen opposite have been waiting for a minister to make a statement, they say, or for the Prime Minister to make a declaration of policy. But in either case

the minister or Prime Minister would be doing wrong; it would not be in accordance with his obligations to this house.

Let us see if the west is as badly off as some hon. gentlemen would have us believe. I took the trouble to obtain from the Bureau of Statistics some information with respect to the conditions prevailing in western Canada. I had first-hand information, but the figures disclose that during the years 1928, 1929 and 1930 the gross agricultural revenue—it is estimated partly for this year—from the three prairie provinces amounted to the enormous sum of $1,900,000,000. This was new wealth produced in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta from field and farm crops, farm animals, wool, dairy products, fruits, vegetables, poultry, eggs, fur farming, clover and grass seed and honey. During the same period there was produced a vast quantity of mineral wealth. It must be remembered that the application of capital and labour to these natural resources is responsible for this new wealth. The great mining areas in the three western provinces produced during the last three years the vast sum of over $100,000,000. Thus we have the gigantic total of over two billion dollars of new wealth produced in three years by less than two million people in the three western provinces of Canada. That is something of which any people might well be proud and it ill behooves the representatives of these people to have it sent abroad to other parts of the world that this country is worn out and in a bankrupt condition. Not only has this vast aggregate of over two billion dollars of new wealth been produced, but other sums for manufactures which I could mention if added would make a much larger total. It cannot be said that this new wealth has disappeared and the people have nothing to show for it; they are not bankrupt and insolvent as has been claimed.

The bank reports show that tens of thousands of farmers in western Canada have money in the bank. If hon. members will take the trouble to investigate they will find that wherever men have had regard for economic laws and have kept free from speculation and wild dreams of sudden wealth, they are happy and contented and have provided a good livelihood for themselves and their families.

But there is something more to this. I took the trouble to-day to ask for a return covering the number of automobiles registered in 1930 in the three western provinces. What does this house think those automobiles are worth? What does it think they cost those two millions of people in western Canada? They cost them approximately $300,000,000. The number of motor vehicles registered in Canada for 1930 was 1,239,889, an increase over the 1929 registration of 44,295 or 3·7 per cent. The increase in 1929 amounted to 118,775 or 11 per cent, and in 1928 it was 131,147 or 13·9 per cent. The registration of passenger cars in the western provinces was as follows:

Manitoba	68,550
Saskatchewan	108,161
Alberta	85,067

The total registration of all forms of motor-operated vehicles was:

Manitoba	79,308
Saskatchewan	129,861
Alberta	102,651

The pro rata ownership was as follows:

Manitoba	1 for every 8·5 people
Saskatchewan	1 for every 6·8 people
Alberta	1 for every 6·4 people

Similar figures for the other provinces are as follows:

Prince Edward Island	1 for every 11·6 people
Nova Scotia	1 for every 12·9 people
New Brunswick	1 for every 12·2 people
Quebec	1 for every 15·3 people
Ontario	1 for every 5·9 people

These figures present the situation as shown by the total number of automobiles registered in the different provinces, and costing approximately, as I have said, $300,000,000. Does the house realize just how much money was collected in the three prairie provinces last year for gasoline and registration fees? The amounts were as follows:

Manitoba	$2,179,672
Saskatchewan	3,493,105
Alberta	3,953,975
Total	$9,626,752

The 5 cent per gallon gasoline tax produced the following revenue:

Alberta	$1,939,048
Saskatchewan	1,538,556
Manitoba	1,099,778

Hon. gentlemen opposite who come from these provinces have been talking about their insolvency and bankruptcy. Can that be said of a people who can afford to invest in the purchase and maintenance of automobiles the large sums which I have mentioned?

What is the cause of the great depression in western Canada? Hon. gentlemen opposite know that the most important cause is speculation. Not speculation in wheat options or in oil or mining stocks, but speculation in the large sense in which that term is used.

It has been said by one of the foremost authorities on the American continent that the cause of this great depression is speculation—not the narrow speculation to which some hon. gentlemen refer, but speculation in a larger sense. This has brought disaster in its wake. Although the exact figures cannot be ascertained, it is known that over $400,000,000 of Canadian money was lost last year by speculation in Wall street. However, speculation has not been confined to the stock exchanges of New York, Chicago, Montreal and Toronto; it has been spread over every part of this Dominion and of this continent. Think of the speculation in instalment buying, the gambling or staking of one's ability to pay instalments against a wage that might not continue. What is the result? Articles so purchased are taken back by the sellers, which prevents the sale of new articles, thus bringing about overproduction with all its resultant difficulties.

In 1928 I ventured to point out what would happen in Canada by reason of the speculative mania with which the Canadian people were then being attacked. In reply to the Minister of Finance, my words, which appear on page 4044 of Hansard of June 9, 1928, were as follows:

> Let him consult the financial heads of great institutions to the south of us. It is true that we have a vast, untouched estate, and that new wealth may be produced much more readily from that than from an old and cultivated estate. But it is also true that where we cultivate, it is necessary that we should sell, and if we find a curtailment and shrinkage of trade among the nations of the world, we find a limitation placed upon our ability to dispose of that which we produce. The minister knows that. He has been told time and time again by the great heads of financial institutions to be cautious, to look ahead. Every thoughtful business man is doing it; everybody is shortening sail except the speculators. Do you realize, sir, that this great speculative era that we now have on the American continent is one fraught with possibilities of the gravest disaster for this country? The brokers' loans alone in New York last week were over $5,000,000,000, an unheard of figure. In this country speculation is rampant. Some people imagine that trading in pieces of paper upon which there are engraved words and figures constitutes the creation of new wealth. It is not so. The new wealth of the country is being created by the application of labour and capital to the natural resources of the country, and this trading in stock certificates, this great era of speculation in this country and on this continent, is one fraught with possibilities of the gravest danger to Canada, because we have not as they have in the United States a vast accumulation of wealth that will enable us to meet the approaching conditions with ease.
>
> Look at the movement of securities; look at the movement of gold; look at every indication there is with respect to speculation in this country. I know great brokers' houses that have declined to take new accounts in this country for over twelve months, one perhaps the greatest brokerage house in this country, because they fear what they see in the distance. But no one in the government seems to care, and if we point out the conditions we are "pessimists", if we venture to direct attention to the conditions we are "decrying our country". That is the talk that hon. gentlemen opposite hurl at us and before the country. But I recall the language of one who was regarded in after years as one of the very greatest of British statesmen, who observed that when their orgy was through, when they had at last recovered from the debauch in which they were then enjoying themselves, possibly then in their sober and quiet moments they would look back and recall the warning that had been given by those who, looking into the future as best they could, guided by those economic signs that were apparent, and by beacon lights, warning of the future, had pointed out the conditions as they also had come to pass. You perhaps will look back upon our warnings, and perhaps remember with at least some degree of fairminded justice the observations that were made by those of us who have pointed out the national disaster that is inevitable if this orgy of mad expenditure continues.

Those were my words in June, 1928. I profess to no special knowledge; I had only the advice that any other hon. member might have had. Anyone who is any student at all of economic conditions, who could not foresee the result, must have been blind to the signs of the times. I know how difficult it is to induce people to realize what is about to happen. Only last week I was looking through certain proceedings in the courts, and I found one brokerage firm $15,000,000 short in a single day. Do hon. members realize what all this means? Did they notice what the courts of Alberta showed as to the number of farmers who had wheat accounts with firms that were before the courts? Have they had the experience I did the other day of a man seventy years of age coming into my office from a remote town in Ontario: he had been well to do, but he went to the little brokerage office in that town, and now he is absolutely without a dollar. That is speculation, and many of the difficulties that confront us in this country to-day arise from that very sort of thing, using the word "speculation" in the large and broad sense in which that term should be employed.

There are some people who try to make it appear that the western country is a country that is bankrupt. I repeat, those gentlemen are entirely wrong. Western Canada is the country it always has been; the people are the people they have ever been. If for a reason that I shall mention, and that I think

it is only fair to mention, the sudden drop in prices, their ardour may have been dampened for a moment, this will not retard them in their advance. It will set them back temporarily, but it will strengthen their courage. But hon. members opposite are not helping to encourage them by decrying their country. They are not doing it by making people abroad believe what they say is true. The other day I had a letter from a gentleman saying: Cannot something be done to stop Mr. So-and-So from talking so about his country? Agreements for sale are being offered abroad, and people overseas say that these have no value because members of parliament say the country is bankrupt. Members of parliament are sometimes accepted as being more important individuals than they are, and their opinion has attached to it an importance that is not warranted. But that is the situation when these things go abroad from Canada's capital city.

How well do I remember in days gone by the present leader of the opposition lecturing me for my pessimism and lack of faith and courage with respect to this Canada of ours, and his saying that to take such an attitude was almost treason to the country. I suggest that hon. gentlemen opposite who, during the last five weeks, have been making the speeches they have, go now and read their leader's observations in days gone by and ask themselves what they think of themselves.

It is true that there was a great diminution in the price of grain. What brought it about? There are hon. gentlemen opposite who scoff and scorn at our mentioning the word "Russia." Every man knows that the wheat debacle of 1929-30 arose from causes that it is not difficult now to explain but which it might not have then been easy to foresee, although there were many who did foresee them. The world crop of 1929 was known. Some took no account whatever of the Russian crop. The crop of 1930 was known. The price went up beyond one dollar; it went to $1.25 and more, and the farmers of western Canada were told that it would go much higher. They were told that all they had to do was simply to watch and the price would become greater and greater still. I recall farmers who were holding their crops for $2 a bushel, sincerely believing that they were going to get it. They heard of higher prices on the radio; they read of them in the press. What happened? The importing countries, first of all, were increasing their production to a maximum; in the second place, Russia produced a crop of approximately 1,000,000,000 bushels. In other words, Russia had to be reckoned with as an exporting country. I had a friend in the grain business go up to Liverpool from London last fall for the purpose of ascertaining just what was involved in this Russian wheat. He saw wheat which he said was quite the equal of our Canadian wheat of the same grade being sold for sixty cents a bushel, delivered in Liverpool, and the price subsequently went lower. There being an overproduction of wheat, there was a producer willing to sell it at any price he could obtain, a price lower than that of his competitor. Canadian wheat had also to find a lower price level. Practically one-half of that wheat was held by the pools of the country, and unless something were done to steady the financial situation with respect to the pools that held that one-half, then there would be chaos and disaster. This government got behind those pools and said it would assist the orderly marketing of the wheat crop of western Canada. That assistance and support had, of course, the same effect upon non-pool wheat. That was what the government did. It did not peg the price; no government of which I am the head ever will. I have seen artificial prices placed upon commodities and whether that commodity be wheat or anything else, it matters not, I know the inevitable result. It cannot advantageously be done; it will not succeed. It may cause a temporary advantage, but that disappears. Look at the situation in the United States to-day. Mr. Legge, with all his vast experience, with all the millions and hundreds of millions of dollars that he had behind him, declared that the principle of artificial price-fixing was unsound, and it has been abandoned. We did not adopt it, so we did not have to abandon it, but we did give our assistance as I have mentioned.

At this point let me make another observation: some hon. gentlemen have been saying in the house that the attitude taken by Canada at the Imperial conference had the effect of doing what?—lessening the sale of Canadian grain in Great Britain. They thought they would deceive the people of this country by making statements such as that. We have sat in silence while they made those statements, but the time has come to speak, and here are the facts. The total exports to the United Kingdom of wheat in the month of March 1930 were 4,000,000 odd bushels, and in the month of March 1931, 5,000,000 odd bushels. The total exports to the United Kingdom for the eight months of the crop year since August—what think you the figures were?—69,398,672 bushels in 1930, and 96,170,518 in 1931. While the former Minister of Trade and Commerce said that nothing could be done to stimulate or assist the sale of wheat, this government at least

was doing its level best by every means within its power to stimulate the sale of Canadian grain, not only in the United Kingdom but in other parts of Europe as well, and there is the result in the United Kingdom. Oh, if my hon. friends opposite had only had such a result to talk about, what they would not say! But we have sat silent, content to believe that the people of this country wanted action, which they have secured, and not words which they have been receiving during the last five weeks from the benches opposite.

We might have been content with that; but we went to France. France had been buying but little of our wheat. We explained to them the situation and said that if they were to continue receiving the benefits they were receiving under our trade treaty, they must buy larger quantities of our wheat. Listen to the figures. The total of Canadian wheat entering France in January, February and March, 1930, was 1,213,789 bushels. Those were the days of hon. gentlemen opposite. Those were the days when nothing could be done. Here are the figures for the three months after something has been done. For January, February and March, 1931, the figures were 7,538,860 bushels, and those figures came from the French government themselves, because it frequently happens that cargoes are shipped to France and then deflected to another country after they are afloat, and so we secured these figures from the French government, through Mr. Roy, by cable.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Has my hon. friend the money values?

Mr. BENNETT: Well, I hope not. I have already said to the right hon. gentleman that there has been a decrease in the values for the reasons I have indicated. Mr. Tardieu, the Premier of France, explained to me that no government could live in France that did not care for the agriculturist; that must be his primary concern. Then he explained what the situation was with respect to wheat. They were growing wheat in their country on every little corner of the soil that could be made available for the purpose, and they put on a duty against foreign wheat which at one time was over $1.50 a bushel, in order that they might stimulate the activities of the domestic growers. When they found that great floods had occurred in the southern parts of France affecting a part of their grain crop, they gave us the benefits which I have indicated, and they have lived up entirely to their obligation and undertaking in that regard. They said they would buy larger quantities from us, and they have done so and will. We think that that is a fairly creditable performance under the circumstances, but we have not blazoned it from the housetops. Hon. gentlemen opposite say that by our attitude abroad we have hurt the market for Canadian wheat. All I can say in reply is this: If as a result of our attitude abroad twelve has become seventy-two, and sixty-nine, ninety-five, let us have more of that attitude.

I have one observation to make with respect to another matter, and that is the agricultural credit corporation in which, while we do not direct it, we have a deep interest. The president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to-day released to the press a statement which can be read by all. It just shows how little importance can be attached to the summary kind of statement made in this house by those who either are woefully ignorant or wilfully desire to mislead—one or the other—because a line of inquiry would have elicited the information. But that did not serve the purpose. It sounded well to make an incorrect statement. It might make discontent a little greater, might make people a little more suspicious, might make the unrest a little deeper. That is all that was wanted.

The right hon. gentleman opposite has made some reference to the necessity of action being taken as suggested by the sub-amendment for the purpose of ensuring that crops would be planted this year. As I have already said, while the amendment was being cogitated over, we were acting. We made an arrangement with the governments of the three western provinces. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) went west, met the representatives of the three prairie governments at Winnipeg, and made arrangements satisfactory to them with respect to the seed grain for the crop of 1931. I wonder if this house realizes that except in 1892, 1916, 1923 and 1924, the Dominion of Canada has advanced money for seed grain to the prairie provinces from 1876 to 1926. That is not generally known.

Mr. VALLANCE: On crown farm land.

Mr. BENNETT: Exactly, and if that logic is sound, no longer having crown lands, we should no longer have any interest in the matter. But not being content with such logic, and realizing our national obligations, what did we do?

Mr. VALLANCE: Might I ask a question? I know the right hon. gentleman wants to be fair. He knows and the Minister of Agriculture knows that there are hundreds of farmers—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: A question can be put only with the permission of the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. VALLANCE: May I ask a question?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman may ask a question, but not make an allegation.

Mr. VALLANCE: I wish to make a statement on which to base a question. The right hon. gentleman said that western agriculture last year created two billion dollars of wealth. The question I wish to ask is this: Did it not cost western agriculture more to create that new wealth than they got for it? How much has agriculture left to-day of that two billion dollars?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman has asked a question that he has already answered himself. He knows perfectly well that of the two billion dollars of new wealth created last year, the whole was not expended in its creation. We all know that. There are tens of thousands of farmers with money in the bank to-day.

Mr. VALLANCE: I do not know where they are.

Mr. BENNETT: I do, and I will take you to them if you will come with me.

Mr. VALLANCE: You did not meet them in Regina.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman is becoming, one might almost say, not to be offensive, a nuisance. If he would possess himself in patience, and not with that dogmatic shake of his head arrogate to himself an importance that he does not possess, it would be very much better.

Now I shall go a step further. I ask this house just what importance can be attached to an opposition that takes the attitude that is now being taken by the opposition with respect to the subamendment asking for a committee. Is this opposition one that might be trusted to see anything at any time affecting the welfare of Canada? Did hon. gentlemen ever look at the speech from the throne of 1930? Bear in mind what I ventured to predict in this house in 1928. In 1929 I duplicated the statement in slightly different terms. On February 20, 1930, the right hon. gentleman placed a speech from the throne in the hands of the representative of the sovereign and in that speech he referred to the great prosperity of Canada. The right hon. gentleman could not see what was coming; he was blind to the signs, he could not read the stars, he could not observe the beacon lights warning of danger and disaster. He was thinking only of power of a budget which possibly might give him a few votes; and of expenditures which might embarrass the treasury if another party succeeded to power. There is the speech from the throne in which the right hon. gentleman talks of prosperity. Let us see what he said about wheat.

An hon. MEMBER: The wheat was not sold.

Mr. BENNETT: Listen to the language of the right hon. gentleman which he used a year ago last February.

An hon. MEMBER: Wonderful.

Mr. BENNETT: These are the words of the right hon. gentleman:

> The Dominion is already recovering from the seasonal slackness evident at the end of the year, and it is not to be forgotten that the bulk of the 1929 wheat crop still remains in Canadian hands for final disposition.

That represents the prescience with which the then Prime Minister looked into the future of Canada. If hon. gentlemen opposite would speak so that they could be heard I would be greatly obliged, but their mutterings remind one of a summer storm. There are rumblings and mutterings and thunder but there is no lightning, and it never strikes anybody.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The lightning is all from the other side of the house.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. Then, let us go a step further and examine one of the great causes of conditions in this country. How many people do hon. members think were brought into Canada from continental Europe, in the year 1929 and seven months of 1930, preceding the time we assumed power?

An hon. MEMBER: Probably 300,000.

Mr. BENNETT: Hon. gentlemen seem to think themselves clever. Probably on reflection they will realize they are mistaken. I ask them if the then government had any true realization or appreciation of conditions existing in Canada in 1930 when in February of that year they placed in the hands of His

Excellency the speech from the throne to which I have referred. On that occasion they stated there had been a little slackness at the end of 1929 but that all was now well. They said that the 1929 crop was in storage and that things would be much better. Would you entrust your business to a general manager of that kind? Would you?

An hon. MEMBER: No, they took it away.

Mr. BENNETT: Would anybody?

An hon. MEMBER: Some of the people did.

Mr. BENNETT: And my hon. friends opposite to the right said, "We will get them solid; they will abandon everything they had before, we will ask for a little committee, and all will be well." That is the story. Let me place before the house one statement shown by figures I have in my possession. Do hon. members realize that during that period of time 104,556 people came into this country from central Europe? They came here, and they are now largely being kept by Canadians.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: Most of them are being kept—not all of them—by Canadians, with our taxes. The howl that is heard in some quarters about direct relief arises from the fact that the government of 1929 and the early part of 1930 could not foresee what was coming. They brought them here in increasing numbers for us to feed.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: Now they have the hardihood to complain because they say we do not feed them fast enough or give them enough to eat.

Miss MACPHAIL: Were they not assisted by the official opposition of that day?

Mr. BENNETT: That is hardly correct. If the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) would take the trouble to look she would find she is not correct.

Miss MACPHAIL: I heard the debate.

Mr. BENNETT: But the hon. member did not hear that from the official opposition; that is all I can say.

Miss MACPHAIL: Does the right hon. gentleman not remember the speech by General McRae?

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BENNETT: I certainly do, but that was not the official opposition.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: Is there any doubt as to who is the leader of the official opposition in this house? I will admit the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) is indeed competing with my right hon. friend for leadership, but at the present time the official leader of the opposition is the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Mackenzie King) and not the hon. member for Temiscouata.

One step further. A complaint has been made as to what has been done by the government of the day. What has been done by the government of the day? I put this question to the house and to the country: If the government of the day had been less determined and less decisive in what it did, what would now be the position in Canada? Was the $20,000,000 voted for nothing? Has it been properly expended? Has any hon. member suggested that a single dollar of it has been spent for purposes other than proper ones; has anybody suggested that it was not properly used? What has been the result so far as that vote of money is concerned? Some 248,000 individuals have been given employment with that money, and they have worked 4,857,000 man-days. Some people have a similar opinion to that held by hon. gentlemen opposite, that when relief is being given and employment provided for relief purposes workmen should be provided with kid gloves and automobiles to take them to their jobs. All I can say is that there is a duty upon this country to endeavour to find employment for those who can be employed, but it is not a duty that hon. gentlemen would have some of the people think it is. We cannot have it both ways; the people of this country must pay for it. Taxes must be imposed upon them; taxes must be paid and the people of Canada will pay them. It is important that since the people have to pay taxes for that purpose we observe a most rigid rule of economy and decency in administration. That is what this government has done.

In connection with part of the subamendment of my hon. friend from Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) the right hon. leader of the opposition endeavoured to split hairs and attempted to salve his conscience by saying that the hon. member for Acadia did not mean to find fault with the banks. No, he said he was finding fault with the government. Let

us look at the language of the subamendment; just listen to the language, Mr. Speaker:

That the failure or inability of our banks to provide the credit which is essential to our farmers in respect to their spring operations, render it imperative that consideration be given to some system of federal assistance, whether directly, by way of bank guarantee, or otherwise;

I ask hon. members to note the expression "the failure or inability of our banks to provide the credit". My right hon. friend has said that that expression does not mean what it would seem to imply. Probably he can interpret the expression of the hon. member for Acadia better than that hon. member can interpret his own expression.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, I have said that it means exactly what it says.

Mr. BENNETT: It refers to the failure of banks to provide credit.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: And it also uses the word "inability".

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, "or inability".

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Why did not my right hon. friend say that?

Mr. BENNETT: I did. I read the expression "failure or inability." The hon. member for Acadia I think was not endeavouring at the moment to seek from the official leader of the official opposition an interpretation of his very plain language. If that is so, however, we have a much clearer appreciation of what the situation really is. All I can say is that some weeks ago a very definite, clear and sound understanding was arrived at between the provincial governments and ourselves. We did not wait until the time arrived when the crops should be put in; no, we did not wait for that at all. The Minister of Agriculture journeyed to Winnipeg and met the provincial premiers. Having met them an arrangement was made which the premiers thought undesirable to publish to the world. The reasons I think are apparent to everyone. Relief is being given in the manner and form hon. members might expect it to be given, namely by those who know best how it should be given and how the distribution of seed grain should be administered.

Now, sir, I have concluded all I desire to say with respect to this matter. Committees of this house will presently be struck. These committees have power in trade and commerce, in agriculture, in industrial relations, to determine whatever it may be necessary to know in order that we may be able to deal with the situation that lies before us. This government is not in any way, shape or form seeking to escape responsibility. This government seeks no quarter so far as criticism of its actions is concerned. This government realizes that it has come into power at a very, very serious moment in the life of the body politic. It will to the very best of the ability of the members who constitute it discharge its duties as befits Canadians who are trustees for all their fellow citizens. Unswerved from their course by abuse, undeterred by vilification or misrepresentation from any quarter, they will go forward to discharge the duties that the people have placed upon them. If it becomes necessary to ascertain facts, the standing committees of this house are always available. But the government will never palter with its principles in order to retain power. No, if the moment ever comes when the majority of this house conclude it to be desirable that this government should go out, it will go out, but there will be no vacillation, no paltering with the opinions of others to secure support in order that it may continue in power.

Mr. JEAN-FRANCOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, my first words will be to tell my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) how pleased we are that he is back in the house. He has always proved to be a brilliant debater, and I hope that he will help the government to formulate policies that will meet the pressing needs of the people. I like the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) as a man, I admire him as a speaker, but I am sorry that I cannot approve his policies. Like all members to your left, Mr. Speaker, I was expecting a declaration of policy by the head of the government. But what has he given the house? He has given us a lecture on gambling and speculation, that is all. We were treated by the right hon. gentleman as though we were school children. I would remind him that we on this side of the house are full grown men. Sometimes the right hon. gentleman makes gibes about the ignorance and lack of ideas of young members. I think he should acknowledge that we on this side have on several occasions offered him constructive suggestions. For my part, I made a constructive suggestion with reference to the Riviere du Loup station, and on three or four other occasions already this session I have presented constructive suggestions. Apparently the hon. member for Lévis (Mr. Fortin) did not understand the purpose of any of those suggestions. Well, I would have been very much surprised if he had understood.

I am in favour, Mr. Speaker, of the subamendment moved by the leader of the Pro-

gressive group (Mr. Gardiner), for the reason that it contains constructive proposals. I am always in favour of such proposals. I do not always agree with what my hon. friends in the far corner say, but whenever they present proposals so constructive in character as those contained in their subamendment I am glad to support them.

The amendment moved by my right hon. leader (Mr. Mackenzie King) contains this clause):

—this house, while recognizing the serious economic conditions prevailing throughout the world, regrets that the policies of His Majesty's government have not only failed to afford a remedy for unemployment and agricultural distress, as pledged by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, but have served further to prejudice the deplorable position of the agricultural interests, thereby causing additional unemployment and substantially reducing the national revenue.

That is absolutely true, Mr. Speaker. During the special session last September, a month or two after my right hon. friend had attained power, the number of unemployed in the Dominion was in round figures 100,000; the other day the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) stated that at the present time the number is 260,000. In other words, under the brief and wonderful administration of my right hon. friend unemployment has increased by 160,000. This, I regret to say, means acute distress for a large number of Canadian families. The amendment continues:

The house believes that the proposals made to the Imperial economic conference and the manner in which they were submitted and discussed by the Prime Minister of Canada were responsible for the failure of the conference to accomplish its purpose in London, and that the successful development of Canada's trade relations with Great Britain has been adversely affected thereby.

With regard to this paragraph, I understand that a very large portion of our surplus wheat still remains unsold. Recently the right hon. Prime Minister characterized a member who had complained of an expenditure of $25 as not being very clever. Apparently a member's ability is to be measured by the magnitude of the figures he deals with, and I suppose that a reference to billions and billions of dollars must be taken as the hallmark of cleverness. It may be very interesting to quote substantial figures representing expenditures for gasoline and other commodities, but it must not be forgotten that gasoline is the motive power for tractors, and if people are able to buy gasoline there should be no occasion for them to complain of unemployment. I do not live in the west, but however much the people out there are suffering I know that the people in my part of the country, especially those engaged in the lumber trade, are very much embarrassed at the present time. The building of skyscrapers in the cities no doubt provides employment, but it affords very little help to the lumber trade, these buildings for the most part being constructed of cement, iron, steel, stone and brick; but in the small country parishes expenditure for lumber enters very very largely into the cost of enlarging their stores or houses or building barns. But for several years while the Liberals were in power the people there listened to the blue ruin talk of hon. members opposite. At that time conditions were very much better than they are now; was it in order to gain power that my hon. friends were so pessimistic about the future of this country? Because of the pessimism preached by hon. gentlemen opposite many people living in the country did not spend money for lumber in order to carry on construction. They said to themselves, "The leader of the Conservative party is a great financier and business man, and he must know something about the future of this country. It will be better if we save our money."

Mr. SPEAKER: Order: It is very difficult indeed for any hon. member to address the house with a continual buzz of conversation going on, as is the case just now from both sides of the house. I would ask hon. members to observe the rule in that respect.

Mr. POULIOT: That was the reason why more money was not spent for lumber, with the result that the lumber yards were left full of material which has remained there for a year or more. Hon. gentlemen opposite, as they themselves fully realize are responsible for that situation, and the consequences have been very serious. The lumber remains in the yards unsold; there are no more shanties in the woods in the winter, and the carpenters and workmen of the small parishes go to the cities because they cannot find employment in their own villages. This is what has happened, and hon. gentlemen opposite are responsible.

I heard the Prime Minister say, "I have never said anything to hurt the future of this country", and he read what he had said last June in answer to the Minister of Finance of that time. It is all very well to say that conditions throughout the country are good, but the other day in that Tory paper, the Montreal Gazette, it was pointed out that within the last few months there had been a slump in trade amounting to some $600,000,000.

I should like to say a word about the banks. I believe our banking system is very good, but often the bank clerks and employees are insufficiently paid. That is a shame; there are young men in the banks who handle thousands of dollars every day and who are not paid a wage commensurate with the importance or responsibility of their services. The Minister of Finance should confer with the heads of the banker's association to see if those salaries cannot be increased.

During the last campaign the government told the people, in my contituency at least, that the Mackenzie King government was doing too much for the west. This statement was made repeatedly in my county by Tory speakers; they said the Liberal government was tied up with the west in political matters and that the east was suffering therefrom.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, may I say that we on this side of the house are proud to support our leader. We are ready also to give full support to proper government measures if the Prime Minister will do something more than lecture the hon. members of the house.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

The house divided on the amendment to the amendment (Mr. Gardiner), which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Beaubien,
Bertrand,
Blair,
Bothwell,
Bouchard,
Boucher,
Bourassa,
Bradette,
Brasset,
Brown,
Buckley,
Butcher,
Campbell,
Cardin,
Carmichael,
Casgrain,
Cayley,
Chevrier,
Coote,
Denis,
Desrochers,
Donnelly,
Dubois,
Duff,
Dupuis,
Euler,
Factor,
Fafard,
Ferland,
Fiset (Sir Eugene),
Fournier,
Gardiner,
Garland (Bow River),
Gershaw,
Girouard,
Gray,
Hanbury,
Hanson (Skeena),
Heaps,
Heenan,
Howard,
Howden,
Hurtubise,
Ilsley,
Irvine,
Jacobs,
Kennedy (Peace River),
King, Mackenzie,
Lacroix,
Lucas,
Luchkovich,
MacInnis,
Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre),
MacLean,
Macphail (Miss),
McIntosh,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
McMillan (Huron South),
McPhee,
Marcil,
Mercier (Laurier-Outremont),
Mercier (St. Henri),
Motherwell,
Munn,
Neill,
Parent,
Perras,
Reid,
Rhéaume,
Robitaille,
St-Père,
Seguin,
Speakman,
Spencer,
Taylor,
Thauvette,
Totzke,
Vallance,
Veniot,
Verville,
Weir (Macdonald),
Woodsworth.—82.

NAYS

Messrs:

Anderson (Toronto-High Park),
Anderson (Halton),
Arsenault,
Arthurs,
Baker,
Barber,
Baribeau,
Barrette,
Beaubier,
Belec,
Bell (Hamilton West),
Bell (St. John-Albert),
Bennett,
Beynon,
Bowen,
Bowman,
Burns,
Bury,
Cantley,
Casselman,
Chaplin,
Charters,
Cormier,
Cotnam,
Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay),
Cowan (Long Lake),
Dickie,
Dorion,
Duguay,
Dupré,
Duranleau,
Embury,
Ernst,
Esling,
Fortin,
Fraser (Cariboo),
Ganong,
Geary,
Gobeil,
Gordon,
Hackett,
Hanson (York-Sunbury),
Harris,
Hay,
Johnstone,
Jones,
Kennedy (Winnipeg South Centre),
Laflèche,
Larue,
LaVergne,
Lawson,
Loucks,
Macdonald (Kings),
Macdougall,
MacLaren,
MacMillan (Saskatoon),
MacNicol,
McDade,
McGillis,
McGregor,
McLure,
Manion,
Matthews,
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Morand,
Mullins,
Myers,
Nicholson,
Peck,
Perley (Qu'Appelle)
Perley (Sir George),
Pettit,
Pickel,
Plunkett,
Porteous,
Price,
Quinn,
Robinson,
Rogers,
Rowe,
Ryckman,
Ryerson,
Sauvé,
Shaver,
Short,
Simpson (Algoma West),
Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Smith (Cumberland),
Smoke,
Spankie,
Spence,
Spotton,
Sproule,
Stanley,
Stewart (Leeds),
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Stirling,
Stitt (Nelson),
Stitt (Selkirk),
Sullivan,
Sutherland,
Swanston,
Thompson (Simcoe East),
Thompson (Lanark),
Tummon,
Turnbull,
Weese,
Weir (Melfort),
White (London),
White (Mount Royal),
Willis,
Wilson,
Wright.—113.

PAIRS

(The list of pairs is furnished by the chief whips.)

Messrs:

Bell (St. Antoine),	Raymond,
Black (Halifax),	Dubuc,
Boyes,	Deslauriers,
Cahan,	Rinfret,
Gagnon,	Boulanger,
Edwards,	Elliott,
Garland (Carleton),	Goulet,
Gott,	Rutherford,
Guthrie,	Lapointe,
Laurin,	Fontaine,
Lennox,	Pouliot,
Macdonald (South Cape Breton),	Urquhart,
McGibbon,	Power,
Maloney,	Young,
Murphy,	Stewart (West Edmonton),
Rhodes,	Ralston,
Ross,	Roberge,
Senn,	Sanderson,
Simpson (North Simcoe),	Fraser (Northumberland),
Stevens,	Malcolm,
Stinson,	Hall,
Tétreault,	Dumaine.

Mr. BOYES: I was paired with the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Deslauriers). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. FONTAINE: I was paired with the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Laurin). Had I voted, I would have voted for the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): I was paired with the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Raymond). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. LENNOX: I was paired with the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. SANDERSON: I was paired with the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn). Had I voted, I would have voted for the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. MALONEY: I was paired with the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. MURPHY: I was paired with the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. EDWARDS: I was paired with the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Elliott). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. McGIBBON: I was paired with the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. GOTT: I was paired with the hon. member for Kent (Ontario) (Mr. Rutherford). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. HALL: I was paired with the hon. member for Victoria, Ontario (Mr. Stinson). Had I not been paired, I would have voted for the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. TETRAULT: I was paired with the hon. member for Bagot (Mr. Dumaine). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton South): I was paired with the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Urquhart). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. CAHAN: I was paired with the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON (Simcoe): I was paired with the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Fraser). Had I voted, I would have voted against the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. GOULET: I was paired with the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Garland). Had I voted, I would have voted for the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is now on the amendment.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that you call in the members, because some hon. members may not have been in the chamber when the first vote was taken.

Mr. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

Mr. BENNETT: This must not be regarded as a precedent. Once the doors are closed, they are closed for an entire division.

Mr. CASGRAIN: This is a separate division. When the doors were closed at a quarter past eight, members were here for the vote that was then called. It is very likely that some hon. members have come in since that time, and they are entitled to their votes.

Mr. BENNETT: The question was put, including the two amendments. The amendments were read. The question on the amendment to the amendment has been decided, and the question is now on the amendment.

Mr. CASGRAIN: The Speaker has decided to call in the members.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not know he had.

Mr. DUFF: The rule is quite clear with regard to divisions. When the amendment to the amendment is put and voted upon, then Your Honour is supposed to put the amendment. After that Your Honour asks for the yeas and nays, and if a sufficient number rise, you must ring for a division. Every vote is a separate one, and the bell must be rung so that the members may come in.

Mr. LAVERGNE: May I call attention to the fact that nobody on the other side rose?

Mr. SPEAKER: It might be that some members who did not wish to vote on the amendment to the amendment would expect a call for the vote on the amendment and the main motion. I think in this instance the fair way would be to treat each motion separately.

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Mackenzie King).

YEAS

Messrs:

Ahearn,
Beaubien,
Bertrand,
Blair,
Bothwell,
Bouchard,
Boucher,
Bradette,
Brasset,
Brown,
Buckley,
Butcher,
Cardin,
Casgrain,
Cayley,
Chevrier,
Denis,
Desrochers,
Donnelly,
Dubois,
Duff,
Dupuis,
Euler,
Factor,
Fafard,
Ferland,
Fiset (Sir Eugene),
Fournier,
Gershaw,
Girouard,
Gray,
Hanbury,
Hanson (Skeena),
Heaps,
Heenan,
Howard,
Howden,
Hurtubise,
Ilsley,
Jacobs,
King, Mackenzie,
Lacroix,
MacInnis,
Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre),
MacLean,
McIntosh,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
McMillan (Huron South),
McPhee,
Marcil,
Mercier (Laurier-Outremont),
Mercier (St. Henri),
Moore (Ontario),
Motherwell,
Munn,
Neill,
Parent,
Power,
Reid,
Rhéaume,
Robitaille,
St-Père,
Seguin,
Stewart (Edmonton West),
Taylor,
Thauvette,
Totzke,
Vallance,
Veniot,
Verville,
Weir (Macdonald),
Woodsworth,
Young.—73.

NAYS

Messrs:

Anderson (Toronto-High Park),
Anderson (Halton),
Arsenault,
Arthurs,
Baker,
Barber,
Baribeau,
Barrette,
Beaubier,
Belec,
Bell (Hamilton West),
Bell (St. John-Albert),
Bennett,
Beynon,
Bowen,
Bowman,
Burns,
Bury,
Cantley,
Casselman,
Chaplin,
Charters,
Cormier,
Cotnam,
Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay),
Cowan (Long Lake),
Dickie,
Dorion,
Duguay,
Dupré,
Duranleau,
Embury,
Ernst,
Esling,
Fortin,
Fraser (Cariboo),
Ganong,
Geary,
Gobeil,
Gordon,
Hanson (York-Sunbury),
Harris,
Hay,
Johnstone,
Jones,
Kennedy (Winnipeg South Centre),
Laflèche,
Larue,
LaVergne,
Lawson,
Loucks,
Lucas,
Macdonald (Kings),
Macdougall,
MacLaren,
MacMillan (Saskatoon),
MacNicol,
McDade,
McGibbon,
McGillis,
McGregor,
McLure,
Maloney,
Manion,
Matthews,
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Morand,
Mullins,
Murphy,
Myers,
Nicholson,
Peck,
Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Perley (Sir George),
Pettit,
Pickel,
Plunkett,
Porteous,
Price,
Quinn,
Robinson,
Rogers,
Rowe,
Ryckman,
Ryerson,
Sauvé,
Shaver,
Short,
Simpson (Algoma West),
Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Smith (Cumberland),
Smoke,
Spankie,
Speakman,
Spence,
Sproule,
Stanley,
Stewart (Leeds),
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Stirling,
Stitt (Nelson),
Stitt (Selkirk),
Sullivan,
Sutherland,
Swanston,
Thompson (Simcoe East),
Thompson (Lanark),
Tummon,
Turnbull,
Weese,
Weir (Melfort),
White (London),
White (Mount Royal),
Willis,
Wilson,
Wright.—116.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): Before the vote is declared, Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that there are some members of the house present who have not voted.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Name them.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill)—

Mr. SPEAKER: My understanding of the rule is that hon. members may refrain from voting if they see fit.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I would draw the attention of Your Honour to rule 68, which says:

If a member who has heard the question put does not vote, and the attention of the Speaker is directed to the fact, the latter will call upon him to declare on which side he votes; and his name will be recorded accordingly.

That will be found on page 25 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms.

Mr. SPEAKER: If he does not choose to vote, what then?

Mr. CASGRAIN: We will see then, but we should ask him first.

Mr. GARDINER: Arising out of the point of order, may I call your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the ruling of the former Speaker? The former Speaker ruled—he ruled several times to this effect—that a member, even if he had heard the question put, was not forced to vote. There is no rule of the house that I know of by which a member can be forced to vote.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I ask for your ruling, Mr. Speaker. There is a rule at page 25, No. 68, and it is there for a purpose. Even if in one or two cases a former Speaker ruled differently, there is no reason why we should depart from the rule generally. The rule, I repeat, is there for a certain purpose; it is part of the rules and forms by which we in this house are governed. Rule No. 68, which I have cited, is there for the purpose of enabling the house to ascertain how each individual member will vote on a particular question. I ask for your ruling on the point, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. BOURASSA: If you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, as this is a matter of privilege for members of the house, and as the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) has thought fit to make it a question of order, I would respectfully remind you that rules are from time to time interpreted by Speakers in the House of Commons, both in England and here, and that usages sometimes become rules. For example, pairs are not recognized under the rules of the House of Commons in England or here. Several times to my knowledge members have availed themselves of their natural right and privilege, when they did not feel like voting either for or against a question, not to vote at all, which is more courageous than going behind the curtain and concealing oneself. I shall not vote, and it will take a squad of police to force me to do so against my will and my liberty.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): I think probably the difference, Mr. Speaker, between this occasion and the other occasions to which my hon. friends have referred is the fact that on this occasion the attention of the Speaker was drawn to the occurrence before the vote was declared. On the other occasions it was after the declaration of the vote.

Mr. CASGRAIN: I omitted to quote another paragraph on the same page 25 of Beauchesne's Rules and Forms, paragraph 69, which reads as follows:

Under ancient custom, refusal to vote was considered a serious parliamentary offence, but the practice was changed in 1906 by the British house adopting a standing order whereby a member is not obliged to vote. That standing order does not apply to the Canadian commons. The practice has not been changed in Canada, where every member who has heard the question put is bound to vote.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rule 68 is as follows:

If a member who has heard the question put does not vote, and the attention of the Speaker is directed to the fact, the latter will call upon him to declare on which side he votes; and his name will be recorded accordingly.

Up to the present the Speaker's attention has not been called to the fact that any member in particular did not vote.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understood the statement to be a general one.

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): I mentioned the hon. member for Labelle, the hon. member for Acadia, the hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

Mr. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the rule of this Canadian House of Commons, the Speaker's attention having been drawn specifically to the fact that the hon. members having heard the question have not voted, I now call upon them respectively to declare on which side they vote.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Respect the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: My attention having been drawn to the fact that the hon. member for Acadia, having heard the question, did not vote, I call upon him to declare on which side he votes.

Mr. GARDINER: I am paired with the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer).

Mr. VENIOT: I would call the attention of Your Honour to the fact that the following members who were present in the house when the question was put have not voted: the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Irvine), the hon. member for Kindersley (Mr. Carmichael), the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Garland), the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy), the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail), the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote), and the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Luchkovich). I submit, Mr. Speaker, that they all should be asked to declare how they would vote.

Mr. SPEAKER: My attention has been called by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) to the fact that the hon. member for Kindersley, having heard the question put, has not voted. I call upon the hon. member for Kindersley to declare on which side he votes.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: I am paired with the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Campbell).

Mr. CASGRAIN: How would you have voted?

Mr. SPEAKER: My attention has been called by the hon. member for Gloucester to the fact that the hon. members for Wetaskiwin, Vegreville, Macleod, Bow River, Peace River, and Southeast Grey, have not voted, having heard the question put. I call upon any of these hon. members who are not paired to declare on which side they vote. I commence with the hon. member for Wetaskiwin.

I call next upon the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Luchkovich).

Mr. LUCHKOVICH: I was paired with the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr Irvine).

Mr. IRVINE: I am not paired, and I am not declaring.

Mr. SPEAKER: I call upon the hon. member for Peace River, the hon. member for Southeast Grey and the hon. member for Macleod, having heard the question put and not being paired, to declare on which side they vote.

Mr. CAMPBELL: The hon. member for Kindersley has said that he was paired with myself. I am paired with him.

Mr. DUFF: There can be no pair when both members are in the house.

Mr. MALONEY: This vote is a climax to a debate which has kept us here for forty days.

Mr. DUFF: And forty nights.

Mr. MALONEY: If certain hon. members who have taken up a very large part of the time of the house see fit to refrain from voting and to treat the matter as a joke, as many on this side have treated the debate since the commencement, I believe we should let the matter pass.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): The rule which my hon. friend from Charlevoix-Saguenay has quoted from Beauchesne is a regulation of this house. If we do not respect our own rules, how can we expect the people of Canada to respect our laws?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Speaker has now discharged his duty with respect to the matter.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps nothing more serious has arisen since I have been in parliament. The authority of the Chair is challenged, is defied openly by members of this house. The house must then do what the rules require. You will name, Mr. Speaker, the members thus in contempt. The Sergeant-at-Arms will touch each of them on the shoulder and they will be retired from this house. I was sitting in the Imperial conference when the Prime Minister of England left the conference and went into the chamber of the House of Commons and moved the suspension of a member of his own party; for there are matters that transcend party and the rules of this house is one of them. We can have no House of Commons worthy of the name, we cannot maintain its traditions, if for a moment we allow any consideration other than the well-being of this chamber and the authority of its rules to govern our conduct on this occasion. I appeal to the fairness of the hon. gentlemen. They knew there could be no such thing as two hon. members pairing with one another when they are both in the chamber. My hon. friends knew that. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) is an old and valued member of this house and familiar with its procedure as few men are. In the name of the great

traditions of the House of Commons, its fair name and fame, I appeal to the members concerned that they do not thus openly disregard the rules and established procedure of the House of Commons.

Mr. BOURASSA: The appeal made by the Prime Minister I think entitles me as a matter of privilege quietly but firmly to state the reason for the position I took.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. BOURASSA: Yes, it is a question of privilege.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. BOURASSA: A similar situation may confront any member of this house one of these days. I would ask my hon. friends to remember the old proverb that a threat to the liberty of one is a threat to the liberty of all.

An hon. MEMBER: Retire.

Mr. BOURASSA: Mr. Speaker, since I have been a member of this house I have myself witnessed at least two occasions that I can recall on which members refused to vote—

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. BOURASSA: Yes. The attention of Mr. Speaker was called to the matter and he stated from the chair that although the rule was there, no sanction had ever been given to it and therefore it could not be enforced. I therefore came to the conclusion that it was considered by hon. members as one of those rules which are not strictly applied. If the incident had not occurred in my presence what I would have done in this instance is what I have done in other instances; I would have stepped out into the hall. I would not have done so, however, to shirk the vote, because when I addressed the house after the leader of the opposition moved the amendment I gave the reasons why I could not support or oppose such an amendment. I made my reasons clear, and in the attitude I have taken to-night I have done what I saw done in this house during the session of 1926. I shall not name any hon. member, but there are in this house to-night hon. members who then did exactly as we have done on this occasion. The attention of your predecessor, Mr. Speaker, was invited to the fact that certain hon. members had not voted and he made the statement I have just referred to. Some hon. members may not have heard it, but I heard it positively. His ruling surprised me, and for that reason I went to his chambers the next day and talked the matter over with him. He told me—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BOURASSA: He told me that it was one of those rules which was not strictly applied. Otherwise I would not have taken the attitude I took to-night. I think generally speaking I have been respectful of all rules of the house which have been observed.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. BOURASSA: If you please, Mr. Speaker, I have the right to appeal to you. If Mr. Speaker tells us he does not regard—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. BOURASSA: If he tells us—

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask the hon. member for Labelle kindly to desist. If hon. members are going to put the Speaker into the position of naming them, no matter how distasteful it may be to him, I must proceed to carry out that duty. Under the rules when a member is named he has the privilege of making an explanation. I should like to think that the hon. members who have refrained from voting would see their way clear now to declare to the Speaker on which side they vote rather than to force the house to take action under the rules. If hon. members persist in refraining from voting and from declaring on which side they vote, I am obliged to hold that those hon. members are transgressing the rules of the house and are out of order. If they persist in remaining out of order there is nothing left for me to do but to name them, with the consequences as set out by the rules of the house.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am one of those—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: This is a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre states he is rising to a point of order. He will be given an opportunity to state his point.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: In this particular instance I declared myself but I do believe that on previous occasions the Speaker has ruled—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do believe that on previous occasions the Speaker has ruled as indicated by the hon. member for Labelle. In the past there have been hon. members who have taken advantage of his ruling and have abstained from voting. Under those circumstances I think Mr. Speaker should carefully consider the precedent set up by his

predecessor before taking the drastic action of naming the hon. members. It often happens that certain of our laws lapse and become inoperative, and this appears to be one of them.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: This is a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member has raised no point of order. As I understand it there is no point of order before the house.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I submit, Mr. Speaker, that your decision with regard to the rule that has been called to your attention is a point of order. I think the interpretation given to this rule by previous Speakers ought to have some weight as well as the letter of the law. I would urge that that be taken into consideration.

Mr. GARDINER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. During the tenure of office of your predecessor I remember two occasions, as stated by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), when members present did not vote, and the fact being called to the attention of His Honour he ruled that they need not vote unless they so desired. It was on that occasion that the members in this corner refused to vote on the amendment then before the house. To-night, on the basis of that ruling, as they were not interested in the amendment they did not vote either for or against it. Now, sir, before you put the question on the amendment we could have withdrawn if we did not want to vote, but relying upon the ruling to which I have referred we remained in our seats and abstained from voting. We do not wish to transgress the rules; on the contrary, we feel that we should be amenable to them; but in view of the misconception which has arisen because of the ruling of the former Speaker, I think our abstention from voting on this occasion might very well be overlooked. Then if your ruling is that in the future we must vote if we hear the question put, we shall know how to govern ourselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: No record of the ruling referred to has as yet been produced to me. I remember the occasion last session when my attention was called to the fact that a member had not voted, but that was after the vote had been announced and the count made. This is the first occasion to my knowledge on which the rule has been invoked at the proper time.

Mr. NEILL: Mr. Speaker, I remember the occasion referred to by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. NEILL: Just a minute please. May I make a suggestion to end this deadlock? It may perhaps prevent us from being placed in a position in which we will appear ridiculous. I suggest that we follow the practice that obtains in the British Columbia legislature. There when a man does not vote he is counted as having voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As every hon. member knows, His Honour the Speaker has, above all other duties, the duty of enforcing the rules of the house, and in the discharge of that duty the speaker has the right to expect the support of every hon. member. I wish on this occasion very strongly to support Your Honour in any decision which will serve to enforce the rules of the house and the procedure as they appear in printed form. May I, however, mention this circumstance? Some hon. members appear to have been under a misapprehension as to what the rules were owing to a practice which they allege was followed in previous parliaments. We are at the beginning of a new parliament, and on that account it is advisable that regardless of what may have occurred in the past we should begin in the right way. It is all important therefore that the decision of His Honour the Speaker, if it is right, should be upheld at this time. If hon. members are prepared to say that they themselves conscientiously believed they were in the right when on this particular vote, they abstained from voting, so far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I should be satisfied were they exempted with respect to this vote, but not with respect to any future vote. I do think it would be a mistake to fall into the practice, which unfortunately some hon. members seem prepared to do, of having the exception govern in more cases than the rule itself; to have a rule honoured mainly in the breach. It is an advantage to the House of Commons and to the country to know how every member feels and where every member stands, on every question that comes to a division in the house, and on division his vote should be recorded. If a member does not wish to declare where he stands, it is his privilege to absent himself and take the consequences that follow upon abstention; but if he is in the house he should record his vote. I will support you, Mr. Speaker, in enforcing that rule, but if hon. members state they would not have remained in the house had they known that they would

be obliged to vote, I hope, Your Honour, will feel that on this particular occasion they might be exempted and that you will not find it necessary to go to the length of naming them.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) has taken a position which I fully expected he would take and which I think is wholly in accordance with the obligations which both he and I owe to this parliament. Section 286 of the rules deals with the result of a member being named, and the unpleasant duty then would fall upon the leader of the House of Commons, whoever he might be at the moment, to make the motion which would suspend the hon. member so named. Since this incident occurred I have been turning over in my mind what should be done to mete out justice to everyone. I cannot quite agree with what the right hon. leader of the opposition has said, but I suggest that this house adopt, in part, the principle of what he proposed. In view of the fact that the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and others have said that but for a previous ruling they would have absented themselves during this division, I would suggest that by unanimous consent Your Honour permit them to retire, which would in a sense meet the proposal of my right hon. friend opposite.

Mr. DUFF: Some of them said they were paired.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so; but as has already been pointed out, being both in the house they could not be paired.

Mr. DUFF: Certainly.

Mr. BENNETT: I attribute that to the excitement of the moment.

Mr. CASGRAIN: They wanted to get under cover.

Mr. BENNETT: I think by unanimous consent those hon. gentlemen may be allowed to withdraw from the chamber. If my right hon. friend thinks it would be a reasonable vindication of the rules and of the rights and privileges of this house, which are as dear to my right hon. friend and to everyone as to myself, I think such action as I propose would meet the situation.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: Then I would formally ask, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. members who have abstained from voting be permitted, by the unanimous consent of this house, to retire before the vote is announced.

Mr. POWER: So long as that is not taken as a precedent.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. BENNETT: I thank my hon. friend from Quebec South (Mr. Power) for that suggestion. I adopt the language of the right hon. leader of the opposition in saying that in future we must treat the rules as they are, and as they should be administered, but I think it would be found that in one of the cases to which reference was made, the attention of the Speaker was drawn to the fact, after the division had been declared that an hon. member had not voted. That is my memory of the occasion.

Mr. BOURASSA: Not in the first instance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Notwithstanding the fact that hon. members refrained from voting after the question was put, and were out of order in so doing, I hesitated to call them out of order and to name them because of the very serious consequences to any member so named. Some of those hon. members have explained that by a former ruling they believed themselves to be in order in remaining in the chamber while the vote was taken, without declaring on which side they voted and without voting, otherwise they would not have been in the chamber when the vote was taken. By the suggestion of the right hon. leader of the opposition and the right hon. Prime Minister they now have an opportunity of withdrawing if they do not wish to take part in the vote, and I suggest that they take advantage of that opportunity now.

And the members having withdrawn:

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I declare the amendment lost, yeas: 73; nays, 116.

PAIRS

(The list of pairs is furnished by the chief whips.)

Messrs:

Bell (St. Antoine),	Raymond,
Black (Halifax),	Dubuc,
Boyes,	Deslauriers,
Cahan,	Rinfret,
Edwards,	Elliott,
Gagnon,	Boulanger,
Garland (Carleton),	Goulet,
Gott,	Rutherford,
Guthrie,	Lapointe,
Hackett,	Perras,
Laurin,	Fontaine,
Lennox,	Pouliot,
MacDonald (South Cape Breton),	Urquhart,
Rhodes,	Ralston,
Ross,	Roberge,
Senn,	Sanderson,
Simpson (North Simcoe),	Fraser (Northumberland),
Spotton,	Hepburn,
Stevens,	Malcolm,
Stinson,	Hall,
Tétreault,	Dumaine.

Mr. SIMPSON (Simcoe): I was paired with the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Fraser). Had I voted I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton South): I was paired with the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Urquhart). Had I voted I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): I was paired with the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Raymond). Had I voted I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. GOULET: I was paired with the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Garland). Had I voted I would have voted for the amendment.

Mr. GOTT: I was paired with the hon. member for Kent, Ont. (Mr. Rutherford). Had I voted I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. BOYES: I was paired with the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Deslauriers). Had I voted I would have voted against the amendment.

Mr. HALL: I was paired with the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Stinson). Had I voted I would have voted for the amendment.

Mr. SANDERSON: I was paired with the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn). Had I voted I would have voted for the amendment.

Mr. PERRAS: I was paired with the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett). Had I voted I would have voted for the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question now is on the main motion.

Mr. ALFRED SPEAKMAN (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, before this vote is proceeded with, contrary to my habit and very much contrary to my inclination, I desire to take part for a second time in this debate. Owing to some statements that have been made and owing to the attitude of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) I feel it incumbent upon me to offer a few comments and to make a brief statement. I may remind the house that the amendment having been disposed of, it is fully in accord with the rules that I should now speak to the main motion.

I think I can characterize some of the statements made by the Prime Minister in respect of this corner of the house as being in the first place rather unjustifiable and in respect of a part of his attitude at least, almost one might say deliberately or gratuitously offensive to some of the members here. I am not now making any comment upon the utterances of the Prime Minister as addressed to the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King), I am taking no part, and I intend to take no part, in any exchange of political animosities. However, I may remind the house that during the entire debate every hon. member in this corner of the chamber who spoke refrained most assiduously and most meticulously from making any statement of a condemnatory character. They have refrained from taking an attitude of partisanship. They have outlined conditions as they knew them to exist; they have offered certain suggestions, as they thought, tending towards their amelioration, and to-day—I am sorry to say it—when at last the Prime Minister takes part in the debate he throws back in our faces our offer of friendly cooperation. He repudiates the assistance we sought to give in meeting the conditions which prevail, and he characterizes our statements as exaggerated, as being not according to facts, as tending not towards the betterment but towards the imperilling of the future of this country. He characterizes our statements in regard to conditions with which we are absolutely familiar as not only exaggerated but as carrying weight throughout this country and throughout the world only in virtue of the position which we occupy and not by virtue of either the common sense, the knowledge or I might say the accuracy of statement on the part of the members themselves.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wonder just what solace it will bring to the hearts of men and women at home who, whatever the Prime Minister may say, are looking to this parliament for help. They are suffering, and I wonder what comfort it will bring them to have it stated that except in those districts in western Canada where for years there have been crop failures, there is no farmer who has not been guilty of wild speculation in the widest sense but is to-day comfortable and prosperous and happy.

Mr. BENNETT: If the hon. gentleman is referring to anything I said this afternoon, I direct attention to the fact that that is not what was said.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: I am speaking from memory, and I am very glad to accept the correction, because certainly that was the interpretation I put upon what the Prime Minister said this afternoon. If it is a wrong interpretation I am very glad indeed to withdraw the statement. I will put it as carefully

as possible, and my right hon. friend knows I am not often guilty of wild statements. I did understand the Prime Minister to say that except for the results of speculation, using the word in the widest sense, farmers who had not suffered from repeated crop failures were, as a class, in prosperous and happy circumstances. I think I am doing no injustice to the Prime Minister when I say that, because I think I am using almost his exact words.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to bring forward any individual cases. I agree with the right hon. Prime Minister in that one may bring individual cases which are exceptions to the rule and which may prove anything. One may bring individual cases of intense hardship in times of wide prosperity. One may bring individual cases of comparative affluence in times of general penury, and these cases will prove nothing. I do say, however, from the intimate knowledge which I possess of that part of Alberta in which I have resided for forty years, that as a general rule and taking the great majority of the citizens there, they are not in a position either of comfort, of happiness or of affluence, nor have any great percentage of them been guilty of speculation even in the widest sense of the term. They are men who have been working and are working to-day, men who have done their best, but owing to the conditions which we know exist, conditions in relation to low prices, which have not returned the cost of production during the last year or two, they find themselves at the moment without the necessary funds with which to carry on their farming operations.

May I say this further, Mr. Speaker, that when I listened to the Prime Minister, in reference to the enormous wealth which has been created in those provinces during the last three years, I wondered if they were the same three provinces which I heard described not so many months ago as being in a state of distress owing to the misgovernment of the ten years preceding. Conditions have not changed since then except for the worse—not because of any fault of the government, but rather because of the operation of natural forces and the continual lowering of prices.

I have stated and re-stated the facts which I know to be true. I have expressed the disappointment—I shall not say the regret—which I felt at the refusal of the offer made in good part by hon. members in this house of cooperation and assistance rather than a threat of partisan warfare. We regret that, because we had intended so to conduct ourselves in the house during this session that we would have demonstrated the fact that we place the welfare of the country above party warfare, and we had hoped that that would be the attitude adopted at least for this session. If that is not to be the attitude adopted, it seems to me that little hope is offered. If we are to be told that no need exists, then in the opinion of the government no policy is necessary to relieve that distress, and, that being the case, how can I look upon the speech from the throne? It has become what I refused to call it five weeks ago, a hollow, watery grave. I voted against the amendment because I believed that it offered nothing of value to my people or to Canada, and I must stand in my place and vote against the motion for an address in reply to the speech from the throne because I feel no gratitude or can see no hope as I read its terms or as I listen to the speeches delivered thereon.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention again to address the house on the subject matter now under discussion, but I feel it my duty to do so because of the statements made this afternoon by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). One has only to go back twelve months or so to the time when the present Prime Minister was the leader of the opposition and when those now supporting him were in opposition to the then Liberal government to recall the debates staged on going into supply for the purpose of trying to make the government of the day take cognizance of the distress then prevailing in many parts of Canada. It is a curious thing that the conditions which existed while a party was in opposition suddenly and for some unaccountable reason, change when they come into office and assume the responsibility of government.

When speaking this afternoon the Prime Minister directed some of his remarks to this corner of the house. He said: The exaggerated statements of conditions in the west are not true in any way, shape or form. I do not know where the Prime Minister obtains his information, unless it be from the secretary of the Canadian Bankers' Association. If he believes that such information is absolutely correct then I can understand the position he adopted this afternoon. I say without fear of contradiction that those who have recently had the opportunity of visiting the west and meeting the people actually living on the land ought to know more about conditions than those who have not had such an opportunity. It is unfortunate that important or so-called important persons from eastern Can-

ada seem to obtain their information with regard to conditions in western Canada from such places as the lobby of the Palliser hotel in Calgary. They do not seem to be given the opportunity of getting out among the people and finding out just how they are being affected by present conditions. Under these circumstances perhaps they may be excused if they make certain rash statements, because they probably believe that the information which they have obtained is correct.

I made a statement yesterday which I intend to discuss for a moment or two. It was as follows:

> May I say also, Mr. Speaker, that in my judgment if the farmers of western Canada to-day were forced to liquidate, eighty per cent of them would be insolvent, notwithstanding all that has been said by my good friend from Marquette (Mr. Mullins).

I sincerely believed that statement to be true, but further on in my remarks I made this reservation:

> If price levels get better they may be able to get away from that condition but, sir, if this condition continues for another twelve months my advice to the western farmer will be that his only hope is to go through bankruptcy.

I made that statement in all sincerity and I do not appreciate the Prime Minister questioning my veracity.

The Prime Minister called the attention of the house this afternoon to the tremendous volume of wealth produced by the western farmer. He quoted figures to the effect that during the last three years there had been produced new wealth to the tune of $1,900,000,000, and that new mineral wealth had been produced to the extent of $100,000,000, or a total of $2,000,000,000. He asked the question: Where has all this wealth gone to? May I say that as far as the farmer is concerned, the man who really produced this wealth, it did not go into the purchase of expensive automobiles. In my opinion there is no person in Canada more entitled to an automobile than the man living on a farm, ten, twenty, thirty or forty miles away from a town. I know something about what an automobile means to a man on a farm, and I say this, if I were to farm some distance from town and could not afford an old tin Lizzie of some description, I would not farm very long. An automobile has become one of the necessities of farm life. The farmer appreciates the convenience it offers, and in view of the fact that he is the producer of new wealth I say that it ill behooves the Prime Minister to point to the farmer as having squandered his wealth on the purchase of automobiles.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not at any time say that he had squandered his wealth. I did not even suggest that. I merely said that men possessing $300,000,000 worth of cars were not poor.

Mr. GARDINER: I accept the Prime Minister's correction, and I gladly take back the words which I used in that regard.

The Prime Minister, I believe, also made the statement, not this afternoon but when he was speaking earlier in the session, that he wondered why the western farmer, after having produced so much wealth, did not save. If the Prime Minister had an opportunity of going out to that western country and homesteading, opening up a new farm and going through all the trials and troubles which that entails: if he had had that experience, I am satisfied he never would have asked such a foolish question. It is only about twenty-five years since the opening up of western Canada began. Prior to that time we had a fringe of settlement along the main line of the Canadian Pacific, along the line from Regina to Prince Albert and also along the line from Calgary to Edmonton, so that the west is practically a new country. Indeed, it is being developed every day.

What is the position of the man who goes on new land in western Canada? He has the hope that he is going to make a home for himself and his family. It is true that we had a few speculators, but the primary hope of the person who goes on a homestead or takes up new land in the west is to create a home for himself and his family. During the first few years they are on those farms, they do not spend much money. I know how some of those people have lived in order to develop the property which they had under their control at that particular time. I know the aspirations of those people; I know the moment they made any money on those new farms they put it back into new developments, such as breaking up more land, clearing bush, fencing, or adding to their homes or barns or granaries as the case might be. Why? Because the only money they had to develop the property was what they earned from it. That is the spirit of the west. We are not yet old enough in the west to have accumulated great wealth. Therefore when the farmers of the west have a good year, if after having met their liabilities in full or in part, they have any money left, that money is reinvested in their property for the purpose of further developing it. If that had not been so, western Canada would not have been half as well de-

veloped as it is to-day, nor would the business from western Canada for goods of eastern manufacture be more than 50 per cent of what it has been in the past.

Let us see where this great volume of new wealth has gone. I am willing to admit that we can pass through western Canada and find possibly quite a few farmers with bank accounts. The Prime Minister this afternoon spoke of tens of thousands. In Alberta we have about 90,000 farmers; in Saskatchewan we have more; in Manitoba we have not quite as many; but even if we assume that 25 per cent of those farmers have bank accounts, that does not signify that conditions in the west are as they should be. Nevertheless, I am not satisfied that even 25 per cent of the farmers have bank accounts. Where has this great volume of wealth gone? I will try to tell the house. It has gone to uphold what I term a debt-creating system. We have to-day what we term a debt-creating system. At some future date, when I have more time, I propose to discuss this particular matter, but at present I merely make the reference to it. That debt-creating system is a system which, whether we like it or not, creates debts we cannot help ourselves. The big bulk of the products of the western farms has gone to support this debt-creating system instead of supporting the farmers and their families. A great deal of it has gone in high interest rates. When you ask farmers to pay 8, 9 or 10 per cent for long-term money and when the profits of the farm are not large at any time, you can understand that even a profitable year does not mean very much if the farmer happens to have many debts. A great deal of it goes also in bank interest, not at the legal rate set out in the Bank Act, namely, 7 per cent, but at the rate of 8, 9 or 10 per cent or sometimes even higher. May I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that the bankers of Canada are the greatest law breakers we have? They break the law oftener and with greater impunity than any other class I know of. If the Prime Minister wishes to do something really worth while for Canada, I suggest to him that he put a penalty clause in the interest section of the Bank Act. Up to the present the bankers have been the greatest law breakers I know of; they break the law with impunity and forethought, but that does not excuse them. When a farmer goes into a bank to secure credit for spring work, Mr. Banker will hand him a note with interest at 8 per cent, 9 per cent, 10 per cent or sometimes even a higher rate. That is where another substantial proportion of this great new wealth goes that the farmer creates.

Let us take the cities—for instance—that lovely city, the home of the Prime Minister, one of the most beautiful cities in western Canada. Look at the palatial buildings, the magnificent homes that one can find in any part of the city of Calgary if one has the opportunity to take a short drive. The same applies to Edmonton, Saskatoon and all those western cities. How does the Prime Minister imagine that all those fine buildings were built? Where does the wealth come from to build those beautiful cities? Where does the wealth come from to uphold the institutions and the municipal governments of those great cities? It comes from the wealth which the people of western Canada produce, and nowhere else. True, in the first place loans may have been made for the purpose of erecting the buildings, but all the interest charges against them, all the taxes, all the city improvements and everything else in connection with them, are maintained by the real wealth which is produced in western Canada. That is where the greatest proportion of the wealth goes that the farmers create. This being the case, perhaps the Prime Minister will begin to realize that some of his remarks this afternoon were at least very ill-advised. I hope he will. That, however, is only by the way.

The Prime Minister also tells us that one of the great troubles of the west is due to speculation. I do not at all favour speculation; indeed, I am very much opposed to it because financial manipulation produces no new wealth. But the Prime Minister intimates that the farmers of western Canada have been guilty of speculation. There is, of course, no question that some of the farmers have been guilty of speculation, but only to a very slight extent, because within my memory since I have been in the west—and I have been farming for twenty-nine years—I know very few farmers who have had sufficient money even to put up a margin.

I come to another point in this speculation proposition. There has grown up in western Canada in recent years a different method from that which formerly prevailed by which the farmer handles his wheat. During the early years of my residence in the west we sometimes did hold our wheat over, putting it in the terminal elevators at the head of the lakes and paying storage on it in the hope that the price would be higher in the spring; in fact that was the usual method of procedure in those days. But after a little while the Winnipeg grain exchange taught us a better way of doing things. They taught us

to sell our wheat in the fall, take a small portion of the proceeds from the sale of it and buy enough margins to cover the volume of wheat that we had sold, so that if wheat rose in the spring we would get the spring price without paying storage and insurance charges. If the Prime Minister calls that speculation, I admit that quite a good deal of it has been done in western Canada in recent years. But if the Prime Minister does not like that form of speculation, all he has to do is to see to it that trading in grain futures in this country is eliminated, and eliminated as early as possible; and as far as I am concerned if he takes that view and adopts that policy, I shall be one of the first to congratulate him and help him on his way.

The Prime Minister this afternoon dealt with the position of the former government in regard to immigration. When it was pointed out to him that some of his own supporters had been in the habit of advocating more and more immigration he took refuge behind this statement, that the official opposition never advocated more immigration.

Mr. BENNETT: No, no. The hon. gentleman must certainly know that that is not what was said. It was directed to the observations of General McRae. He was named as such. The hon. member will be good enough to remember that.

Mr. GARDINER: I understood that the Prime Minister pointed out this afternoon that in a previous year a substantial amount of immigration had come from central Europe, and he gave the figure I think of 130,000.

Mr. BENNETT: No, 104,000.

Mr. GARDINER: Thank you. He stated that most of those people to-day were being fed by the country or by charitable organizations. So far as immigration is concerned, I think that the immigration policy of this country for the last few years has been rotten. I use that term because of the fact that immigration has brought upon this country a greater burden than we should have had to carry. But I do not think that the Prime Minister should try to get away from the responsibility that properly falls upon his shoulders because of the fact that very many members of his own party were continually calling for more and more immigration.

The only other point with which I wish to deal is with regard to the assistance which the government has given to western Canada. It is quite true that this government has devised a policy, and I congratulate them upon it, for assistance in the way of seed, feed and so forth. I think that the government has done very well in that regard. But may I point out to the Prime Minister this great weakness in that proposal. In order to secure seed relief or feed, and so forth, it is necessary for the individual to make an application to the municipal council, and I know that many municipal councils feel that because of the unpaid taxes due to their municipalities and the obligations which are now upon them they are not justified in even risking being called upon to pay 25 per cent of any ultimate loss that may occur. Consequently, under these circumstances, I believe that many of the farmers of the west will be denied the seed and feed that they require; but of course that probably is not the fault of the present government.

Mr. BENNETT: I suppose my hon. friend knows that the municipalities are not at the moment asked to pay anything.

Mr. GARDINER: I quite appreciate that. I said 25 per cent of the ultimate losses. The great problem at the present time, however, is not so much the question of seed and feed. The great problem to-day is bank credit. The farmers require credit to-day more than feed and seed to put a crop in. I know that from actual experience. If you do not happen to be one of the fortunate ones possessing a bank account, it is necessary to go to the bank and secure a loan. That is the greatest immediate problem that I see before western Canada, and my judgment is this: If the people of Canada think that the western wheat crop is of any great value to this country, then it will be necessary for the government to take action along whatever lines they deem expedient to see that reasonable credit is afforded to those who put in crops. That is very important, and it should be done immediately, otherwise it will be of no value.

The Prime Minister this afternoon, in twitting the right hon. leader of the opposition in regard to markets for wheat, pointed with pride to the greater amount of wheat which had been exported by Canada during the last eight months as compared with the previous eight months, and took credit to his government for being able to assist the grain trade and the pools in selling that wheat. But does the house realize that every bushel of wheat shipped out of this country means a dead loss of from 30 to 40 cents a bushel? Yet the Prime Minister prides himself on the attitude which his government has taken in assisting to send wheat out of this country—

at a loss of from 30 to 40 cents a bushel. It is always easier to sell a larger amount of wheat when it is cheap, particularly when the price falls below the cost of production, than to sell it at the cost of production or at cost plus a profit.

Mr. CHAPLIN: How much profit is there in keeping it ?

Mr. GARDINER: I wish I knew. If my hon. friend could tell me that, he and I might be able to make a little money on the side.

I merely wish to say in closing that I take exception to some of the remarks made by the Prime Minister this afternoon. I believe that they were unwarranted by the actual conditions such as we know them to exist in western Canada.

Miss AGNES MACPHAIL (Southeast Grey): I listened with amazement to the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Bennett) speaking this afternoon. I wondered could it be just one year ago that we heard the unemployment debate in this house, a debate in which the government of that day showed a complete lack of understanding of conditions in the country. At that time the right hon. gentleman who is now Prime Minister was the leader of the opposition, and he and his colleagues told the house, and in many instances told very well, what the conditions were. Then we went through an election last July. We heard the moaning of the then opposition from coast to coast. The conditions were terrible. They were such that only God's anointed could save the country. There is no use in the Prime Minister now getting up as he did to-day and assuming the air of lecturing this house, particularly this corner of the house. I think the Prime Minister will find as time goes on that the speech which he made this afternoon was an exceedingly unwise one, and one which he will bitterly regret.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Miss MACPHAIL: He may not—he ought. The conditions since the unemployment debate last session and since the election held in July last year have not improved. On the contrary they have steadily become worse. Had the Prime Minister risen in his place to-day in the house and admitted that such was the case and that present conditions required the best efforts of every hon. member of the house he would have won the hearts of hon. members, because even this house has a heart. However he did not do that; he would not admit that serious conditions prevail, conditions with which all working people are familiar. It might do the Prime Minister some good if he went out and became acquainted with the facts. I think it is most unfortunate and ridiculous that the Prime Minister has not seen fit to admit the present condition in Canada. I would think that during the next two or three weeks editorials in our newspapers would make the blunder abundantly clear, even to the ministry who now grace the treasury benches.

During the Easter vacation I happened to be out west. During my visit I had occasion to speak with an alderman of the city of Regina, and he told me that he had attended a council meeting and a meeting of the relief committee which had been working all winter. They were very desirous of closing up their relief measures but they still had 2,300 married men who were without relief or employment. He said the difficulty was that the men were determined not to work for $10 or $15 a month, and that that was all the farmers surrounding the city of Regina were in a position to pay. This gentleman was in a position to view both sides of the question, both from the standpoint of the unemployed and that of the farmer. He said that under the circumstances the farmers could not pay the high wages they had paid in former years. In the spring of the year it is expected that unemployment should ease up. The unemployed men are absorbed in the new spring work on the farms. I was not surprised to read in the newspapers about the riot in Winnipeg. When I was in that city walking along Portage avenue and Main street I saw badly dressed men with nothing to do, just milling around, moving up and down. They were going nowhere, they were not walking fast, but just killing time. They walked one way and then the other. By law they are required to keep moving and that is the way they did it. I am not blaming the Prime Minister for the unemployment and stress, but I am blaming him for not admitting that such a condition exists. Why does he not admit that there are such conditions? It is true that the farmers are not unemployed; they are unpaid. They have plenty of work to do. There has been talk about new wealth which was created in western Canada. Where did it go? It went to provide profits to the people who benefited from the tariff. It went to provide bankers with their large dividends. Hon. members laugh! It may sound amusing, but it really is not a matter to be treated lightly. The wealth of western Canada has gone to provide bankers with dividends, to build fine

office buildings such as we see in the cities of Toronto, Montreal, Regina and Calgary. It has gone to provide a better living for other classes in Canada. When the farmer had paid out all these profits he had nothing left for himself.

For a moment or two I want to touch on the subject of immigration. This afternoon I directed a question to the Prime Minister when he was intimating—I hope I am quoting him correctly—

An hon. MEMBER: Be careful.

Miss MACPHAIL: —intimating that the excessive immigration into this country was the fault of the Liberal government. May I say to him that the Liberals have enough to bear without alone carrying that responsibility. I can recall, as can the veterans of this house, that for ten years the hon. members in this corner of the house have said, and never more clearly than in the year 1922, that it was a very foolish policy constantly to bring in immigrants to this country. Let me quote from a speech by the present Prime Minister delivered in the House of Commons on Monday, February 11, 1929. At that time he was making comment on the speech from the throne and complaining there was not enough money spent on immigration. He said:

> We have here one of the largest undeveloped areas of the world; we have a very pressing necessity for more people. There need be no misapprehension about that, notwithstanding what has been said from time to time to the contrary. It will be found that the increase of population in this country, brought about through bringing additional people in, will not only lessen unemployment for those who are now in it, but will increase all employment.

The quotation is much longer, but that is sufficient.

An hon. MEMBER: Read it again; that is good.

Miss MACPHAIL: Look it up—I gave the date, but it is certainly interesting. The date is February 11, 1929. The statement is to be found on page 22.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: That is my birthday.

Miss MACPHAIL: In the same debate the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion) said at page 2746:

> My complaint is not so much that the number of British immigrants is not larger, as that our immigration of all classes is much too small. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that we could take many times the numbers of people of all kinds than we are getting at the present time.

It would seem that the government learned. Its immigration policy of to-day is a good one, since it is not one at all. It is too bad hon. members opposite did not take the same attitude ten years ago, and the Liberal government also. For the Prime Minister to intimate as he did to-day that his party had no responsibility in regard to immigration simply means that he does not think that hon. members in this house are intelligent. Strange as it may seem, we are. I seem to have been directing the most of my remarks to the Prime Minister, but may I add something further. It may be true that because of membership in this house the words of hon. members are given more prominence and weight than the wisdom of their utterances merits; that statement applies also to prime ministers.

The house divided on the main motion (Mr. Cormier) which was agreed to on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Anderson (Toronto-High Park),
Anderson (Halton),
Arsenault,
Arthurs,
Baker,
Barber,
Baribeau,
Barrette,
Beaubier,
Belec,
Bell (St. John-Albert),
Bennett,
Beynon,
Bowen,
Bowman,
Burns,
Bury,
Cantley,
Casselman,
Chaplin,
Charters,
Cormier,
Cotnam,
Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay),
Cowan (Long Lake),
Dickie,
Dorion,
Duguay,
Dupré,
Duranleau,
Embury,
Ernst,
Esling,
Fortin,
Fraser (Cariboo),
Ganong,
Geary,
Gobeil,
Gordon,
Hanson (York-Sunbury),
Harris,
Hay,
Johnstone,
Jones,
Kennedy (Winnipeg South Centre),
Laflèche,
Larue,
Laurin,
LaVergne,
Loucks,
Macdonald (Kings),
Macdougall,
MacLaren,
MacMillan (Saskatoon),
MacNicol,
McDade,
McGibbon,
McGillis,
McGregor,
McLure,
Manion,
Matthews,
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Morand,
Mullins,
Murphy,
Myers,
Neill,
Nicholson,
Peck,
Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Perley (Sir George),
Pettit,
Pickel,
Plunkett,
Porteous,
Price,
Quinn,
Robinson,
Rogers,
Rowe,
Ryckman,
Ryerson,
Shaver,
Short,
Simpson (Algoma), West),

Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Smith (Cumberland),
Smoke,
Spankie,
Spence,
Sproule,
Stanley,
Stewart (Leeds),
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Stirling,
Stitt (Nelson),
Stitt (Selkirk),
Sutherland,
Swanston,
Thompson (Simcoe East),
Thompson (Lanark),
Tummon,
Turnbull,
Weese,
Weir (Melfort),
White (London),
White (Mount Royal),
Willis,
Wilson,
Wright.—111.

NAYS

Messrs:

Ahearn,
Beaubien,
Bertrand,
Blair,
Bothwell,
Bouchard,
Boucher,
Bradette,
Brown,
Buckley,
Butcher,
Cardin,
Casgrain,
Cayley,
Chevrier,
Coote,
Denis,
Desrochers,
Donnelly,
Dubois,
Duff,
Dupuis,
Euler,
Factor,
Fafard,
Ferland,
Fiset (Sir Eugene),
Fontaine,
Fournier,
Gardiner,
Garland (Bow River).
Gershaw,
Girouard,
Hanbury,
Hanson (Skeena),
Heaps,
Heenan,
Howard,
Howden,
Hurtubise,
Ilsley,
Irvine,
Jacobs,
Kennedy (Peace River),
King, Mackenzie,
Lacroix,
Lucas,
Luchkovich,
MacInnis,
Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre),
MacLean,
Macphail (Miss),
McIntosh,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
McMillan (Huron South),
McPhee,
Mercier (Laurier-Outremont),
Moore (Ontario),
Motherwell,
Munn,
Parent,
Power,
Reid,
Rhéaume,
Robitaille,
St-Père,
Speakman,
Spencer,
Stewart (Edmonton West),
Taylor,
Thauvette,
Totzke,
Vallance,
Veniot,
Verville,
Weir (Macdonald),
Woodsworth.—77.

PAIRS

(The list of pairs as furnished by the chief whips.)

Messrs:

Bell (Hamilton West),
Bell (St. Antoine),
Black (Halifax),
Boyes,
Cahan,
Edwards,
Gagnon,
Garland (Carleton),
Gott,
Guthrie,
Hackett,
Mercier (St. Henri),
Raymond,
Dubuc,
Deslauriers,
Rinfret,
Elliott,
Boulanger,
Goulet,
Rutherford,
Lapointe,
Perras,
Lawson,
Lennox,
MacDonald (Cape Breton South),
Maloney,
Rhodes,
Ross,
Senn,
Sauvé,
Simpson (North Simcoe),
Spotton,
Stevens,
Stinson,
Sullivan,
Tétreault,
Gray,
Pouliot,
Urquhart,
Young,
Ralston,
Roberge,
Sanderson,
Séguin,
Fraser (Northumberland),
Hepburn,
Malcolm,
Hall,
Brassett,
Dumaine.

Mr. GOTT: I was paired with the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Rutherford). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. SPENCER: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SANDERSON: I was paired with the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. SPENCER: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. HALL: I was paired with the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. Stinson). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. SPENCER: Mr. Speaker, on several occasions this house was told by the late Speaker that pairs are not recognized. If that is so, what is the use of hon. members taking up the time of the house by announcing with whom they are paired?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member will find there is a rule covering the point.

Mr. PERRAS: I was paired with the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. SIMPSON (North Simcoe): I was paired with the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Fraser). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. EDWARDS: I was paired with the hon. member for West Middlesex (Mr. Elliott). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton South): I was paired with the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Urquhart). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. MALONEY: To save Your Honour any further trouble, I desire to say that I am officially paired with the hon. member for

Weyburn (Mr. Young) in connection with every vote. If he is not here I do not vote; if I am not here he does not vote. Of course, I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. TETRAULT: I was paired with the hon. member for Bagot (Mr. Dumaine). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. BOYES: I am paired with the hon. member for St. Mary (Mr. Deslauriers). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): I was paired with the hon. member for West Hamilton (Mr. Bell). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. GOULET: I was paired with the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Garland). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. BRASSET: I was paired with the hon. member for St. Ann (Mr. Sullivan). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): I was paired with the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Raymond). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. CAHAN: I was paired with the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. BLACK (Halifax): I was paired with the hon. member for Chicoutimi (Mr. Dubuc). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. LENNOX: I was paired with the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Mr. SAUVE: (Translation) I was paired with the hon. member for l'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Seguin). Had I voted I would have voted for the motion.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That the address be engrossed and presented to His Excellency the Administrator by such members of the house as are of the honourable the Privy Council.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

SPIRIT RIVER AND GRIMSHAW BRANCH LINES

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved that the house go into committee to-morrow to consider the following proposed resolution:

That, it is expedient to extend the time for the commencement of construction and completion of the lines of railway which the Northern Alberta Railways Company was authorized to construct by section 11 of Schedule B to the Northern Alberta Railways Act, 1929—namely, an extension of the main line of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway Company from Spirit River, and a branch line of the Central Canada Railway from, at or near Grimshaw.

He said: His Excellency the Administrator, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEEES COMPENSATION

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved that the house go into committee to-morrow to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Government Employees Compensation Act to extend the benefits of the act to all employees in the service of His Majesty excepting those for whom provision is made under other statutes, and to extend the interpretation of the term "compensation" to include any benefits, expenses or allowances that are provided for under provincial compensation acts.

He said: His Excellency the Administrator, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

SALARIES ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee to-morrow to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Salaries Act to provide that the salary of the Solicitor General shall be increased from seven thousand dollars per annum to ten thousand dollars per annum as from 7th August, 1930.

He said: His Excellency the Administrator, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to favourable consideration of the house.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I notice that the members of the government are referring to His Excellency the Administrator. Should they not say His Excellency the Governor General?

Mr. GUTHRIE: At the time these resolutions were submitted they were submitted to the Administrator. His Excellency had not then been sworn in.

Motion agreed to.

CUSTOMS ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. E. B. RYCKMAN (Minister of National Revenue) moved that the house go into committee to-morrow to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Customs Act in respect to discounts or deductions to be allowed in estimating the value for duty; to provide for power to examine witnesses on oath, and to pay their reasonable travelling expenses; and for the imposition of penalties and prevention of smuggling operations.

He said: His Excellency the Adminstrator, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I do not wish to raise mere technicalities, Mr. Speaker, but I do submit that there is no Administrator at the present time; His Excellency the Governor General is in office. These resolutions ought to be approved and recommended to the house by His Excellency the Governor General since there is no Administrator at the present time.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): These resolutions were approved by the Administrator on the dates they bear; therefore they were recommended to the house by him and are so marked. The resolution standing in the name of the Minister of Immigration was recommended by His Excellency the Governor General. Any resolution presented prior to April 4 was submitted to the Administrator and recommended by him.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The ministers have stated that His Excellency the Administrator recommended the resolutions. There is no Administrator at the present time. His Excellency the Governor General assumed all obligations that had been taken by the Administrator, and I should think, as a first act of His Excellency, this should be so recognized.

Mr. BENNETT: I am afraid the right hon. gentleman has not quite followed. His Excellency the Administrator approved and recommended the resolutions on the dates appearing on the order paper. The Governor General then had not been sworn in. The Governor General cannot now go back; the recommendations have been made. If we had finished the debate on the address prior to April 4, they would have been thus dealt with. The fact that we did not so conclude the debate does not change the further fact that these recommendations were made by the then representative of the sovereign. The last resolution appearing on the order paper was recommended by the Governor General.

Motion agreed to.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT ACT

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization) moved that the house go into committee to-morrow to consider the following proposed resolution:

That the Soldier Settlement Act be amended to abolish the soldier settlement board and provide for the transfer of its powers, functions and privileges to an officer to be called the director of soldier settlement, who shall be paid such salary and at such rate per annum as the governor in council shall fix and allow.

He said: His Excellency the Governor General, having been made acquainted with the subject matter of this resolution, recommends it to the favourable consideration of the house.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in moving that you do now leave the chair for the house to go into committee of supply I do so in order to enable the house to go on with its business on Thursday or Friday. When I was in the position now occupied by my right hon. friend opposite I suggested on many occasions that we should take up the estimates as early as possible in order to give ample opportunity for discussion. For that purpose Public Works estimates will be considered first, and if Mr. Speaker now leaves the chair and we discuss an item we will be in a position to go on Thursday or Friday with the estimates of the Department of Public Works. Accordingly I move that the house do now go into committee of supply.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Public Works—salaries, $698,925; contingencies, $90,000.

Progress reported.

On motion of Mr. Bennett, the house adjourned at 10.55 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

SEQUESTRATED GERMAN PROPERTY

AGREEENT PROVIDING FOR RELEASE OR RE-TRANSFER TO ORIGINAL OWNERS

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): I desire to lay on the table of the house an agreement which was executed at The Hague on the 14th of January, 1930, during the regime of the late government, providing for the release and, if necessary, the re-transfer to the original owners or to the persons deriving title from them of the property, rights and interests originally belonging to them and then subject to the charge created pursuant to the treaty of Versailles, where such property, rights or interests were not already liquid or liquidated, or finally disposed of on June 7, 1929. I have been unable to find that that agreement executed at The Hague was ever produced and laid on the table of the house by the late government.

I also desire to lay upon the table a copy of the protocol to the Hague agreement between the government of the Dominion of Canada and the German Reich dated October 16, 1930, regarding the return of unliquidated, sequestrated German property to which I have just referred.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT RELIEVING MEMBER OF OBLIGATION TO VOTE

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle): I desire to give notice to the house that on Tuesday next I shall move that the standing orders of this house be amended by inserting the following as 9 (a):

Upon a division a member is not obliged to vote.

I have given a copy of the notice to the Clerk.

CORRECTION

Mr. T. E. SIMPSON (West Algoma): I notice in the Hansard of yesterday that I am reported as having mentioned the name of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) as one of those who refrained from voting on the amendment. This was an error. The hon. gentleman voted, and I think it is only fair to him that I should make this explanation.

PRIVILEGE—MR. GARDINER

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Last evening when the vote was being taken there was what we may term an unfortunate occurrence, and some reflection was cast upon members in this corner of the house during the proceedings. I made the statement last evening that members in this corner who sat in the house while the vote on the amendment was being taken did so because of rulings of the former Speaker, the Hon. Mr. Lemieux. I am going to take the opportunity this afternoon to place upon Hansard the rulings upon which we based our action last evening.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member for Acadia wishes to make an explanation of his vote or with regard to something that was imputed to him, that would properly be a question of privilege, but to quote at this stage precedents as to the correctness or incorrectness of the Speaker's ruling is going beyond a question of privilege.

Mr. GARDINER: I am not questioning your ruling, Mr. Speaker, I accept it, and very heartily. I am simply giving the reasons for my conduct last evening, and for that purpose I desire to place on record the rulings of the former Speaker.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, but the hon. gentleman is out of order. The opportunity was afforded last evening very distinctly and very generously by Your Honour for hon. members to make any statements which they might desire to make. In view also of the notice of motion which has just been given by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), it is perfectly obvious that an ample opportunity will be afforded to the hon. gentleman to make any statement he desires in that connection.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that the hon. member for Acadia now wishes to quote authorities to explain why his conduct was as it was last evening. If I am correct in my surmise, that is not a question of privilege, and I must rule that he is out of order.

Mr. GARDINER: Then may I call the attention of Your Honour to what I would call the scurrilous attack of a certain newspaper on certain members in this corner of the house because of the proceedings in the house last evening. Is that sufficient to be a question of privilege?

Mr. SPEAKER: The attitude of the hon. members referred to as comprising the group in that corner of the house was thoroughly explained last evening. The hon. member for Labelle, for instance, has said that there were plenty of precedents for what was done last night in the rulings of the former Speaker. All that the hon. member for Acadia is seeking to do now is to repeat that statement and possibly quote from the rulings or give the page numbers where they are to be found in Hansard. I submit that that is not a question of privilege.

Mr. GARDINER: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker, but I can assure the house that at the first opportunity I shall put on Hansard the ruling of the former Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: I shall be very glad indeed if the hon. member will avail himself of the first proper opportunity to do so.

PRIVILEGE—MISS MACPHAIL

Miss AGNES MACPHAIL (Southeast Grey): In the Ottawa Citizen of this morning there is an article by Mr. Charles Bishop, whom I think one might fairly call the czar of the press gallery.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Miss MACPHAIL: Perhaps I should have said the prime minister of the press gallery. In this article, discussing the vote of last night, and speaking of our group, he says:

> They fell back on some precedent that a former Speaker who was a very indulgent man had created when he allowed certain members not to vote.

In case Mr. Bishop does not know the name of the former Speaker, it was the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux. He goes on to say that he is no authority on the rules that I shall read in a moment. He also says that we—

> —withdrew amid a noisy demonstration. The galleries could not make out exactly whether it was with cheers or jeers. They came back when the vote was announced.

He concludes this very elevating article with the following paragraph:

> At the end of the day, members filed out into the lobbies discussing the exhilarating episodes of the sitting—the speech of the Prime Minister and the return back-fire, but perhaps even more this most peculiar exhibition of abstention from voting.
>
> It was considered the more remarkable as being that of supposedly fearless people ordinarily most assertive in their own opinions, and some of whom are inclined to be contemptuous of other opinions.

If that includes Mr. Bishop's, I plead guilty. He goes on:

> While it was condoned in a spirit of tolerance and perhaps excusable on grounds of a precedent justified by no authority on parliamentary usage, it seemed to the onlookers on the floor and in the galleries to suggest certain symptoms of spinal or intestinal deficiency.

I would like to know if Mr. Bishop is a special judge of integrity, that is if the parts of the anatomy to which he referred have anything to do with integrity. Does the fact that he writes for Conservative, Liberal and Independent papers at the same time require a peculiar brand of integrity?

An hon. MEMBER: You ought to know; you do it.

Miss MACPHAIL: I say to hon. members that the report which appeared in the paper this morning is obviously unfair. To have voted for the amendment required no courage. The amendment itself was negatived; our amendment was a substitute and we took our position of abstention because it was the logical position to take. The question of courage did not enter into the matter at all, except that it required more courage not to vote than it did to vote. Any hon. member who does not think that is so ought to try it some time. I say to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition, who yesterday got themselves very much excited about the dignity of this house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Miss MACPHAIL: That is so. I say it, and I do not take it back.

Mr. BOURASSA: It takes a woman to have courage.

Miss MACPHAIL: Here is a case where the dignity of parliament is being reflected upon by a member of the press gallery who enjoys the privileges of the house. I think if the representatives of the press are granted privileges they should shoulder the responsibilities which go with them. They should use decent language and be fair, or at least make some attempt to be fair to hon. members in the house. Having spent ten years in the House of Commons I care very little what the newspapers say, but this report by Mr. Bishop

seemed to me to be going too far. I deeply resent it, and I have risen to say so. Courage is not the thing which this Independent group lack. It might be said that to a far greater extent members of the two older parties lack that quality.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Miss MACPHAIL: It cannot be said of us, however. It may be said that we are foolish and do not stand for the right thing, but we have courage.

PRIVILEGE—MR. HOWARD

On the orders of the day.

Mr. C. B. HOWARD (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. My attention has been drawn to an item which appears on page 687 of Hansard. I refer to a remark made by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) wherein he said that I had misquoted him. I would like to say to the right hon. gentleman that at no time did I intentionally misquote him. I was referring to the question of unemployment insurance, but I was not qualifying it as either contributory or non-contributory. I shall be pleased to insert the word "non-contributory" before those remarks. I regret that my right hon. friend imputed to me any motive such as expressed on that page of Hansard.

On page 679 of Hansard the hon. member for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett) referring to myself, is reported as having said:

He is the kind of Liberal who enjoys protection and wanted and got it for the industries in which he has invested his money.

I say that is not so, Mr. Speaker. I have never asked for protection of any kind, nor has protection ever been granted to me.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I am greatly obliged to the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Howard) for his very frank statement, which I accept in the sense in which it is given.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY SETTLEMENT ACT

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. Does there exist an Act or is there a Dominion government contract with the National Railways Company known as the "Canadian National Railways Settlement Act?"

2. If so, what are the conditions of said contract?

Mr. MANION:

1. No.

2. Answered by No. 1.

BRITISH EMPIRE SETTLEMENT ACT

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. Is the British Empire Settlement Act still in force?

2. If so, from what date?

3. What are the conditions required of immigrants by virtue of the said act?

Mr. GORDON:

1 and 2. The British Empire Settlement Act, officially known as "The Empire Settlement Act, 1922" is an act of the British parliament which came into effect on the 31st May, 1922, and is still in force.

3. The Empire Settlement Act, 1922, empowers the British government to cooperate with the dominions for the purpose of affording joint assistance on a fifty-fifty basis to suitable persons in the United Kingdom desirous of settling in any part of His Majesty's oversea dominions.

LOCOMOTIVE MECHANIC GAGNON

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. Is the Department of Railways aware that in the course of the night between the 7th and 8th November, 1921, a person named Gagnon, a locomotive mechanic, voluntarily risked his life to save the Ocean Limited train, going east?

2. Is the department aware that by his heroic act the passengers were saved from a horrible death?

3. Is the department aware that this employee, head of a family, has since been infirm and unable to earn his living?

4. What measures, if any, were taken by the government to help this hero?

5. If no action has been taken, will the government or the railway company investigate and see what can be done in the matter?

Mr. MANION:

Neither the Canadian National Railways nor the Department of Railways and Canals appear to have any record of an accident to the eastbound Ocean Limited on the night between the 7th and 8th of November, 1921, in which a locomotive mechanic named Gagnon is said to have risked his life to save the train.

DISTRICT ENGINEERS, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. How many district engineers of the Public Works Department, within the last twenty-five years, have been placed on the retired list?

2. What is the total amount of pension which has been paid to each of them?

3. After how many years of service were they placed on the retired list?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Three.

2 and 3.

Name	Total amount of pension paid to each	Length of service previous to retirement
J. C. Taché	$21,826.75 to Feb. 28, 1931	49 years
L. G. Papineau (deceased)	$13,537.50 to Dec. 31, 1930	38 years
G. A. Bernasconi (deceased)	$13,507.31 to Jan. 12, 1931	34 years

APPLICATIONS FOR PENSION

Mr. FACTOR:

1. How many applications for pension has the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada granted since October 1, 1930?

2. How many applications for pension has the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada referred to the chief pensions advocate and chief commission counsel since October 1, 1930?

3. In how many applications for pension have the Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada exercised the benefit of the doubt in favour of the applicant as set out in section 73 of the Pension Act known as chapter 35 of the statutes of 1930?

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. From the period of October 1, 1930, to March 31, 1931, included, there were 3,913 claims granted.

2. From the period October 1, 1930, to March 31, 1931, included, there were 14,496 claims referred to the chief pensions advocate and the chief commission counsel.

3. The benefit of the doubt in favour of the applicant was exercised in all claims considered.

HUDSON BAY RAILWAY—THE PAS—CHURCHILL

Mr. DUFF:

1. What is the total amount expended in building and equipping the line of railway from The Pas to Churchill?

2. What is the total amount expended in partially or totally equipping the ports of Nelson and Churchill, including all charges for cost of towboats, steamers, barges, dredges, as well as labour, wages, repairs, etc., and for charter of boats in connection with said work?

3. What amount of money was paid by the Marine Department in connection with the erection of land stations in the vicinity of Hudson bay and Hudson strait, including all moneys paid for chartering steamers and also including approximate cost of operating ships of said department when engaged in said work?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Total cost of Hudson Bay Railway to February 28, 1931	$30,997,136 44	
2. Total cost of Port Nelson terminals to February 28, 1931		6,240,200 86
Total cost of Churchill terminals to February 28, 1931		7,256,846 51
3. Hudson Strait expedition	$1,323,809 51	
Radio Direction finding stations.	349,678 23	$1,673,487 74

APPOINTMENTS TO PREVENTIVE SERVICE

Mr. DUFF:

1. Have any persons been appointed in the constituency of Queens-Lunenburg by the Department of National Revenue to the preventive service of said department?

2. What are their names, addresses and ages?

3. Were they appointed by the Civil Service Commission, after competitive advertising and examination?

4. What salaries are being paid any such persons?

5. Are any of the appointees returned soldiers?

6. What were their occupations before being appointed to the preventive service?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Yes.

2. Name—Age—Salary: W. F. Adams, Lunenburg, 42 years, $1,700 per annum. Services now dispensed with. S. S. Kempton, Bridgewater, 33 years, $1,500 per annum. E. H. Himmelman, LeHave, 35 years, $1,500 per annum. R. D. Silver, Lunenburg, 28 years, $1,500 per annum.

3. No. Appointed under the National Revenue Act as amended in 1928.

4. Answered by No. 2.

5. Yes. S. S. Kempton.

6. W. F. Adams, police constable; S. S. Kempton, police constable; E. H. Himmelman, inspector N.S.T.A.; R. D. Silver, machinist.

BATTERY POINT LIGHTKEEPER

Mr. DUFF:

1. Who has been appointed to the position of lightkeeper at Battery Point, Lunenburg county, Nova Scotia?
2. When was order in council passed making said appointment?
3. On whose recommendation was the appointment made?
4. Is the appointee a returned soldier?
5. Was the appointment made by the Civil Service Commission?
6. If not, will the position be filled by the said Civil Service Commission, and when will applications be called for?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. An appointment has not been made. Daniel McIsaac has been put in temporary charge pending an appointment by Civil Service Commission.

2, 3, 4 and 5. See answer to Question No. 1.

6. Yes. The Civil Service Commission was requested, under date March 9, 1931, to make an appointment.

VICTORIAVILLE, QUE., POST OFFICE CARETAKER

Mr. LAFLECHE:

1. Is Mr. L. A. Tourigny in the employ of the Public Works Department as caretaker of the post office at Victoriaville?
2. Is the government aware that this gentleman is physically incapable of personally fulfilling his duties?
3. Is the government aware that an inquiry against the said L. A. Tourigny was held by the fire commissioner of the province of Quebec following a most serious complaint?
4. Have complaints been received by the Public Works Department against said L. A. Tourigny?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. No.
4. Yes. The complaints received were investigated, but further action by the department was not considered necessary.

BLACK LAKE, QUE., PUBLIC BUILDING

Mr. ROBERGE:

1. What amount, if any, was voted last year for the construction of a public building at Black Lake, Quebec?
2. Were tenders called for this work, and what was the amount of each tender?
3. Have any of said tenders been accepted?
4. If not, why?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. $26,000 (1930-31).
2. (a) Yes. Five tenders received.
   (b) $18,420; $20,975; $21,435; $21,895; $23,283.
3. No.
4. Considered inadvisable to make expenditure at that time.

BUDGET LIGHT, N.S., LIGHTKEEPER

Mr. DUFF:

1. Who is the lightkeeper at the Budget Light near Sonora, Guysboro county, Nova Scotia?
2. What is the yearly salary attached to said position?
3. Is the present incumbent a returned soldier?
4. If the present holder of the office is appointed temporarily will the Civil Service Commission be asked to fill the position permanently?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. Stanley E. Burns.
2. Minimum $150 per annum. Maximum $180.
3. No.
4. The salary being under $200, the position is excluded from the operation of the Civil Service Act.

NATURALIZED ORIENTALS

Mr. REID:

1. How many Japanese, male, are naturalized in Canada?
2. How many Japanese, female, are naturalized in Canada?
3. How many Chinese are naturalized in Canada?

Mr. CAHAN:

1 and 2. The number of Japanese of both sexes who have received certificates of naturalization in Canada up to December 31, 1930 is 8,433. In the department's compilation of naturalization records, sexes are not segregated.

3. Five thousand three hundred and thirty-four Chinese have been naturalized in Canada up to December 31, 1930.

ALEXANDRE TOLSTOY

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

1. Has Alexandre Tolstoy, daughter of Count Tolstoy, been forbidden a temporary visit to Canada.
2. If so, on what grounds?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Yes.
2. The original application by Alexandre Tolstoy was for admission to Canada to live with the Doukhobors, whom Miss Tolstoy stated she was sure would give her a home and some work to do to earn her living. Not being admissible as an immigrant under the regulations, Miss Tolstoy was informed the department was unable to approve of her entry to Canada. She then applied for permission to visit the Doukhobors in Canada for six months. The department is not satis-

fied that Miss Tolstoy is desirous of entering Canada for a temporary purpose only, and further being a refugee and without a valid passport, there is no assurance that she could secure entry to another country from Canada. Her application was, therefore, not favourably considered.

EMBARGO AGAINST CANADIAN POTATOES

Mr. MacLEAN:

1. Has the British government given any intimation to the Canadian government that they intend to remove the embargo against Canadian potatoes?
2. If so, at what date is it expected to take effect?

Mr. BENNETT:

1. No.
2. Answered by No. 1.

YOUNG WHARF, CARAQUET, N.B.

Mr. VENIOT:

1. Were tenders called for the construction of an addition to the Young wharf, Caraquet, Gloucester County, New Brunswick?
2. If so, who tendered and what was amount of each tender?
3. Was a contract awarded? If not, why?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.
2.

	Unit prices (Approx.)
Ashley A. Colter..	$32,665
Charles L. Comeau.	33,570

3. (a) No. (b) It was not considered advisable to proceed with this work at that time.

NORTH HEAD BREAKWATER, CHARLOTTE COUNTY, N.B.

Mr. VENIOT:

1. Has a contract been entered into for the construction of an addition to the North Head breakwater, at Grand Manan, Charlotte county?
2. If so, who is the contractor and what is the contract price?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.
2. (a) Thos. P. Charleson. (b) Approximately $111,600 (unit prices).

COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING IMMIGRANTS

Mr. VENIOT:

1. What are the arrangements under which the government of New Brunswick and the federal government cooperate in the matter of immigration: (a) as to immigrants from Great Britain, (b) as to immigrants from Denmark, Norway and Sweden?
2. If any money has been paid by the federal government as a result of any such arrangement, between August 1, 1930, and February 1, 1931, how much and what are the details of payment?
3. How much money has been paid to the province of New Brunswick by the federal government to aid in repatriation, each year since 1927?
4. Did the province of New Brunswick make any representations to the federal government to the effect that efforts at repatriation would not or could not be successfully carried out?
5. If so, what were such representations?

[Mr. Gordon.]

Mr. GORDON:

1. (a) Cooperation is mainly connected with two classes of British immigrants:—
   1. Agricultural families for settlement in New Brunswick under the New Brunswick Land Settlement Scheme, and
   2. A limited movement of British boys between 14 and 18 years of age.

The New Brunswick land settlement scheme is an undertaking to settle 500 British families on farms in New Brunswick within a period of five years. The scheme is now in its fourth year. It operates under a tripartite agreement under which the farms are supplied by the provincial government. A maximum of $1,500 per family is advanced by the British government for stock and equipment.

Recruitment and selection of families overseas and settlement supervision in Canada, including the collection of advances is undertaken by the land settlement branch of the Department of Immigration and Colonization.

The movement of boys involves a contribution of $500 per annum towards the maintenance of the centre used by the province as a reception and distribution headquarters.

(b) No special or other arrangement has been made with the province of New Brunswick as regards immigrants from Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

2. Nothing.

3. $2,102.67 made during the present fiscal year.

4. Yes.

5. The province advised that after enquiries covering a period of fifteen months, they would be unable under existing legislation to offer assistance on the scale required by the financial conditions of those interested in repatriation.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. VENIOT:

1. How much money was expended under federal aid to assist unemployment in the various counties of New Brunswick up to February 1, 1931, by the provincial government, in cooperation with the federal government, giving amount furnished by each government?
2. What was the nature of work performed? If by contract, what were the names of contractors and amount of each contract. If by day's work, what were daily wages for foremen and labourers, and how many hours constituted a day's work.

3. In what counties was such work performed and how much was expended on such works in each county?
4. How much money was expended in each city, town or municipality in New Brunswick for relief of unemployment under joint co-operation of the various cities, towns or municipalities with the provincial and federal governments?
5. Did the government of New Brunswick make any recommendations to the federal government for the expenditure of money on municipal works to relieve unemployment?
6. If so, when?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Total amount paid covering work done prior to February 1, 1931, $427,365.42: Dominion, $173,584.71; province, $253,780.71.

2. Work covered by above expenditures was construction and repairs to roads and bridges which was carried out by day labour, eight hours constituting a day's work. The rates paid to labourers varied from 27½ cents to 35 cents per hour, but a question arising as to whether the 27½-cent rate was a fair and reasonable wage on an eight-hour day basis, the provincial authorities agreed to pay a minimum of 30 cents an hour from February 1, which they have since done. We have no information as to the wages paid to foremen.

3. County	$
Albert	12,193 62
Charlotte	32,314 12
Gloucester	40,024 52
Kent	20,310 15
Northumberland	65,619 66
Queens	9,257 91
Restigouche	45,403 59
Sunbury	34,477 32
Carleton	33,458 07
Kings	22,641 80
Madawaska	21,521 29
York	34,986 66
St. John	16,572 61
Victoria	15,956 79
Westmorland	22,627 31

4. No expenditures by Dominion government yet made in respect of cities, towns or municipalities as accounts have not yet been received.
5. Yes.
6. January 23, 1931.

LITTLE SHIPPEGAN, N.B., WHARF

Mr. VENIOT:

1. Why was the contract not awarded for the construction of a wharf at Little Shippegan, Gloucester county, New Brunswick, after a regular call for tenders had been made?
2. Is it the intention of the government to make provision for the construction of such wharf in the estimates for public works to be submitted to the present session?
3. Did the government receive any representations pointing out that unemployment was acute in the district where this wharf was proposed to be constructed and that its construction would relieve very materially the unemployment situation?
4. If so, from whom?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. It was not deemed advisable to make the required expenditure at that time.
2. Information will be available when estimates are tabled.
3. Yes.
4. Rev. Arthur Gallien, Miscou Centre, N.B.; Albany M. Robichaud, Barrister, Caraquet, N.B.; Geo. M. McDade, M.P., Chatham, N.B.

W. J. PICARD, PREVENTIVE OFFICER

Mr. VENIOT:

1. When was W. J. Picard, preventive officer at Edmundston, New Brunswick, dismissed?
2. What was the reason for his dismissal?
3. If for political activity, who made the charge against him?
4. Was an investigation held, and did he request an investigation?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. 31st December, 1930.
2. For inefficiency and lack of education.
3. & 4. Answered by No. 2.

FLORENCEVILLE FISH HATCHERY

Mr. VENIOT:

1. On whose recommendation was Raymond McCain, assistant superintendent of the Florenceville fish hatchery, Carleton county, New Brunswick, dismissed?
2. Did the said McCain request that his case be investigated, and was such investigation granted?
3. If not, why?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY:

1. Mr. McCain was dismissed by authority of an order in council which was adopted on the recommendation of the Minister of Fisheries.
2. (a) Yes.
(b) No.
3. Because the established practice was followed of accepting the statement in writing of the member representing the constituency of Carleton-Victoria that to his personal knowledge Mr. McCain was guilty of political partisanship.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. RALSTON:

1. What are the projects in the province of Nova Scotia towards which money from the $20,000,000 unemployment relief fund was paid?

2. What were the amounts paid to each project?

3. In the case of provincial undertakings respecting highways, bridges, specify particularly the terminii of the portion of highway in which the expenditure was authorized or made.

Mr. GORDON:

1. See reply to question 2.

2. Amherst—Maritime winter fair building, $1,700; extensions to sewer system, $750; Glace Bay—water system and sewers, $34,028; New Waterford—construction of sewers, streets and sidewalks, $1,909.08; North Sydney—water extension and wall to protect street from sea erosion, $828.60; Sydney Mines—repairing of streets, sidewalks, culverts and bridges, $3,137.80.

The above are the only payments so far made on account of above projects up to March 24th, 1931.

3. No information.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES

Mr. RALSTON:

Was federal money paid to the following projects, and, if so, how much in each case: (a) project for an expenditure towards sewers in the town of Pictou; (b) project for expenditure towards road-building or maintenance in the town of Westville, Pictou county; (c) project for expenditure towards building a bridge in the town of New Glasgow; (d) highway maintenance or construction in the vicinity of Woods harbour, Shelburne county; (e) project for expenditure in connection with the Alma-Sylvester bridge, Pictou county; (f) diversion of road, Marshy Hope, Pictou county?

Mr. GORDON:

(a) Construction of sewers in town of Pictou will cost $14,058.44, to which the Dominion is contributing $1,000. No payments made to date.

(b) The Stellarton approach, which extends within the town from the Westville-Stellarton boundary at Bear Brook, a distance of 1·6 miles to the junction with the Main street at McQuarrie's corner, which section is a connecting link within the town limits of the main highway leading to New Glasgow, will cost $6,900, to which the Dominion will contribute $2,300. No payments made to date.

(c) The construction of a highway bridge across the East river of Pictou at the town of New Glasgow, the said bridge being on the main highway leading from Halifax to Sydney and will be part of the trans-Canada highway, at an estimated cost of $150,000, to which the Dominion will contribute $50,000. No payments made to date.

(d) The surfacing of the trunk road between Woods harbour and Upper Woods harbour in the municipality of Barrington in the county of Shelburne has been estimated to cost $5,000, to which the Dominion will contribute $2,000. No payments made to date.

(e) No record of agreement covering Alma-Sylvester bridge.

(f) No record of places mentioned in question (f) but the construction of county and local roads in Pictou county is estimated to cost $23,500, to which the Dominion will contribute $9,400. No payments made to date.

ARICHAT CUSTOMS OFFICER

Mr. URQUHART:

1. Is the position of customs officer at Arichat vacant at the present time?

2. If so, since what date has the vacancy existed?

3. How did the vacancy arise?

4. What is the reason for delay in filling the vacancy?

5. Have the usual proceedings been taken under the Civil Service Act to fill such vacancy, and, if so, on what date was the Civil Service Commission asked to recommend an appointee?

6. Is it the intention of the government to close this office?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. Yes.

2. December 1, 1930.

3. Through the retirement of the collector, Mr. A. F. Boudrot.

4. Question of status of the port is receiving consideration.

5 and 6. Answered by No. 4.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE PREVENTIVE SERVICE

Mr. ILSLEY:

1. Were the following persons officials in the customs and excise preventive service: Carl Alden, Big Bras d'Or; John H. MacKenzie, Big Bras d'Or; Rod MacLean, New Campbellton?

2. If so, what was the date of the appointment of each?

3. Did they hold their positions by virtue of order in council or by appointment from the minister?

4. Was their appointment temporary or permanent?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. Yes.

2 and 3. Carl Frederick Alden, appointed by the minister, August 4, 1925 to August 31, 1926; apointed by Civil Service Commission, September 1, 1926; John Hector MacKenzie, appointed by Civil Service Commission, September 2, 1926; Roderick Charles MacLean, appointed by Civil Service Commission, September 2, 1926.

4. Carl Frederick Alden, temporary; John Hector MacKenzie, temporary; Roderick Charles MacLean, permanent.

SALMON STRIPPING ON RIVER PHILIP

Mr. URQUHART:

1. What were the names of those who were appointed to carry on the duties of stripping salmon on the river Philip in Cumberland county during the fall of 1930?
2. On whose recommendation in each case were the appointments made?
3. Were any of them ex-service men, if so, what are their names?
4. Was any inquiry made to ascertain whether the persons so appointed were ex-service men?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY:

1. Willard Marshall, Elmer King, Geo. Week, Noble Dobson, L. Stewart, B. Thompson, Isaac Peel, Chas. King, Allan Black.
2. They were employed either by direction of the minister or by hatchery superintendent as required.
3. Yes. Mr. Allan Black, Mr. Noble Dobson and Mr. Geo. Week.
4. Yes.

C.G.S. MONTCALM

Mr. LACROIX:

1. Is the C.G.S. Montcalm or any other government icebreaker being employed in the work of cutting a channel through the ice in Baie des Chaleurs as far as Dalhousie?
2. If so, at whose request, and for whose benefit is this work being undertaken?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1 and 2. No. The ice-breaking steamer "N. B. Mclean" is making a survey of ice conditions in the gulf of St. Lawrence and in the interest of earlier navigation will assist as far as possible, when conditions are favourable, in opening up harbours that have been icebound during the winter.

DOMINION CENSUS COMMISSIONERS

Mr. BROWN:

1. Have the census commissioners been appointed?
2. If so, what are the names of those appointed for Manitoba?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Yes.
2. Manitoba—

173. Brandon, J. S. Kelly, 362 Sixth st., Brandon, Man.
174. Dauphin, William R. McCormick, Dauphin, Man.
175. Lisgar, W. S. Goode, Morden, Man.
176. MacDonald, J. E. Woods, Somerset, Man.
177. Marquette, W. G. Ferguson, Barrister, Minnedosa, Man.
178. Neepawa, E. S. Everall, B.A., L.L.B., McCreary, Man.
179. Nelson, Jas. Fulton, Swan River, Man.
180. Portage la Prairie, W. Scott Garrioch, Portage la Prairie, Man.
181. Provencer, Ed. Comeault, Letellier, Man.
182. Selkirk, Edward Robert Mills, 704 Toronto General Trust Bldg., Winnipeg, Man.
183. Souris, Lt.-Col. J. Arthur Ross, Melita, Man.
184. Springfield, R. M. J. Bate, 1111 McArthur Bldg, Winnipeg, Man.
185. St. Boniface, J. N. Arthur LeClair, St. Norbert, Man.
186. Winnipeg North, Charles F. Mount, 1404 Main st., Winnipeg, Man.
187. Winnipeg North Centre, Hugh R. Ross, 609 Agnes st., Winnipeg, Man.
188. Winnipeg South, T. G. Kidd, 810 Garwood ave., Winnipeg, Man.
189. Winnipeg South Centre, Capt. Charles V. Lindsay, 504 McIntyre Block, Winnipeg, Man.

PEAT INDUSTRY AT ALFRED, ONTARIO

Mr. BERTRAND:

1. Is it the intention of the government to carry on the development of the peat fuel industry at Alfred, Ontario?
2. If so, what arrangements have been made and will it start shortly?

Mr. GORDON:

1. No.
2. Answered by No. 1.

INTERPROVINCIAL WATER POWER RIGHTS

Mr. BERTRAND:

1. Has the Dominion government come to an understanding with the provinces in connection with their respective rights as to water powers of navigable waters between the provinces, if so, when?
2. If not, is it the intention of the government to take up this matter shortly so as to facilitate the erection of a power plant at Carillon?

Mr. SPEAKER: In regard to question No. 40, I consider that the second part does not constitute a proper question.

Question stands.

BUTTER IMPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND

Mr. BERTRAND:

1. Has there been any value set on New Zealand butter imported through Australia by virtue of the order in council N.R. 2560, passed November 1, 1930?
2. If so, when, and what has been the price fixed for said fair market value?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. No.
2. Answered by No. 1.

PIERRE ALBERT PICARD

Mr. DESROCHERS:

1. Was Pierre Albert Picard, Indian agent, grade 2, Lorette, Quebec, dismissed from the government service during the month of February, 1931, if so, (a) for what reason; (b) under what authority; (c) at whose request?

2. Was Mr. Picard's dismissal made the subject of inquiry or investigation, if so, what was the nature of the said inquiry or investigation?

Mr. MURPHY:

1. Yes. (a) Political partisanship; (b) under authority of His Excellency the Governor General in Council; (c) Mr. C. N. Dorion, M.P.

2. No.

BOISSEVAIN, MAN., POST OFFICE SITE

Mr. BROWN:

1. What price did the government pay for lot 1, block 10, in the town of Boissevain for a post office site?

2. From whom did they buy said lot?

3. To whom was the building standing on the said lot sold, and what price was received for it?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. $4,750 for the northerly 90-foot portion of lot 1, block 10.

2. Parcel A—60 by 26 feet from J. T. Black, for $3,000. Parcel B—30 by 26 feet from Colin Y. MacKenzie, for $1,750.

3. Sold by public advertisement to J. Loosemore for $1, July 24, 1920, purchaser to remove the building.

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BOARD—LAND PURCHASES

Mr. BROWN:

What price was paid by the Soldier Settlement Board for the following lands, and from whom were they purchased: N.E. ¼ section 3, township 4, range 20 W.; S.W. ¼ section 2, township 4, range 20 W.; S.E. ¼ section 9, township 4, range 20 W.; S.W. ¼ section 9, township 4, range 20 W.?

Mr. GORDON:

None of these properties was bought by the board.

BOISSEVAIN, MAN., CUSTOMS OFFICE

Mr. BROWN:

1. What amount of rent per year or per month was paid for the customs office at Boissevain during all the years it was in operation?

2. What was the revenue per year from the said office?

3. What were the total expenses, including salary, connected with this office?

[Mr. Ryckman.]

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. From July 1, 1912, to November 30, 1920, at $15 per month.. .. $1,515 00
From December 1, 1920, to June 30, 1929, at $20 per month.. .. 2,060 00
From July 21 to November 30, 1930, at $10 per month.. .. .. 43 55

Total rent paid.. .. .. $4,618 55

2.

1912-13..	$1,336 59
1913-14..	3,265 71
1914-15..	2,139 00
1915-16..	2,661 17
1916-17..	3,046 74
1917-18..	3,117 78
1918-19..	7,611 82
1919-20..	5,504 75
1920-21..	3,928 82
1921-22..	3,557 70
1922-23..	1,041 77
1923-24..	2,006 00
1924-25..	3,988 83
1925-26..	4,852 97
1926-27..	3,120 76
1927-28..	3,265 59
1928-29..	3,207 37
1929-30..	104 16
1930-31..	19 49

3. $24,667.56.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—DIRECTORS

Mr. BLAIR:

1. Have the directors of the Canadian National Railways been appointed?

2. If so, who are the directors?

3. What is the occupation of each?

4. Has the farming industry any person on the board as their representative?

5. If so, who?

Mr. MANION:

1. Yes.

2 and 3. Sir Henry Thornton, president and chairman, Montreal; Gerard Ruel, K.C., legal vice-president, Canadian National Railways, Montreal; V. I. Smart, Deputy Minister, Railways and Canals, Ottawa; Tom Moore, president, Canadian Trades and Labour Congress, Ottawa; James T. Cumming, president, J. W. Cumming Manufacturing Company, Limited, New Glasgow, N.S.; John D. Palmer, president, Harrt Boot and Shoe Company, Fredericton, N.B.; Hon. M. Kennedy, merchant, Breadalbane, P.E.I.; Lucien Morand LL.D., K.C., head of legal firm of Morand, Alleyn and Grenier, Quebec; Geo. Henderson, president and general manager of Brandram-Henderson, Limited, Montreal; J. Edouard Labelle, K.C., legal adviser and administrator,

Corporation of the Seminary of St. Sulpice, Montreal; F. K. Morrow, director, Bank of Toronto and other leading industrial and financial concerns, Toronto; Gordon Perry, president, National Iron Company, chairman, board of English Electric Company, Toronto; W. A. Boys, K.C., Barrie, Ontario, bencher, Law Society of Upper Canada; S. E. Richards, K.C., head of legal firm of Richards, Sweatman, Filmore, Riley & Watson, Winnipeg; J. Fyfe Smith, president, J. Fyfe Smith Company, Vancouver.

4 and 5. Legislation has been brought down to make it possible to increase the number of directors. In that connection, the claims of certain provinces, largely devoted to agriculture, and not as yet represented on the Board, will be considered.

HUDSON BAY—BEAM TRAWLER

Mr. DUFF:

1. What was the total amount expended by the Fisheries Department, in equipping and sending an otter or beam trawler to Hudson bay, during the year 1930, to investigate fishing in said waters?
2. On what date did said steamer leave Halifax, Nova Scotia, and when did she return?
3. What was the total value of the fish caught by the crew and equipment of said steamer?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY:

1. $21,760.91.
2. Trawler left Halifax July 26, 1930, and returned September 20, 1930.
3. Nil.

COLLECTIONS UNDER TARIFF ITEM 533

Mr. DUFF:

1. What was the total amount collected by the Department of National Revenue during the calendar year 1930, under tariff item 533, sails for boats and ships?
2. What are the names of the ports at which entries were made, under said item, and the amount collected at each port of entry?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. $1,246.25.
2. Baddeck, N.S.; Halifax, N.S.; Lunenburg, N.S.; Shelburne, N.S.; Montreal, P.Q.; Hamilton, Ont.; Peterborough, Ont.; Toronto, Ont.; Edmonton, Alta.; Vancouver, B.C.; Victoria. B.C.

It is contrary to usage to give such information by ports as it would disclose the business of individual concerns.

CENSUS COMMISSIONER—QUEENS-LUNENBURG

Mr. DUFF:

1. Who has been appointed census commissioner for the constituency of Queens-Lunenburg?
2. Is he a returned soldier?
3. Was he unemployed at the time of his appointment?
4. Was the said person appointed by the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. M. M. Gardiner.
2. No information.
3. No information.
4. Appointment of census commissioners exempt from Civil Service Act.

CENSUS COMMISSIONER—ANTIGONISH-GUYSBOROUGH

Mr. DUFF:

1. Who has been appointed census commissioner for the constituency of Antigonish-Guysborough?
2. Is he a returned soldier?
3. Was the said person appointed by the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Chas. S. Pyle.
2. No information.
3. Appointment of census commissioners exempt from Civil Service Act.

IMPORTS FROM RUSSIA

Mr. GIROUARD:

1. What was the total value of products imported from Russia to Canada, in 1930?
2. What were these products?
3. What was the total value of each of these imported products?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Canada's total imports from Russia during the year ended December 31, 1930, were valued at $1,964,059.

2 and 3. Canada's imports from Russia during the year ended December 31, 1930, were:

Commodities	$
Coal, anthracite	1,901,975
Ores of metal, n.o.p.	28,893
Furs, undressed	13,760
Furs, dressed	12,868
Settlers' effects	4,200
Other articles, the produce of the fisheries, n.o.p.	1,186
Tobacco, unmfd	394
Seeds	348
Grains, beans	126
Apparel, wearing and other personal and household effects, not merchandise, of British subjects dying abroad, but domiciled in Canada; books, pictures, family plate or furniture, personal effects and heirlooms left by bequest	100

Commodities	$
Miscellaneous agricultural and vegetable products..	80
Poultry and game..	75
Iron and steel products..	32
Electro-plated ware..	10
Containers (usual outside coverings)..	7
Books..	5

EMBARGO ON RUSSIAN PRODUCTS

Mr. GIROUARD:

1. Previous to placing an embargo on imports of products from Russia, did the Canadian government confer with foreign governments?
2. Did the Canadian government try to induce other foreign governments to imitate Canada?
3. Did the Canadian government receive from foreign governments the assurance that its policy of embargo would be followed by any of them?
4. Is it the intention of the Canadian government, since it has placed an embargo on Russian products, to order any Canadian citizens who are working in Russia in developing industry, trade and agriculture of that country, to return to Canada?

Mr. BENNETT:

1. No.
2. No.
3. No.
4. No.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS—IMPORTS

Mr. GIROUARD:

1. What was the total value of farming products exported in each of the following months: August, September, October, November and December, 1929?
2. What was the total value of farming products exported in each of the following months: August, September, October, November and December, 1930?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Canada's total value of exports of farm products, which in their natural state are produced on Canadian farms, during the months of August, September, October, November, and December, 1929, was:

Farm Products	Field Crops	Animal Husbandry
(a) Raw materials:	$	$
August, 1929..	16,040,429	4,656,958
September, 1929.. ..	12,551,148	4,472,835
October, 1929..	33,880,282	4,827,240
November, 1929..	35,139,748	3,833,043
December, 1929..	24,312,605	2,270,367
(b) Partly manufactured:		
August, 1929..	6,596	664,380
September, 1929..	1,923	623,751
October, 1929..	1,803	673,767
November, 1929..	1,435	507,204
December, 1929..	9,252	422,710
(c) Fully manufactured:		
August, 1929..	7,804,549	3,462,360
September, 1929..	6,605,991	4,593,967
October, 1929..	8,359,142	4,754,114
November, 1929..	7,863,882	3,989,262
December, 1929..	7,139,304	2,198,175

2. Canada's total value of exports of farm products, which in their natural state are produced on Canadian farms, during the months of August, September, October, November and December, 1930, was:

Farm Products	Field Crops	Animal Husbandry
(a) Raw materials:	$	$
August, 1930..	17,662,772	1,054,001
September, 1930..	25,949,814	1,154,313
October, 1930..	27,879,425	1,063,978
November, 1930..	27,052,817	1,119,507
December, 1930..	17,823,627	923,128
(b) Partly manufactured:		
August, 1930..	6,239	273,969
September, 1930..	7,486	197,083
October, 1930..	1,178	238,319
November, 1930..	22,755	233,392
December, 1930..	34,796	300,454
(c) Fully manufactured:		
August, 1930..	5,963,886	2,865,347
September, 1930..	5,979,267	3,089,045
October, 1930..	7,434,395	3,476,580
November, 1930..	5,944,365	2,894,940
December, 1930..	5,111,563	1,239,646

DAIRY CATTLE—CREDIT ASSISTANCE

Mr. TAYLOR:

1. What regulation has the government made with regard to assistance in transportation of pure-bred or grade dairy stock to western Canada?
2. Has the government initiated any policy with regard to credit assistance for the purchase of dairy cattle for the western farmer?
3. If so, what is the policy?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort).

1. The regulations in question are as follows:

With a view to assisting farmers in western Canada to establish themselves in the breeding of cattle, and to encourage the establishment of breeding centres of approved or certified pure-bred stock for either beef or dairy purposes, the Honourable Robert Weir, Minister of Agriculture, has authorized payment by the Dominion Live Stock branch of freight charges on a limited number of carload shipments of cattle purchased from breeders and farmers within the Dominion and shipped as follows: From any point of loading in the

Dominion of Canada, including points in the prairie provinces, to any railway point in the prairie provinces, and subject to the following conditions:—

(1) A shipment may consist of one or more carloads of cattle purchased at one time, but not more than one shipment may be made by the same purchaser in any one calendar year.

(2) Each carload shall contain at least twelve head of mature females or an equivalent weight in the case of younger cattle. Only cattle over eight months and not over six years of age may be included.

(3) All cattle must conform to the following health requirements:—

(a) Must be from herds that have passed at least two consecutive clean tuberculin tests under the supervision of the Health of Animals branch Department of Agriculture.

(b) Must be purchased subject to the blood test for infectious abortion (Bangs disease) if they have not already been subject to this test in the owner's herd, and declared negative.

(4) All selections must be approved by an officer or representative of the Department of Agriculture, as to type and quality.

(5) Each animal of dairy or of dual purpose breeding included in a shipment must be of merit from a production standpoint, recognizable under at least one of the following qualifications:—

(a) Qualified herself in the record of performance.

(b) Out of a dam qualified in the record of performance.

(c) Sired by an advanced registry, selective registry or record of performance bull.

(d) Sired by a bull out of a cow qualified in the record of performance.

(6) A purchase may be made by a bona-fide farmer-purchaser from the prairie provinces on his own behalf, or on behalf of himself and other farmers in his own district, either directly from farmers or breeders who are owners of suitable cattle, or indirectly through or with the assistance of the properly accredited field or extension services of the various breed associations in the province where the purchase is made.

(7) For each animal purchased, the purchaser or his representative shall forward to the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa, on forms supplied for this purpose, a declaration covering the following information:—

(a) The breed, date of birth, registered name and number of animals.

(b) The purchase price of the animal.

(c) The name and address of the purchaser to whom transfer of ownership is to be made.

(8) The Dominion Live Stock branch will assume no financial obligations other than in connection with freight charges or other transportation charges (see clause 9), and in all cases settlement or accepted arrangements therefor will be required to be made as between purchaser and vendor before shipment is made.

(9) In addition to freight charges, the Dominion Live Stock branch will be responsible for other transportation expenses incurred in securing shipments made under this policy, as follows:—

(a) Where the purchaser personally selects a shipment of a carload or more of cattle and supervises the transportation of same to destination, he will be allowed towards his expenses an amount equivalent to the cost of a continuous single trip railway fare from point of loading to destination point.

(b) Where purchases are made through the other channels stated in clause 6, and an attendant is required to accompany and attend the stock to destination, the Dominion Live Stock branch will furnish such attendant, if required, providing that the purchaser will agree to pay the attendant a wage of $4 per diem for the round trip and to supply him with a continuous single trip railway ticket back to the final point of loading, and a refund will be made to the purchaser of the cost of such railway ticket on presentation of receipt secured from the railway agent for the purchase of the ticket.

(10) As shipments of only pure-bred cattle are eligible the purchaser must obtain from the seller, with respect to each animal, a shipping voucher such as may be detached from the registration certificate of such animal. These vouchers when properly filled in and presented to the railway agent at the time and place of making shipment will entitle the shipment to be carried at the reduced freight rates applicable to pure-bred cattle. The reduced rates, as applied to carload shipments carried in standard live stock cars, or standard box cars, will apply on all shipments made under this policy.

(11) To secure refund of freight charges or railway fares, as described, and as available under this policy, the consignee of consignees must forward to the Chief, Cattle Division, Live Stock branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, the following:—

(a) Receipted freight bill (See clause 10).

(b) Receipt for railway ticket purchase where the services of an attendant are involved (See clause 9-b).

(c) Signed declaration covering complete shipment (See clause 7).

Intending purchasers of cattle under this policy are requested to familiarize themselves with the provisions as set forth. Further information in regard to the policy and the forms referred to in clause 11 may be obtained on application to the chief, cattle division, Live Stock branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

2. No.

3. Answered by No. 2.

ROSS RIFLE FACTORY, QUEBEC

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Since September, 1930, were tenders called for in connection with the demolition of a portion of the Ross Rifle factory, Quebec, called the Deakin wing?

2. If so, what were the names of the tenderers, what were the prices submitted?

3. To whom was the contract awarded, and at what price?

Mr. SUTHERLAND:

1. Yes, for the purchase and demolition of the Deakin building.

2.

Aimé Pageau & Cie, Quebec	$ 110
Amédee Demers, Quebec	500
Arthur Audet, Enrg., Quebec	500
Baker Bros., Ottawa	560
E. A. Tremblay, Quebec	1,000
Elzéar Turcotte, Quebec	1,500
Jos. Nolin, Quebec	3,200
Quebec Construction Co., Quebec	3,630
T. Babin, Quebec	3,900

3. Contract was awarded to T. Babin, Quebec, at his tender price of $3,900.

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Is it the intention of the government to call for tenders for the demolition of the main portion of the Ross Rifle factory at Quebec?

2. If so, when?

3. If not, why?

Mr. SUTHERLAND:

1. Tenders already called for.

2. February 23, 1931.

3. Answered by No. 1.

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Since September, 1930, were tenders called for the removal of material, munitions and machinery from the Ross Rifle factory, Quebec?

2. If so, what were the names of the tenderers, and what were the prices submitted?

3. To whom was the contract awarded, and at what price?

Mr. SUTHERLAND:

1. Yes. (a) From the Deakin building; (b) from the Ross Rifle factory building.

2. Names of tenderers and prices submitted are shown on schedules attached.

3. Both contracts were awarded to Mr. Amedee Demers, Quebec, P.Q., the lowest tenderer.

Cartage of Machinery and Vehicles from Deakin Building, Quebec, to Valcartier Camp

Schedule of Tenders

*Elzéar Turcotte, Quebec, P.Q.	$ 3,800
Amedée Demers, Quebec, P.Q.	4,950
Jos. Nolin, Quebec, P.Q.	5,825

* Tender withdrawn.

Removal of Stores from Ross Rifle Factory, Quebec
Schedule of Tenders

	*A. G. McDermott, 65 St. Patrick St., Quebec, P.Q.	Amedee Demers, 2 Samson Hill, Quebec, P.Q.	T. Babin, 942 St. Valier St., Quebec, P.Q.	Joseph Nolin, 18 Bayard St., Quebec, P.Q.
Team with vehicle and driver—				
Per full day, as per para. 10	$ 9 60	$ 8 00	$ 8 40	$ 8 50
Per hour	1 20	1 25	1 30	1 30
Single horse with vehicle and driver—				
Per full day, as per para. 10	5 60	6 00	6 25	6 50
Per hour	70	85	80	90
Motor lorries (1 ton capacity)—				
Per full day, as per para. 10	16 00	15 00	18 00	20 00
Per hour	2 00	2 00	2 20	2 50
Motor lorries (2 tons capacity)—				
Per full day, as per para. 10	18 00	20 00	22 00	25 00
Per hour	2 25	3 00	3 50	3 75

* Tender withdrawn.

MARINE DEPARTMENT—EDOUARD VALLIERE

Mr. BRASSET:

1. Is Edouard Valliere employed by the marine department at the Quebec agency? If so, in what capacity, at what salary and since what date?

2. Was he appointed by or through the Civil Service Commission? If not, under what authority is his salary being paid?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1 and 2. Edouard Valliere was employed at the Quebec agency of the Department of Marine under the authority of Section 39 of the Civil Service Act from December 10, 1930, to December 31, 1930, and paid at the rate of $1,920 per annum.

RICHMOND, N.S., PREVENTIVE SERVICE

Mr. DUFF:

1. Is the government contemplating an increase or increases in the staff of the Customs and Excise preventive service in Richmond county, Nova Scotia?

2. Have any appointments been made to that service since September 1, 1930?

3. If so, what are the names, addresses, positions and salaries of said appointees?

4. Had any of the appointees overseas service as specified in notices advertising civil service positions?

5. If so, which of such appointees?

6. Have any applications been received from residents of Richmond county for positions in the Customs and Excise preventive service?

7. If so, what are the names of the applicants and the positions applied for?

8. Had any of the applicants overseas service?

9. If so, which of such applicants?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. No.

2. No.

3, 4 and 5. Answered by No. 2.

6. Yes.

7. E. S. Faugere, Customs Excise preventive officer.

8. No.

9. Answered by No. 8.

ST. RAYMOND, QUE., POST OFFICE

Mr. DESROCHERS:

1. Was the sum of $15,000 voted in the estimates of the year 1930 for the purpose of building a post office at St. Raymond, county of Portneuf?

2. If so, has this sum been expended as yet, and to what purpose?

3. If not, is it the intention of the government to proceed immediately with the construction of a post office?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes. (1930-31).

2. Expenditure to date:

Purchase of site..	$4,500 00
Legal and other expenses re site..	164 21
Total..	$4,664 21

3. No.

ST. RAYMOND, QUE., STATION

Mr. DESROCHERS:

1. Have representations been made to the Minister of Railways and Canals, and to the Canadian National Railway Company, with a view to the construction of a new station at St. Raymond, county of Portneuf?

2. If so, what action has been taken on these representations, and when is it proposed to carry on the said undertaking?

Mr. MANION:

1. Representations were made to the Canadian National Railways and to the Board of Railway Comissioners.

2. On November 18, 1930, the Board of Railway Commisisoners, sitting at Quebec, heard the application of the citizens of St. Raymond for the construction of a new station and, on March 19, 1931, the board issued an order in which it was stated that the railway company have given their undertaking that they will repair, remodel, equip and enlarge the station in the manner shown on a plan as filed, and will re-locate and extend the freight shed. This, in the opinion of the Board of Railway Commissioners, "will satisfactorily take care of the applicants' complaint."

The order of the board also states:

"The remodelling of the present station would mean a conservation in cost, to the railway company, of approximately $12,000, which curtailment should, under present financial conditions, be given the fullest consideration." The work will be proceeded with as soon as the necessary funds are made available.

MR. W. D. HERRIDGE

Mr. DUBOIS:

1. Is Mr. W. D. Herridge, described in the report of the Imperial conference, part 1, page 11, as "personal assistant to the Prime Minister" the same gentleman who was appointed recently as Canadian Minister at Washington?

2. Is the office of "personal assistant to the Prime Minister" a permanent position, and will Mr. Herridge be replaced?

3. Is the position under the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. BENNETT:

1. Yes.

2. No.

3. No. Mr. Herridge served without salary.

ORIENTAL IMMIGRATION

Mr. REID:

1. How many Japanese of both sexes came into this country from countries other than Japan during the years 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930?

2. How many Chinese of both sexes came into this country during the same years, from countries other than China?

Mr. GORDON:

1. The statistical information collected by the Department of Immigration and Colonization does not supply exact information on this point, but it is believed that few, if any, Japanese immigrants entered Canada during the period mentioned otherwise than direct from their own country.

2. No Chinese immigrants have been admitted to Canada during the period mentioned otherwise than from their own country.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—DISTRIBUTION

Mr. DENIS:

1. Out of the total amount of $20,000,000 voted to assist the unemployed, what amount was allotted to each province of the Dominion, for direct and indirect assistance?
2. What was the amount allotted to the city of Montreal as direct and indirect assistance?
3. What was the work recommended in the city of Montreal?
4. What is the work that has been started, and at what date?
5. To whom were contracts given and for what amount?
6. Were the contracts given by tender?
7. Were the clauses of reasonable wages and the eight-hour day specified in said contracts?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Prince Edward Island, $90,000; Nova Scotia, $700,000; New Brunswick, $500,000; Quebec, $2,850,000; Ontario, $3,850,000; Manitoba, $900,000; Saskatchewan, $1,000,000; Saskatchewan (drought area), $500,000; Alberta, $900,000; British Columbia, $1,100,000; Yukon, $20,000.

Above figures are for public works and undertakings to relieve unemployment and are supplemented by municipal and provincial funds. No allotment is made for direct relief but expenditures in this connection are borne one-third municipal, one-third provincial, and one-third Dominion.

2. $875,000.

3. Tunnel under St. Hubert between De Fleurimont and Des Carrieres streets under the C.P.R. lines	$ 325,000
Tunnel on Girouard street where it is crossed by C.P.R.	300,000
Tunnel on Decarie Boulevard in Mount Royal Ward, where it is crossed by C.P.R.	230,000
Viaduct on St. Joseph Boulevard where it is crossed by C.P.R.	250,000
Tunnels for pedestrians under Park avenue at Jeanne Mance park under Sherbrooke street, at Trenholme park and La Fontaine park, under St. Lawrence Boulevard at Jarry park	130,000
Construction of an incinerator in the west part of the city	400,000
Construction of a public bath in St. Eusebe ward	90,000
Improvement works in Mount Royal park	200,000
Comfort stations on public squares.	250,000
Underground conduits for lighting of parks	150,000
Four police and fire stations	600,000
St. Anthony market	300,000
St. James market	275,000
	$3,500,000

4. No information.

5. No information.

6. No information.

7. Tripartite agreement entered into with city of Montreal contained a clause providing that working hours shall not exceed 8 hours a day and that the wages paid shall be such as generally accepted as current for competent workmen in the district in which the work is being performed for the character or class of work in which they are respectively engaged providing that wages shall, in all cases, be such as are fair and reasonable.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—FRANÇOIS ROGER

Mr. VERVILLE:

1. Is François Roger in the employ of the Department of Public Works at Quebec?
2. If so, what is his classification, salary, and on what date was he appointed?
3. Was he appointed by the Civil Service Commission?
4. If not, on whose authority is his salary paid?
5. What is his age?
6. Is this man the same person as Mr. Roger, president of the Conservative Association of Limoilou?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes, temporarily employed to look after the caretaking of the custom house pending the appointment of a permanent caretaker by the Civil Service Commission.

2. (a) Temporary labourer; (b) $2.50 a day; (c) November 5, 1930.

3. No.

4. Departmental authority.

5. No information.

6. No information.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—NICOLET-LOTBINIERE SURVEYS

Mr. VERVILLE:

Is the Minister of Railways and Canals in a position to state whether surveys were carried

out last winter in the counties of Nicolet and Lotbiniere, for a right of way, with a view of extending the Quebec, Montreal and Southern railway, now part of the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. MANION: The management of Canadian National Railways state that no such surveys were made.

MR. LAURENT A. TANGUAY

Mr. BOUCHARD:

1. Does Mr. Laurent A. Tanguay occupy an office in the post office building, in Quebec?
2. Is the said Mr. Tanguay in the employ of the government?
3. If so, what salary does he draw, and by what department is he paid?
4. If not, will the Postmaster General and the Minister of Public Works give instructions so as to prevent him from occupying the said government office.

Mr. GUTHRIE:

1. Yes.
2. No.
3. Covered by No. 2.
4. No.

GOVERNOR GENERAL—SALARY AND ALLOWANCES

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River):

1. What is the total salary allowed the Governor General and paid by the Dominion of Canada?
2. What additional allowances are paid the Governor General?
3. What was the total cost of the yearly maintenance of Rideau Hall from 1928 to 1930?
4. What was the total travelling expenses of the Governor General for the years 1928, 1929 and 1930?
5. What are the other expenses incidental to the position paid by the Dominion of Canada?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. $48,666.66 per annum.

2.

	Per annum
Travelling allowance	$ 50,000
Aides-de-Camp	10,000
Allowances for fuel and light	19,000
Total	$ 79,000

3.

Fiscal year 1927-28 (not including fuel and light)	$ 61,655 65
Fiscal year 1928-29 (not including fuel and light)	62,203 04
Fiscal year 1929-30 (not including fuel and light)	62,064 32
Total	$ 185,923 01

4.

	1928	1929	1930
Travelling allowance	$50,000 00	$50,000 00	$50,000 00
Attendance and repairs, etc., to railway cars	2,905 11	2,399 60	2,464 92
Total	$52,905 11	$52,399 60	$52,464 92

5.

Office of the Secretary to the Governor General. Expenses for the fiscal year 1930-31:	
Civil government salaries	$ 24,500 00
Contingencies	22,500 00
Maintenance of Governor General's quarters in Citadel at Quebec, yearly average for last 3 years	7,450 16
Pay and Allowances of one officer of the permanent force serving as Canadian A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor General, and one orderly per annum	5,340 56
Total	$ 59,790 72

RAIL AND RIVER COAL COMPANY

Mr. SMITH (Cumberland):

1. Is the Rail and River Coal Company, Cleveland, Ohio, still owned and operated by the Canadian National Railways?
2. If so, what number of men were engaged in 1930 and at the present time by said company?
3. Is union or non-union labour employed at the mines of said company?
4. What was the total production of coal from the mines of the Rail and River Coal Company for the year 1930?
5. How much of the output from the mines of said company was taken by the Canadian National Railways, and what was the price paid per ton at pit-mouth for the year 1930?
6. Is there a contract between the Canadian National Railways and the Rail and River Coal Company to supply coal to the railways?
7. If so, what are the terms of said contract, and, if it is on a cost basis, what is the cost per ton?
8. What amount does the Canadian National Railways pay annually for interest on bonds, maintenance and other charges in any way connected with the said Rail and River Coal Company?
9. Have the mines of the Rail and River Coal Company been idle during certain periods of the years 1929 and 1930? If so, what dates in each of said years?
10. What was the cost to the Canadian National Railways per month to maintain said

mines during the periods of idleness in the years 1929 and 1930?

11. What was the cost to the Canadian National Railways in the years 1929 and 1930, to keep the Rail and River Coal Company operating, stating the particulars?

12. What is the policy of the Canadian National Railways with regard to its coal areas in the United States?

13. What did it cost the Canadian National Railways on cars at pit-mouth to produce the quantity of coal mined by the Rail and River Coal Company during the calendar year 1930?

14. In estimating cost of coal so mined, what amount, outside of mine labour, by way of interest on investment in the mines, depreciation, exhaustion of minerals, taxes, superintendence, general overhead, etc., was included in said cost?

15. What was the cost per ton for rail transport of said coal from Canadian National Railways United States mines to divisional points in Canada where such coal was used by the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. MANION:

1. Owned, but not operated by the Canadian National Railways.

2. Average 1930, 1,526. Average to date, 1931, 1,526.

3. So far as the management know, the men are practically all union members and have their locals at each mine.

4. 1,856,911 tons.

5. (1) by Canadian National Rys.—Canadian lines, 1,252,751 tons; by Canadian National Rys.—American lines, 444,954 tons. Total 1,697,705 tons.

(2) price paid at pit-mouth, $1.2646 per ton.

6. No.

7. See answer to No. 6.

8. Nil.

9. No.

10. Nil.

11. Nil.

12. To use its own property in the best interests of the railway.

13. See answer No. 5.

14. 36 cents for the year 1930.

15. To Canadian National tracks via Suspension Bridge, N.Y., $2.24; To Canadian National tracks via Black Rock, N.Y., $2.24; To Canadian National tracks via Port Huron, Mich., $1.67; To Canadian National tracks via Windsor, Ont., $1.73; To Canadian National tracks via Port Colborne, Ont., $1.76; To Canadian National tracks via Niagara Falls, $2.24.

MR. PAUL CALDWELL, POTATO INSPECTOR

Mr. VENIOT:

1. On whose recommendation was Paul Caldwell, potato inspector, dismissed?

2. What reasons were given for his dismissal?

3. Did he request an investigation?

4. Does the Minister of Agriculture know that Paul Caldwell is a returned soldier and was appointed by the Civil Service Commission?

[Mr. R. K. Smith.]

Mr. WEIR (Melfort):

1. Mr. Paul Caldwell was not discharged.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

SOUTH STEAM COAL AND DOCK COMPANY

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. Did the South Steam Coal and Dock Company obtain any contracts from the government during the years 1921 to 1930?

2. Who are the directors of said company?

3. Did said company obtain contracts by tender?

4. Was said company the lowest tenderer?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. No.

2. Unknown.

3 and 4. Answered by No. 1.

PRESCOTT COUNTY CENSUS COMMISSIONER

Mr. BERTRAND:

1. Who was appointed census commissioner in the county of Prescott?

2. Does the census commissioner appoint the enumerators in his county?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Mr. Edward A. Mooney.

2. Enumerators are appointed in the same way as in the previous census. The commissioners recommend them, and the ministerial head confirms the appointments.

MANYBERRIES, ALTA., PASTURAL RESEARCH STATION

Mr. GERSHAW:

1. When was the pastural research station at Manyberries, Alberta, established?

2. Who were the officers in charge?

3. What grass and pasture problems have been taken up, and with what results?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort): As the information asked for in this question is fully given in a number of printed reviews and bulletins, it is suggested that this be transferred to an order for return of correspondence.

RED DEER PUBLIC BUILDING

Mr. SPEAKMAN:

1. Was the interior of the federal public building (post office and customs) in the city of Red Deer, in the province of Alberta, repainted and decorated during the past six months?

2. If so, were tenders called for the performance of this work?

3. How many tenders were received in all, and from whom?

4. Whose tender was accepted and for what amount?
5. Were any tenders offered which were not received or accepted for consideration?
6. If so, from whom, why were they not received, and what reason was given to those whose tenders were refused consideration?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. (a) Two.
   (b) H. E. Haste, $498, and C. H. Stone, $625.
4. Tender of H. E. Haste at $498.
5. No other tenders received by department.
6. Answered by No. 5.

RED DEER FLYING FIELD

Mr. SPEAKMAN:

1. Was a revolving beacon light, and were ground lights recently installed in connection with the flying field, near Red Deer, Alberta?
2. Was this work done by tender or by day labour?
3. If by tender, how many were received, and from whom?
4. If by tender, whose tender was accepted, and for what amount?
5. What other costs were entailed, and what was the total cost of this installation?
6. What staff will be required in connection with these lights, and what will be the total annual salary cost?
7. What will be the total annual cost for the maintenance and operation of these lights?

Mr. SUTHERLAND:

1. Yes.
2. By tender.
3. Seven: Aeronautical Corporation of Canada, Ltd., Winnipeg; Canadian General Electric Company, Ltd., Ottawa; Electrical Engineers, Limited, Calgary; Schumacher-MacKenzie, Limited, Winnipeg; Highway Lighthouse Company, Ltd., Toronto; Holden Company, Limited, Montreal; Goold Shapley and Muir Co., Limited, Brantford.
4. Highway Lighthouse Company, Ltd. This firm, as did all others quoted a bulk price for the supply and installation of rotating electric beacons and field boundary lighting at fourteen intermediate aerodromes on the air mail route between Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon; one rotating electric beacon at Dauntless, Alberta; one beacon at Cabot, Manitoba, and one spare revolving beacon. The tender of the Highway Lighthouse Company, Limited, for all the above was $94,584.44. As none of the firms submitted itemized prices, it is impossible to state with any degree of accuracy the actual cost of the installation at Red Deer, Alberta.
5. Rental of field, $1 per annum.
6. Beacon attendant, $180 per annum.
7. $1,171.60.

Mr. SPEAKMAN:

1. Was a radio beacon for the guidance of aeroplanes recently installed in the vicinity of Red Deer, Alberta?
2. Was this work done by tender or by day labour?
3. If by tender, how many tenders were received and from whom?
4. Whose tender was accepted, and for what amount?
5. What was the total cost of this installation?
6. Were buildings erected in connection with this radio beacon, other than the beacon tower itself?
7. If so, how many and for what purpose?
8. Were tenders called for this work?
9. If so, how many were received and from whom?
10. Whose tender was accepted and for what amount?
11. What other expenses were involved in the erection and installation of this radio beacon and other subsidiary buildings, including furniture, etc?
12. What was the total cost involved in this project?
13. What staff will be required in connection with the radio, and what will be the total annual salary cost?
14. What will be the total annual cost for the maintenance and operation of the radio beacon?

Mr. SUTHERLAND:

1. A radio beacon is being installed at Red Deer, Alberta, for the guidance of aeroplanes on air mail route between Winnipeg and Edmonton.
2, 3, 4 and 5. Installation is being performed by the personnel of the Royal Canadian Corps of signals (permanent force).
6. Yes.
7. Four. One radio beacon station for housing the instruments and machinery for operating the beacon; one living quarters for accommodation of the personnel in charge of the beacon; two small stores buildings for miscellaneous stores.
8. Yes.
9. Nine: Connell & Packer, Red Deer, Alberta; J. A. Peters, Edmonton, Alberta; Buchan Construction Co., Calgary, Alberta; S. Pamely, Red Deer, Alberta; Hugh Clark & W. G. Houston, Red Deer, Alberta; Bird Woodall & Simpson, Ltd., Lethbridge, Alberta; McTavish McKay & Co., Calgary, Alberta; McDonald Bros., Calgary, Alberta; J. L. Collins, Calgary, Alberta.
10. Connell & Packer, Red Deer, Alberta, $14,500.
11 and 12. As the installation is not completed this information is not available.
13. One officer and four (4) non-commissioned officers and men, $6,780.
14. $13,545.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—LIMOILOU SHOPS

Mr. LAPOINTE:

1. Is it the intention of the government to proceed to the immediate rebuilding of the shops of the Canadian National Railways at Limoilou, Quebec, which were destroyed by fire a few days ago?

2. Has any step been taken to that effect?

3. When will the work of reconstruction start?

Mr. MANION: It is the railway management and not the government which deals with such matters, and in reply to this question Sir Henry Thornton states:

"I beg to advise that the subject of the interrogation is under consideration and it is not possible to give an immediate answer. Those who were employed at the Limoilou shops have been given employment elsewhere in Quebec and, consequently, are not suffering. It is anticipated that the facilities represented in the Limoilou shops will not be moved from the Quebec district."

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. REID:

1. Were agreements which had been submitted to the provincial government of British Columbia from the various municipalities in connection with applications under the Unemployment Relief Act of 1930, submitted to the Dominion government?

2. If so, what were the names of the various municipalities and what were the total amounts asked for up to January 31, 1931?

3. What are the amounts payable jointly by the province of British Columbia and the Dominion government?

4. Has the Dominion government paid the government of British Columbia any moneys under the Unemployment Act up to January 31, 1931?

5. If so, what is the amount of money actually paid to the government of British Columbia and the date of such payment?

6. What is the total number of individuals who had been afforded employment under the Unemployment Relief Act, 1930, as at January 31, in British Columbia?

7. What is the total number of days' labour so afforded under the Unemployment Relief Act?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Yes.

2. Municipality—	Total Amount	Payable by Dom.	Payable by Province
Alberni city	$3,180 00	$ 795 00	$ 795 00
Armstrong city	2,500 00	625 00	625 00
Burnaby district	158,000 00	39,500 00	39,500 00
Burns Lake village	1,600 00	400 00	400 00
Chilliwack city	2,800 00	700 00	700 00
Coquitlam district	20,000 00	4,750 00	4,750 00
Cranbrook city	14,000 00	3,500 00	3,500 00
Courtenay city	3,200 00	800 00	800 00
Cumberland city	1,614 75	403 50	403 50
Corporation of Delta	4,450 00	1,000 00	1,000 00
Duncan city	7,000 00	1,750 00	1,750 00
Fernie city	22,000 00	5,500 00	5,500 00
Village of Gibson's Landing	1,200 00	250 00	250 00
Mun. of Glenmore	2,055 00	250 00	250 00
Grand Forks city	12,000 00	2,500 00	2,500 00
Kamloops city	26,000 00	6,500 00	6,500 00
Kaslo city	11,700 00	2,500 00	2,500 00
Kelowna city	22,000 00	5,500 00	5,500 00
District of Kent	11,000 00	2,750 00	2,750 00
Ladysmith city	3,000 00	750 00	750 00
Langley township	17,000 00	4,250 00	4,250 00
Maple Ridge township	28,000 00	7,000 00	7,000 00
District of Matsqui	8,000 00	2,000 00	2,000 00
City of Merritt	22,600 00	3,750 00	3,750 00
District of Mission	10,000 00	2,500 00	2,500 00
Village of Mission	4,000 00	1,000 00	1,000 00
Nanaimo city	45,015 00	11,250 00	11,250 00
Nelson city	16,632 00	4,158 00	4,158 00
Village of New Denver	1,800 00	450 00	450 00
New Westminster city	90,000 00	22,500 00	22,500 00
District of North Cowichan	7,500 00	1,875 00	1,875 00
City of North Vancouver	54,000 00	13,500 00	13,500 00

2. Municipality—Conc.	Total Amount	Payable by Dom.	Payable by Province
District of North Vancouver	22,000 00	5,500 00	5,500 00
District of Oak Bay	6,800 00	1,700 00	1,700 00
District of Peachland	1,400 00	300 00	300 00
District of Penticton	4,500 00	1,125 00	1,125 00
District of Pitt Meadows	3,000 00	750 00	750 00
City of Port Alberni	11,040 00	2,750 00	2,750 00
City of Port Coquitlam	4,000 00	1,000 00	1,000 00
City of Port Moody	7,500 00	1,875 00	1,875 00
City of Prince George	20,000 00	5,000 00	5,000 00
City of Prince Rupert	35,000 00	8,125 00	8,125 00
Village of Quesnel	3,400 00	850 00	850 00
City of Revelstoke	24,500 00	5,500 00	5,500 00
Township of Richmond	34,400 00	8,600 00	8,600 00
District of Saanich	30,000 00	7,500 00	7,500 00
City of Salmon Arm	15,000 00	3,750 00	3,750 00
District of Salmon Arm	7,500 00	1,875 00	1,875 00
Village of Silverton	200 00	50 00	50 00
Village of Smithers	2,000 00	500 00	500 00
District of Spallumcheen	4,250 00	1,062 50	1,062 50
District of Sumas	4,000 00	1,000 00	1,000 00
District of Surrey	20,000 00	5,000 00	5,000 00
Village of Terrace	2,300 00	500 00	500 00
District of Summerland	10,000 00	2,500 00	2,500 00
Village of Vanderhoof	1,500 00	375 00	375 00
City of Vernon	20,393 00	2,000 00	2,000 00
City of Victoria	84,000 00	21,000 00	21,000 00
District of West Vancouver	13,001 75	3,250 00	3,250 00
Village of Williams Lake	3,000 00	750 00	750 00
City of Vancouver	880,400 00	220,100 00	220,100 00
City of Slocan	2,000 00	500 00	500 00

3. See answer to Question 2.

4. Yes.

5. Paid January 7, Public works, $2,367.84; paid February 13, Public works and direct relief, $43,398.87; paid February 24, Public works, $71,325.04; paid March 5, Public works and direct relief, $141,949.07.

6. Number of individuals afforded employment up to January 31, 22,206.

7. Number of man days' employment given up to January 31, 321,802.

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR COMPANY

Mr. URQUHART:

1. Has the Department of the Interior, Parks Branch, purchased any caterpillar trucks from the Caterpillar Tractor Company, Peoria, Illinois, within the last two years?

2. If so, how many?

3. What was the date of purchase, the type of tractor, and the price paid for each?

Mr. MURPHY:

1. No.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3. Answered by No. 1.

GABARUS BREAKWATER

Mr. URQUHART:

1. Was James V. Bagnell one of those paid in connection with the expenditure on Gabarus breakwater during the fall of 1930?

2. If so, what amounts were paid to Mr. Bagnell and on what dates?

3. What are the particulars of the consideration for which such payments were made?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.

2. (a) $5.60 (two days at $2.80).
(b) November 5 and 6, 1930.

3. Labourer in connection with repairs to breakwater.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—AMERICAN EMPLOYEES

Mr. LAFLECHE:

1. Are American citizens in the employ of the Canadian National Railways at Richmond, Quebec?

2. If so, what are their names, salaries and by whom were they recommended?

3. At what date did they report to the Immigration department pursuant to the act?
4. Are the American employees of the Canadian National Railways allowed to take part in politics?

Mr. MANION:

1. Yes.
2. J. L. Burns, Assistant Superintendent; T. J. Silke, Yardmaster; J. A. Caron, Supervisor of Signals; R. S. O'Connor, Division Supervisor of Car Service; C. H. Fay, Cost Engineer; R. E. Chesney, Chief Clerk, wage $215; J. F. Curran, Clerk, wage $150; A. G. Manning, Clerk, wage $140.

It is not considered in the interest of Canadian National Railways to publish salaries of officers.

In addition to the foregoing the following trainmen residing at Richmond are United States citizens. These men are engaged in international service:—

G. H. Roy, salary, $2,954.54; R. W. Christie, salary, $1,588.98; J. Bridge, salary, $1,028.02; E. J. Saucier, salary, $2,464.76; W. J. Murphy, salary, $1,922.09.

These employees were transferred to Richmond from Portland in 1923, or moved there in exercise of seniority rights, both points being on the same division of the Canadian National Railways.

3. No information.
4. The company's ruling is that the political activities of employees must not be such as to cause embarrassment to the management.

DR. L. N. LECLERC

Mr. DESROCHERS:

1. Was Dr. L. N. Leclerc employed by the Department of Indian Affairs as physician for the Indians at Indian Lorette, Quebec, and was he dismissed from the said position?
2. If so, when, at whose request, and by whom was he replaced?
3. Has there been any complaint with respect to Dr. Leclerc's professional qualifications, or to the manner in which he carried out the duties of his position?

Mr. MURPHY:

1. Yes.
2. November 1st, 1930. At the request of Mr. C. N. Dorion, M.P. Replaced by Dr. J. E. Verret.
3. Professional qualifications, no; manner, yes, political partisanship.

MR. W. M. FLANNERY

Mr. HURTUBISE:

1. Have the services of Mr. Wm. M. Flannery, barrister of North Bay, Ontario, and solicitor for the Department of Justice in a petition of right of the city of North Bay vs. the King, at present pending, been dispensed with?
2. If so, when and for what reasons?

[Mr Lafleche.]

Mr. GUTHRIE:

1. Yes.
2. On 27th August, 1930. It was thought advisable to retain experienced counsel at Ottawa.

COPPER CLIFF ONTARIO—PUBLIC BUILDING

Mr. HURTUBISE:

1. Have tenders been called for interior fittings for public building at Copper Cliff, Ontario?
2. If so, has contract been awarded, to whom and at what figure?
3. What are names of the firms tendering and what amounts submitted by each?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.
2. (a) Yes.
(b) Canadian Office and School Furniture, Ltd.
(c) $1,310.
3.

	Birch	B. C. Fir
Canadian Office & School Furniture, Ltd., Preston, Ont.	$1,310	
The Interior Hardwood Co., Ltd., Kitchener, Ont.	1,425	$1,425
The Office Specialty Mfg. Co., Ltd., Ottawa, Ont.	1,937	2,132
Laberge Lumber Co., Ltd., Sudbury, Ont.	2,323	2,075
Fred Levesque, Sudbury, Ont.	2,450	2,200
Gustiana & Zettler, Sudbury, Ont.	2,850	2,450
H. E. Bourassa Ltd., Montreal, P.Q.	2,872	2,686

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—SUDBURY DEVIATION

Mr. HURTUBISE:

1. Has it been decided to extend or deviate Canadian National Railways line through Sudbury?
2. If so, what route has been decided?
3. Have estimates been made?

Mr. MANION:

1. No.
2. Answered by No. 1.
3. No final estimate.

PACIFIC SEALING AWARD

Mr. NEILL:

1. Has the government received petitions or applications for the reconsideration of the sealing award in relation to the Pacific seaboard?
2. If so, will such petitions receive favourable consideration?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY:

1. Yes.
2. Under consideration.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—FRONTENAC COUNTY, QUEBEC

Mr. GOBEIL:

1. Did the municipality of South Marston, in the county of Frontenac, Quebec, have work done pursuant to the Unemployment Relief Act?
2. If so, was the money allotted by the Dominion government paid?
3. If not, why was the money allotted not paid?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Yes.

2. No.

3. First account rendered was returned because pay roll was not in accordance with fair wages policy of the government of Canada, as set forth in order in council P.C. 1206, dated June 7, 1922. Amended account received March 24, 1931, $295.67 payable by the Dominion being put forward for payment promptly.

MARITIME CLAIMS—AUDIT BOARD REPORT

Mr. MacLEAN:

1. Has the report of the audit board in respect to subsidy claims or adjustments for the three maritime provinces been submitted to the government?
2. If so, will the government table the report in full, giving in detail the amount of additional subsidy recommended for payment to each province?

Mr. BENNETT:

1. The board submitted a preliminary report dated October 8, 1930. Subsequently, two members of the board, including the chairman, resigned.

2. Report referred to in (1) tabled March 13, 1931.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—RIMOUSKI PUBLIC BUILDING

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Did the Department of Public Works, a few months ago, lease a building in the town of Rimouski for the housing of the headquarters and staff of their local district engineers?
2. Is the size of the building 31 feet frontage by 25 feet depth?
3. Is it a frame building finished in clap board on the outside and tongued and grooved board inside?
4. Aside from the first and second floors what are the dimensions of the space occupied by the engineers on the ground floor?
5. What space of the ground floor is left unoccupied?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.

2. Size of building, 37.5 by 25.7 feet.

3. Yes.

4. First (ground) floor—325.9 feet.

5. 532.1 feet.

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. What is the monthly and yearly rental paid by the Department of Public Works for the building rented in the town of Rimouski to house the staff of the local engineers?
2. What are the terms of the lease?
3. For what period?
4. Was it granted by order in council?
5. Does the monthly rental include heating, lighting, charwoman service and caretaker?
6. If not, what is the amount paid monthly for such service?
7. On whose recommendation was the building leased?
8. Who fixed the amount of rental to be paid?
9. Is it a fact that the Department of Public Works have asigned to the Banque Canadienne Nationale, Rimouski branch, the monthly payment of the rental?
10. If so, what is the monthly amount thus assigned, and for what period?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. $150 a month or $1,800 a year.

2. Leased five years from December 1, 1930. Lessor attends to all repairs during currency of lease, pays taxes, water rates and provides heating, lighting, cleaning and toilet accommodation.

3. Answered by No. 2.

4. Yes.

5. Yes.

6. Answered by No. 5.

7. District engineer.

8. The owner quoted the same figure as paid for the previous premises and this was considered reasonable as greater accommodation was secured.

9. Owner has given power of attorney for the department to pay rental to La Banque Canadienne Nationale, Rimouski.

10. $150 a month at the owner's discretion.

MR. JOSUÉ LEPAGE

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Has Mr. Josué Lepage, postmaster at Rimouski, been dismissed from the service?
2. If so, at what date?
3. On whose recommendation?
4. Was an inquiry held, if so, by whom?
5. Who furnished to the honourable Postmaster General or his officials the information that Mr. Josué Lepage was continually absent from his office?
6. What explanations were furnished by the postmaster with regard to his absence?
7. Was Madam Josué Lepage acting as assistant postmaster?
8. For how many years had Mr. Josué Lepage served as postmaster at Rimouski when dismissed?

9. In view of the long and faithful services of Mr. Josué Lepage as postmaster, does the department intend to provide a gratuity in order to compensate this faithful employee for his long service?

10. Have any protests been received from the citizens of Rimouski against this dismissal?

11. If so, from whom?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. November 24, 1930.

3. Decision of Postmaster General.

4. Investigations were made by the district superintendent of postal service, Quebec, and the chief inspector of postal service, Ottawa.

5. Mr. H. Boulay.

6. Postmaster stated he was sick and Mrs. Lepage, the postmaster's wife, stated that he would never be well enough to work, not even supervise the employees.

7. Yes.

8. Twenty-five years.

9. No legislation or regulation exists permitting payment of retirement allowance to revenue postmasters.

10. No.

11. Answered by No. 10.

MR. H. G. BOULAY

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Was Mr. H. G. Boulay, ex-defeated candidate, temporarily appointed as postmaster of Rimouski post office?

2. If so, at what date was he appointed?

3. How many days did he act as such?

4. What were the reasons for his dismissal?

5. Who are the citizens of Rimouski who protested against Mr. Boulay's appointment, and what was the nature of the protest?

6. Will the postmaster general place on the table of the house all documents, letters, telegrams and petitions received dealing with this temporary appointment of Mr. Boulay, and his dismissal?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. November 24, 1930.

3. Three days.

4. Mr. Boulay was not a permanent resident of Rimouski.

5. A delegation came to Ottawa and protested against Mr. Boulay's appointment on the grounds that he was a non-resident. No record kept of the names of the delegates.

6. Yes, as soon as possible after the necessary order of the house has been passed.

[Sir Eugene Fiset.]

RIMOUSKI POSTMASTERSHIP

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Has the position of postmaster at Rimouski been graded?

2. If so, what salary is now allotted to the position?

3. Has the position been advertised? If so, when?

4. Have any applications been received by the Post Office department and by the Civil Service Commission from returned soldiers residing at Rimouski?

5. If so, will the Civil Service Commission, in accordance with their regulations, give preference to returned soldiers who are married and have children and who are residents of Rimouski?

6. Is it the intention of the department to appoint an assistant postmaster at Rimouski?

7. If so, has the position been graded by the Civil Service Commission?

8. When will it be advertised?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. It is the intention to place the permanent postmaster on a fixed salary basis from the date of his appointment. The salary of postmaster and staff will be fixed and paid by the department out of the revenue of the office.

2. The postmaster's salary will be $2,040 with annual increases of $120 to maximum of $2,280.

3. Yes—from 4th to 16th of February last.

4. Yes.

5. Civil Service Act gives preference to qualified returned soldier applicants.

6. No.

7. See answer to Question 6.

8. See answer to Question 6.

MR. CHARLES GARON

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Has Mr. Charles Garon been temporarily placed in charge of the post office at Rimouski?

2. If so, at what date was he appointed?

3. On whose recommendation?

4. Is the sub-staff that he is at present employing exactly the same as when Mr. Josué Lepage was postmaster?

5. What were Mr. Charles Garon's special qualifications for such an appointment?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. November 27, 1930.

3. Temporary appointment made by Postmaster General.

4. No information—staff controlled by acting postmaster.

5. His ability and competency to perform the duties of the position.

CAPTAIN ALPHONSE GARON

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Has Captain Alphonse Garon of the regiment Les Fusiliers du Saint-Laurent been transferred to the regimental reserve?
2. If so, at what date?
3. For what reason?
4. On whose recommendation?

Mr. SUTHERLAND:

1. Lieutenant Alphonse Garon, Fusiliers du St. Laurent has been transferred from the 1st active battalion to the 2nd (reserve) battalion.

2. 4th December, 1930.

3. No specific reason is given, but the form of recommendation submitted contains the statement "I am willing to accept this transfer" to which the signature of "Alphonse Garon, Lieutenant" is appended.

4. The recommendation is signed by the officer commanding "B" company (Captain J. B. Desjardins), the officer commanding the regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel J. Pinault), also by the district officer commanding military district No. 5.

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Has Captain Alphonse Garon, defeated candidate in the county of Rimouski been appointed a commissioner to inquire into accusations of political activities against civil servants?
2. If so, from what date?
3. For what district?
4. What are his emoluments, including travelling and other expenses?
5. Is he getting a yearly salary?
6. If so, how much?
7. What emoluments has he received to date?
8. Does the government think that an ex-candidate still taking an active part in politics is a fit and proper person to deal without prejudice with such accusations?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Yes.

2. December 2, 1930.

3. Province of Quebec.

4. Twenty dollars for each full day's attendance or occupation in connection with the work of the Commission, plus reasonable moving and living expenses when he has to travel for the purpose of executing the Commission.

5. No.

6. Answered by No. 5.

7. $948.95.

8. Question not framed in accordance with parliamentary rules.

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Has Captain Alphonse Garon, ex-defeated candidate in the county of Rimouski, been appointed census commissioner?
2. If so, at what date?
3. For what district?
4. At what salary or emolument, including travelling and other expenses, if any?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Yes.

2. February 28, 1931.

3. Rimouski.

4. The commissioners get an allowance of $400 to cover the expenses incident to the organization of the census in this electoral district. No stated amount provided for travelling or living expenses. The duties of commissioners are: (a) the nomination of qualified persons to act as enumerators for the several census sub-districts into which the district will be divided for the purposes of the census; (b) the instruction of the enumerators in their duties; (c) the issuing of stationery and supplies; (d) the viseing of the returns made by the enumerators, and the forwarding of the same to this office; (e) the verification of enumerators' accounts and (f) the general supervision of the census with the district so as to ensure its expeditious and efficient completion, and the rate of pay will be as follows: 1 cent for each name on the "population" schedule; 3 cents for each "agricultural" schedule; 1 cent for each entry on the "animal and animal products, not on farm" schedule; 1 cent for each record of blind and deaf persons; 1 cent for each record of merchandising and service establishments.

MR. GERARD SIMARD

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Has Mr. Gerard Simard, defeated candidate in the county of Rimouski been appointed a commissioner to enquire into the political activities of civil servants?
2. For what district has be been appointed?
3. From what date?
4. At what salary?
5. What emoluments, including travelling and other expenses has he received to date?
6. Does the government think that an ex-candidate still taking an active part in politics is a fit and proper person to deal without prejudice with such accusations?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Yes.

2. Province of Quebec.

3. January 19, 1931.

4. Twenty dollars for each full day's attendance or occupation in connection with the work of the commission, plus reasonable moving and living expenses when he has to travel for the purpose of executing the commission.

5. $125.35.

6. Question not framed in accordance with parliamentary rules.

MR. H. G. BOULAY

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. What is the christian name of the son of Mr. H. G. Boulay ex-defeated candidate in the county of Rimouski, who has lately been nominated as oiler on the crew of the ss. Jalobert?
2. What are his qualifications?
3. Has he ever served at sea in such capacity?
4. Whom did he replace?
5. How many years of service had the man that Mr. Boulay is replacing?
6. What is his name?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. A Mr. Joseph Hermenegilde Antonin Boulay has been nominated for a position as oiler on the Jalobert.

2. He is reported to have served as oiler on C.P.R. boats on the British Columbia coast, also as railroad locomotive fireman on an engine fired with oil.

3. Answered by No. 2.

4, 5 and 6. The oilers of the Jalobert are appointed each year for the season of navigation only. They are paid off and their services dispensed with when the ship lays up each winter.

PENSION BOARD APPLICATIONS

Mr. SPEAKMAN:

1. How many applications for pension and for the revision of pension have been received by the Board of Pension Commissioners since the coming into force of the latest amendments to the Pension Act, on October 1, 1930?
2. How many of these applications have been granted by the Board of Pension Commissioners, and how many have been turned over to the pension tribunal?
3. How many of these applications have been heard before the pension tribunal?
4. How many of those heard by the pensions tribunal have been: (a) granted; (b) refused; (c) are awaiting decision under deferred judgment?
5. How many are still waiting to be heard before the pension tribunal?
6. How many of the decisions given by the pensions tribunal have been appealed to the federal appeal court by: (a) the applicants; (b) the Board of Pension Commissioners?
7. How many of these appeals have been heard by the federal appeal court, and how many are still waiting to be heard by that body?
8. In how many cases heard by the federal appeal court have the decisions of the pensions tribunal been reversed: (a) as to appeals lodged by the applicants; (b) by the Board of Pension Commissioners?
9. What is the average number of applications now being received each week by: (a) the Board of Pension Commissioners; (b) the Pensions Tribunal; (c) the Pensions Appeal Court?
10. What is the average number of final decisions given each week by: (a) the Board of Pension Commissioners; (b) the pensions tribunal; (c) the federal appeal court?

[Mr. Cahan.]

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. In respect of new claims for entitlement, 18,409; In respect of retroactivation, increased assessment, prosthetic appliances (clothing allowances), helplessness allowances under the various sections of the Pension Act—disability pensioners, 1,625; In respect of widows, mothers, fathers, orphan children, sisters, brothers and foster parents—approximately, 4,745.

2. Number of applications in respect of entitlement—granted, 3,913; Number referred to chief pensions advocate and chief commission counsel for submission to the pension tribunal: Already submitted, 3,518; Not yet submitted, 10,978, 14,496; Number of applications in respect of retroactivation, increased assessment, prosthetic appliances (clothing allowances), helplessness allowances, granted, 942; Number held pending a decision of the pension appeal court as to whether or not the pension tribunal has jurisdiction to hear the same, 683; Number of applications in respect of widows, mothers, fathers, orphan children, sisters, brothers and foster parents—granted, approximately, 4.500; Number held pending a decision of the pension appeal court as to whether or not the pension tribunal has jurisdiction to hear the same, 245.

3. 1,452, which includes a certain number of cases not finally dealt with by the federal appeal board.

4. (a) 578, (b) 675, (c) 199.

5. 2,066.

6. (a) 250, (b) 365.

7. (a) 241, (b) 374.

8. (a) 13, (b) 79.

9. (a) 725, (b) 100, (c) 50.

10. (a) None, (b) None, (c) 35.

In addition, the Board of Pension Commissioners has had before it for revision of assessment of pensionable diseases approximately 15,000 cases and in each case pension has been continued at previous rate, increased, decreased or made permanent without complaint.

(The figures quoted represent the situation as on March 31st, 1931.)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—FRENCHMAN'S BUTTE-HEINSBURG; ST. PAUL-BROSSEAU LINES

Mr. BUCKLEY:

1. Have any surveys been carried out last winter by engineers of the Canadian National Railways: (a) to complete the gap between Frenchman's Butte and Heinsburg on the Edmonton-North Battleford branch of the Canadian National Railways; (b) from St. Paul, Alberta, to Brosseau on same branch line?

2. How many previous surveys have been made, and in what years?

3. Have the engineers of the Canadian National Railways recommended the construction of either or both of these proposed lines?
4. If so, is it the intention to bring down the necessary legislation therefor at this session?
5. If not, will the Minister of Railways and Canals recommend to the proper authorities, that in view of the non-completion of this work, that the freight rates to and from eastern Canada be reduced to that which they would have been had such work been done, thereby eliminating the back haul freight which the people served by these railways have to pay at the present time?

Mr. MANION:

1. (a) Yes.
(b) Yes.
2. The Canadian National had a reconnaissance survey made in 1925 and location surveys in 1926.
3. Yes, both.
4. Consideration will be given this project in connection with policy to be adopted with respect to Canadian National construction and extensions generally.
5. Answered by No. 4.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, ONT., CENSUS COMMISSIONER

Mr. SANDERSON:

1. Who is the census commissioner appointed for taking the next census in Northumberland county, Ontario?
2. Upon whose recommendation was the census commissioner appointed?
3. Is he an ex-service man, and how many ex-service men applied for the position?
4. If not, why was not one of the ex-service men appointed?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Milton A. Mabee.
2. Appointment made by the Honourable Minister of Trade and Commerce.
3. No information. No other applications received for the position.
4. Answered by No. 3.

TRENT CANAL—SEASONAL STAFF

Mr. SANDERSON:

1. How many of the employees of the seasonal staff of the Trent canal have been retired this season and replaced by others?
2. Why were these seasonal employees replaced?
3. Upon whose recommendations were the changes made?

Mr. MANION:

1. None.
2. Answered by No. 1.
3. Answered by No. 1.

TRENT CANAL—EX-SOLDIERS

Mr. SANDERSON:

1. How many ex-service men have been employed on the Trent canal since the 1st of October, 1930?
2. What are their names?
3. How many others have been employed, who are not ex-service men?
4. What are their names?

Mr. MANION:

1. Seventy-three.
2. Hales, W. N.; Coughlin, A. J.; Simpson, Lewis; Remnant, Wilfred; Robinson, Wm.; Cunningham, Thos.; Ireland, John; Reed, Oscar; Carr, George; Johnston, John A.; Mitts, W. J.; Dobson, Herbert; Shepherd, James; Sadler, E. A.; Jones, L. H.; Clark, Andrew; Wannamaker, H.; Long, C. W.; Morgan, A. G.; Lowe, Walter; Smith, Harry; Blewett, Sherman; Maynard, Philip; Hicks, W. J.; Nichols, Alfred; Ellery, John; Morrison, Duncan; McRae, A. M.; Gillespie, Max; Bronson, Harrison; Taylor, F. H.; Waldon, Charles; Jones, C. L.; Hoggarth, George; Clapham, Harry; Church, Oliver; Barr, Murray; Madill, Reg.; Calvert, Bert; Graham, A.; Beteau, Ed.; Brooks, Ward; Jewell, H. W.; Emery, C.; Cross, A. D.; Cockburn, R. J.; Brotherstone, Robt.; Murduff, Reg.; Morrow, Sherman; Jarrett, C. F.; Loucks, John; Pritchard, A.; Lockington, George; Aspin, Giles; Miller, John; McNeal, Lyall; Nugent, Ernest; Murray, F. L.; Orr, E.; Gordon, Alex.; Miller, Herb.; Piper, William; Dewey, James, Sr. (Eastern division).

Bowers, Fred; Casquinette, W.; Commandant; Dunlop, F.; McDonald, D.; McAulay, K.; Page, Ron.; Woods, W.; Wilkie. W. N. (Western division).

3. One hundred and fifty-seven.
4. Windover, Geo. A.; Quinn, Archie; Bolton, Arthur; Bolton, Walter; Montgomery, D.; Bolton, Samuel; Lewis, Russell; Rivers, Thomas; Harrison, S. T.; McKelvey, Norman; McKelvey, Bert; Hie, Milton; Hewitt, Edwin; Snell, Ernest; Junkin, Wm.; Cameron, John A.; English, Richard; McIlmoyle, Nathan; McGilvary, Archie; Craggs, Anthony; Schriber, Garnet; Craggs, Frank; McEachern, J. D.; Murchison, John; Silverthorne, C. M.; McGregor, Wilfred; Bruce, George; Miller, Milford; Simpson, George; King, Thomas; Thompson, Harry; Bruce, William; Farrell, Ed.; Morgan, Jay; West, Dobson; Reid, Hector; Zealand, W.; Tough, C.; Dunbar, Roy; Suggitt, Richard; Freelan, John; Peake, Fred; Hinds, James; Stone, Melville; Johnston, Joseph; Lyle, William; Spencley, Jesse; Mace, James; Humphries, Geo.; Millett, George; Preston, James; Earnshaw, Alfred; Bradley, John; White, Albert; Emery, H.; Johnston, Isaac; Weaver, Hector; Dever, William; McCliggott, James; Wilson, Albert; Foster, William; Fraser, George; Bolton, Ernest; Fulton, Archie; Pammett, William; Heard, Ben; Johnston, Leonard; Ranson, Andy; Jackett, Fred; Jackett,

George; Jackett, Wilfred; Jackett, Archie; York, Henry; Ainsworth, Russell; Ellery, Gordon; Burley, George; Jones, John; Perdue, George; West, Thomas; McRae, William; Ryckman, Albert; Ryckman, Norman, M.; Greer, Laurie; Brodimore, John; Peel, Charles; McKelvery, Herb; Wilson, Arthur; Powell, Victor; Weaver, Ernest; Johnston, James A.; Simpson, James; Morin, Frank; McMahon, T. B.; Richardson, S.; Kimball, Raymond; Donaldson, Ed.; Purdy, Andy; Jewell, David; Silverthorne, James; Flynn, Madeleine; McCarthy, Armene M.; Head, William; West, William; Gordon, David; Robson, Clyde; Collinson, Frank; English, Albert; Young, A.; Simpson, George; Fraser, Gerald; Courtney, H.; Lytle, Wilson; Hewitt, Ernest; Welch, Fred; Harrison, Clifford; Hewitt, John; Bolton, John; Hewitt, Alex.; Coulter, Bert; Rogers, Delbert; Sears Harold; Dewey, James Jr.; Pollard, William; Madill, Joseph; McGuire, Leslie; Roberts, William; Roberts, Wm. J.; McEachern, Donald; Deverill, Archie; Moncrief, Arthur. (Eastern division).

Bresette, P.; Baron, M.; Bailey, Clifford; Bailey, Lorne; Brusseau, P.; Commandant, D.; Dupre, J.; Doolittle, H.; Ellis, A.; Ferguson, H.; Hatch, A.; Justin, B. F.; King, Eli; King, Fred; Laforce, S.; Manson, K.; Manson, T.; Manson, A.; McNab, J.; Nickerson, H.; Neilson, H.; Peacock, W.; Smith, C.; Sahanatien, I.; Whitesides, G.; White, Arthur; Zufelt, R. (Western division).

Mr. SANDERSON:

1. Has it been the policy of the Trent canal for seasonal employees to be given work arising from time to time during the winter months on the Trent canal?

2. Was a preference given to seasonal employees for occasional work during the winter months?

3. Has this policy now been changed and jobs given to persons other than seasonal employees?

4. If so, why was this policy changed?

5. Upon whose recommendation was the change made?

Mr. MANION:

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. Where local labour conditions are such as to justify it, this occasional winter employment may be given to others in view of seasonal employees having had at least eight months' work during the navigation season.

4. In the interests of a more general distribution of employment.

5. By direction of the Minister of Railways and Canals.

[Mr. Manion.]

MR. OLIVER MORIN

Mr. SEGUIN:

1. On what date was Mr. Oliver Morin informed of his official appointment as caretaker of the post office building of L'Assomption, Quebec, by Mr. G. Shearson Gregory, architect in the Department of Public Works?

2. Have complaints of political partisanship against Mr. Morin been made, and by whom?

3. Who has requested the dismissal of Mr. Morin?

M. STEWART (Leeds):

1. July 30, 1930, appointment effective from June 16, 1930.

2. (a) Yes.

(b) J. E. Faribault, K.C., L'Assomption, P.Q. C. E. Jeannotte, Mascouche, P.Q. Complaints investigated and employee found guilty.

3. J. E. Faribault, K.C., and C. E. Jeannotte.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL BOARD

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo):

1. What is the total cost of operations of the Marine Biological Board of Canada for the fiscal years 1928, 1929 and 1930?

2. What is the amount of the expenditure of the Marine Biological Board of Canada from April 1, 1930, to December 31, 1931?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY:

1. 1927-28, $137,335.83; 1928-29, $189,756.54; 1929-30, $282,544.71.

2. Not known as all accounts will not be in until later date.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL BOARD—NANAIMO RESIDENCE

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo):

1. What was the total cost of the construction of residence at Nanaimo, by Turley Brothers of Parksville, for the Marine Biological Board of Canada?

2. What was the total cost of the construction of the director's bungalow at Nanaimo for the Marine Biological Board of Canada?

3. For what purpose were these buildings provided and by whom are they occupied?

Sir GEORGE PERLEY (Argenteuil):

1. $21,695.33.

2. $5,771.

3. The residence was built and is used for sleeping and living quarters for the staff of investigators at the station which is four miles from Nanaimo.

The bungalow is occupied by the director of the station and his family as a permanent residence.

ROYAL GRAIN COMMISSION

Mr. MOTHERWELL:

1. What is the aim, objective and scope of the Grain Inquiry Commission of which Sir

Josiah Stamp is officially announced to be chairman?

2. Will the hearings, as customary, be open to the public?

3. Who asked for said commission?

Mr. BENNETT: A statement was given to the house on April 1st which covers the information asked for in this question.

MR. OLIVIER MORIN

Mr. SEGUIN:

1. Who acted as inquiry commissioner with reference to complaints of political partisanship against Mr. Olivier Morin, caretaker of the post office at L'Assomption, Quebec?

2. What is his occupation and address?

3. What was the total amount paid for said inquiry, including the commissioner's fees and all other disbursements?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Leopold Nantel, K.C.

2. (a) Barrister.
(b) St. Jerome, P.Q.

3. $38.85.

DEPORTATIONS, 1930

Mr. SPENCER:

1. How many people were deported from Canada during the year 1930?

2. To what countries and in what numbers were they returned?

3. What were the reasons for their deportations?

4. What was the total cost to the federal government?

Mr. GORDON:

1. 4,025.

2. Austria, 9; Belgium, 8; Bulgaria, 2; China, 69; Czechoslovakia, 41; British Isles, 2,864; British West Indies, 16; Newfoundland, 12; New Zealand, 1; Australia, 3; Holland, 33; East Indies, 2; Esthonia, 3; Finland, 85; France, 10; Germany, 112; Greece, 10; Hungary, 31; Italy, 12; Japan, 9; Jugo Slavia, 32; Lithuania, 12; Malta, 1; Poland, 156; Roumania, 50; Russia, 5; Denmark, 79; Iceland, 1; Norway, 50; Sweden, 42; Switzerland, 25; Portugal, 1; Latvia, 1; Syria, 1; United States of America, 237.

3. As public charges, 1,806; account convictions, criminal offences and inmates of penitentiaries and gaols, 701; account convictions under Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, 71; Inmates of mental institutions including insane persons, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, mental defectives, 445; account physical defects, 320; account entering by misrepresentation and stealth, 97; account having been previously deported, 5; miscellaneous causes, 70; dependent members of family accompanying deports, 510.

4. $138,220.32.

INCOME TAX

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

1. What is the total amount of personal net income assessed for income tax in Canada, before exemptions, 1919-1929?

2. What is the number of personal incomes assessed, and the total value of that assessment before exemptions, for net incomes from $50,000 to $60,000, from $60,000 to $70,000, from $70,000 to $80,000 and so on from 1919-1929?

3. What is the value of net incomes, before deductions, assessed for income tax in each of the groups for which data are already published in the Canada Year Book?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. 1918-1919.... No statistics for these years
1919-1920.... from which information
1920-1921.... can be compiled.

1921-1922	$1,058,577,617 27
1922-1923	838,127,023 69
1923-1924	802,617,497 37
1924-1925	701,892,820 56
1925-1926	697,016,973 44
1926-1927	465,689,900 17
1927-1928	604,736,115 93
1928-1929	668,687,536 38
1929-1930	781,174,030 14
Total	$6,618,519,514 95

2 and 3. Information not available from statistics as maintained.

RIMOUSKI COUNTY DISMISSALS

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. How many dismissals or requests for courts of inquiry on account of political activities against postmasters, members of the crews of the ss. Jalobert, ss. Abraham Martin, and lighthouse keepers, have been made, if any, in the county of Rimouski, by the following defeated candidates: Mr. H. G. Boulay, Mr. Gerard Simard, Mr. Alphonse Garon?

2. What are the names of the above-mentioned officials?

3. Against whom were accusations lodged by the above-mentioned defeated candidates?

4. Where do they reside?

5. How many of them have been dealt with?

6. To what ministers of the crown were those requests addressed, including the Hon. Solicitor General?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Mr. H. Boulay submitted charges of active political partisanship against two postmasters.

2. 3 and 4. (a) Jean Thibault, Ste. Angele de Rimouski; (b) Omer Charette, St. Gabriel de Rimouski.

5. (a) Jean Thibault—Investigation completed; (b) Omer Charette—Case under inquiry.

6. Postmaster General.

RIMOUSKI HARBOUR COLLECTIONS

Sir EUGENE FISET:

What amount of money was collected for every department concerned, at the harbour of Rimouski, by the wharfinger for the fiscal years 1928-29, 1929-30, 1930-31?

Mr. CAHAN:

Marine Department	
$262 00	1928-29
625 82	1929-30
494 10	1930-31

PENSION REVISION APPLICATIONS

Mr. SPEAKMAN:

1. How many applications for pension or for the revision of pension have been received by the chief pensions advocate from: (a) the Board of Pension Commissioners; (b) other sources?

2. How many of these applications have been passed on by him to: (a) the pensions tribunal; (b) the pensions appeal court?

3. How many are now in his hands still undealt with?

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. (a) 14,496; (b) 1,629.

2. (a) 3,518; (b) 250.

3. 12,357 (partially prepared but not yet reported for hearing by the tribunal).

(The foregoing figures represent the situation as on March 31st, 1931.)

BUTTER PRICES, 1930-31-

Mr. VERVILLE:

What was the price of butter, by the pound, in Montreal and Quebec, on the following dates: (a) April 1, 1930; (b) September 1, 1930; (c) October 1, 1930; (d) November 1, 1930; (e) December 1, 1930; (f) January 2, 1931; (g) February 1, 1931; (h) March 1, 1931?

Mr. STEVENS:

	Butter, creamery, retail prices per lb.	
	Quebec	Montreal
	$	$
April 1, 1930	.430	.440
September 2, 1930	.315	.346
October 1, 1930	.327	.350
November 1, 1930	.363	.378
December 1, 1930	.346	.370
January 2, 1931	.335	.368
February 2, 1931	.335	.367
March 2, 1931	.346	.369

	Butter, dairy, retail prices per lb.	
	$	$
April 1, 1930	.394	.412
September 2, 1930	.302	.329
October 1, 1930	.302	.335
November 1, 1930	.336	.356
December 1, 1930	.322	.347
January 2, 1931	.302	.351
February 2, 1931	.310	.342
March 2, 1931	.315	.349

[Mr. Cahan.]

EGG PRICES, 1930-31

Mr. VERVILLE:

What was the price of eggs, by the dozen, in Montreal and Quebec, on the following dates: (a) August 1, 1930; (b) September 1, 1930; (c) October 1, 1930; (d) November 2, 1930; (e) December 1, 1930; (f) January 2, 1931; (g) February 1, 1931; (h) March 1, 1931?

Mr. STEVENS:

	Eggs, fresh, specials and extras, retail prices per doz.	
	Quebec	Montreal
	$	$
August 1, 1930	.363	.438
September 1, 1930	.378	.439
October 1, 1930	.401	.460
November 2, 1930	.412	.521
December 1, 1930	.525	.603
January 2, 1931	.598	.683
February 1, 1931	.567	.593
March 1, 1931	.383	.416

LOTBINIÈRE CENSUS COMMISSIONER

Mr. VERVILLE:

1. Who was appointed census commissioner in the county of Lotbinière?

2. By whom was he recommended?

3. What is his salary?

4. What persons were appointed census enumerators in each parish of the said county?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. J. Amable Garneau.

2. By the Honourable the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

3. An allowance of $275 to cover organization expenses and for viseing of the returns made; checking them and forwarding to Ottawa; verification of enumerators' accounts and the general supervision of the census within the district over which he is appointed as commissioner the following rates are provided:—

1 cent for each name on the "population" schedule;

3 cents for each "agricultural" schedule;

1 cent for each entry on the "animal and animal products, not on farm", schedule;

1 cent for each record of blind and deaf persons;

1 cent for each record of merchandising and service establishments.

4. Enumerators have not been appointed.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF ACT, 1930—PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Mr. REID:

Table three of the report of Unemployment Relief Act, 1930, gives a total of $156,550 spent on public buildings, etc., what are the details of where this money was spent, including all buildings?

Mr. GORDON:

Table 3 referred to shows total cost of works undertaken at the joint expense of the

Dominion government (unemployment relief fund), the province and the municipality concerned.

The items for British Columbia public buildings, etc., are as follows:—

Cranbrook City—	
Storm sewers and lateral sewers..	3,000
Fernie City—	
Airport..	5,000
Grand Forks City—	
Salvaging material for civic building..	1,000
Labour on civic building..	8,000
Quesnel—	
Construction of fire hall, with room for storage, library, meeting, etc.	1,500
Salmon Arm—	
Fire hall improvements—building hose tower..	300
Spallumcheen—	
Hospital drainage improvement and moving fair grounds..	1,050
Vancouver City—	
New airport..	17,700
School ground projects..	44,000
Exhibition grounds..	20,000
Richmond-Pt. Grey—	
Clearing University endowment lands and excavating for pipe line..	55,000
	156,550

DREDGING

Mr. REID:

1. Were any of the government dredges employed on the Fraser river east of the New Westminster bridge at any time during the calendar year 1930?

2. If so: (a) what was the name of the dredge or dredges; (b) how long were they employed during 1930; and (c) in what several locations were they in operation and what length of time were they employed in each such location?

3. Was any filling work done by the operations of the dredge to the property owned by the B. C. Wood Preserving Company, Limited, and legally described at district lot 16, group 1, New Westminster, district map 4724 and block A, district lot 16, group 1, N.W.O.?

4. Was any agreement entered into by the B. C. Wood Preserving Company, Limited, or by their agents, with the government, whereby the said company agreed to pay the government for filling in their property with sand from the river by the operations of the government dredge?

5. If so, what was the total amount agreed to?

6. Has any money been paid by the said company for this undertaking?

7. If so, what amount has been paid to date?

8. Who authorized the said work?

9. Has the Canadian Pacific Railway any interest in this property?

10. What is the depth of the channel opposite this property at low tide at the present time?

11. What was the depth before the dredging was done and previous to September, 1929?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.

2. (a) P.W.D. No. 303 (formerly Fruhling). P.W.D. No. 305 (formerly King Edward). (b) and (c)

Period employed. (Calendar year 1930).	Location	Length of time (possible working days).
Dredge No. 303—		
January 1 to 4, February 5 to March 4, April 28 to May 24, June 25 to July 5.	Port Mann channel discharging at British Columbia Wood Preserving Company's property.	62½
Dredge No. 305—		
January 1 to 6,	Sapperton channel (depositing on British Columbia Preserving Company's property).	5
February 17 to April 17, April 22 to May 24, August 2 to 7, September 1 to October 25.	Sapperton channel (depositing on Middle Ground Bar).	134

3. Yes.

4. Yes.

5. One-third of cost of material dredged from within channel limits; full cost of material dredged outside channel limits.

6. Yes.

7. $15,000.00.

8. Department of Public Works.

9. No information.

10. 26½ feet (controlling depth).

11. 23 feet (controlling depth).

PRESCOTT ROCK REMOVAL

Mr. BERTRAND:

1. Has the Department of Public Works, or any other department, given authority to any person or persons to remove a large quantity of rock situated below Prescott, the said rock having been taken from the channel while the construction of the canal was being carried out?

2. If so, to whom was authority given for such work?

3. Was it after public tenders had been called for?

4. If so, who were the tenderers, and what were the prices submitted by each?

5. If not, what was the price received from the person who is performing this work, and who has obtained possession of this rock?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. The Department of Railways and Canals is the department concerned. It has given no authority to any person to remove the rock or stone in question, and none has been removed except as required for departmental purposes.

2, 3, 4 and 5. Answered by No. 1.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT—BILINGUAL STAFF

Mr. DUGUAY:

Why does the Civil Service Commission require that the employees of the Department of Agriculture, especially the stenographers, be bilinguists, in province of Quebec, while this is not required in the other provinces?

Mr. CAHAN: The Civil Service Commission is not requested to supply bilingual employees unless the employee would likely be required to perform work requiring a knowledge of both languages. Most of the correspondence with the headquarters office at Ottawa has to be conducted in the English language, while naturally, a great deal of correspondence with residents in Quebec, and in some districts of other provinces has to be in French. Stenographers, therefore, are generally required to possess a working knowledge, at least, of both official languages wherever such knowledge is necessary in order that they may be of maximum value to the Department by which they are employed.

SAYABEC STATION POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. BRASSET:

1. Were applications called for by the Civil Service Commission to fill the vacancy in the postmastership of Sayabec station, county of Matane, caused by the death of the late Mr. Bouchard?

2. If so, what was the date announced as the last day for receiving such applications?

3. How many applications were received on that date, from whom, and were any from returned soldiers?

4. Has anyone been appointed temporarily or permanently, to the position of postmaster at Sayabec?

5. If so, what is his name, by whom was he recommended, and is he a returned soldier?

6. If the present incumbent is a temporary appointment, for what period of time can he hold this position without confirmation by the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. August 12th, 1930.

3. Joseph Ernest Bellavance, Mrs. E. H. Bouchard, Edmond Fortin, Joseph Lauréat Gallant, returned soldier, Joseph R. Gunner, Joseph H. A. Michaud, returned soldier, Charles Perry, Louis Quimper, Mrs. Lucie St-Pierre Raymond.

4. Yes, temporarily.

5. Joseph Ernest Bellavance, recommended by Mr. H. LaRue, M.P., not a returned soldier.

6. There is on file a certificate from the Civil Service Commission covering the temporary employment of J. E. Bellavance.

BEAUHARNOIS POST OFFICE BUILDING—CARETAKER

Mr. RAYMOND:

1. Who was appointed caretaker of the post office building at Beauharnois, and when?

2. Was he appointed by the Civil Service Commission?

3. Was he appointed after passing an examination?

4. If so, what was the nature of the examination?

5. Is the caretaker who was appointed an ex-service man?

6. What are the names and surnames of those who made application for this position?

7. What is the age of each applicant?

8. What are the names and surnames of the ex-service men who applied for said position?

9. By whom was each one recommended?

10. Did the notices advertising the position fix an age limit, or contain a reference regarding the age of candidates, and which?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. (a) Mr. Emery Trudel of Beauharnois, P.Q.

(b) February 1st, 1931.

2. Yes.

3. A written examination was not held. The candidates were rated upon the statements contained on their application forms, and also, were orally examined by the clerk of works, chief architect's branch, Department of Public Works, who reported his findings to the Civil Service Commission.

4. Answered by No. 3.

5. No.

6. The candidates are as listed below:

Name	Age	Returned soldier
Beffre, Thomas	46	No
Dickner, J. Alphonse	33	Yes
Leduc, Urbain	50	No
Limoges, Eucher	40	Yes
Miller, Edouard	32	No
Robineault, Felix	50	No
Trudel, Emery	50	No
Vaudry, Dalmer	36	No

7. Answered by No. 6.

8. Answered by No. 6.

9. The commission's appointments are not dependent upon the recommendation of any outside party, and any recommendations received are merely references as to character and habits.

10. The poster advertising the position contained the statement that "preference will be given to candidates between the ages of 18 and 35 years, except in the case of returned soldiers".

SOY BEANS, IMPORTS 1926-30

Mr. GOTT:

1. How many bushels of soy beans were imported into Canada during the years 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930?

2. How many pounds of soy bean oil were imported into Canada during the same years?

3. Are oil refineries permitted to bring in their supply free of duty under the claim that they are manufacturers of stock feed?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Canada's imports of soya beans and soya bean cake, for use in the manufacture of cattle food and fertilizers, when imported by manufacturers of such cattle food and fertilizers during the calender years 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930, were:—

Years	Cwt.	$
1926	3,996	8,263
1927	13,509	24,980
1928	11,223	22,853
1929	31,252	65,430
1930	23,873	43,579

Note:—This is the only information available as to the imports of soya beans into Canada.

2. (a) Canada's imports of cocoanut, palm and palm kernel oil, not edible, peanut and soya bean oil for manufacture of soap during the calendar years 1926, 1927 and 1928 were:—

Years	Gal.	$
1926	3,380,975	2,855,018
1927	3,194,547	2,378,867
1928	3,466,203	2,573,316

(b) Canada's imports of peanut oil and soya bean oil for the manufacture of soap and peanut oil for canning fish during the calendar years 1929 and 1930 were:

Years	Gal.	$
1929	1,346,877	871,411
1930	772,625	561,451

(c) Canada's imports of peanut and soya bean oil, n.o.p. during the calendar years, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930, were:—

Years	Gal.	$
1926	122,332	124,745
1927	78,606	81,689
1928	119,511	116,254
1929	134,551	123,763
1930	183,023	123,055

Note:—This is the only information available as to the imports of soya bean oil into Canada.

3. No. Under the present tariff oil refiners are not permitted to bring in their supply of soya beans free of duty under the intermediate and general tariffs, under the claim that they are manufacturers of stock feed.

CORN IMPORTS, 1920-30

Mr. GOTT:

1. How much corn was imported into Canada each year since 1920?

2. How much corn was produced in Canada during the same years?

3. What acreage of corn was raised in Canada during the same years?

4. Was there ever a tariff on imported corn? If so, when and what duty was applied?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Canada's imports of corn during the calendar years 1921 to 1930 inclusive, were:

(a) Corn for purposes of distillation—

Years	Bush.	$
1921	321,193	224,418
1922	229,698	145,518
1923	242,099	226,133
1924	784,710	785,219
1925	657,669	725,898
1926	1,005,357	837,465
1927	1,832,776	1,530,961
1928	1,448,263	1,455,571
1929	2,017,214	1,926,677
1930	840,689	688,205

(b) Corn not for purposes of distillation—

Years	Bush.	$
1921	12,000,695	8,567,152
1922	12,985,988	8,392,819
1923	8,694,251	7,352,303
1924	8,608,552	7,959,077

Years	Bush.	$
1925	6,540,051	7,041,018
1926	11,710,546	9,254,332
1927	14,372,005	11,852,274
1928	12,520,063	12,065,910
1929	13,494,374	12,954,028
1930	10,591,869	8,394,128

2. and 3. Acreage and production of corn for husking in Canada from 1921 to 1930 were:—

Years	Acreage	Production (bushels)
1921	296,866	14,904,000
1922	318,397	13,798,000
1923	317,729	13,608,000
1924	295,015	11,998,000
1925	238,767	10,564,300
1926	209,725	7,813,000
1927	131,626	4,262,000
1928	139,192	5,241,000
1929	152,055	5,183,000
1930	161,400	5,826,000

4. Yes. Under the customs tariffs of 1886-1887, 1890 and 1894, Indian corn was subject to duty at the rate of 7½c. per bushel.

Under the customs tariff of 1897 and the present tariff, 1907, Indian corn for purposes of distillation was, and is to the present date, subject to duty at the rate of 7½c. per bushel.

Under the customs tariff of 1897 and the present tariff, 1907, Indian corn not for purposes of distillation was, and is up to the present date, free of ordinary customs duty.

BUY IN CANADA CAMPAIGN—TALKING PICTURES

Mr. VALLANCE:

1. Were talking pictures made use of in connection with the Buy in Canada campaign carried on by the Department of Trade and Commerce during the autumn of 1930?

2. If so, how many such pictures were made and distributed, what were their titles and what was the cost of each?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Yes.

2. One. The Canadian Movietone News arranged a sound motion picture interview with the Prime Minister, in which the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett, P.C., spoke briefly with reference to the Buy in Canada campaign.

This picture, however, was neither produced, purchased nor distributed by the Department of Trade and Commerce, but was the result of a private enterprise.

DEPORTATIONS, 1930

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

1. What were the number of deportations, month by month, during the past year?

2. What were the total deportations classified according to: (a) destination of deportee; (b) nationality; (c) cause of deportation; (d) agency responsible for bringing these people to Canada?

Mr. GORDON:

1. January, 488; February, 348; March, 326; April, 254; May, 323; June, 186; July, 307; August, 293; September, 254; October, 493; November, 448; December, 305.

2. (a) Austria, 9; Belgium, 8; Bulgaria, 2; China, 69; Czechoslovakia, 41; British Isles, 2,864; British West Indies, 16; Newfoundland, 12; New Zealand, 1; Australia, 3; Holland, 33; East Indies, 2; Esthonia, 3; Finland, 85; Italy, 12; Japan, 9; Jugo Slavia, 32; Lithuania, 12; Malta, 1; Poland, 156; Roumania, 50; Russia, 5; Denmark, 79; Iceland, 1; Norway, 50; Sweden, 42; Switzerland, 25; Portugal, 1; France, 10; Germany, 112; Greece, 10; Hungary, 31; Latvia, 1; Syria, 1; United States of America, 237.

(b) Austrian, 9; Belgian, 8; Bulgarian, 2; Chinese, 69; Czechslovak, 41; English, 1,584; Irish (Northern), 291; Irish (Free State), 80; Scotch, 664; Welsh, 245; British West Indian, 16; Newfoundland, 12; New Zealand, 1; Australian, 3; Dutch, 33; East Indian, 2; Esthonian, 3; Finnish, 85; French, 10; German, 112; Greek, 10; Hungarian, 31; Italian, 12; Japanese, 9; Jugo Slav, 32; Lithuanian, 12; Maltese, 1; Polish, 156; Roumanian, 50; Russian, 5; Danish, 79; Icelandic, 1; Norwegian, 50; Swedish, 42; Swiss, 25; Portuguese, 1; Latvian, 1; Syrian, 1; American, 237.

(c) As public charges, 1,806; account conviction criminal offences and inmates of penitentiaries and gaols, 701; account conviction under Opium and Narcotic Drug Act, 71; inmates of mental institutions including insane persons, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, mental defectives, 445; account physical defects, 320; account entering by misrepresentation and stealth, 97; account having been previously deported, 5; miscellaneous causes, 70; dependent members of family accompanying deports, 510.

(d) Information not tabulated.

MAPLE SUGAR—EXPORT MARKETS

Mr. ROBERGE:

1. Is it the intention of the government to find some markets in Europe for Canadian maple sugar?

2. Has the government found some means of transporting Canadian maple sugar in Europe without its losing some of its value while in transit?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. The Canadian government trade commissioners in Europe are continually occupied

in assisting exporters of Canadian goods of all kinds, including exporters of maple sugar, to find suitable markets in European countries.

2. No.

ST. JOSEPH D'ALMA POST OFFICE

Mr. LAPOINTE:

1. Has the government taken steps for the erection of a public building for post office purposes at St. Joseph d'Alma, Lake St. John county, for which provision was made in the estimates last year?
2. If not, what is the reason for the delay?
3. Has the government received representations against the construction of said building?
4. If so, by whom were said representations made?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. No.
2. The matter of site is still under consideration.
3. No.
4. Answered by No. 3.

L'ISLET CENSUS COMMISSIONERS

Mr. FAFARD:

1. Who was appointed census commissioner for the county of L'Islet?
2. By whom was he recommended?
3. What are the names of those who made application for the position in said county?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Charles Eugene Pelletier, of St. Jean Port-Joli.
2. Appointment made by the Honourable the Minister of Trade and Commerce.
3. No information.

SHINGWAUK HOME

Mr. BRADETTE:

1. Was an appropriation made in the estimates of 1930 under the heading of education of Indian children, of a sum of money for the erection of a home called Shingwauk home, near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario?
2. Were tenders called for, for the construction of this building?
3. Was the contract awarded to any person? If not, why?

Mr. MURPHY:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. No. Tenders considered too high.

CAPTAIN JOHN GALLAWAY

Mr. BRADETTE:

1. Has Capt. John Gallaway been in charge of the Gros Cap lightship for the past seven years?
2. Has he been dismissed from his position?
3. If so, by whom was he dismissed, and for what reason?
4. Has there been any complaint with respect to Capt. Gallaway's services, and if so, by whom?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. Yes, during the seasons of navigation.

2 and 3. He has not been reengaged this season.

4. No.

MR. H. H. ROWATT

Mr. CHEVRIER:

1. Is it the fact that Mr. H. H. Rowatt has been appointed deputy minister of the Department of the Interior?
2. If so, what was his age on the day of such appointment?
3. What will his yearly salary be as deputy minister of the Interior?
4. What was his yearly salary in the position or positions he occupied up to the time of his appointment as deputy minister?

Mr. MURPHY:

1. Yes.
2. 69.
3. $8.000.
4. $4,620.

C.G.S. JALOBERT CAPTAINCY

Mr. FAFARD:

1. Is the position of captain on the C.G.S. Jalobert vacant?
2. If so, for what reason?
3. What are the names and addresses of those who have applied for said position, and by whom were they recommended?
4. How many years' experience did each of the said applicants have?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. No.
2. Answered by No. 1.
3. Captain Emile Fortin, Cap St. Ignace, Montmagny county, applied personally and was recommended by the hon. member for Montmagny.
4. No information.

QUEBEC—MAIL TRANSFERS

Mr. BOUCHARD:

1. Have tenders been called covering the transfer of mails from the central post office, Quebec, to the railway stations and steamships?
2. If so, who were the tenderers, and what prices were submitted by each?
3. To whom was the contract awarded, and at what price?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. Raymond Ruelland, $9,550 per annum; Georges P. Robert, $9,600 per annum; Lorenzo Lortie, $9,800 per annum; Eugène Trudel, Jr., $10,200 per annum; Eugène Trudel, Sr., $11,100 per annum; Joseph Albert Auclair, $11,250 per annum; Adélard Giguere et Frères, $11,800 per annum; Elzéar Turcotte, $11,950 per annum; Jules Paradis, $11,980 per annum; Joseph Tremblay, $12,000 per annum; Adjutor

Brulotte, $12,895 per annum; Wilfrid Thivierge, $15,975 per annum; Alonzo Blouin, $18,800 per annum.

3. Raymond Ruelland at $9,550 per annum.

INTERPROVINCIAL CONFERENCE—DUAL LANGUAGES

Mr. SEGUIN:

Is it the intention of the federal government, during the Interprovincial conference to be held in Ottawa on April 7 next, to submit to the delegates, among the different constitutional questions, that relating to the preservation and maintenance of the two official languages of the country in all schools of the Dominion frequented by children of both races; and also regarding the preservation of the mother tongue of children of a same race who would happen to be the only ones frequenting the same school?

Mr. BENNETT: This is an improper question.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 168 is without doubt an improper question. It will be struck out.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF ACT—RIMOUSKI COUNTY APPLICATIONS

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. What are the names of towns and municipalities in the county of Rimouski which have applied for money grants under the Unemployment Relief Act?

2. What allotments have been made to each?

3. What was the proportion of the first federal contribution?

4. What was the provincial contribution?

5. What are the percentages of contribution that each town and municipality were asked to subscribe?

6. What amounts have been spent to date for each town and municipality?

7. What kind of works have been undertaken by these municipalities?

8. If no works have been undertaken by these municipalities out of moneys allotted to them, does the money lapse at the end of the fiscal year, i.e., first of April?

9. Does the government intend to revote these moneys and allow the municipalities, if they so desire, to proceed with authorized works during the proper season?

10. What amounts, if any, have been allotted to these municipalities out of the special fund, for purely charitable purposes?

1. Mr. GORDON:

Name	Project	Total Cost	Amounts Payable		
			By Dominion	By Province	By Municipality
		$	$	$	$
Bic Village	Roads and sidewalks	2,000	500	500	1,000
Mont Joli Village	Aqueduct and sewers	15,000	3,750	3,750	7,500
Notre Dame du Sacre Coeur Parish.	Construction of municipal buildings.	2,500	625	625	1,250
Pointe aux Pere	No particulars received	2,000	500	500	1,000
Rimouski Ville	Aueduct	25,000	6,250	6,250	12,500
St. Anaclet de Lessard	No particulars received	6,000	1,800	1,800	2,400
Ste. Blandine	Gravelling of roads	6,000	2,100	2,100	1,800
Ste. Cecile du Bic Parish	No particulars received	2,000	500	500	1,000
St. Donat	No particulars received	5,000	1,500	1,500	2,000
St. Eugene de Ladriere	No particulars received	1,500	375	375	750
St. Fabien	No particulars received	4,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Ste. Flavie de Lepage Parish.	Bridge and cement sidewalks	3,000	1,050	1,050	900
St. Francois Xavier des Hauteurs.	Bridges and roads	4,000	1,600	1,600	800
St. Gabriel de Rimouski	Repairs to bridge; roads	6,000	2,100	2,100	1,800
St. Germain de Rimouski	Constructing and gravelling municipal roads	9,000	2,250	2,250	4,500
St. Joseph de Lepage	Municipal hall	1,500	375	375	750
Ste. Luce	No particulars received	4,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
St. Marcelin Parish	Carting of stones; repairs to roads and bridges, municipal telephone line	2,000	800	800	400
St. Mathieu de Rioux Parish.	Construction of sidewalks; carting stone	3,000	1,050	1,050	900
St. Medard (Un. district)	Improving roads and bridges	1,500	600	900	
St. Narcisse	No particulars received	1,000	400	400	200
St. Simeon de la Baie Ha Ha.	Bridges, rivers, stream and sidewalk	3,000	900	900	1,200
St. Valerien Parish	Construction of a dam; road leading to mill	5,000	1,750	1,750	1,500

2. See reply to No. 1.
3. See reply to No. 1.
4. See reply to No. 1.
5. See reply to No. 1.
6. Accounts in respect of above have been paid as follows: Bic village, $249.85; Rimouski ville, $6,250; St. François Xavier des Hauteurs, $1,397.91; St. Gabriel de Rimouski parish, $1,866.98; St. Germain de Rimouski, $214.80; St. Mathieu de Rioux parish, $187.57; St. Simeon de la Baie Ha Ha, $494.51.
7. See reply to No. 1.
8. No.
9. Answered by No. 8.
10. No allotments made for direct relief. Regulations and agreement provide that direct relief disbursed in municipalities shall be payable Dominion one-third, province one-third, municipality one-third and in unorganized districts Dominion fifty per cent, province fifty per cent.

SWIFT CURRENT EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Mr. BOTHWELL:

1. What success has been met with in seeding down with grass or sweet clover, weedy land at the Swift Current experimental farm; (a) with a nurse crop, (b) without a nurse crop?
2. What class of grass seed and what variety of sweet clover seem to thrive and stand the winter best at this experimental farm, having regard also to the quality of the fodder obtained therefrom?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort):

1. Seeding down grass or sweet clover with a nurse crop on rented, weedy land has not been successful at Swift Current.

No trials were made in seeding without a nurse crop on weedy land but were undertaken on the experimental station. The yields of sweet clover over a period of the last three years, averaged ·51 of a ton per acre when sown with wheat and ·91 of a ton when sown alone. Over a period of eight years, sweet clover seeded with a nurse crop averaged ·89 of a ton per acre. Over this same period brome grass averaged ·79 of a ton and western rye an average of ·97 of a ton per acre. Owing to dry weather the yields of sweet clover, brome or western rye have not been satisfactory at Swift Current.

2. Brome grass and western rye grass stand the winter and dry weather better than other grasses in that district. Brome grass, however, is difficult to control. Arctic sweet clover seems to be the most hardy and most satisfactory.

AIR MAIL ROUTES

Mr. VENIOT:

1. What quantity of mail matter was carried over the various air mail routes from April 1, 1930, to March 31, 1931?
2. What was the cost of service for each route, designating if by contract on call for tenders or not, giving names of contractors for each route?
3. What revenue was received from parcel post packages carried by air mail over various routes, designing over what routes parcel post packages were carried?
4. On what routes is the five cent rate charged?
5. On what routes is first class mail matter only carried, and what routes carry first class, second class and other mail matter?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Data is not yet available covering the entire fiscal year 1930-31. Hence the information hereunder is calculated for the calendar year 1930.

The total weight of mail carried under air mail contracts, and on special emergency air mail flights during calendar year 1930 amounted to 527,212 lbs.

2, 3, 4 and 5. As the data requested is so extensive a covering statement is being laid on the table.

[Mr. Sauvé.]

(The statement is as follows):

Name of Service	Cost for Calendar Year 1930	Nature of Agreement	How Obtained	Name of Contractor
	$			
Montreal-Detroit	261,432 90	Contract	By negotiation	Canadian Airways, Limited.
Montreal-Moncton	170,390 70	Experimental service operated under temporary arrangement.	By negotiation	Canadian Airways, Limited.
Montreal-Quebec	60,803 10	Experimental service operated under temporary arrangement.	By negotiation	Canadian Airways, Limited.
Winnipeg-Calgary Regina-Edmonton	546,808 00	Contract	By negotiation	Western Canada Airways, Limited.
Montreal-Albany	73,241 25	Contract	By negotiation	Canadian Colonial Airways, Limited.
Toronto-Buffalo	27,114 00	Contract	By negotiation	Canadian Flying Service, Limited.
Montreal-Rimouski	30,171 26	Contract	By tender	Canadian Transcontinental Airways, Limited.
Montreal-Ottawa	7,012 00	Contract	By tender	Canadian Transcontinental Airways, Limited.
Oskelaneo-Chibougamau	685 30	Contract	By tender	(1) Compagnie Aerienne Franco-Canadienne.
Superseded Sept. 1930 by Amos-Chibougamau	300 00	Contract	By negotiation	(2) General Airways, Limited.
Amos-Siscoe	367 20	Contract	By tender	General Airways, Limited.
Bissett-Lac du Bonnet	5,936 91	Temporary agreement	By negotiation	Western Canada Airways, Limited.
Fort McMurray-Aklavik	53,491 03	Contract	By tender	Commercial Airways Limited.
Leamington-Pelee Island	2,503 00	Contract	By tender	London Air Transport.
	512 00	Contract (London Air Transport asked for release from their obligations after winter season 1929-30. Their request was granted and a contract was awarded National Air Transport from beginning winter season 1930-1931 on same terms and conditions.)	By negotiation	National Air Transport, Limited.
Narrow Lake-Sioux Lookout	14,392 18	Temporary arrangement—service continued temporarily on terms of former contract.	By tender	Western Canada Airways, Limited.
Quebec-Seven Islands	19,411 80	Contract	By negotiation	Canadian Transcontinental Airways, Limited.
Seven Islands-Anticosti	1,250 00			
Moncton-Magdalen Is	3,529 40			
Peace River-North Vermilion	2,133 36	Contract	By tender	Commercial Airways Limited.
Winnipeg-Pembina	(Established subsequent to close of calendar year 1930.—This service is operated by Western Canada Airways Limited under a contract (by negotiation) which went into operation 2nd February, 1931)—approximate cost to 31st March 1931—$5,412.00.			

Name of Service	Cost for Calendar Year 1930	Nature of Agreement	Name of Contractor
Special and Emergency Flights—	$		
Moncton-Charlottetown	8,246 88	Emergency arrangements.	Canadian Airways, Limited.
Aklavik-Baillie Is	Nil	" " ..	Commercial Airways, Limited.
Rimouski-Seven Islands, etc	3,266 90	" " ..	Canadian Transcontinental Airways, Limited.
Lake Ste. Agnes-Anticosti	2,470 00	" " ..	Canadian Transcontinental Airways, Limited.
Fort Resolution-Rae	65 00	" " ..	Commercial Airways, Limited.
Norway House-Oxford Lake, etc.	Nil	" " ..	Royal Canadian Air Force.
Mirror Landing-McLennan	130 00	" " ..	Commercial Airways, Limited.
Edmonton-Mirror Landing	Nil	" " ..	Commercial Airways, Limited.
Vancouver-Nanaimo-Victoria	Nil	" " ..	Alaska-Washington Airways of British Columbia, Limited.
Fort McMurray-Edmonton	Nil	" " ..	Commercial Airways, Limited.
Aklavik-Herschel	Nil	" " ..	Commercial Airways, Limited.
Quebec-Bradore	3,516 25	" " ..	Canadian Transcontinental Airways, Limited.

	Approximate Revenue
Fort McMurray-Aklavik	$12,030 50
Narrow Lake-Sioux Lookout	3,165 50
Chibougamau-Oskelaneo	135 25
Amos-Chibougamau	14 25
Amos-Siscoe	318 00

On other routes on which the air mail rate applies, parcels require to be prepaid at the same rate as letters. (See Answer to No. 5.)

4. The air mail rate of five cents for the first ounce and ten cents for each succeeding ounce or fraction thereof is charged on the following routes:—

Montreal-Detroit
Montreal-Moncton
Winnipeg-Calgary
Regina-Edmonton
Montreal-Quebec. (This service was withdrawn after 31st January, 1931.)
Toronto-Buffalo*
Montreal-Albany*
Montreal-Ottawa. (Special rate for domestic mail only.)
Winnipeg-Pembina

*In these cases first-class mail prepaid at ordinary rates is also carried when space available.

5. Where air mail rate applies (see answer to No. 4) all matter carried is charged at first-class rates.

LAURIER-OUTREMONT CENSUS COMMISSIONER

Mr. MERCIER (Laurier-Outremont):

1. Who was appointed census commissioner for the constituency of Laurier-Outremont?
2. Was he recommended by the member of that electoral division?
3. If not, by whom was he recommended, whether in writing or by word of mouth?
4. What is his salary: (b) age; (c) home address; (d) regular occupation?
5. What are the names, addresses and occupations of those who were appointed census enumerators for the said electoral division?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Jean Bumbray, 254 Beaconfield avenue, Montreal, Que.
2. Appointed by the hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce.
3. Answered in reply to question No. 2.
4. An allowance of $175 to cover organization expenses and for viséing of the returns made by the enumerators; checking them and forwarding to Ottawa; verification of enumerators' accounts and the general supervision of the census within the district over which he is appointed as commissioner the following rates are provided: 1 cent for each name on the "population" schedule; 3 cents for each "agricultural" schedule; 1 cent for each entry on the "animal and animal products, not on farm" schedule; 1 cent for each record of blind and deaf persons; 1 cent for each record of merchandising and service establishments; (b) no information; (c) given in answer to question No. 1; (d) barrister.
5. Enumerators have not yet been appointed

DR. A. E. MACINTYRE

Mr. URQUHART:

1. Is it true that Dr. A. E. Macintyre, chemist of the Mines department, has been retired?
2. Is it true that another official of the same office, Colonel G. Ogilvie, has been retained?
3. Is the government aware that Colonel Ogilvie is in receipt of a pension from the Imperial government?
4. What length of service had (a) Dr. Macintyre; (b) Colonel Ogilvie?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Dr. Macintyre's services terminated on March 31, 1931, and steps have been taken to superannuate him at the termination of retiring leave.

2. Yes.

3. No information in Department of Mines.

4. As of April 1, 1931: (a) Dr. Macintyre had service of 27 years, 10 months, and 21 days of which 11 years and eleven months were in Department of Mines; (b) Colonel Ogilvie had service of twelve years, all of which was in the Department of Mines.

STRATFORD CENTRE, QUE., WHARF REPAIRS

Mr. ROBERGE:

1. Was Mr. Alcide Couture, of Stratford Centre, employed as foreman, during the months of August, September and October of last year, to repair wharf at Stratford Centre, Wolfe county?

2. What was the amount of money spent on said wharf while he was in charge?

3. How many men were employed, what were the names of those men, and what was their salary per day?

4. How many teams were employed, and what was paid for those per day?

5. What amount was spent on material while he was in charge?

6. What was the name of the person supplying said material, and what was the price paid for same, (a) what was the price of the lumber per thousand feet; (b) from whom was it bought, and what is the name of the person who supplied same; (c) what were the names of the persons employed on such work; (d) what was the salary of the said Couture, and did he have assistants, if so, what were their names and salaries paid to them?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.

2. $2,556.69.

3. From August 8 to 31:

Four carpenters employed at various times for varying periods, at $4 a day, as follows: Louis Boisvert, Henri Couture, Arthur Couture, Amedee Hebert.

Fifty-seven labourers employed at various times for varying periods at $2.50 a day, as follows:

Calixte Heon, Elzear Picard, Arthur Delisle, Adjutor Letourneau, Ernest Proteau, Girard Proteau, Gelase Couture, Ludger Dolbec, Arsida Boisvert, Philippe Boisvert, Gedeon Boisvert, Jean Baptiste Picard, Eddy Bourque, Hyacinthe Hebert, Dominique Leclerc, Antonio Heon, Noel Bourque, Girard Lapointe, Conrad Gagne, Josephat Picard, Ernest Goulet, Girard Grenier, Philippe Grenier, Henri Picard, Gabriel Bernier, Rosario Hebert, Adolphe Gagnon, Patrick Boisvert, Henri L. Heon, Rolland Gagne, David Delongchamps, Henri L. Hebert, Alphonse Boucher, Roméo Gaudet, Eusebe Picard, Hormidas Couture, Willy Blais, David Hebert, Joseph Lapointe, Xavier Picard, fils, Alphonse Picard, Arsene Grenier, Adolphe Couture, Israel Bourque, Elzear Gagne, Lucien Bourque, Agenard Biron, Joseph Picard, Azarie Gauthier, Louis Gagnon, Hermenegilde Goulet, Athanase Gagnon, Charles Chapoux, Henri Gagnon, Philippe Delisle, Willy Goulet, Edmond Hebert.

From September 1 to 13:—4 carpenters employed at various times for varying periods at 50 cents an hour, same names as in August; 9 labourers employed at various times for varying periods at 35 cents an hour, as follows: Adolphe Couture, Philippe Boisvert, Dollard Boisvert, Hyacinthe Hebert, Henri L. Heon, Arsene Grenier, Joseph Giguere, Alfred Blais, Calixte Heon.

From October 27 to 30: 1 painter employed at various times for varying periods at 50 cents an hour, name Xavier Coulombe; 3 labourers employed at various times for varying periods at 35 cents an hour, as follows:—Omer Turgeon, Antonio Couture, Calixte Heon.

4. From August 8 to 31: 32 teams employed at various times for varying periods at $5 a day; 6 single carts employed at various times for varying periods at $3.75 a day.

From September 1 to 13: 9 teams employed at various times for varying periods at 55 cents an hour; 2 single carts employed at various times for varying periods at 45 cents an hour.

5. $286.14.

6. (a) and (b)—Lumber supplied; Antonio Couture, lumber at $30 per M., $122.16; Albert Poulin, shingles at $4 per M., $12; Joseph Giguera, lumber at $30 per M., $15.

Hardware and paints supplied—

Thomas Nicol, bolts at 50 cents, $16.50; plainage, $4.20	$ 20 70
Stanislas Hupe, spikes	13 00
France St. Pierre, spikes at 50 cents	10 00
Alcide Couture, spikes, etc	15 70
E. M. Jacques, sundry hardware and paints	14 88
A. E. Dionne, paints	12 00
France St. Pierre, spikes at 25 cents	37 50
Sand supplied—	
Mde. Veuve Honore Hebert, sand at 10 cents per load	8 20
Cartage of hardware from Garthby Station—Henri Vachan	5 00
	$286 14

(c) Answered by No. 3.

(d) $5 a day. He had no other assistants than those enumerated in No. 3.

CHICOUTIMI COLD STORAGE BUILDING

Mr. DUGUAY:

1. Has any special amount been voted for the construction of a cold storage at Chicoutimi?
2. If so, what amount?
3. To whom was this amount voted?
4. If to a company, what is its name, when incorporated, who are the promoters and directors, and what is the amount of its capital?
5. Did the said company comply with the conditions for which the amount voted was granted to it?
6. If the amount has already been voted and the beneficiary has not complied with the conditions stipulated, must a new vote be taken by parliament on that particular item?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort):

1. Yes.
2. Amount of subsidy authorized, $3,600; amount voted to date, $3,360.
3. Eloi Cote, Chicoutimi, Quebec.
4, 5 and 6. Does not apply to above.

ST. HENRI CENSUS COMMISSIONER

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri):

1. Who was appointed census commissioner for the electoral division of St. Henri?
2. What is his age; (b) occupation; (c) home address?
3. Was he recommended by the member of the division?
4. If not, by whom was he recommended?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. J. E. Lemire, 324 Parc Sir G. E. Cartier, Montreal, Que.
2. No information; (b) notary; (c) given in answer to question No. 1.
3. Appointed by the Hon. the Minister of Trade and Commerce.
4. Given in answer to question No. 3.

ROBERVAL, QUE., RURAL MAIL ROUTE

Mr. POULIOT:

1. Have tenders been called for the carrying of mail on rural route No. 2, at Roberval?
2. If so, on what date?
3. What is the name of each tenderer, and the original amount of each tender?
4. To whom was the contract awarded?
5. Was the accepted tender reduced before being accepted?
6. Why was said tender accepted in preference to any others?
7. Through whom and on whose recommendation?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. 30th October, 1930.
3. Louis Boily, $700 per annum; Alfred Girard, $700 per annum; Herménégilde Guénard, $700 per annum; Robert Guay, $775 per annum; Jos. E. Levesque, $900 per annum.
4. Herménégilde Guénard.
5. No.
6 and 7. On recommendation of Dr. L. Duguay, M.P.

WALLACE, N.S., POSTMASTER

Mr. URQUHART:

1. Who is postmaster at Wallace, Nova Scotia?
2. When was he appointed?
3. Was he recommended by the Civil Service Commission under the provisions of the Civil Service Act?
4. Who were the other applicants?
5. What examinations were taken by the appointee and by the other applicants?
6. What was the rating of the various applicants?
7. Were any of them entitled to the ex-service man's preference?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. A. S. Dewar is acting postmaster.
2. 31st March, 1931.
3. No—temporary appointment only.
4. N. M. Betts.
5. Personally interviewed by post office inspector.
6: Inspector's rating: Dewar, 85 per cent; Betts, 80 per cent; but final rating of candidates rests with Civil Service Commission.
7. No.

WESTERN DIVISION, N.S., FISHERIES INSPECTION

Mr. RALSTON:

1. Who at present is inspector, or acting as inspector of fisheries for western division of western Nova Scotia?
2. Was Harry Marshall reinstated as inspector?
3. If so, when was he appointed and on whose recomendation?
4. Since the resignation of Mr. H. C. Lewis did the department ask for nominations by the Civil Service Commission?
5. Did the Civil Service Commission advertise the position?
6. If so, what are the names of all applicants, designating those who are returned soldiers?
7. Have examinations for this position been held by the Civil Service Commission? If so, when, and what was the rating of the various applicants?
8. If the nomination was not made by the Civil Service Commission, by what authority was the appointment or acting or temporary appointment made?
9. If the appointment is acting or temporary, when will a permanent appointment be asked for?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Harry H. Marshall is employed on temporary certificate of the Civil Serive Commission pending the completion of a local competition.
2. Answered by No. 1.

3. The certificate was issued at the request of the department from December 1st, 1930.

4. Yes.

5. Yes.

6. Bailey, C. M.; Crowell, C. W. (returned soldier); D'Entremont, J. G.; D'Eon, J. O.; Gross, W. H.; Hayden, G. B.; Lacey, J. M.; Marshall, H. H.; Merkel, J. W. (returned soldier); Mood, L. N.; Naas, W. J.; Watson, F.

7. (a) As advertised, the examination took the form of a rating on education and experience from the sworn statements, supporting documents and other evidence submitted by applicants on and with their application forms.

(b) March 5th, 1931.

(c) In the opinion of the advisory examining board, none of the candidates, with the exception of Mr. Marshall, possessed all the qualifications and experience necessary for this position. In each case the factor which was considered to be lacking was specified, but no definite rating was assigned each candidate.

8. The emergency appointment of Mr. Marshall was made by the department under Section 39 of the Civil Service Act. In view of Mr. Marshall's previous experience along this line, the commission issued a certificate for his temporary employment in the position until a permanent appointment could be made.

9. A certificate is now being issued by the Civil Service Commission for the appointment of Mr. Marshall permanently, effective March 12th, 1931.

IMMIGRATION AGENCIES

Mr. LAFLECHE:

1. What is the number of immigration agencies now in operation in all foreign countries?

2. What immigration agencies were closed since April 15, 1930, on what dates were they closed and what was the annual cost of each?

3. What is the annual amount allowed by the government of Canada to each province for purposes of repatriation and colonization?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Eleven. Six of these are in the United States. The other five are purely inspectional offices and are located four in continental Europe and one in Hong Kong.

2. Name of office—Date of closing.

	Paid by Immigration Department	Paid by Dept. Trade and Commerce	Total Cost 1929-1930.
Woonsocket, September 30, 1931	$ 6,713 00	$ 2,046 74	$ 8,759 74
Manchester, September 30, 1931	6,398 68	578 50	6,977 18
Boston, March 21, 1930	7,509 45	1,914 72	9,424 17
Buffalo, March 21, 1930	11,953 61	1,159 29	13,112 90
Chicago, March 21, 1930	10,447 45	2,519 72	12,967 17
Fargo, March 21, 1930	11,546 13	3,848 49	15,394 62
Great Falls, March 21, 1930	7,880 60	424 76	8,305 36
Omaha, March 21, 1930	15,529 49	5,939 66	21,469 15
San Francisco, March 21, 1930	14,002 84		14,002 84
Danzig, January 19, 1931	11,115 48		11,115 48

3. A maximum of $50,000 to the province of Quebec conditional upon their spending a like amount. $2,102.67 to the province of New Brunswick, being half their expenditure during the past fiscal year.

STE. GERTRUDE, QUE., POST OFFICE

Mr. DUBOIS:

1. Is the Postmaster General aware that Mr. Henri Mailhot, postmaster of the village of Ste. Gertrude, in the county of Nicolet, was dismissed from his office?

2. If so, by whom was his dismissal requested?

3. Was an inquiry held, and if so, by whom and where?

4. What are the reasons for this dismissal?

[Mr. Cahan.]

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. Conservative committee of Ste. Gertrude.

3. Yes, by Commissioner J. O. Courchesne at Ste. Gertrude.

4. Active political partisanship.

ST. GREGOIRE LE GRAND, QUE., RURAL MAIL ROUTE

Mr. DUBOIS:

1. Have tenders been called, since January, 1931, for the transportation of mail on rural route No. 1, in the parish of St. Gregoire le Grand, county of Nicolet?

2. If so, what was the amount of lowest tender?

3. To whom was the contract awarded, and at what price?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. $372 per annum.
3. Achille Bourque, at $372 per annum.

SOUTH SHORE COAL AND DOCK COMPANY

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. Was the South Shore Coal and Dock Company given any government contracts dur- the years 1921 to 1930?
2. If so, who are the directors of that company?
3. Were contracts by tender given to said company?
4. Was the said company the lowest tenderer?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. No contracts with the South Shore Coal and Dock Company were entered into by the Department of Marine during the years 1921 to 1930. A number of orders for coal were placed with the South Shore Coal and Dock Company in 1927, and one order only in 1928.
2. No information.
3. No.
4. The prices paid were the prevailing prices at the time of delivery.

VESSEL O'CONNELL

Mr. POWER:

1. Was a rum runner known as the O'Connell or No. 4 seized by the Department of Customs and Excise prior to the 15th of July, 1930?
2. Was the said vessel moored in safe keeping at St. Laurent, Island of Orleans, in the custody of a Mr. Filion?
3. Was the said vessel after the 1st of August, 1930, disposed of by private treaty and without calling for public tenders?
4. Was the said vessel afterwards seized by the officers of the Quebec Liquor Commission while transporting contraband liquor?
5. Who was the purchaser of the said vessel?
6. To whom was she handed over and from whom was a receipt taken for her?
7. What was the price paid? What was its real value?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. No. Speedboat No. 4 seized August 21, 1930.
2. Yes.
3. Yes for full appraised value.
4. No information beyond intimation from preventive officer that such seizure had been made.
5. Dr. P. Gilbert, Charny, P.Q.
6. Frederic Dorion, Quebec.
7. Price paid $800. Appraised value $800.

VESSEL "NO. 3"

Mr. POWER:

1. Was a rum runner known as No. 3 seized by the Department of Customs and Excise prior to the 15th of July, 1930?
2. Was the said vessel moored in safe keeping at St. Laurent, Island of Orleans, in the custody of a Mr. Filion?
3. Was the said vessel after the 1st of August, 1930, disposed of by private treaty and without calling for public tenders?
4. Was the said vessel afterwards seized by the officers of the Quebec Liquor Commission while transporting contraband liquor?
5. Who was the purchaser of the said vessel?
6. To whom was she handed over and from whom was a receipt taken for her?
7. What was the price paid? What was its real value?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. No; sold by tender.
4. No information.
5. Armand Dupuis.
6. Armand Dupuis.
7. Price paid $450. Appraised value $800.

VANCOUVER ISLAND NATIONAL PARKS SITES

Mr. NEILL:

1. Has the government received the report of chief engineer, Mr. J. M. Wardle, of his inspection last summer of proposed sites for national parks on Vancouver island, B.C.?
2. Will the minister lay it on the table?

Mr. MURPHY:

1. Chief Engineer Wardle's report of investigation is not yet complete.
2. When the report is complete the question of tabling it in the House of Commons will be considered.

KOH-I-NOOR BLOTTERS

Mr. PERRAS:

1. Has the government purchased any Koh-I-Noor hand blotters since August 1, 1930?
2. If so, how many were purchased, and for what price?
3. Where are these Koh-I-Noor hand blotters made?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. No.
2. Answered by No. 1.
3. No information.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY LAND GRANTS

Mr. LUCAS:

1. Was a grant, or were grants of land made to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, by the federal government, by way of assistance to the said company, in its construction program?
2. If so, and if more than one grant was made: (a) in what years were these grants made; (b) what acreage was included in each separate grant; (c) what was the total acreage thus granted?
3. At what value per acre were each of these grants computed, and what was the total computed value of all the land thus granted at the time such grants were made?

4. Were any or all of these grants conditional or unconditional, and if conditional, what, if any, restrictions were imposed as to: (a) the person or persons to whom these lands might be sold by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company whether to bona fide settlers or otherwise; (b) as to any maximum price to be charged by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, whether sold to bona fide settlers or to others?

5. If such maximum price was imposed, did this maximum price apply to any or all parcels of land disposed of by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and if not, under what circumstances was this maximum price imposed?

6. What other conditions, if any, were imposed as to the sale of these lands by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and under what circumstances?

Mr. MURPHY:

1. Yes.

2. Three grants (a) (1) 44 Vic. chap. 1, 1881, main line 25,000,000 acres reduced by 49 Vic. chap. 9, to 18,206,985 acres; (2) 53 Vic. chap. 4, 1890, Souris branch, 6,400 acres per mile; (3) 53 Vic. chap. 4, 1890, Pipestone extension of Souris branch, 6,400 acres per mile; (b) (1) 18,206,982 acres, see answer 2 (a) (1); (2) 1,408,704 acres; (3) 200,320 acres; (c) 19,816,006 acres.

3. No.

4. Unconditional.

5. Answered by No. 4.

6. No conditions.

PENSION APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver):

1. How many applications have been heard by the pension tribunals up to March 31, 1931?

2. How many applicants have been granted entitlement on all conditions asked for?

3. How many have been granted entitlement where not in all on one or more conditions?

4. In how many cases has notice of appeal been given from the pensions tribunal to the appeal court when the tribunal decision was in applicant's favour?

5. In how many cases has notice of appeal been given from the pensions tribunal to the appeal court when the tribunal decision was against the applicant?

6. How many appeals have been heard by the appeal court?

7. How many of such appeals have reversed decision of pension tribunal: (a) where such decision was favourable to applicant; (b) where such decision was against the applicant?

8. How many appeals have been heard against decision of pension tribunals when such decisions were in favour of applications by widows?

9. How many of such appeals were allowed by the appeal court? How many rejected?

10. How many have been heard against decisions of pensions tribunal when such decisions were in favour of orphans and other dependents?

11. How many of such appeals were allowed by the appeal court? How many rejected?

[Mr. Lucas.]

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. 1,452.

2. 408.

3. 169.

4. 365.

5. 250.

6. 241.

7. (a) 79; (b) 13.

8. 17.

9. Allowed: 14; rejected: 3.

10. 3.

11. Allowed: 3; rejected: none.

CANADIAN FARM LOAN BOARD

Mr. BUCKLEY:

1. Has the head office of the Canada Farm Loan Board issued any instructions to provincial offices of the Canadian Farm Loan Board to withhold disbursement of mortgage loans which have already been approved?

2. If so, why?

3. Is the government aware that certain farmers are being seriously embarrassed by disbursement of mortgage loans being withheld?

4. Will the government issue instructions that any mortgage loans duly approved should be immediately disbursed?

Mr. BENNETT:

1, 2, 3, and 4. The government is informed by the Canadian Farm Loan Board that approved loans are being disbursed as the security accepted for each such loan is perfected and reported by the board's solicitor for payment.

LAKEFIELD, N.B., POSTMASTER

Mr. VENIOT:

1. On whose recommendation was Samuel G. Barter, a returned soldier, postmaster at Lakeville, Carleton county, N.B., dismissed?

2. What were the reasons assigned for his dismissal?

3. Was the Postmaster General aware that Barter was a returned soldier with a family of six?

4. Was an investigation held in this case, if not, why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. B. F. Smith, M.P.

2. Inconvenient location of post office.

3. Record shows postmaster is a returned soldier.

4. Yes.

STRATFORD, QUE., WHARF REPAIRS

Mr. LAFLECHE:

1. Who was foreman of the repairs to the wharf at Stratford, county of Wolfe, Quebec, in the month of June and July last?

2. What was the total amount spent on said wharf previous to the appointment of Mr. Alcide Couture?

3. How many men were employed, what are their names, and what were their wages per day?
4. How many teams of horses were employed and what was paid for said teams per day?
5. What amount was spent for the work?
6. What was the name of the person who supplied the material, and what was the price paid for said material?
7. What was the price of wood per 1,000 feet board measure, (b) from whom was it bought and what are the names of persons who supplied it, (c) what are the names of the men who were employed on this work?
8. What were the wages of the foreman, had he any assistants, and if so, what were their names and wages?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Ferdinand Dolbec (work commenced July 9).

2. $4,552.41.

3. The following were employed at various times for varying periods between July 9 and August 6, 1930: 1 carpenter, Edward Bourque, at $4 a day; 74 labourers at $2.50 a day, names given below: Alex. Chenard, Abraham Thibault, Adolphe Bergeron, Daniel Gauthier, Louis Plante, Emile Lecours, Louis Boisvert, Philippe Bergeron, Ernest Methivier, Adolphe Gagnon, Georges Boisvert, Joseph Thibault, Telesphore Bergeron, Willy Blais, Onida Gauthier, Henri Gagnon, Agenor Biron, Hormidas Bourque, Louis M. Cote, Louis Hebert, Georges Gauthier, Emile Dravigne, Hormidas Boisvert, Arthur Gauthier, Josephat Picard, Antoine Dolbec, Jean Baptiste Picard, Luc Boisvert, Edouard Gagnon, Alfred Blais, Alderic Cote, Alphonse Boucher, Alcide Couture, Eugene Gagnon, Arsene Grenier, Paul Bergeron, Henri Rivard, Joseph Bergeron, Herve Beliveau, Euclide Bergeron, Edmond Hebert, Philippe Methivier, Etienne Cote, Ludger Dolbec, Arthur Chenard, Ulric Hebert, Athanase Gagnon, Donatien Grenier, Girard Grenier, Valmore Rivard, Louis Grenier, Arthur Couture, Emilien Rivard, Eugene Couture, Michel Cormier, Pierre Hebert, Onesime Dolbec, Napoleon Gauthier, Joseph Methivier, Pierre Picard, Aime Rivard, Ernest Grondin, Louis Gauthier, Henri Bergeron, Adolphe Heon, Rene Bouffard, Arthur Delisle, Gedeon Boisvert, Theodule Plante, Albini Plante, Adioda Thibault, Adelard Gagnon, Ferdinand Boisvert, Leo Bergeron.

4. The following were employed at various times for varying periods between July 9 and August 6, 1930: 46 teams at $5 a day, as follows: Henri Bergeron, Ferdinand Dolbec, fils, Paul Bergeron, Conrad Bergeron, Joseph Plante, Henri Bourque, Gerard Chenard, Arthur Plante, Louis Bergeron, Josephat Thibault, Felix Bourque, Alphonse Picard, Berchman Dolbec, Arsida Boisvert, Emery Hebert, Telesphore Picard, Willy Boucher, Alex. Boulanger, Romeo Rivard, Joseph Lapointe, Archille Proteau, Calixte Heon, Adolphe Bourque, Adolphe Thibault, Irenee Dolbec, Gedeon Bergeron, Raoul Plante, Aime Beliveau, Xavier Coulombe, Joseph Couture, Paul Goulet, Aurore Gauthier, Georges Thibault, Xavier Picard, Alyre Bourque, Gerard Gauthier, Philomon Roy, fils, Louis Lecours, Leon Gagnon, Leon Gaudet, Majorique Rivard, Camille Rivard, Joseph Lecours, Joseph Boisvert, Wilfrid Bolduc, Gregoire Bourque; 3 single carts at $3.75 per day, as follows: Edmond Bergeron, Odilon Hebert, Dominique Leclerc.

5. $7,109.10.

6. Lumber supplied: Alcide Couture, lumber at $30 per M., $441.66; Felix Bourque, lumber at $30 per M., $210; Hormidas Bourque, lumber at $30 per M., $174.51; Alex. Chenard, lumber at $30 per M., $167.82; Georges Thibault, lumber at $30 per M., $105; Berchmans Dolbec, lumber at $30 per M., $96.54; Henri Bourque, lumber at $30 per M., $90; Wilfrid Bolduc, lumber at $30 per M., $75; Aime Rivard, lumber at $30 per M., $60; Louis Bergeron, lumber at $30 per M., $60 Alyre Bourque, lumber at $30 per M., $60; Majorique Rivard, lumber at $30 per M., $58.20; Theodule Plante, lumber at $30 per M., $51.96; Berchmans Dolbec, lumber at $30 per M., $45.54; Daniel Gauthier, lumber at $30 per M., $45.24; Paul Goulet, lumber at $30 per M., $40.32.

Hardware supplied: A. E. Dionne, iron and cartage of same, $155.16; Omer Turgeon, spikes, $50.85; Thomas Nicol, spikes, etc., $78.65.

7. Answered by No. 6; (b) answered by No. 6; (c) answered by No. 3.

8. $5 a day. He had no other assistants than those enumerated in No. 3.

GREENFIELD, N.S., POSTMASTERS

Mr. DUFF:

1. Has Mrs. Livinia Freeman of Greenfield, Queens county, Nova Scotia, been dismissed as postmistress of Greenfield?
2. If so, for what cause was she so dismissed?
3. Who recommended her dismissal?
4. Who has been appointed in her stead?
5. Is the new appointee a returned soldier?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. Active political partisanship.
3. W. G. Ernst, M.P.
4. Mrs. Alma Hunt Freeman.
5. No.

MEDICINE HAT LOAN APPLICATIONS

Mr. GERSHAW:

1. How many applications have come from Medicine Hat federal constituency to the Canadian Farm Loan Board?
2. How many of these applications were investigated by the appraiser of the board?
3. How many loans were granted in this constituency and in what townships?

Mr. BENNETT: The board does not keep statistics by federal constituencies.

CAPTAIN OF LIGHTSHIP NO. 20

Mr. FAFARD:

1. Who was filling the position of captain on lightship No. 20, lower traverse, St. Roche, Quebec, in 1929 and 1930?
2. Was he dismissed, and if so, for what reason?
3. By whom was he replaced, and on whose recommendation?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. Captain Albert Chouinard.
2. No, his contract expired March 31, 1931.
3. Captain Luc Aime Fournier, by direction of the Minister of Marine.

VICTORIAVILLE, QUE., POST OFFICE CARETAKER

Mr. GIROUARD:

1. Was Mr. L. A. Tourigny, caretaker of the Victoriaville post office dismissed, or was the position abolished?
2. If so, why?
3. Has a complaint been made by some one against the said Mr. Tourigny, and if so, who was the complainant?
4. Was an inquiry held, and if so, at whose request and by whom?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1 and 2. The present position of caretaker, limited service, held by Mr. L. A. Tourigny, will be abolished when the post office is moved into the new public building where a full time caretaker will be required, and appointed by the Civil Service Commission.

3. (a) Yes; (b) J. A. Beauchesne.

4. (a) Yes; (b) Agesilas Kirouac and J. A. Beauchesne,; (c) G. S. Gingras, clerk of works, Department of Public Works.

LINIERE, QUE., POSTMISTRESS

Mr. LACROIX:

1. Was Mrs. N. G. Cantin of St-Come, county of Beauce, Quebec, appointed to the position of postmistress at Liniere, Quebec, in August, 1930?
2. Was the said Mrs. Cantin dismissed from the position in March or April, 1931?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Certificate was issued by the Civil Service Commission on the 26th August, 1930, on behalf of Mrs. N. G. Cantin.

[Mr. Sauvé.]

2. Certificate was refused on account of unsatisfactory location of building in which Mrs. Cantin proposed to keep the office.

NEW LONDON HARBOUR, P.E.I., LIGHTKEEPER

Mr. MacLEAN:

1. Has the keeper of the range lights at New London harbour, Prince Edward Island, Mr. John R. MacKenzie, been dismissed?
2. If so, on whose recommendation was he dismissed?
3. What charges, if any, were laid against him?
4. Is the government aware that the said John R. MacKenzie is a returned soldier and that he was severely wounded overseas?
5. Did the said John R. MacKenzie request the government to hold an examination or inquiry?
6. If so, did the government hold same?
7. If not, why?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. Yes.
2. The Minister of Marine.
3. Neglect of duty.
4. The department is aware that he is a returned soldier.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.
7. Answered by No. 6.

STE. ROSE DE WATFORD, QUE., POSTMASTER

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Was Mr. Z. R. Dallaire, postmaster of Ste. Rose de Watford, Quebec, dismissed from the service?
2. If so, on what authority, and for what reason?
3. Who recommended this dismissal?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. Authority of governor in council on account of active political partisanship.
3. Postmaster General.

BUTTER AND MILK

Mr. CAYLEY:

1. How many pounds of butter per month were imported into Canada during the past fifteen months from: (a) New Zealand; (b) Australia; (c) other countries?
2. What was the average price per pound of butter in Canada for each of the above months?
3. What amount of butter was produced in Canada during each of the said months?
4. What was the amount of exports from Canada to: (a) New Zealand; (b) Australia, during each of the above months?
5. How many Canadian farmers have fully accredited herds, and how many head of cattle in such herds?
6. How many fully accredited herds are there in Oxford county, Ontario, and how many cattle compose such herds?
7. How many pounds of milk were produced in Canada in each of the following years, 1921 to 1930, inclusive?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Canada's monthly imports of butter for the past fifteen months from (a) New Zealand, (b) Australia, and (c) other countries, were:

Months 1930	(a) New Zealand Pounds	(b) Australia Pounds	(c) Other Countries Pounds
January	7,357,396	149,912	29,884
February	8,509,598	119,000	8,408
March	7,631,662	392,000	5,773
April	2,455,061	168,000	75,209
May	2,838,575	112,000	1,792
June	2,852,529	—	2,886
July	434,034	—	4,525
August	1,805,233	—	1,239
September	876,752	—	1,546
October	2,167,254	56,000	19,942
November	64	117,600	7,279
December	84,242	308,000	12,660
1931			
January	1,796	432,768	13,883
February	132,338	330,568	5,945
March	147,002	862,904	171,175

2. Wholesale price of butter at certain Canadian cities by months for the past fifteen months was:

Months 1930	No. 1 Creamery Butter at			
	Montreal	Toronto	Winnipeg	Calgary
	Cents per pound			
January	41.0	42.0	43.0	43.0
February	39.0	40.0	43.0	41.0
March	37.3	38.5	40.0	39.0
April	34.9	35.6	36.0	37.0
May	33.1	33.7	34.0	34.0
June	30.1	31.7	32.0	33.0
July	30.5	30.9	30.0	31.0
August	31.4	32.0	30.0	31.0
September	33.4	33.8	32.0	32.0
October	33.2	35.1	34.0	34.0
November	33.0	34.1	34.0	34.0
December	33.2	32.9	34.0	34.0
1931				
January	34.0	33.9	33.0	34.0
February	34.9	34.4	33.0	34.0
March	34.3	34.0	34.0	34.0

3. No statistics available as to monthly production of butter in Canada. During the calendar year 1930 the estimated production was 271,500,000 pounds.

4. Canada's total domestic exports to (a) New Zealand, (b) Australia during each of the above months were:

Months 1930	(a) New Zealand	(b) Australia
January	1,208,017	999,176
February	1,324,317	971,515
March	1,402,007	1,435,382
April	949,837	540,289
May	997,009	590,600
June	1,695,082	1,038,019
July	1,610,115	785,783
August	1,459,713	577,357
September	1,364,118	604,805
October	1,340,998	577,239
November	846,728	654,091
December	811,044	399,552
1931		
January	662,704	352,810
February	472,351	172,763
March	478,776	496,305

5. 5,117 fully accredited herds.
153,510 head of cattle.

6. 193 fully accredited herds.
5,782 head of cattle.

7. Production of milk in pounds for Canada for which comparable statistics are available was as under—

Years	Pounds
1921	—
1922	—
1923	—
1924	—
1925	14,386,103,567
1926	14,591,873,188
1927	14,825,821,086
1928	14,512,897,961
1929	14,349,023,000
1930	—

ST. JACQUES, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. SEGUIN:

1. Who acted as inquiry commissioner in the complaints of political partisanship made against Mr. Joseph Levesque, postmaster at St. Jacques, Montcalm county, Quebec, and what is the name, profession and address of the said commissioner?

2. What remuneration has been received by the said inquiry commissioner for his services and various fees in reference to inquiry held at St. Jacques, on February 20, 1931?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Gaston Allard, barrister, Berthierville, P.Q.

2. $25.40.

FORT VERMILION TELEGRAPH AGENT

Mr. BUCKLEY:

1. Who, if anyone, has been appointed government telegraph agent at Fort Vermilion, and upon whose recommendation?

2. Was any application for this position received from one Arthur Bowtell, who has been in the service of the department for the last twenty-four years?

3. What length of service in the department has the new appointee?

4. Is the new appointee a permanent civil servant?

5. What new appointments for telegraph operators have been made in the city of Edmonton and what length of service have the new appointees had in the department?

6. Are these new appointees now permanent employees?

7. Is the Minister of Public Works aware that the said Arthur Bowtell has been in the employ of the department for the past twenty-four years and is still rated a temporary employee?

8. Will the minister bring down the necessary legislation to have employees with such length of service rated as permanent employees?

[Mr. Cahan.]

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Reginald Lee has been appointed temporarily, pending the appointment of a permanent operator, on temporary certificate issued by Civil Service Commission. The intention is to bulletin this position as a permanent one next June to all employees of the division.

2. No.

3. None previous to appointment.

4. No.

5. Last appointees as result of open competition to the public: (a) Lawrence John Bolton, appointed Sept. 20, 1929; Alphonse Vaillancourt, appointed July 1, 1930; (b) No continuous service. Employed as relief telegraph operators on different occasions.

6. Yes.

7. Yes.

8. No information.

STE. CLOTHILDE, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. GIROUARD:

1. Was L. P. Rousseau, postmaster at Ste. Clothilde de Horton, Arthabaska county, Quebec, dismissed?

2. If so, for what reason?

3. If the said L. P. Rousseau was dismissed on account of political partisanship, who made the complaint against him?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. Active political partisanship.

3. A. Kirouac, Warwick, P.Q.

QUEBEC POST OFFICE—EMPLOYMENT OF ADALBERT GUAY

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Is Adalbert Guay, of St. Anselme, in the county of Dorchester, Quebec, in the employ of the government?

2. If so, (a) when was he appointed, (b) for how long, (c) what salary does he receive, (d) what work is he doing and where does he work, (e) what are his working hours, (f) was he appointed by the Civil Service Commission after making application and passing examination?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. (a) 27th October, 1930; (b) 30 days (services retained); (c) $1,020 a year; (d) preliminary letter sortation, Quebec post office; (e) 12 noon to 4 p.m.; 6 to 10 p.m.; (f) No.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY BRANCH LINE CONSTRUCTION

Mr. SWANSTON:

Has the hon. the Minister of Railways and Canals any information as to when the Canadian Pacific Railway intends to proceed with the construction of the line between Val Marie and Mankota, Saskatchewan, with the object of completing the gap, and when does this charter expire?

Mr. MANION: This question has regard to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and we have no information. If the hon. member wishes me to do so I will make inquiries of that company, but I have no information as to the plans of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in this matter. The same answer applies to the next two questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: This question, relating to the policies of the Canadian Pacific Railway, is an improper question to ask of the Minister of Railways and Canals. It will be dropped. The same ruling will apply to the other two questions.

Question dropped.

STE. MONIQUE, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. DUBOIS:

1. Is the Postmaster General aware that Mr. Nestor Provencher, postmaster of the village of Ste. Monique, county of Nicolet, Quebec, was dismissed from his office?
2. If so, who asked for his dismissal?
3. Was an inquiry held?
4. If so, by whom, and where?
5. What are the reasons for the dismissal?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. Charges of active political partisanship were made by Messrs. Pierre Laplante, Gilbert Laplante, Rodolphe Bourgeois and Raoul Martel.
3. Yes.
4. By J. O. Courchesne, at Ste. Monique.
5. Active political partisanship.

PRINCE ALBERT EGG INSPECTOR

Mr. MOTHERWELL:

1. Who at present occupies the position of egg inspector at Prince Albert, Sask.?
2. What was his previous occupation?
3. What were his qualifications for the position?
4. Was he placed on the eligible list by the Civil Service Commission?
5. If not, who recommended his appointment?
6. Why was his predecessor, Mr. Dent, not retained?

Mr. WEIR (Melfort):

1. Mr. L. M. Watson.
2. Banking and insurance business.
3. A knowledge of local conditions, favourable personality and an apparent aptitude for familiarizing himself with the work of the egg inspection service.
4. There is no eligible list for egg inspectors for the Prince Albert district. An examination is to be held shortly by the Civil Service Commission for the purpose of establishing a list.
5. He was the only applicant.
6. Mr. Dent previously occupied this position as a local selection. He failed to take the examination held by the Civil Service Commission last August and his certificate of temporary appointment was not renewed.

COST OF DELEGATION TO WELCOME GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

What were the principal items and the total cost of the official delegation to Halifax to welcome the Governor General?

Mr. CAHAN: The accounts have not all been rendered and the government is not, therefore, in a position to say.

BERWICK, N.S., LICENCE FOR MANUFACTURE OF LIQUOR

Mr. DUFF:

1. Has the federal government been asked by the government of the province of Nova Scotia, to issue or approve of the issuing of a licence for the manufacture of intoxicating liquor at Berwick, Nova Scotia?
2. If so, when was said application made and by whom?
3. Has said application been approved or said licence issued?
4. In whose name was approval asked for or licence to be issued?
5. If application so far not approved or licence issued when will matter be finalized?

Mr. RYCKMAN:

1. No.

2, 3, 4, and 5. Answered by No. 1.

ALMA, QUE., POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. POULIOT:

1. Was an amount voted in the 1930-31 estimates for the construction of a post office at Alma, province of Quebec?
2. If so, what amount?
3. Has the said post office been erected?
4. If not, will it be erected this year?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes (for post office at St. Joseph d'Alma).
2. $28,000.
3. No.
4. The matter of site is still under consideration.

ST. SULPICE, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. SEGUIN:

1. Has the postmaster of St. Sulpice, county of L'Assomption, Quebec, been relieved of his duties?
2. If so, what are the reasons for his dismissal?
3. For how long has this postmaster been on duty?
4. Who asked for his dismissal?
5. Have complaints been made against him, and by whom?
6. Who has been named to replace him, and on whose recommendation?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. His inability to give sufficient attention to the office and the unreliability of his assistant.
3. Thirty-three years.
4. Recommended by departmental officials
5. No. Action was taken following an official investigation by the district superintendent of postal service, Montreal.
6. Joseph Edouard Robitaille, on the recommendation of C. E. Jeannotte.

L'ASSOMPTION, QUE., PUBLIC BUILDING—CARETAKER

Mr. SEGUIN:

1. Has Mr. Arthur Lafortune of L'Assomption, Quebec, been appointed temporary caretaker of the public building of L'Assomption?
2. If so, by whom was this nomination recommended?
3. Have objections to this nomination been made, and by whom?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.
2. District resident architect.
3. No.

AIR MAIL SERVICE EXPENDITURE

Mr. VENIOT:

1. Of the amount of $1,912,000 voted during the session of 1930 for air mail service, what was the sum expended up to the close of the fiscal year ending March 31, 1931?
2. What portion of the above sum of $1,912,000 was designated or intended to be expended on the contemplated route between Sudbury and Winnipeg, and how much of this sum was expended for that purpose?

[Mr. Pouliot.]

Mr. SAUVE:

1. $1,422,752.
2. No specific amount was earmarked, nor was any sum expended for the contemplated route between Sudbury and Winnipeg.

NEW BRUNSWICK—PUBLIC WORKS—INDIANS

Mr. VENIOT:

1. What amounts were expended on the following public works in New Brunswick for which provision was made in the estimates for the year ending March 31, 1931:—

Anderson's Hollow breakwater, Beaver harbour, Beresford breakwater, Caissie cape breakwater, Dalhousie ferry wharf, Fairhaven wharf, harbours and rivers generally, Kouchibouguac wharf, Lameque dredging, Lower St. Louis dredging, North Head breakwater extension, Richibucto Cape breakwater, Tracadie harbour breast works and breakwater, Waterloo wharf, White Head (Gull cove breakwater), Woodwards cove, breakwater extension, Little Shippegan wharf, Young wharf extension, Shippegan Gulley breakwater, Dalhousie public building, St. John quarantine station, new pipe line, etc., Seal cove, breakwater extension, Southwest Miramichi dredging?

2. What sum was expended for Indians generally, in the province of New Brunswick, for year ending March 31, 1931, and for which provision was made in estimates at 1930 session?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Anderson's Hollow, breakwater, $6,535.36; Beaver harbour, $13,311.84; Beresford breakwater, $8,591.04; Caissie cape breakwater, $73,241.39; Dalhousie ferry wharf, $4,425,41; Fairhaven wharf, $9,214.95; Harbours and rivers generally, $58,871.79; Kouchibouguac wharf, $8,080.85; Lameque dredging, $121.35; Lower St. Louis dredging, $6,395.82; North Head breakwater extension, $18,628.25; Richibucto Cape breakwater, $6,995.46; Tracadie harbour breastworks and breakwater, $2,205.-74; Waterboro wharf, $5,199.25; White Head (Gull Cove breakwater), $12,211.34; Woodward's Cove, breakwater extension, $29,867.85; Little Shippegan wharf, $491.84; Young wharf extension, $301.86; Shippegan Gully breakwater, $5,271.45; Dalhousie public building, nil; St. John quarantine station, new pipe line, etc., $30,018.39; Seal Cove breakwater extension, $14,494.66; Southwest Miramichi dredging, $16,208.26.
2. $109,553.84.

LINIERE, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. GAGNON:

1. Did Mr. Rhéaume, postmaster at Liniere, county of Beauce, Quebec, lose his position previous to July 28, 1930, if so, for what reason?

2. Did Mr. Lacroix, member for Beauce county, recommend someone to replace him?
3. If so, what reasons did Mr. Lacroix give in favour of his candidate?
4. Who did Mr. Lacroix recommend?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. The postmaster was requested to tender his resignation in May, 1930, on account of unsatisfactory management.
2. Yes.
3 and 4. Mrs. Gedeon Boulanger—as offering the most central site in the locality and being almost unanimous choice of residents.

POINTE AU PIC, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. GAGNON:

1. Was Mr. Adjutor Lapointe, of Pointe au Pic, county of Charlevoix, Quebec, appointed by the Civil Service Commission as postmaster of Pointe au Pic, in 1928 or 1929?
2. If so, what action was taken by the Post Office Department following this appointment?
3. If no action was taken, state why?
4. Who made complaints against him?
5. Was an inquiry held in this connection?
6. If not, why?
7. Was Lapointe given the opportunity of stating his defence?
8. If not, why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Appointed in 1926.
2 and 3. Mr. Lapointe was placed in charge of the office on the 22nd June, 1926.
4. Mr. Pierre Casgrain, M.P.
5. No.
6. Dismissal authorized on personal statement of member of parliament.
7. No.
8. See answer to No. 6.

POINTE AU PIC, QUE., WHARF

Mr. CASGRAIN:

1. What sum of money was voted last year for repair and extension works to the wharf of Pointe-a-Pic (Murray Bay), in the county of Charlevoix?
2. What was the nature of said works?
3. What was the total approximate cost of the works?
4. By whom were they recommended?
5. Were plans, specifications and estimates prepared in connection with said contemplated works?
6. Were tenders called in order that the above works might be started with the moneys voted at the last regular session of 1930?
7. If not, why?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. $25,000.
2 and 3. To complete payments to contractors for repairs, including inspection, $6,440; repairs to slip, wharf and shed, $315; proposed extension to headblock 48 feet outwards with a landing face of 200 feet, including new freight shed, mooring posts, ladders and slip and hoisting apparatus at estimated cost, $156,000.
4. Proposed extension recommended by Canada Steamship Lines, Ltd., Canadian National Railways, and P. F. Casgrain, M.P.
5. Yes.
6. No.
7. Insufficiency of appropriation.

L'ISLE VERTE, QUE., RURAL MAIL DELIVERY

Mr. POULIOT:

1. Has the Post Office Department decided to establish a rural mail delivery in the parish of L'Isle Verte, Quebec?
2. If so, what number of boxes were the residents required to purchase, by the department, at the time this rural mail service was established?
3. What is the number of boxes bought?
4. Were tenders called for the transportation of mails?
5. What is the name of tenderer whose tender was accepted, on what date was his contract signed, and for what amount?
6. Is this service actually in operation?
7. If not, why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes, if conditions are complied with.
2. Rural route has not been established.
3. Forty.
4. Yes.
5. Philippe St-Pierre, December 18, 1930, $575.
6. No.
7. Conditions imposed by department have not been met.

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

GOVERNMENT MOTOR CARS

Mr. REID:

1. What was the total number of all government owned motor cars used for the convenience of the cabinet ministers from July 31, 1930, up to March 31, 1931?
2. What was the total number of all government owned motor cars used for the convenience of the deputy ministers from July 31, 1930, up to March 31, 1931?
3. What has been the total cost of all government owned cars used for the convenience of the cabinet ministers, including gas, oil, repairs, parts and chauffeur service, from July 31, 1930, up to March 31, 1931?
4. What has been the total cost of all government owned motor cars used for the convenience of the deputy ministers, including gas, oil, repairs, parts and chauffeur service, from July 31, 1930, up to March 31, 1931?
5. What is the total number of government owned motor cars now in use for the convenience of cabinet ministers?
6. What is the total number of government owned motor cars now in use for the convenience of deputy ministers?
7. What is the total number at the present time of chauffeurs in the employ of the government?

8. How many motor cars have been sold since January 1, 1931?
9. How many motor cars have been bought since September 1, 1930, and what are the names of cars purchased and cost of each car?

STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

1. What subsidies are granted to steamship companies?
2. Under what conditions regarding outfitting and regarding wages?

Mr. STEVENS: Return tabled herewith.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. How many appointments has the Civil Service Commission made since July 28, last?
2. What are the names and christian names of those, of both sex, who have been appointed, and in what departments?
3. What are their respective ages?
4. By whom were they recommended to the commission?
5. What period of time elapsed between temporary and permanent appointments, of each of them?

COMMISSIONERS INVESTIGATING POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP IN QUEBEC

Mr. FAFARD:

1. What are the names and addresses of those who have been appointed commissioners for holding inquiries with respect to political partisanship in the province of Quebec, between July 28, 1930, and the present date?
2. What was paid to each one as salary, travelling and hotel expenses, and what number of days was each employed by the present government?

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION—EXAMINATIONS

Mr. ARTHURS:

By what officials in each department of the government were recommendations made to or applicants examined by on behalf of the Civil Service Commission in the case of vacancies in the outside service, during the years 1921 to 1930, inclusive? (Official designation, not names required.)

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

BLACK LAKE, MEGANTIC COUNTY POST OFFICE

Mr. ROBERGE:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams, reports, petitions, documents, memoranda, in the possession of any department of the government, in connection with the construction of a post office at Black Lake, county of Megantic, Quebec, since August 1, 1930.

PREVENTION OF USE OF MAILS BY THE ARMY AND NAVY VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams and documents of all kinds, exchanged between the law officers of the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, or any other province, and those of the federal government, and of the postal authorities in connection with the prohibitory order issued by the Post Office Department, preventing the use of the mails by the Army and Navy Veterans' Association, and intercepting all letters addressed to the said association.

NOVA SCOTIA FISHERMEN'S FEDERATION

Mr. DUFF (for Mr. Ralston):

For a copy of all orders, directions, memoranda and other documents and of all letters, telegrams, and other communications relative to the recent importation by the Nova Scotia Fishermen's Federation through the port of Yarmouth of a quantity of fishing rope and the withholding of delivery of same by the Department of National Revenue under the claim that an additional duty of 5½ cents per pound additional duty or impost must be paid.

DISMISSAL OF WILFRID S. BOUDREAU, ARICHAT, N.S.

Mr. DUFF:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, memorandums, correspondence, charges or complaints or any other documents, in possession of any department of the government, regarding the dismissal of Wilfrid S. Boudreau as customs and excise enforcement officer at Arichat, Nova Scotia.

LENNOX PASSAGE-DESCOUSSE BUOY CONTRACT

Mr. DUFF:

For a copy of all notices for tenders, tenders or reports, correspondence, letters, telegrams, and other communications since September 1, 1930, to or from the government or any official thereof, with regard to or concerning the Lennox Passage-Descousse buoy contract.

QUEBEC HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, communications and recommendations exchanged between any person or persons and the Prime Minister or acting Prime Minister, Solicitor General, or the Minister of Marine, relating to the appointment of Lt.-Col. J. S. O'Meara, Pierre Betrand and Dr. J. Leblond, to the respective positions of chairman and members of the board of harbour commissioners of the port of Quebec, and also all or any communications, letters, telegrams, etc., protesting against any of such appointments, or supporting persons other than those above named for such positions.

RADIO BROADCASTING

Mr. DENIS:

For a copy of all correspondence including letters, telegrams, memoranda and other documents, exchanged between the Minister of Marine or officials of his department at Ottawa, and the Honourable L. A. Taschereau, Prime Minister of the province of Quebec, in connection with state-ownership of broadcasting in Canada and the rights of the province of Quebec in this respect.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS-APPOINTMENT OF LUCIEN MORAUD AS DIRECTOR

Mr. VERVILLE:

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams and communications exchanged between any person or persons and the Prime Minister or his representative, the Solicitor General, and the Minister of Railways and Canals, in connection with the appointment of Lucien Moraud to the position of director of the Canadian National Railways, also a copy of all letters, telegrams and other communications protesting against this appointment.

MRS. LILLY B. HEISLER

Mr. DUFF:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memorandum, etc., between the Department of Marine and any of said department's officials at Ottawa and any person or persons in Nova Scotia, making complaints and relative to the dismissal of Mrs. Lilly B. Heisler, a widow without dependents, from her position as light-keeper of the Battery Point Light, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

CHAUDIERE BRIDGE

Mr. FOURNIER:

For a copy of all letters, papers and other documents of any kind, in the possession of the Public Works department, relative to works to be done to the Chaudiere bridge and approaches, the whole situated between the cities of Ottawa and Hull.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA

Mr. HEAPS:

For a copy of reports of investigations undertaken by the Dominion government into the conditions prevailing in the coal mining industry in Soviet Russia.

Also for a copy of all letters, documents, correspondence, pertaining to the embargo of certain commodities produced in Soviet Russia, including a report of any arrangement or understanding between the Dominion government and any other government, relating to importation of commodities from Soviet Russia.

YOUNG WHARF, CARAQUET, N.B.

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence, and other documents, in the possession of any department of the government, in connection with the construction of an addition to the Young wharf, Caraquet, county of Gloucester, New Brunswick.

LITTLE SHIPPIGAN, N.B.—WHARF

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all documents, correspondence and other papers in the possession of any department of the government, in connection with the construction of a wharf at Little Shippigan, Gloucester county, New Brunswick.

CAMPBELLTON, N.B.—PREVENTIVE OFFICER

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence, applications and other documents in possession of any department of the government, in connection with the appointment of a preventive officer at Campbellton, New Brunswick.

ST. GEORGE, N.B.—POSTMASTER

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence, applications, and documents whatsoever, in the possession of the Post Office Department, in connection with the appointment of a postmaster at St. George, Charlotte county, New Brunswick.

FISH BOUNTIES

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence, and other documents, in the possession of any department of the government, in connection with the payment of fish bounties to fishermen in the county of Gloucester, New Brunswick, for the year 1930.

DISMISSAL OF RAYMOND MACCAIN

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence with the Department of Fisheries in connection with the dismissal of Raymond MacCain, employed at the Florenceville fish hatchery as assistant superintendent.

AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT ST. ISIDORE

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence in the possession of any department of the government, in connection with the agricultural meeting held at St. Isidore, Gloucester county, New Brunswick, in the fall of 1930, at which representatives of the federal Department of Agriculture assisted.

SONIER-TRACADIE MAIL SERVICE

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence, in the possession of the Post Office Department, in connection with the cancellation of contract for carrying the mail between Sonier office and Tracadie, Gloucester county, New Brunswick.

AMHERST-LEICESTER MAIL SERVICE

Mr. DUFF (for Mr. Ralston):

For a copy of all calls for tender, tenders, telegrams, correspondence, or other communications since August 8, 1930, in the possession of the government, respecting the mail service between Amherst and Leicester on which one Wilfred Webb, a returned soldier, is said to have made a tender.

DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS—HALIFAX

Mr. DUFF (for Mr. Ralston):

For a copy of all orders in council and other orders or directions, reports, memoranda and documents since August 8, 1930, and all corre-

spondence, reports, telegrams, petitions and other communications since said date to or from the Minister of Pensions and National Health and any other ministers, minister, or official of the government, and to or from any member of parliament or other persons or person, with reference to the service or fitness or otherwise or relating in any way to the dismissal or proposed dismissal of the director of administration or of any of the respective medical officers holding positions in the Department of Pensions and National Health at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

JERSEYMAN ISLAND LIGHT-KEEPER

Mr. ILSLEY:

For a copy of all letters, reports, rating sheets, decisions, memoranda, telegrams, or other communications, and any documents or memoranda in the possession of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Marine, or any other department of the government, relating to the vacancy in the position of light-keeper for Jerseyman island light, Richmond county, Nova Scotia.

JERSEYMAN ISLAND LIGHT-CARETAKER

Mr. ILSLEY:

For a copy of all letters, reports, rating sheets, decisions, memoranda, telegrams, or other communications, and any other documents or memoranda, in the possession of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Marine, or any other department of the government, relating to the appointment of a caretaker in connection with the Jerseyman island light, Richmond county, Nova Scotia.

CAMPBELLTON, N.B., PREVENTIVE SERVICE

Mr. ILSLEY:

For a copy of all orders in council or other orders or directions, memoranda, other documents, telegrams and other correspondence and communications, relating to the dismissal of Carl Alden and John H. MacKenzie of Big Bras d'Or, and Rod MacLean of New Campbellton, from the preventive service.

AUXILIARY CRUISER WHIRL

Mr. DUFF (for Mr. Urquhart):

For a copy of all orders in council or other orders or directions, memoranda, documents, telegrams, reports, petitions, and other communications to or from the Minister of National Revenue, chief of the preventive service, and any other departments, officials, or any other persons, since August 8, 1930, with reference to complaints against or the dismissal of Albert Ranson, engineer on the auxiliary cruiser Whirl, commanded by Captain Maybee.

RIDING MOUNTAIN PARK

Mr. BROWN:

For a copy of all correspondence between the Minister of the Interior and any of the officers of the department, and all correspondence between the minister or any of his officials and any other person or persons, with reference to the transfer of the office and staff in charge of the Riding Mountain park, from the town of Dauphin to the town of Neepawa.

[Mr. Duff.]

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE ADVERTISING

Mr. VALLANCE:

For a return showing: 1. The names and places of publication of all newspapers and magazines carrying the advertisement of the Department of Trade and Commerce signed by the minister, urging the people of Canada to buy Canadian made goods, appearing since the present government took office;

2. The number of issues of each such newspaper and magazines carrying these advertisements;

3. Total amount paid to each such newspaper or magazine for this service.

VERMILION BAY, ONT., POSTMISTRESS

Mr. HEENAN:

For a copy of all correspondence and other documents in the possession of the Post Office Department, relating to the investigation into the alleged partisanship of the postmistress at Vermilion Bay, Ontario.

GABARUS, N.S., BREAKWATER

Mr. ILSLEY:

For a copy of time sheets, payrolls, and all cheques, documents and memoranda showing any and all items of expenditure in connection with the Gabarus breakwater work in the fall of 1930, including payments to foremen, workmen, and other employees.

BARRINGTON PASSAGE MAIL SERVICE

Mr. RALSTON:

For a copy of all notices for tender, tenders, reports, contracts, correspondence, exchanged between the Post Office Department or any of its officials and any other person or persons or between the Post Office Department or any of its officials and the government of Nova Scotia or any of its officials, and generally and without being limited by specifying the documents aforesaid, all documents, memoranda, and papers of every kind and description relating to the carrying of the mail between Barrington Passage and Orion Wharf, Barrington Passage and North East Point, Barrington Passage and Clark's Harbour, or between any points on Cape Sable island during the past three years.

MR. P. A. PICARD

Mr. DESROCHERS:

For a copy of all orders, directions, memoranda and other documents, including all letters, telegrams and other communications, exchanged between any person or persons, or any minister or department, relative to the dismissal of Mr. P. A. Picard from the position of Indian agent at Lorette, Quebec, and the appointment of any person in his stead. Also copy of all correspondence, memoranda, applications and recommendations addressed to the Civil Service Commission, by persons desirous of obtaining the position of Indian agent, left vacant by the dismissal of Mr. P. A. Picard.

VILLAGE HURON, QUE., POST OFFICE

Mr. DESROCHERS:

For a copy of all correspondence, memoranda, telegrams, in connection with the establishment of a new post office at village Huron, Lorette, Quebec, and the appointment of a postmaster thereof. Also a copy of reports made by the Superintendent of postal service, Quebec, or any other officer of the department since 1922, in connection with the proposed establishment of a post office in the said locality.

NORTH EAST MARGAREE, N.S., POSTMASTER

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all reports and correspondence in connection with the postmastership of North-east Margaree, Nova Scotia, since the year 1927 up to March 15, 1931.

DISMISSAL OF FRANCIS FULFORD FYLES

Mr. PICKEL:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, reports, memoranda, charges of complaint and all other documents, in possession of any department of the government, regarding the dismissal of Francis Fulford Fyles as collector of customs and excise at the port of Abercorn, in the month of January, 1927.

DISMISSAL OF J. A. DELANEY

Mr. BRASSET:

For a copy of all letters, reports, memoranda, telegrams, affidavits, and other documents, exchanged between the Department of Fisheries and all employees of said department, and all persons residing at Iles de la Madeleine, in the county of Gaspe, or elsewhere, in connection with the position of J. A. Delaney, of Pointe Basse, Iles de la Madeleine, as inspector of Fisheries, and with regard to his dismissal from said position.

DISMISSAL OF CAIUS LACROIX

Mr. BOULANGER:

For a copy of all documents, correspondence, including charges, complaints, evidence, proofs, reports, decisions, judgments and other documents, in connection with an inquiry on the supposed political activities of Caius Lacroix, St. Michel de Bellechasse, Quebec, supervisor of dairy products for the federal Department of Agriculture, and with reference to the dismissal of said Lacroix.

STE. LOUISE, QUE., POST OFFICE

Mr. FAFARD:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams, reports, requests, and other documents, exchanged between the Post Office Department and any other person or persons since July 29, 1930, with reference to the post office of Ste. Louise, in the county of L'Islet, Quebec.

ST. JEAN-PORT JOLI, QUE., POST OFFICE

Mr. FAFARD:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams, reports, and other documents, exchanged between the Post Office Department and any other person or persons since July 29, 1930, in connection with the post office of St. Jean Port Joli, L'Islet county, Quebec.

REPAIRS TO LOWER TRAVERSE

Mr. FAFARD:

For a copy of all correspondence and accounts in the possession of any department of the government, in connection with repairs made to the Lower Traverse, St. Roch, during the year 1930.

MARGARET GOUGEON

Mr. PICKEL (for Mr. Lawson):

For a copy of all correspondence including letters, telegrams, memoranda, and other documents, and excerpts from minutes of meetings, and/or memoranda of such meetings made by anyone or more commissioners, of the Civil Service Commission, or of any firm, corporation or department or official thereof with such commission, or any one of them relative to one Margaret Gougeon, formerly employed by the postmaster at New Toronto, Ontario, and subsequently appointed temporarily by such commission in the Post Office Department, Toronto postal district.

MARINE BIOLOGICAL BOARD

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo):

For a return showing the specific details of purchases by the marine biological board of Canada, as set out in Part O-76, Auditor General's report, March 31, 1930:—

1. Household and office furnishing and supplies:

T. Eaton & Company, Toronto	$ 1,432 35
David Spencer, Ltd.	3,310 63
Accounts under $1,000	2,009 61
Sundries	17,373 67
Provisions, Burns & Co., Nanaimo	1,245 31
Kelly, Douglas & Co., Vancouver	1,024 23
Accounts under $1,000	5,165 57

ACTON VALE, QUE., POSTMASTER

Mr. DUMAINE:

For a copy of all reports and correspondence, in the possession of the government, in connection with the postmastership at Acton Vale, Province of Quebec, since July 28, 1930, up to March 24, 1931.

LIGHT KEEPER AT WHITE HEAD, N.S.

Mr. DUFF:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, memoranda and other documents passing between the Minister of Marine or any official of said department or any person in the province of Nova Scotia relative to complaints against James H. Duncan, light and fog alarm keeper at White Head, Nova Scotia. And also copy of charges received by the Department of Marine or the minister or any official thereof asking for the dismissal of said light keeper.

CARETAKER, POST OFFICE AT L'ASSOMPTION

Mr. SEGUIN:

For a copy of all telegrams, letters, memoranda, correspondence, charges or complaints,

and reports of inquiry, or other documents, in the possession of any department of the government with reference to Mr. Olivier Morin, caretaker of the post office of the town of L'Assomption.

FRED G. MCNABB

Mr. ILSLEY:

For a copy of all orders in council and other orders and directions, memoranda and documents, and all correspondence, reports, telegrams, petitions and other communications relating in any way to the dismissal or proposed dismissal of Fred G. McNabb, customs and excise preventive officer at Pictou, Nova Scotia, from the preventive service.

DISMISSAL OF DOCTOR YOUNG

Mr. ILSLEY:

For a copy of all orders in council and other orders and directions, memoranda and documents, and all correspondence, reports, telegrams, petitions and other communications relating in any way to the dismissal or proposed dismissal of Dr. Young, medical port officer at Pictou, Nova Scotia.

RUM RUNNER O'CONNELL

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all documents, papers, letters, memoranda, in connection with the sale by the Department of National Revenue of the rum runner known as the O'Connel or No. 4. during the month of August or September, 1930, together with receipts and acknowledgments of payment given by any person on the vessel being handed over, and also any recommendations by members of parliament or others respecting the disposal of the said vessel.

RUM RUNNER NO. 3

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all documents, papers, letters, memoranda, in connection with the sale by the Department of National Revenue of the rum runner known as No. 3, during the month of August or September, 1930, together with receipts and acknowledgments of payment given by any person on the vessel being handed over, and also any recommendations by members of parliament or others respecting the disposal of the said vessel.

INSTRUCTIONS TO COMMISSION COUNSEL

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver):

For a copy of all correspondence and instructions sent by chief commisison counsel to commission counsel in the various provinces in regard to carrying out their duties under the Pension Act amendments 1930.

STE. ROSE DE WATFORD, QUEBEC, POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. BOULANGER:

For a copy of all documents, correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda, and orders in council relating to the dismissal of Mr. Z. R. Dallaire, postmaster of Ste. Rose de Watford, Quebec, and the appointment of Mr. Aurele Turcotte in his stead.

[Mr. Séguin.]

STE. CLOTHILDE DE HORTON, ARTHABASKA, POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. LACROIX (for Mr. Girouard):

For a copy of all documents, correspondence and requests of all kinds, in the hands of the Post Office Department, in connection with the dismissal of L. P. Rousseau as postmaster of Ste. Clothilde de Horton, Arthabaska county, Quebec.

VICTORIAVILLE, QUE., POST OFFICE

Mr. GIROUARD:

For a copy of all documents, reports, letters, and telegrams, exchanged between the Minister of Public Works, or any other member of his department, including especially correspondence exchanged or received by P. S. Gregory and J. A. Gingras, employees of the department, in connection with the dismissal of L. A. Tourigny as caretaker of the post office at Victoriaville, in the county of Arthabaska, Quebec, or relating to the abolishment of the said position, and also a copy of all orders in council abolishing said position and creating it again.

EMBARGO ON RUSSIAN GOODS

Mr. CARDIN (for Mr. Motherwell):

For a copy of all reports, documents, letters, telegrams, memos and any other departmental information in the hands, or on the public files of the Minister of National Revenue, or any of his colleagues, upon which the government of Canada decided to place an embargo upon certain Russian commodities, as defined by order in council No. 463, as gazetted on February 28, 1931.

ALMA, QUE. POST OFFICE

Mr. POULIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams, reports, plans, and other documents, in the possession of the government, in connection with the construction of a post office building at Alma, province of Quebec, and the purchase of a piece of land for that purpose.

BRODHAGEN, ONT. POSTMASTER

Mr. SANDERSON:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, correspondence, affidavits, and other documents, received by the Postmaster General or any of his officials, with regard to the partisan conduct of the postmaster at Brodhagen, Ontario.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—ACCIDENT AT ST. FABIEN, QUE.

Mr. DUGUAY:

For a copy of all correspondence in connection with the accident which took place at St. Fabien, county of Rimouski, on April 5, 1926, and in which Ernest Dastous, farmer, was seriously injured by a train of the Canadian National Railways, while crossing his farm.

HERRING CURING REGULATIONS

Mr. NEILL:

For a copy of the regulations dealing with the curing and packing of dry salted herrings, and a copy of certificate of inspection given to each shipper.

GLACE BAY POST OFFICE—CHARLES WEEKS

Mr. MACDONALD (South Cape Breton):

For a copy of all correspondence including letters, telegrams, and other documents in the possession of the government, in connection with the dismissal of Charles Weeks from the postal service at Glace Bay.

COMOX-ALBERNI AND NORTH VANCOUVER FISHERY GUARDIANS

Mr. NEILL:

For a return showing:
Fishery guardians employed during the year 1930 in the districts of Comox-Alberni and North Vancouver, with the following information relative to each man: Name; address; area where guardian; date of beginning work in 1930; date when same ended; age; whether returned man; if employed as fishery guardian in 1929 or previous years, state years when so employed.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—ST. GERMAINE DE ETCHEMIN

Mr. LACROIX:

For a copy of all documents, correspondence, memoranda, letters, exchanged between the Minister of Labour at Ottawa and the director of unemployment at Ottawa, and any person or persons, in connection with the construction, out of funds provided by the Unemployment Relief Act, of a parish or municipal hall at St. Germaine de Etchemin, county of Dorchester, Quebec.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—SPALDING

Mr. LACROIX:

For a copy of all documents, correspondence, memoranda, letters, exchanged between the Minister of Labour at Ottawa and the director of unemployment at Ottawa, and any person or persons, in connection with the expenditure of moneys under the Unemployment Relief Act, at Spalding, county of Frontenac, Quebec.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—ST. LOUIS DE MATANE

Mr. POULIOT:

For a copy of all documents, correspondence, memoranda, letters, exchanged between the Minister of Labour at Ottawa and the director of unemployment at Ottawa, and any person or persons, in connection with the expenditure of moneys under the Unemployment Relief Act, at St. Louis de Matane, Matane county, Quebec.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—RIVIERE DU LOUP

Mr. POULIOT:

For a copy of all documents, corespondence, memoranda, letters, exchanged between the Minister of Labour at Ottawa, and the Minister of Labour at Quebec and the director of unemployment at Quebec, and the municipal council of the city of Rivière-du-Loup or the mayor or any of the officers of the said council, in connection with expeniture under the Unemployment Relief Act in the city of Rivière-du-Loup.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—HOURS AND WAGES

Mr. ST-PERE:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams and memoranda exchanged between the Minister of Labour at Ottawa and the Minister of Labour at Quebec, and between the director of unemployment at Ottawa and the director of unemployment at Quebec, relating to hours of labour and fair wages on works arising out of unemployment relief legislation.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE

Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a copy of all documents, papers, memoranda, letters, exchanged between the Minister of Labour at Ottawa, or the director of unemployment at Ottawa, in connection with a request by the Redemptorist Fathers at St. Anne de Beaupre, for a grant of money out of the funds provided by the Unemployment Relief Act.

NORTH GUT WHARF, NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. JOHNSTONE:

For a copy of all correspondence including accounts and papers regarding the repairing of the North Gut wharf, Victoria county, Nova Scotia, in October and November, 1930.

PREVENTIVE SERVICE—ISAAC'S HARBOUR

Mr. DUFF:

For a copy of all correspondence including letters, telegrams, memoranda, complaints and reports, between the Department of National Revenue and any of its officials or any other person regarding the dismissal of George MacMillan, a former preventive officer of Isaac's harbour, Nova Scotia, from the public service.

HATFIELD MAIL SERVICE

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all tenders, correspondence and reports in connection with the mail contract for the Hatfield Point rural route No. 1, in the electoral division of Royal, New Brunswick.

NEW SKIDWAY AT BLACK POINT

Mr. JOHNSTONE:

For a copy of all correspondence, including time sheets, payrolls and accounts, in connection with the building of the new skidway at Black Point, Victoria county, Cape Breton, in the fall of 1930.

MRS. N. G. CANTIN

Mr. LACROIX:

For a copy of all documents, letters and recommendations relating to the dismissal of Mrs. N. G. Cantin from position of postmistress at Liniere, Quebec.

DR. J. B. CHAMPION

Mr. POWER (for Mr. MacLean):

For a copy of all correspondence, affidavits, memorandums, telegrams, reports, and other documents, sent to or exchanged between the Department of Pensions and National Health and any party or parties prior to the investigation, also full reports of evidenece taken at investigation and dismissal of Dr. J. B. Champion, soldiers' doctor, at O'Leary, Prince Edward Island.

IMPORTATIONS UNDER CUSTOMS TARIFF

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton):

For a return showing: 1. What commodities have been prohibited entry into Canada under section 17 of the Customs Tariff Act, and from what countries.

2. What orders, regulations, bulletins and instructions governing imports into Canada have been issued under subsections 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively, of section 35 of the Customs Act.

3. Under section 36, subsection 2, of the Customs Act:—

(1) Number of items to which this subsection has been applied;

(2) Invoice price of commodities to which it was applicable in each case;

(3) Value for duty fixed by the minister;

(4) How value for duty was determined.

4. Copies of all orders, regulations, bulletins and instructions which have been issued under section 37 of the Customs Act.

5. Copies of all orders, regulations, bulletins and instructions which have been issued under section 41 of the Customs Act.

6. Copies of all orders, regulations, bulletins and instructions which have been issued under section 43 of the Customs Act.

7. Imports under the British preference, intermediate and general tariffs, and the duties paid during each of the months of September, October, November and December, 1928, 1929 and 1930, and each of the months of January and February, 1929, 1930 and 1931.

Mr. RYCKMAN: This order would have to be adopted with certain reservations. The first question can be answered without difficulty; Russia is the only country affected in that way. With regard to questions 2, 3 and 5 asking for orders, regulations, bulletins and instructions issued under sections 35, 36 and 41 of the Customs Act, as the hon. member for West Edmonton (Mr. Stewart) knows, it is not possible to give the desired information as the transactions with the department are individual transactions, and it is contrary to usage and practice to give out any information that would divulge the private business of any individual or concern. Any information obtained by our officers from exporters has to be treated as confidential and is only obtained by them on that understanding. No decisions have been given by the minister under these sections.

With regard to question 4, under the provisions of new section 37, assented to on September 22, 1930, a rate of discount from list prices of automobiles was fixed by order in council P.C. 297, dated February 19, 1931.

As to No. 6: Since new section 43 came into force the value for duty of certain products when entered under the general or intermediate tariff has been fixed under the authority of orders in council.

With this information, and such other information as can be readily given without interfering with the practice of the department in the past, great care will be taken to comply with the wishes of the hon. member.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I am not asking for the names of individuals; I am simply asking for the regulations and orders governing the action of the department in this connection. I am quite well aware that it is not the custom to give information regarding individual cases. If what I have asked for is furnished, that will meet my request.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ICE-BREAKERS

Mr. LACROIX:

For a copy of all correspondence, reports, documents, letters, telegrams, exchanged between the International Paper Company or General J. B. White, or any of the employees of the said company, and the member for the district of Restigouche-Madawaska, or the Minister of Marine, relating to the work being performed by the C.G.S. Montcalm and other government ice-breakers, in clearing a channel through the ice in Baie des Chaleurs as far as Dalhousie.

Mr. CAHAN: There is no department of government which has control of correspondence between a private member of this house and some other individual outside the house who has no official capacity and performs no function whatever for the government. I object to the motion.

Mr. POWER: May I be allowed to point out that the Minister of Marine is mentioned.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion in so far as it is in order and is applicable?

Motion agreed to.

MEDICAL EXAMINER OF PILOTS

Mr. C. G. POWER (Quebec South):

For a copy of all correspondence, reports, documents, applications and memoranda, exchanged between the Minister of Marine and the Association of Pilots, and any other persons, relating to the dismissal of Dr. Joseph Vaillancourt from the position of medical examiner of pilots, and the appointment of Dr. L. A. Dussault in his stead.

Mr. DURANLEAU: This motion contains a statement of fact that we cannot admit. It refers to the dismissal of Doctor Joseph Vaillancourt from the position of medical examiner of pilots and the appointment of Doctor L. A. Dussault in his stead. Doctor Vaillancourt was never dismissed. His services were required last year for the medical examination of pilots and his services were not required this year.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): A nice way of putting it.

An hon. MEMBER: What does the minister call that?

Mr. DURANLEAU: I call that no dismissal in this case. I have no objection to laying on the table any correspondence about the fact that Doctor Dussault's services were required this year, but I want to rectify the statement of fact mentioned in the motion.

Mr. POWER: If the house will permit me I will change the word "dismissal."

Mr. SPEAKER: The resolution, according to its wording, is perfectly in order. There might be correspondence relating to the dismissal, but the dismissal might never have taken place. With the explanation of the minister, I declare the resolution carried.

Motion agreed to.

QUEBEC HARBOUR COMMISSION—DISMISSALS

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all correspondence, reports, documents and memoranda exchanged between the board of harbour commissioners of the port of Quebec, and the Prime Minister or Acting Prime Minister, Solicitor General, and Minister of Marine, relating to the dismissal, during the months of September and October, for reasons of alleged partisanship, by the said board of harbour commissioners, of over one thousand employees.

Mr. DURANLEAU: Again I want to say that we cannot admit the statement of fact that over one thousand employees were dismissed during the months of September and October. I have no objection to laying on the table any correspondence relating to dismissals made during September and October, but I cannot accept the statement of fact.

Mr. BENNETT: All the words after the word "commissioners" in the second last line should be struck out of the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the mover and his seconder will consent to the striking out of the words "over one thousand", the motion will then read "dismissal of employees."

Mr. POWER: Yes.

Motion as amended agreed to.

CANADA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER TO GREAT BRITAIN

Mr. FACTOR:

For a copy of all orders in council or other orders or directions, and documents prescribing and defining the duties and the responsibilities of Canada's High Commissioner to Great Britain?

Mr. BENNETT (Prime Minister): It must be observed that this motion, in the form in which it now appears, is too wide. There is no limitation as to date. There has been a high commissioner for Canada in Great Britain for many years. I suggest to the hon. gentleman that his motion stand and that it be amended to cover the years he desires to cover by his inquiry.

Mr. FACTOR: With the permission of the house and following the advice of the Prime Minister, I will add after the words "responsibilities of" the words "the recently appointed."

Mr. BENNETT: The present High Commissioner?

Mr. FACTOR: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: With that amendment the motion is all right.

Motion as amended agreed to.

CANADIAN FARM LOAN BOARD

Mr. ESLING:

For a return showing:

1. The names of the members of the Canadian farm loan board appointed in accordance with the Canadian Farm Loan Act of 1927.
2. The salary of the commissioner and of each member, when and for what period was the commissioner and each member appointed.
3. The total expense of the Ottawa office to December 31, 1930.
4. The members of the provincial board in British Columbia: (a) for what period each member of this provincial board was appointed, his salary, and by whom he was recommended; (b) who is the chief executive officer, his salary, and by whom he was recommended.
5. The appraisers, inspectors, clerks and other employees of the British Columbia provincial board, and what salaries or fees they are paid.
6. Who is the solicitor for the British Columbia provincial board: (a) what salary or fees he receives; (b) the amount of such salary or fees from the date of his employment to date.
7. The total cost, including salaries and all other expenses, of the British Columbia provincial board since it was instituted.
8. The total number of applications for loans received from all parts of the Dominion since the Farm Loan Act became operative, and how many applications were granted.
9. The total number of applications for loans made to the British Columbia provincial board, and how many of these were granted.
10. The name of the bonding company for the agents, officers and employees of the British Columbia provincial board.

11. How much the treasury of British Columbia contributed to the capital stock of the farm loan board.

12. What interest rate applies to borrowers in British Columbia in view of the fact that the interest rate to borrowers is the rate of interest obtaining on the farm loan bond issues, plus the expense of operation and reserve for losses.

Mr. BENNETT: Before this motion passes, I think it is well to direct the attention of the house to the fact that it calls for a return of information relating to details in the operation of the Canadian farm loan board which has been established not as a department of the government, but as a separate organization in which the shareholders are the participating provincial governments and the Dominion government. The bulk of the capital requirements at the moment are provided, of course, by the federal treasury. The capital non-stock holders include the provincial governments and as well the borrowers under the statute, and the scheme contemplates eventually the sale of farm loan bonds to the public. Looking at the motion as it reads, it will be observed that this government is supposed to supply the particulars of the administration of a body which it does not control, and which exists by statute. These particulars we feel we should not be asked to supply at least before first consulting the participating provincial governments who are as much interested as we are. As will be recalled, the statute provides for an audit of the business of the board, which audit is carried on by the Auditor General. Under the circumstances I think that this is a motion that should not pass. It may stand if the hon. gentleman desires to look into it further, in which case it will go to the foot of the list. Otherwise I cannot think that it is sound to go into the details—we are not able to do it ourselves—of the business of an organization set up by statute in which, for the purpose of enabling it efficiently to function, we are shareholders.

Mr. ESLING: Stands.

Motion stands.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. HEENAN:

For a copy of all correspondence and documents between any department of the federal government and the provincial governments, regarding the question of unemployment insurance.

[Mr. Esling.]

Mr. BENNETT: I suggest that the motion fix a time limit rather than leave it in the vague and uncertain way in which it now appears.

Mr. HEENAN: I shall be glad to have the correspondence since 1928, and I move to amend the motion accordingly.

Motion as amended agreed to.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

Mr. HEENAN:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the federal and provincial governments relative to the establishment of the old age pension plan.

Mr. BENNETT: Unless it is desired not to have the return furnished this year, the motion should fix a time, because as it reads it would involve searching all the files over a very long period of time. I would suggest that a time be inserted both in this motion and in the following one.

Mr. HEENAN: I move to add the words, "since 1926."

Motion as amended agreed to.

OLD AGE PENSION ACT

Mr. HEENAN:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the federal and provincial governments advocating amendments to the Old Age Pension Act.

He said: I move to amend this motion, Mr. Speaker, by adding the words, "since 1926."

Motion as amended agreed to.

ROBERT WHITESIDE CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. VALLANCE:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda, etc., between the Prime Minister and Robert Whiteside, of Birsay, Saskatchewan.

Mr. BENNETT: I assume that the reference is to the present Prime Minister.

Mr. VALLANCE: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: On all subjects?

Mr. VALLANCE: There is only one subject.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman seems to have the information he wants already, then.

Motion agreed to.

ROBERT WHITESIDE CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. VALLANCE:

For a copy of all correspondence including letters, telegrams, memoranda, etc., between the Honourable Sir George Foster, while Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Robert Whiteside, of Birsay, in the province of Saskatchewan.

Mr. STEVENS: May I point out to the hon. member that Sir George Foster was minister between 1911 and 1921, which would mean, as the motion stands, going back over all the records which are on file goodness knows where, and some of which may have been destroyed, during all those years. Cannot the motion be limited to some specific date or event?

Mr. VALLANCE: The information I desire is related to the information that I am seeking from the Prime Minister. It was a letter from Sir George Foster regarding the sale of the 1917-18 wheat crop.

Mr. BENNETT: If the hon. gentleman will make the motion relative to that, there will be no trouble. He might amend it by saying, "relative to the sale of the 1917-18 wheat crop."

Mr. VALLANCE: I move accordingly, Mr. Speaker.

Motion as amended agreed to.

TEMISCOUATA RAILWAY—SALARY REDUCTIONS

Mr. POULIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between the employees of the Temiscouata railway or their representatives, and the Minister of Labour, in connection with the reduction of salaries of the employees of said railway.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps the hon. gentleman would fix a time limit to which his inquiry will refer.

Mr. POULIOT: I should like to amend this motion, Mr. Speaker, by including the officials of the Temiscouata railway and to make the motion applicable to this year, 1930-31. I move accordingly.

Motion as amended agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
ADVERTISING

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver):

For a return showing all advertising paid by the Department of Trade and Commerce since August 7, 1930, and for copies of all communications of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, intended to further the "Buy Canadian Goods" campaign.

Mr. CAHAN: This is covered by a previous question.

Mr. STEVENS: May I draw the attention of the hon. member to the fact that I have no objection to complying with the desire expressed in the motion, but all the correspondence relating to this matter would be an enormous amount, and I am quite sure it would be quite unnecessary to present all such correspondence. I think there are 50,000 letters arising out of this campaign.

Mr. CAHAN: And it is covered by No. 21 in this list?

Mr. STEVENS: No, not quite; there is a slight difference.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): No. 21 has already passed.

Mr. STEVENS: This request is different in some respects. I am not objecting to supplying the papers requested but I think if the hon. member will speak to me concerning the limitations of correspondence required that we can adjust the matter satisfactorily.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: This motion seems to be covered by No. 21.

Mr. BENNETT: Not entirely, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. STEVENS: There is no objection to supplying the information but there are certain limitations to which I am sure my hon. friend will agree.

Motion agreed to.

DISMISSAL OF JOSUÉ LEPAGE

Sir EUGENE FISET:

For a return showing: A copy of the report of the inquiry held at Rimouski, on the services of postmaster, Mr. Josué Lepage, and also a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams, reports and other documents, exchanged between the Postmaster General or any of his officials, and Mr. H. G. Boulay, ex-defeated candidate; Mr. Gerard Simard, vice-president of the local committee on patronage, or any other persons dealing with the dismissal of Mr. Josué Lepage as postmaster of Rimouski?

Mr. BENNETT: Before that motion is passed may I suggest that the hon. member for Rimouski (Sir Eugene Fiset) agree to strike out the words "Vice president of the local committee on patronage".

Sir EUGENE FISET: I have no objection whatever, provided the name remains in the motion.

Mr. BENNETT: Certainly, that is what I say.

Motion as amended agreed to.

DETAILS OF AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo):

For a return showing the details of the following expenditures appearing in the Auditor General's account Part V-137—river gauging and metering and sundry gauge readers, $765; Part V-139, vote 310, details of advertising expenditure, $997.16.

Mr. SPEAKER: May I point out that the year of the Auditor General's report is not mentioned.

Mr. FRASER (Cariboo): The report is that ending March 30, 1930, the one just issued.

Motion as amended agreed to.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF IN BRANTFORD

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda, and other documents, between the mayor or any other official of the city of Brantford and the Honourable Minister of Labour regarding the administration of relief.

Mr. BENNETT: The year should be stated.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I refer to last year.

Motion as amended agreed to.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—REVENUES

Sir EUGENE FISET:

For a return showing the revenues collected by the Canadian National Railways for their fiscal year 1929-30, 1930-31, for the following services at each station hereunder mentioned.

1. Passenger service in and outgoing.
2. Freight service in and outbound.
3. Express service in and outbound.
4. Telegraph services outbound.

For Rivière du Loup, Cacouna, Saint Arsene, Isle Verte, Saint Eloi, Tobin, Trois Pistoles, Saint Simon, Saint Fabien, Bic Sacre-coeur, Rimouski, Saint Anaclet, Luceville, Mont Joli, Priceville, Saint Octave, Petit Metis. Padone, Dufaultville, Saint Moise, Saucier, Sayabec, Val Brillant, Saint-Lawrence Lumber Company, Amqui, Lac au Saumon, Causapscal, Heppel, Sainte-Florence, Routhierville, Milnikek, Glen Emana, Millstream, Dawson, Saint Alexis, Champion, Matepedia.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, with respect to this order there arises a question that was considered by parliament the session before last, that is, the differentiation between inquiries concerning the operations of the Canadian National railway system and the administration of it as such. Plainly it might serve the purpose of a competitor to have the figures asked for furnished. On the other hand, the Board of Railway Commissioners at a public hearing does require certain information to be furnished by the railway companies. If the hon. gentleman will permit the motion to pass on the understanding that if it is regarded by the management as inimical to the interests of the railway system to furnish the information it will not be furnished. I have no objection. But I think it should be distinctly understood that the government cannot ask the Canadian National Railways to furnish information that in the opinion of the executive officers is inimical to its operation.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Mr. Speaker, practically the Prime Minister is correct in his statement, but what I think he refers to is where there is competition between the Canadian National and other railways. I might pont out that in this case there is no question whatever of competition. However, if the Prime Minister will assure me that I shall be able to secure the information when the special committee on railways and shipping is sitting, I shall be quite willing to get a private memorandum then.

Mr. BENNETT: I might find it difficult to give any such undertaking, but I can assure my hon. friend that so far as the government is concerned it will not stand in the way of his securing information from the railway company. The railway company being a separate organization from the government, we must allow its executive to determine what is best to be done in the public interest.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion passes with the reservation stated by the Prime Minister.

Motion agreed to.

FRASER RIVER ELEVATOR

Mr. REID:

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, reports, communications, contracts and other documents, in the possession of the government, in connection with the building, construction, alteration and completion of the elevator on the Fraser river.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps the hon. gentleman, who I think said the other day that he was a new member, does not realize that the information he requires might involve a great deal of effort in going through the files. I apprehend he means the New Westminster elevator?

Mr. REID: I have just been in communication with the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) and he has agreed that I may look over the papers.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite right.

Mr. SPEAKER: The resolution is dropped.

BEAUHARNOIS LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER COMPANY, LIMITED

Mr. GARDINER:

For a copy of all reports made to the government as a result of the application of the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company, Limited, for approval of its development at Beauharnois.

Mr. BENNETT: I think, Mr. Speaker, that this motion is not quite comprehensive enough to cover what the hon. gentleman means, because the approval of the development of the Beauharnois company is not a matter with which the federal government are concerned; they only approve of certain works under the Navigable Waters Protection Act; they have no other function in the world to discharge in the matter. If the motion passes in its present form it might be taken to indicate that the federal government had something to do with approving the development.

Mr. GARDINER: The intention of the motion, Mr. Speaker, is in regard to the approval of plans for the works at Beauharnois.

Mr. BENNETT: Under the Navigable Waters Protection Act?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Does that cover what the hon. gentleman has in mind?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The resolution will pass as amended.

Motion as amended agreed to.

QUEBEC CITY—STREET BOX COLLECTIONS

Mr. BOUCHARD:

For a copy of all notices for tenders, tenders, reports, contracts, and correspondence, exchanged between the Post Office Department or any of its officials and any other person or persons, and generally and without being limited by specifying the documents aforesaid, all documents, memoranda and papers of every kind and description, relating to the collection of mail from the street boxes in the City of Quebec.

Mr. BENNETT: The motion as it now stands is certainly not correct, for I apprehend that the collection of mail from street boxes has been in operation under contract for many years. Perhaps my hon. friend from Quebec South (Mr. Power) will indicate just what is wanted.

Mr. POWER: For 1930-1931.

Mr. SPEAKER: The resolution will be amended accordingly.

Motion as amended agreed to.

QUEBEC POST OFFICE—TRANSFER OF MAILS

Mr. BOUCHARD:

For a copy of all notices for tenders, tenders, reports, contracts, and correspondence, exchanged between the Post Office Department or any of its officials and any other person or persons, and generally and without being limited by specifying the documents aforesaid, all documents, memoranda and papers of every kind and description, relating to the transfer of mails from the Central Post Office, Quebec, to the railway stations and steamships.

Mr. BENNETT: With the same limitation.

Mr. SPEAKER: For 1930-1931.

Motion as amended agreed to.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION INVESTIGATION

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River):

For a copy of all documents, minutes of the board, reports, memorandums, letters and telegrams, relating to the investigation that took place in the Civil Service Commission in the year 1927, which was understood to be instituted by the direction of Commissioners Tremblay and MacTavish, and by which two junior clerks, Messrs. Kemmis and Simmons were authorized to carry on an investigation into the administration of the commission by Mr. Roche and other executive heads.

Mr. BENNETT: I think all the words after "1927" will have to be stricken out, because it is an elementary rule that you cannot contemplate the contents of correspondence by indicating what it is understood to contain.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I am content, Mr. Speaker, to accept the amendment.

Motion as amended agreed to.

QUEBEC EXAMINATION—MARCH, 1931

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all correspondence, documents, certificates, reports of examination, rating and marks obtained by each competitor, recommendations in favour of any competitor by members of parliament, or others, with respect to an examination held in Quebec during the month of March, 1931, as a result of which an eligible list was established and promulgated in the Canada Gazette of March 21, 1931, for the position of stationary engineer, grade 1, Department of Public Works.

Mr. BENNETT: With respect to this and the preceding motions I had intended, Mr. Speaker, when you said "carried", to make further observations. There is a question as to how far the Civil Service Commission should be compelled or asked to supply confidential information to this house under a return of this kind. Personally I have arrived at no conclusion in the matter, but I have made some few inquiries. There seems to be a well defined opinion on the part of some that

if more or less confidential communications are to be brought down, it is not in the public interest. On the other hand there are those who believe there should be no communication with respect to public business that should not be brought down. At an appropriate time I think the matter will have to be considered by the house, but in connection with a motion of this kind we must either accept it or reject it; it is not a matter for debate. The duty will thus fall upon the Civil Service Commission.

With the restrictions I have mentioned the order might pass, but it should not be taken as committing those who are at present responsible for government to any policy as to what the duty of the commission should be with respect to documents such as I have mentioned, or as to how far it may be in the public interest that such papers should form part of a public return. The matter can be discussed at a later time when there is an opportunity for the house to consider it. Apparently this is not the proper time for that discussion.

Mr. POWER: I know this is not the time to discuss this matter, but I should just like to point out to the Prime Minister that to my own personal knowledge orders of this kind have been passed. I put one or two on the order paper myself last year and the year before.

Mr. BENNETT: That is true, but there was an objection raised at that time, as the hon. gentleman may recall. A discussion took place as to how far we should insist upon the production of some of those documents. It will be remembered that a file was looked at but that all the documents were not copied in that return.

As I have said, I have arrived at no definite opinion in the matter, and I think it is something the house might well take into consideration at a later date.

Mr. POWER: I think there is a well understood rule in the house that such confidential documents as are used by a minister or an official in arriving at a decision shall be produced, but no others. I think that has been the custom.

Mr. BENNETT: I wonder if you would think I was trespassing too much on the time of the house if I said that I think the rule laid down by the House of Lords in the Jones case, with respect to an affidavit of production, with which the lawyers of the house are more or less familiar, has been adopted in many public departments. No document, the publication of which which would be in any sense inimical to the public interest, should be published. I think that is a broad statement of the rule, without going into details.

Mr. RALSTON: That is, with regard to its production in court.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, it is the same rule.

Mr. RALSTON: That is within the discretion of the minister. The minister certifies that in his opinion it is contrary to the public interest to produce that paper.

Mr. BENNETT: I was not going to develop what my learned and hon. friend has said, but that is so; the minister in charge of a department of state certifies that it is inimical to the public interest that a document should be brought into court before he can claim immunity with respect to it. That is a broad and general statement. I think the time is not opportune to canvass the matter at length, but I mentioned it because some day it will have to be settled in this house.

Mr. LAPOINTE: What happens meanwhile?

Mr. BENNETT: In the meantime the resolution might pass and we will find an opportunity at an appropriate time to determine just how far we should go in respect to the matter.

Motion agreed to.

DECISIONS OF PENSION APPEAL COURT

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver):

For a copy of all rulings, decisions or judgments of the appeal court established pursuant to Pension Act amendments, 1930.

Mr. BENNETT: I think the hon. gentleman will realize that this question involves a matter of public policy of far-reaching importance. This tribunal which has been set up is not under the control of any department of the public service, and the statute by which it was created contemplates its absolute independence of any such department. All the government can do is to ask them for copies of their judgments, in the same way as we might ask the judges of the supreme court of Alberta or Saskatchewan to furnish copies of their judgments. As the hon. gentleman is in much the same position as the government in that regard I thought perhaps he would write and secure these judgments rather than make the matter the subject of a parliamentary order, which could only be complied with by the minister or those in the department communicating with the board and obtaining the information.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I am prepared to cooperate with the minister in obtaining the information.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dropped?

Mr. BENNETT: Dropped on that understanding.

Motion dropped.

UNEMPLOYMENT AT OTTAWA

Mr. POWER (for Mr. St-Pere):

For a copy of all forms, memoranda and regulations issued by the Department of Labour at Ottawa, or the director of unemployment at Ottawa, in connection with the expenditure under the Unemployment Relief Act.

Mr. BENNETT: I have no desire to limit the return in any way but there has been laid on the table of the house information sought for in accordance with the provisions of the statute. If the hon. gentleman thinks there should be duplication, of course there is no limitation upon his right.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the absence of the hon. member (Mr. St-Pere), perhaps the motion can stand.

Motion stands.

BEAUHARNOIS POST OFFICE—CARETAKER

Mr. POWER (for Mr. Raymond):

For a copy of all notices, reports, letters, rating sheets, decisions, memorandums, telegrams or other communications, and all other documents, in the possession of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Public Works, Postmaster General's Department, or any other federal department, in connection with the appointment of a caretaker for the Beauharnois post office.

Mr. SAUVE: I think this motion should be amended so as to fix dates and years. In view of the mover's absence, I would ask that the motion stand.

Motion stands.

QUEBEC HARBOUR COMMISSION—NEW SHED

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda, exchanged between the Minister of Marine, the Solicitor General, or any other member of the government, relating to an alteration in the specifications providing for the use in the construction of a new shed, by the Quebec harbour commissioners at Quebec, of asbestos corrugated sheathing, a product manufactured in Canada, and the substitution therefor of asbestos sheathing made by the Philip Carey Company of Ohio, in the United States of America, together with copies of any resolutions, minutes, memoranda, of the said Quebec harbour commissioners, ordering, approving or confirming the said alteration or modification of the original specifications.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps my hon. friend would desire to amend this resolution. It is faulty in so far as it states, as a matter of fact, that which it is expected the correspondence will disclose. I suggest that the allegations as to the place of manufacture of the corrugated sheathing in one case, and of asbestos sheathing in the other, be eliminated from the resolution.

Mr. POWER: I have no objection. I would move to strike out the words:

A product manufactured in Canada, and the substitution therefor of asbestos sheathing made by the Philip Carey Company of Ohio, in the United States of America.

Mr. SPEAKER: Shall the resolution as amended carry?

Motion as amended agreed to.

QUEBEC HARBOUR COMMISSION—PERMANENT EMPLOYEES

Mr. POWER (for Mr. Dorion):

For a return showing the names, surnames and addresses, by counties, to date, of all the permanent employees of the Quebec Harbour Commission, including the commissioners, with the date of their appointment and the monthly salary paid to each.

Mr. BENNETT: This is rather wide. What particular year is referred to?

Mr. POWER: I am moving this for the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency, who sits on the opposite side. I should be glad to have all the information that could be furnished. However, I think the hon. member would be satisfied if we stipulated, since 1921, when the former administration took office.

Mr. BENNETT: I think he should be.

Mr. SPEAKER: With the addition of the words, "since 1921," shall the resolution carry?

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps it had better stand in view of the fact that the hon. member is not here. The hon. gentleman's friend might object to reflect so upon a previous administration.

Mr. POWER: I think it is perfectly clear that the hon. member intended to ask for a list of the present permanent employees of the Quebec harbour commission.

Mr. BENNETT: I think there is no reason why the motion should not pass on that understanding, except that I do not think they keep the records of counties.

Mr. POWER: I am sure that they do.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no one who should know better. Probably the old practice is not followed.

Motion agreed to.

WELLAND SHIP CANAL

Mr. BOULANGER:

For a return showing how many civil servants were appointed to work in connection with the Welland ship canal since October, 1930; their rating and qualifications; how many of these appointees were natural born Canadians; how many were naturalized Canadians, and how many were foreigners.

Mr. BENNETT: There is a clear distinction between civil servants as such and employees as such. As the motion reads, it is civil servants, with respect to whom the commission would have information as to their nationalities, but with respect to employees as such, the information would not be available. I assume that the hon. gentleman means civil servants only, since his resolution is drawn that way. I merely point that out to him.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the resolution is so drawn.

Mr. BOULANGER: Yes.

Motion agreed to.

PROPOSED PEGGING OF WHEAT PRICES

Mr. MOTHERWELL:

For a copy of all petitions, resolutions, recommendations, letters, telegrams, or synopsis of verbial representations, addressed or communicated to the Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture or any other minister, recommending the pegging of wheat or grain prices, from any farmers organizations, pool selling agency or unit thereof, municipality, board of trade, individual, or provincial premier from each of the three prairie provinces, since August 1st last, and the individual replies thereto.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sure the hon. gentleman would not desire unnecessarily to take up time in the preparation of a file, but communications came in by the thousand asking for the fixing of a price for wheat and it would be a very great task to prepare copies of all those communications. My memory is that they were all in the same terms and a reply was sent in practically the same terms to them all.

One other matter to which I think the hon. gentleman's attention should be directed is that he asks for a "synopsis of verbal representations." I think that is introducing a new element into a motion for papers and it will have to be stricken out, because if we had to comply with an order of parliament couched in these terms, it would be very difficult to observe the obligations of the office of privy councillor, an office which the hon. gentleman himself holds. Therefore I suggest that he be good enough to strike these words out. In view of what I have said to him, we shall be glad, if he so desires, to show him the file which consists of an enormous number of papers, and the motion can stand until this is done. My hon. friend to my left (Sir George Perley) dealt with many of them and I think literally there were many thousands.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I was quite aware that this involved a pretty lengthy reply depending entirely on the number of petitions that were received, but of course the more petitions received, the more evidence we have of the importance of the question. On further consideration I think I can modify this motion very much if my right hon. friend will let it stand. With regard to the synopsis of verbal representations, what I had in mind was the interviews, by premiers of the three prairie provinces with my right hon. friend. They were not in written form. There must have been verbal representations and I would like to have some idea what they were.

Mr. BENNETT: No shorthand note was, I believe, taken and no synopsis placed on file. Those of us who have had experience with our own memories know how difficult it would be now to endeavour to summarize our recollection of what was said. I think that was tried by a very eminent psychologist and he got five different reports of the same interview from five different people who had it.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: With regard to that part, if my right hon. friend will agree that they were in favour of a pegged price, I will drop that portion of the resolution.

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot agree to that.

Motion stands.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

MOTION TO REDUCE RAILWAY PASSENGER RATES FOR COLONISTS

Mr. OSCAR L. BOULANGER (Bellechasse) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, in order to relieve unemployment in the cities by encouraging a movement of return to the land, the government of Canada should invite railroads to reestablish reduced passenger rates in favour of colonists, and should by means of grants from public moneys help railroads to reestablish those rates, if necessary.

He said: I do not think it is necessary for me to take up very much of the time of the house to explain the resolution which Your Honour has just read. Its meaning is quite plain; the resolution speaks for itself. Rather, I shall take a few minutes to state my reasons for submitting this resolution to the kind consideration of the house.

My only object in inviting discussion of the subject matter of the resolution is to offer a most humble suggestion for the relief of unemployment in the cities and to indicate one way of obtaining a better distribution of population in Canada, or in other words, a better equilibrium between the rural and the urban population.

Representing as I do an entirely rural county, the greater part of which has been settled for nearly three hundred years, and living in the nearby city of Quebec, I have observed many times in my own experience that the most difficult phase of the unemployment problem in the cities consists in providing relief and work for the surplus rural population which is attracted to the cities. In a county like the one which I have the honour to represent in this house, where every available place is filled, and where the land is already subdivided to excess, there is bound to be every year a surplus population since large families continue to be the general rule. Every year two or three hundred young farmers who cannot place themselves in their native parishes have to leave the county in order to seek their livelihood elsewhere. Where do they go? A few of them, the wise ones, faithful to the traditional calling of their class, and knowing that farming is the occupation in which, owing to their preparation, they have the greatest chance of succeeding, go on the land in the newer parts of the province of Quebec or in some other Canadian province. But the majority of them drift to the cities, to Quebec, which is only a few miles away from their homes, or to the great metropolis of Montreal, or to the industrial cities of New England, which are only a few hours distant. What chance of earning a decent living and of finding suitable employment have those country people, those farmers' sons in the city? They have no trade, they are unskilled labourers working by the day at casual jobs, never sure of steady employment for any length of time; they are unused to the city ways and to industrial life. When employment becomes at all scarce they are the first to suffer; they are the first recruits for the army of the unemployed and the first cases for relief by the charitable organizations or by the municipal, provincial or federal government. I think that this is a fair statement of the condition of the rural emigrants to the cities, and I venture to say that the majority of the unemployed who are to be found in our Canadian cities at the present time are former country people who abandoned their homes from one to five years ago.

What are the remedies for such a situation? There must be a few. For the moment I limit myself to suggesting one very respectfully to the government, and that is the inauguration of a back-to-the-land movement by requesting the Canadian railways to reestablish the homeseekers' excursions and the settlers' rates of a few years ago, and by assisting the railways to do so with government grants, if necessary.

In making this suggestion I am not unmindful of the present condition of agriculture. I do not forget that owing to the complete neglect of the farmers by the present government the prices of farm products are to-day the lowest they have been for twenty-five years, whereas the prices of the articles they have to buy have either gone up or have remained stationary when they should have gone down, as a result of the recent tariff manipulation. I am aware that farmers in some sections of the country do not want the competition of more farmers, that there is over-production in some branches of our agricultural activities, and that the sale of our farm products in foreign markets is jeopardized by the very peculiar attitude of this government in respect to international trade. But in spite of all these drawbacks I persist in my opinion that it would be to the advantage of Canada to assist in returning to the land the former rural people who glut the employment market of the cities. Even if these people could not get rich in producing and selling farm produce at present prices, they could at least eke out a living for themselves and their families on the farm. They could at least be sure of their bread, butter, milk, eggs, meat, fuel and so forth, instead of starving in the cities, where they have to pay for everything they need, including the water they drink.

The government, if they wanted to interest themselves in that class of needy Canadians for whom I speak, could supplement the back-to-the-land movement by assistance to farmers in the form of clearing premiums or first-ploughing premiums to be paid to farmers in certain definite sections of the country where the farms have not been developed sufficiently to support their owners adequately, and this could be done in co-operation with provincial governments, as outlined in my humble remarks during the debate on the address. The government could even study a plan of decentralization of industry whereby workers working on piece work or under some similar arrangement could be settled in villages not far from the plant, where they could own their cottage and plot of ground,

raise their own vegetables, keep a cow, perhaps, a pig or two, and hens, and live cheaply and more happily than it is possible for them to do in the slums of the large city of Montreal, which have been so appallingly described by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). To my mind it is neither a normal nor a healthy condition of affairs that one-tenth of the population of Canada should be crowded into one city and one-third of the balance in the other Canadian cities. The adoption of the plan which I submit for the approval of the house would have a tendency, I believe, to remedy such a situation.

One objection which no doubt will be made to the adoption of the plan which I now have the honour of proposing is that the present financial condition of the Canadian railways might not permit the restoration of low rates for the transportation of settlers and their effects. If such is the case I hope the government will come to their rescue and will recoup them for the loss they would thus incur. I am sure that the government will not plead against the suggestion, the necessity for economy, because the money spent for the return to the land of the rurals presently unemployed in the cities would be money well spent. Probably it would relieve the government of the obligation of voting again next fall $20,000,000 for the assistance of the army of unskilled day labourers in the cities. In support of my contention that the government should assist the railways in inaugurating a back-to-the- land movement I wish to mention the precedent of the so-called assisted immigration which until very recently was practised, if it is not yet in vogue. The Canadian government did not refuse to assist the navigation and railway companies with money grants to enable them to bring immigrants from Europe to this country. The government each year spent considerable sums of money in caring for those immigrants after their arrival in Canada, and in helping them to make a beginning.

What the government did for strangers I hope they will gladly do for Canadians. If assisted immigration was good for Canada in the years of prosperity, and if the opposition blamed the then government for not promoting further immigration, the assistance of colonization by Canadians will be equally good. The obvious advantage of assisted colonization will be to improve the lot of a great number of Canadians who are now starving in the cities, to lessen unemployment, to obviate the necessity of voting another $20,000,000 for the relief of unemployment and to increase the development of the country which, even in lean years, must go on. Therefore it is with great confidence that I submit for the approval of the house the resolution which was inspired by the above thoughts and which aims to effect their realization.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes of the time of the house to discuss this proposal. The primary object of the motion before us is to redistribute to a substantial extent the population of Canada, and to place people on the land. The first reaction I had when I listened to the argument of my hon. friend from Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger) was that if agriculture were successful in this country there would be no need to reduce fares in order to get people on the land. In my judgment the condition of agriculture at the present time does not warrant this house or any other public body in spending one dollar to get one more person back to the land. For many years I have objected to our immigration policy. On many occasions I have stated on the floor of the house that it would be far better for Canada to cancel its immigration policy and give our own Canadians an opportunity, if they so desire of going on the land. If I had any influence with the legislatures of the western provinces at the present time I would suggest to them that instead of opening up new areas for settlement those areas now not settled should be withdrawn. To-day in western Canada we have thousands and thousands of people who for the last twenty or thirty years have been living from twenty to sixty miles from railways. Our railways are not in a position to catch up with the requirements of those people or to provide them with reasonable transportation facilities. That being so why should we advocate a policy which would make worse a condition which already is bad. I have always objected to the plan of assisted immigration. In my judgment such a plan would not operate for the benefit of Canada. I objected even to the plan concerning the 3,000 British immigrants whereby the imperial government supplied those people with cash to pay their railway and boat fares, and an added sum with which they were to buy stock and implements in Canada. I have come across many cases where Canada has provided land at a reasonable valuation, and very few of those settlers have made good. My attitude towards the policy of immigration has been that which I am now describing. I have always felt we should first take care of our own

people before we spend money to induce other people to enter Canada for the purpose of taking land.

In view of the condition of agriculture and in so far as agricultural products are concerned at the present time I believe we would be well advised to give up any settlement policy until such time as consumption catches up with production. We should not adopt such a policy until the people now on the land are in a position to make a profit from their operations. These are my main objections to the motion now before the house, and I trust the government will not consider the possibility of asking the railways to reduce fares.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, I think that the two hon. gentlemen who have just addressed the house on this question have given to the house and the country the two different viewpoints involved. One has favoured the granting of special rates to those Canadians wishing to go back to the land, and the other has taken the attitude that in view of present conditions such action would not be wise. Without in any way attempting to decide which of the two hon. members is right, may I point out that certainly the railways would be embarrassed if at this time they were asked to give special consideration in the way of passenger or freight rates. Continually they are being asked for reductions of the rates in both lines of traffic.

As far as the passenger rates are concerned, it might be well at this time to give some facts in connection with the Canadian National Railways; I have not the figures for the Canadian Pacific Railway. For some years passenger returns of the Canadian National Railways have been decreasing. Not long ago I had occasion to inquire from the officers of the railway company concerning the returns derived from passenger traffic during the past five years. I had expected to learn that the passenger returns were not increasing. To my horror however I learned that not only were passenger returns of the Canadian National not increasing but they were decreasing so rapidly that between the years 1926 and 1930 the deficit had increased to a very startling extent. It has been the opinion of many that the various facilities being provided to accommodate the passenger traffic of both lines would increase the returns from that branch of the service. But, on the contrary, the passenger earnings of both railways have decreased to such an alarming extent that I do not think it would be fair to ask their respective managements to consider the adoption of the hon. member's proposal unless on the understanding that they must be remunerated by some other agency for any losses that might thereby be sustained.

May I point out at this juncture that if the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway—I think we may take them together—are to be asked, as they are being asked continually, to reduce their passenger and freight rates, it seems to me that they should not be expected to absorb, on behalf of the country as a whole, such reductions in their earnings. I say this because from all over the country requests come to me as Minister of Railways asking for reductions in freight rates, for branch line construction, and for other expenditures which would mean a capital outlay of vast proportions. Perhaps it would interest the house to know that since we came into office eight or nine months ago I have had requests for branch lines, for stations, for hotels, for freight sheds, and so on, representing a capital investment on the part of the railway company of about $200,000,000. I had the matter gone into some time ago because I wondered how much capital expenditure all these requests involved, and the itemized statements given to me show that total.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: How much of that has the minister promised?

Mr. MANION: Well, my right hon. friend has promised a great deal at various times, so perhaps he can answer as to half, and I will ask my right hon. leader to answer as to the other half.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I made no promises.

Mr. MANION: I think my right hon. friend, since assuming the leadership of his party, has made more promises and redeemed fewer of them than any other political leader in this Dominion. However, I do not wish to get into a partisan controversy. I am pointing out at the moment that the national railways are being asked for many capital expenditures which in the present state of the national as well as the railway revenues could not possibly be undertaken.

To illustrate the difficulties of both railways, but particularly the national railways, in cutting down unnecessary expenditures, let me refer to the discontinuance of unnecessary and unremunerative passenger and freight services. Because of the decreased revenues of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways, their respective managements decided within the last month that they would endeavour to do away with several local

freight and passenger services which were being given at a heavy loss. Within the last two weeks both railway companies gave out some information in this connection. For example, on a branch line from A to B giving daily passenger and freight service, they decided because of the very small amount of traffic to replace a daily by a tri-weekly service. They gave the figures so I would be able to deal with any protests I might receive against this and other proposed reductions of service, and the figures show that in this case—as in many others—the receipts were only 30 cents per train mile as against operating expenses of $1.50. I doubt if there has been one suggested decrease in service where letters have not been pouring in protesting against such decrease. On one branch line the management figured they were going to save $30,000 per annum by making the change from a daily to a tri-weekly service. Notwithstanding this I have received the most urgent and emphatic and repeated protests from the district affected, practically claiming that the locality will be ruined if this reduced service is put into effect.

Mr. McINTOSH: Did you get the protests from eastern or western Canada?

Mr. MANION: I got them from both, particularly east and west. I may tell my hon. friend that that is not an Irish bull. In other words, the two extremes seem to protest more vigourously than the parts in between. I say that without any disrespect to either end of the country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Amputations are painful.

Mr. MANION: No doubt, unless they are anaesthetized beforehand; and it is difficult to anaesthetize in these cases.

Mr. REID: The hon. minister mentions a reduction in passenger service. Can he inform me if the volume of freight traffic to the Pacific coast has increased during the past year?

Mr. MANION: I cannot give my hon. friend an intelligent answer offhand. But I may state this, I do not believe it is the duty of any government at this time to interfere in any way with the management of the national railways in their attempt to cut down unprofitable expenditures of this kind where it can be justified; it seems to me that it is our duty to give the national railways—and for that matter the Canadian Pacific company as well, because I also get protests against proposed Canadian Pacific reductions in service—I say it is our duty to give them at least a fighting chance to make ends meet when they can show that these reductions in service will result in substantial economies. Individual sections of the country directly affected will of course protest, and naturally I have to pass on the protests to the railways. But the management of both railway systems must be permitted to reduce their operating losses so far as government, and for that matter parliament too, can permit them so to do.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Does not the railway commission have some control over the railways?

Mr. MANION: Entirely. I do not mean to suggest that the government has any control in this respect. My right hon. friend is quite right, the railway commission has control, and if the local authorities affected protest to the commission, and can prove that the proposed reductions are unjustified, no doubt the commission will heed their protests. But it is not the part of government or parliament, for political or other reasons, to override the decisions of the railway companies in matters such as this, particularly when it is remembered that, as shown by the report recently tabled, the Canadian National Railway system's earnings are insufficient by nearly $30,000,000 to meet the interest on its public indebtedness to say nothing of the interest owing to the Dominion government for the hundreds of millions invested in the system; and it is unable to pay for the additions and betterments of various kinds which have been outlined. I say that when the system is unable to meet these obligations, it is the duty of government, parliament and people, so far as they can, to cooperate in encouraging reductions in operating expenses. Not only should the Canadian National Railways management be encouraged, but the Canadian Pacific Railway management as well, in their efforts to bring their revenues to the point where they will meet their expenditures. I mention that last matter because I thought it was a good opportunity to bring this question before the public in general in order that the public might understand that, as the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) pointed out, this is a matter for the railway commission to deal with if any locality is being unjustly treated, as sometimes may occur.

Having pointed out these facts; having shown the necessity for the railways being

given an opportunity to carry on in order to earn revenues that will come somewhere near covering their expenses, I may say to my hon. friend who very fairly proposed the motion (Mr. Boulanger) that I certainly will see that it reaches the managements of the two railways for whatever consideration they may choose to give it. I shall gladly do that for him. Having said that, and the motion having been made in the house, perhaps he will feel that he has accomplished the desired purpose in bringing the matter before the government and the railways. He might feel that it has been satisfactorily concluded, and withdraw his motion.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Before the minister concludes, may I ask if it is not a fact that within the last week or two reduced passenger rates have been put into effect by the railways?

Mr. MANION: Yes, my right hon. friend is quite correct. Within the last week or two the railways have reduced the week end fares quite materially. I presume that has been done in order to encourage more passenger traffic than they are getting at present, due to the interference with that traffic of motor buses and private motor cars. I know, from the reports not only of our own railway but also of the Canadian Pacific Railway and American roads, that the inroads into railway revenues because of these private means of locomotion are so severe that the railways all over the world are feeling the situation very severely. These reduced rates, to which my right hon. friend referred, are for week end trips all over the country, in an endeavour to pick up a certain amount of the traffic which has been lost. I do not know of any other reductions which have been made.

Mr. EULER: Does the minister regard it as possible, in the interests of the country and of the revenues of the railways, to suggest to the executives of the two roads that they cooperate with a view to cutting out duplication of services?

Mr. MANION: I may answer that by saying that this suggestion already has been made to the railways. As my hon. friend knows, it has been made numbers of times through the press; I presume it was made by the late government, although I do not know anything about that, and the present government has suggested to the railways that duplication should be ended.

In that regard I may say that I have discussed the question with the heads of both railways, and it seems a particularly difficult matter for them to decide upon. Naturally the railroad, whichever it may be, which carries the greater proportion of passenger traffic on a certain train does not care to give up that traffic. In another case perhaps the other line has an advantage and does not wish to give it up. From my conversations with the heads of the railways it seems a very difficult question indeed to come to an agreement upon, though both Mr. Beatty and Sir Henry Thornton have expressed publicly, and to myself privately, the desire to do away with unnecessary duplication. I might say to my hon. friend that I believe the heavy decrease in earnings will make it necessary for the railways to come to some decision in that regard in the near future.

Mr. EULER: My thought was that perhaps the genial minister himself, with his faculty of getting people together, might have considerable success if he took more interest in pushing that suggestion.

Mr. MANION: I believe I mentioned that the suggestion has been made by the government since we came into office. It was made by myself verbally and it has been made by my right hon. leader more than once.

Mr. RINFRET: The minister indicated that he was willing to submit this motion to the railway companies. I presume he means only the first part of the motion; I suppose there would be no indication of an intention on the part of the government to make up any possible difference from public moneys. I think I understood that quite clearly from the remarks of the minister.

Mr. MANION: I meant, of course, that I would submit the first part of the motion to the companies. With regard to the government helping out, unfortunately that is being done very largely now through the heavy charges upon the government in connection with deficits and for capital advances which are necessary in regard to the national railway. Unfortunately, as I have said, the national railways are not earning enough to pay for their own capital advances, so I suppose indirectly the government pays very heavily towards such traffic of that kind as already goes on. The question of going further in that direction would be a matter of government policy, which I should not care to discuss on a motion of this kind. I might say that it would be given consideration; I suppose that is the ordinary phrase.

Mr. JOHN VALLANCE (South Battleford): Mr. Speaker, I think the house and

the country will agree with the statement of the Minister of Railways, looking at it from the point of view of the transportation companies. In my own riding I have some branch lines which have been operating for fifteen or sixteen years. They started with a daily service but after fifteen years, in spite of all the development that has taken place, we now find the railway companies proposing to give us a tri-weekly service. I have made representations in the interests of those people, to see if it is not possible to continue the daily service. The people there cannot see the necessity for this reduction in service. If it was necessary fifteen years ago, when the tonnage amounted to a certain figure, to carry on a daily service, now when the tonnage must be vastly greater they do not see why they should have to submit to a tri-weekly service.

That is looking at the matter from a freight standpoint, but there are other considerations. There is the question of train service in the winter time, and there is the question of mail. The people of western Canada go into the larger centres for hospital accommodation. They will find it very difficult to carry on with a reduced service, and it would be hard for anyone to convince these people that the railway companies should be allowed at this time to reduce the service.

Mr. MANION: I know I am out of order in continuing the debate, but the whole discussion has been out of order in its latter stages. However, perhaps I might say that no matter how we feel in the matter, the government has not the power to interfere. This is a matter for the railway commission, and while naturally anyone who has lived in pioneer sections of the country, as I did during many of my early years, realizes the feelings of a group of people who are being partly isolated through tri-weekly service, at the same time one cannot help but have sympathy for the railways which are trying to cut down some of their unnecessary expenses.

I find in my pocket, although I did not bring it for the purposes of this discussion, a report covering one section of the country. I will not say which section; it will be either the east or the west, as my hon. friend expressed it, but I will not say which. This is a report of the national railways in regard to some of the reductions which they are making. They state for example that on one line their revenue at the present time is 11 cents per train mile, while the cost to them is 97½ cents. We cannot blame them for trying to reduce that loss, which is more or less unavoidable. In the next case they cite, the revenue per train mile is 37 cents and the cost 97½ cents, and in another instance the revenue is 15 cents per train mile as compared with a cost of 98½ cents. Going further down the list, I find that in another instance the revenue is given as 11 cents per train mile while the cost is 74 cents. And taking one more example—the worst in the way of considerable loss—the revenue is 13 cents as against a cost of 126·2 cents. In other words, the cost is nearly ten times as much as the revenue. Yet only yesterday there came to my office a deputation from the section affected by that last figure I gave. They pointed out that there were 32,000 people on that section of the line who were being served by this particular branch line, and that they were engaged in a certain form of business which they were afraid would be ruined by the cut-off of the train, notwithstanding, as I have stated, that the cost to the railway is ten times the earnings received on this branch. No one can blame the railway for endeavouring to reduce the loss, nor can anyone very well quarrel with the people in the section concerned. I suggest that, in such a case as this, or in the case of my hon. friend's section, if the people affected feel that there is an injustice the only body that can really interfere in the matter is the Board of Railway Commissioners. I fear that this is the policy which will be adhered to, and I suggest that any section that feels it is being unfairly treated will have to make its representations to the Board of Railway Commissioners, who I have no doubt will prevent the railway from discontinuing the service if such discontinuance is not justified. That is one of the functions of the board.

Mr. VALLANCE: Following up what the minister has said, I would ask this question. Supposing the railways should institute a tri-weekly instead of a daily service: we all know it is much easier to lose something than to get it back. When we lose this service, is there any understanding between the Board of Railway Commissioners and the railways that, when the tonnage or the occasion permits, it will be just as easy for us to get that service back as it had been to lose it? Perhaps I should not ask the minister that question.

Mr. MANION: There is no doubt that if the traffic on that section of the line increases, the railway affected will resume the service. The cut-off of the service is but for a period, for this year, without any intention of con-

tinuing the curtailment indefinitely. It is probably only a matter of declining revenue at the present time. I am sure that if either of the railways can be shown that traffic anywhere is not being properly taken care of, and if they can approximately pay their way, they will be only too glad to resume the service.

Mr. GERSHAW: Will the minister permit one other question? I should be glad if he would indicate in a general way what the policy of the transportation companies is as regards going into the bus or truck service It would seem, from what the minister has said, that the buses or trucks have an advantage in the short haul, and that the railway companies have to concentrate on the long-haul business to make their revenue. It sometimes happens, when the roads are good, that service can be provided by the buses and trucks; but when the roads are impassable, of course that service cannot be carried on, and merchants have great difficulty in getting their supplies, while passengers are unable to reach their destination. It has occurred to me that if there were some form of combined service or some cooperation between the railway companies and the buses, probably service might be rendered. Are the transportation companies considering these other methods of dealing with the problem?

Mr. MANION: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: The house not being in committee, each hon. member has the right to make only one speech. I think we had better adhere to the rules.

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): It seems to me that we have got away from the resolution, which, as I read it, is a contribution towards the relief of unemployment. The hon. member who moved the motion put up what I regard as a good argument. The hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) objected to that policy on the ground that there were too many people on the land at the present time. The Minister of Railways, however, presented a different argument on behalf of the railway companies —that they ought not to be expected to take any lower compensation than they are receiving at the present time. I do not see anything here that would in any way reduce the earning power of the railway companies; the resolution provides for grants from public moneys to make up any deficiency which the railways might suffer. I understood that the Conservatives, at their convention in Winnipeg in 1927, indicated in their platform that they would give special consideration and offer special privileges to anyone who wanted to settle on the land. As I understood the Minister of Railways, what he advocated would mean greater unemployment rather than the relief of the present situation, inasmuch as—if I rightly, understand him—he has been discussing with the railway companies the advisability of taking off more trains, or eliminating the duplication of trains. Every railway train you take off adds five more men to the number of unemployed, and every time you reduce a train service it similarly increases unemployment. There is, therefore, probably a great deal to be said for the resolution. If we are going to encourage people to settle on the land, if we are going to encourage citizens from other parts of the country to take up land, and if at the same time we do not want to impair the railway earnings, then we should be prepared to act in accordance with the Conservative platform of the Winnipeg convention—reimburse the railway companies from the public funds.

Mr. BOULANGER: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: The remarks of the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger) will close the debate. If any hon. member wishes to speak he should do so now.

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): Just a word or two. While I have had no complaints from my own constituency in regard to the reduction or the elimination of railway services, I might say that since this question is, properly speaking, quite a national one at the present time, there is one point which I think might be impressed upon the Minister of Railways. It is this. Sometimes when railway services are eliminated or reduced the feeling in the community affected is that the elimination or reduction is made not on the basis of earnings but by reason of the fact that other lines are not paying. I would urge upon the minister that whenever any service is either discontinued or reduced he do his best to see that such elimination or reduction is based absolutely on the exigencies of the line in question and not on conditions existing in some other section of the railway.

Mr. MANION: Let me point out to the hon. member and to the house generally that the Minister of Railways has no power in the

matter. It is a matter entirely for the railways and, after them, for the Board of Railway Commissioners.

Mr. McINTOSH: I know that but I hope the minister will be willing to use his influence in the direction I suggest.

Mr. JEAN FRANCOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): I am glad to support this resolution. The unemployment in the cities is due to the fact that people from other parts of the country who find it impossible to carry on migrate to the cities. That is why there are so many people unemployed in the great cities, and it seems to me that something should be done to encourage them to return to the land. It is sad for those engaged in charitable work to find these people living in dirty tenements in the cities where they are deprived of air and of places where their children can play. When people can live in the country where they can get plenty of fresh air, they are much better situated, and the federal and provincial governments have to spend much less than they do when people are starving in hovels owing to the lack of money to pay for decent homes for themselves and their families. Therefore I believe the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Boulanger) has rendered a distinct service by directing the attention of the government to this most important question.

The Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) said that he would take the matter into consideration, but would it not be well for him to comply with the request of the hon. member for Bellechasse, not only to submit it to the railways but also to say to the management of the railways a good word in favour of it? If this is done, we shall return to normal conditions. Many of those who left the country to go to the towns had no position in sight. If one of them was asked what he was going to do in town, the answer would be: "I am going for a job," and if asked, "what kind of job?" there would be no answer. In going to the towns and cities they increase the number of the unemployed and impose a hardship on the country. It is on account of things like this occurring time and time again that the government and the country are facing such a huge problem of unemployment. As the Prime Minister himself said so ably in his Calgary speech—

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

[Mr. Manion.]

Thursday, April 23, 1931.

The house met at three o'clock.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister), for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes) presented the report of the special committee appointed to prepare and report lists of members to compose the select standing committees of the house as follows:

No. 1

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Messieurs

Anderson (High Park),
Beaubien,
Burns,
Casgrain,
Casselman,
Duff,
Dupré,
Elliott,
Esling,
Gagnon,
Gardiner,
Gray,
Hanson (York-Sunbury),
Jacobs,
Lapointe,
Lawson,
Lennox,
MacDonald (Cape Breton South),
MacNicol,
Marcil,
McPhee,
Mercier (St. Henri),
Morand,
Ralston,
Spencer,
Stinson,
Sullivan,
Thompson (East Simcoe),
Turnbull.—29.

(Quorum 10)

No. 2

RAILWAYS, CANALS AND TELEGRAPH LINES

Messieurs

Anderson (High Park),
Beaubier,
Bell (Hamilton),
Beynon,
Bothwell,
Bradette,
Bury,
Butcher,
Cantley,
Casgrain,
Casselman,
Chevrier,
Dorion,
Dubuc,
Dupré,
Edwards,
Esling,
Fiset (Sir Eugene),
Fraser (Cariboo),
Gardiner,
Geary,
Gershaw,
Hackett,
Hanbury,
Hanson (Skenna),
Harris,
Heaps,
Jones,
Kennedy (Peace River),
Lacroix,
Laurin,
MacDonald (Kings, P.E.I.),
MacMillan (Saskatoon),
Manion,
McGibbon,
McIntosh,
McLure,
Mercier (Laurier-Outremont),
Moore (Ontario),
Nicholson,
Pouliot,
Price,
Rogers,
Ross,
Ryerson,
St-Père,
Sanderson,
Séguin,
Shaver,
Simpson (Algoma West),
Smith (Cumberland),
Speakman,

Stewart (Edmonton West),
Stitt (Nelson),
Totzke,
Turnbull,
Urquhart,
Vallance,
White (London),
White (Mount Royal).—60.

(Quorum 20)

No. 3

MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS

Messieurs

Ahearn,
Anderson (Halton),
Arsenault,
Barber,
Barrette,
Bell (St. Antoine),
Boucher,
Bowen,
Bowman,
Brown,
Chaplin,
Chevrier,
Cormier,
Cowan (Long Lake),
Denis,
Deslauriers,
Duff,
Dumaine,
Dupré,
Edwards,
Ernst,
Fournier,
Gobeil,
Gott,
Hall,
Irvine,
Kennedy (Winnipeg South Centre),
Laflèche,
Larue,
Lawson,
Luchkovich,
MacInnis,
Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre),
Maloney,
McDade,
McGregor,
McMillan (Huron South),
Mercier (Laurier-Outremont),
Moore (Ontario),
Myers,
Peck,
Pettit,
Robitaille,
Sanderson,
Séguin,
Spence,
Sullivan,
Tummon,
Verville,
Wilson.—50.

(Quorum 15)

No. 4

STANDING ORDERS

Messieurs

Anderson (Halton),
Arthurs,
Baker,
Bell (Hamilton),
Bell (St. Antoine),
Blair,
Cahan,
Deslauriers,
Fontaine,
Fraser (Northumberland, O.),
Hay,
LaVergne,
Luchkovich,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
Mercier (St. Henri),
Munn,
Plunkett,
Rowe,
Thompson (Lanark),
Woodsworth.—20.

(Quorum 8)

No. 5

PRINTING

Messieurs

Anderson (Halton),
Baribeau,
Belec,
Boulanger,
Brasset,
Buckley,
Campbell,
Charters,
Desrochers,
Dubois,
Edwards,
Embury,
Esling,
Factor,
Fortin,
Girouard,
Gott,
Gray,
Hay,
Heaps,
Howden,
Lucas,
MacLean (Prince),
Maloney,
Marcil,
Matthews,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Munn,
Murphy,
Peck,
Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Perras,
Pickel,
Porteous,
Price,
Quinn,
Rhéaume,
Rinfret,
Roberge,
Rowe,
Ryerson,
St-Père,
Short,
Simpson (Simcoe North),
Spankie,
Spencer,
Spotton,
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Taylor,
Tétrault,
Verville,
Wilson,
Wright.—54.

No. 6

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Messieurs

Anderson (Halton),
Arthurs,
Baribeau,
Beaubien,
Beaubier,
Bell (Hamilton),
Beynon,
Bothwell,
Cahan,
Coote,
Cowan (Long Lake),
Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay),
Donnelly,
Dubuc,
Duff,
Duguay,
Dumaine,
Duranleau,
Fournier,
Fraser (Cariboo),
Fraser (Northumberland, O.),
Garland (Carleton),
Geary,
Girouard,
Hanson (York-Sunbury),
Ilsley,
Jacobs,
Lennox,
MacDonald (Cape Breton South),
Mackenzie, (Vancouver Centre),
Macphail (Miss),
Perras,
Pouliot,
Power,
Ralston,
Robinson,
Ross,
Rutherford,
Senn,
Smith (Cumberland),
Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Smoke,
Speakman,
Stanley,
Stewart (Leeds),
Swanston,
Taylor,
Weese,
White (Mount Royal),
Willis.—50.

(Quorum 15)

No. 7

BANKING AND COMMERCE

Messieurs

Baker,
Black (Halifax),
Bothwell,
Bowman,
Casgrain,
Chaplin,
Donnelly,
Dorion,
Embury,
Ernst,
Euler,
Fafard,
Gagnon,
Ganong,
Geary,
Hackett,
Hanson (York-Sunbury),

Harris,
Hepburn,
Howard,
Hurtubise,
Irvine,
Jacobs,
Laurin,
Lawson,
Loucks,
MacMillan (Saskatoon),
Matthews,
McGibbon,
McPhee,
Mercier (St. Henri),
Mullins,
Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Pettit,
Power,
Raymond,
Rinfret,
Robinson,
Robitaille,
Rogers,
Rutherford,
Ryckman,
Sanderson,
Smoke,
Spencer,
Stevens,
Sullivan,
Vallance,
White (Mount Royal),
Woodsworth.—50.

(Quorum 15)

No. 8

AGRICULTURE AND COLONIZATION

Messieurs

Barber,
Bertrand,
Blair,
Bouchard,
Boucher,
Boulanger,
Bowen,
Boyes,
Brown,
Burns,
Campbell,
Carmichael,
Cayley,
Coote,
Donnelly,
Dubuc,
Duguay,
Dupuis,
Garland (Bow River),
Gobeil,
Gott,
Goulet,
Hay,
Jones,
Loucks,
Lucas,
McGillis,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
McMillan (Huron South),
McPhee,
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Motherwell,
Mullins,
Myers,
Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Pickel,
Porteous,
Rowe,
Sauvé,
Seguin,
Senn,
Shaver,
Simpson (Simcoe East),
Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Spotton,
Sproule,
Stewart (Edmonton West),
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Stirling,
Swanston,
Taylor,
Thompson (Lanark),
Totzke,
Tummon,
Vallance,
Weese,
Weir (Melfort),
Weir (Macdonald),
Willis,
Young.—60.

(Quorum 20)

No. 9

MARINE AND FISHERIES

Messieurs

Baribeau,
Barrette,
Beaubien,
Brasset,
Cantley,
Cardin,
Dickie,
Duff,
Dupuis,
Duranleau,
Ernst,
Ganong,
Hanson (Skeena),
Ilsley,
Johnstone,
Larue,
MacDonald (Cape Breton South),
Macdonald (Kings, P.E.I.),
MacInnis,
MacLean,
McDade,
McLure,
Pouliot,
Plunkett,
Price,
Quinn,
Reid,
Rhodes,
Ross,
Short,
Speakman,
Stitt (Selkirk),
Thauvette,
Urquhart,
Veniot.—35.

(Quorum 10)

No. 10

MINES, FORESTS AND WATERS

Messieurs

Beaubien,
Belec,
Bell (St. John-Albert),
Beynon,
Boucher,
Bradette,
Buckley,
Cotnam,
Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay),
Desrochers,
Dickie,
Duguay,
Esling,
Fraser (Northumberland, O.),
Garland (Bow River),
Gershaw,
Gordon,
Hurtubise,
Ilsley,
Johnstone,
Kennedy (Peace River),
Macdougall,
Nicholson,
Parent,
Plunkett,
Roberge,
Simpson (Algoma West),
Smith (Cumberland),
Stanley,
Stewart (Edmonton West),
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Stinson,
Stitt (Nelson),
Tétrault,
Weir (Macdonald).—35.

(Quorum 10)

No. 11

INDUSTRIAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Messieurs

Arsenault,
Bell (St. Antoine),
Bell (St. John-Albert),
Black (Halifax),
Bourassa,
Bury,
Ferland,
Gordon,
Hackett,
Hall,
Heenan,
Howard,
Johnstone,
Kennedy (Winnipeg South Centre),
Lacroix,
Macdougall,
MacNicol,
Macphail (Miss),
Matthews,
McGibbon,
McIntosh,
McMillan (Huron South),
Morand,
Neill,
Nicholson,
Parent,
Perley (Sir George).
Reid,
St-Père,
Stanley,
Stitt (Selkirk),
Veniot,
White (London),
Woodsworth),
Wright.—35.

(Quorum 10)

No. 12

DEBATES

Messieurs

Arthurs,
Bouchard,
Coote,
Cormier,
Harris,
Laflèche,
Macdougall,
Marcil,
Rinfret,
Stirling,
Sutherland,
Young.—12.

(Quorum 7)

No. 13

ON THE LIBRARY

(Members on the part of the Commons)
Mr. Speaker and Messieurs

Barber,	LaVergne,
Bertrand,	Marcil,
Bourassa,	McGillis,
Boyes,	McGregor,
Butcher,	McIntosh,
Carmichael,	MacMillan
Charters,	(Saskatoon),
Chevrier,	Peck,
Cotnam,	Perley (Sir George),
Dubois,	Pouliot,
Factor,	Quinn,
Ferland,	Rhéaume,
Fontaine,	Short,
Fortin,	Rinfret,
Fraser	Smoke,
(Cariboo),	Stirling,
Gagnon,	Thauvette,
Girouard,	Thompson,
Guthrie,	(Simcoe East),
Hepburn,	Thompson
Irvine,	(Lanark),
Jones,	White
Laflèche,	(London),
Larue,	Wright.—44.

No. 14

ON THE RESTAURANT

(Members on the part of the Commons)
Mr. Speaker and Messieurs

Ahearn,	Howard,
Barrette,	Howden,
Black	Laflèche,
(Halifax),	Macphail (Miss),
Bourassa,	Neill,
Carmichael,	Ryerson,
Cayley,	Senn,
Garland	Spankie,
(Carleton),	Spence,
Hanbury,	Sproule,
	Wilson.—20.

Mr. BENNETT moved that the report be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

POWERS OF COMMITTEES

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That the select standing committees of this house shall severally be empowered to examine and inquire into all such matters and things as may be referred to them by the house and to report from time to time their observations and opinions thereon, with power to send for persons, papers and records.

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

BILL TO OBVIATE NECESSITY OF RE-ELECTION UPON ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Mr. S. W. JACOBS (Cartier) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 35, to remove the necessity of the re-election of members of the House of Commons of Canada on acceptance of office.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. JACOBS: Mr. Speaker, this bill is to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act whereby it will be unnecessary, if the bill becomes law, for members of the government who have been selected for cabinet preferment to submit themselves to their constituents for re-election. This bill has been before the house on several occasions but so far has gone no farther that the second reading. I may say that since 1926 it has been the law in Great Britain. Also it is the law in New Zealand and in a number of the states in Australia. I commend it to the careful consideration of the house.

Mr. STEVENS: The prayerful consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Would the hon. member supply the house with a copy of the bill; as yet we have not seen it.

Mr. RINFRET: I may say that it is also the law in the province of Quebec.

Mr. JACOBS: It may be the law in the province of Quebec, and still be good law, nevertheless.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

SUDBURY-WINNIPEG AIR MAIL SERVICE

Mr. VENIOT:

1. Were tenders received for an air mail service between Sudbury, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba?
2. If so, who tendered and what was the amount per mile of each tender?
3. What was the estimated mileage to be flown between Sudbury and Winnipeg?

Mr. SAUVE:

1 and 2. The following tenders were received in May, 1930, for an air mail service between Pembroke, Sudbury and Winnipeg: Dominion Air Transport, Ltd., Toronto, $1.05 per mile; Western Canada Airways, Ltd., Winnipeg, $1.08 per mile.

3. 877 miles.

DISMISSAL OF POSTMASTERS

Mr. VENIOT:

1. How many postmasters were dismissed between September 1, 1930, and March 1, 1931?

2. What were the reasons assigned for each dismissal, giving the name of each postmaster dismissed and the location of the post office?
3. How many dismissals were made after investigations were held on charges of political partisanship?
4. What are the names of the postmasters dismissed after investigation on the charge of political activity?
5. What postmasters were dismissed on the recommendation of the sitting member of constituency on the charge of political activity?

Mr. SAUVE: In view of the fact that it will take some time to prepare the answer for this question it is recommended that it stand as an order for return.

POSTMASTERS—POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. VENIOT:

1. Were questionnaires sent to postmasters touching political activities?
2. If so, what questions were asked in such questionnaires?

Mr. SAUVE:

1 and 2. When charges of political partisanship against postmasters are received, the persons charged are communicated with by the department and are given an opportunity of denying the charges by making a solemn declaration on a prescribed form.

AIR MAIL SERVICE—TORONTO-WINNIPEG

Mr. VENIOT:

1. Has an air mail service been established between Toronto and Winnipeg?
2. What route does this service follow?
3. Were tenders called for this service, what are the names of those who tendered, what was the amount of each tender and who obtained the contract?
4. Is such route wholly on or over Canadian territory? If not, how many miles are on or over Canadian territory, and how many miles are on or over territory of the United States?
5. What is the total mileage flown by this new route?
6. Under what agreement are mails originating in Canada and destined to points in Canada carried by air through United States territory, as to: (a) safety of same; (b) insurance for delivery at destination in Canada?
7. Are such Canadian mails in charge of Canadian officials while traversing United States territory?
8. In case of an accident to the air plane carrying such mails, which would prevent continuation of flight, what arrangements exist for the transportation of such mails to their destination in Canada?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. No.
2 to 8. See answer to No. 1.

FEDERAL EXPENDITURES

Mr. RALSTON:

Was federal money paid to the following projects, and, if so, how much in each case: (a) project for an expenditure towards sewers in the town of Pictou; (b) project for expenditure towards road-building or maintenance in the town of Westville, Pictou county; (c) project for expenditure towards building a bridge in the town of New Glasgow; (d) highway maintenance or construction in the vicinity of Woods Harbour, Shelburne county; (e) project for expenditure in connection with the Alma-Sylvester bridge, Pictou county; (f) diversion of road, Marshy Hope, Pictou county?

Mr. SPEAKER: In connection with this question I should like to observe that when it was called yesterday it was allowed to stand. Notwithstanding that, it appears in Hansard to-day as having been answered, no doubt due to the fact that the answer was sent to Hansard without having been passed in the house. That is not correct procedure; questions should be answered formally in the house.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT

Mr. MacLEAN:

1. Has an organization been formed to assist agriculture in Canada with an amount of money available for assistance to farms?
2. If so, what amount of money is available for this fund?
3. By whom is the money advanced for this fund?
4. Is this assistance available to all sections and provinces in Canada?
5. If not, why?
6. What amount is to be given to each applicant?
7. How is the fund to be handled and what constitutes a legitimate applicant?
8. Is the fund in operation at the present time?

Mr. BENNETT: This is a question which can be answered only from hearsay. It is entirely too vague to be answered clearly. There are many such organizations in Canada. The hon. minister would have to have something definite to work upon.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 9 stands.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—PURCHASES FROM THE UNITED STATES

Mr. LAVERGNE:

1. Is the government aware that the Canadian National Railways manufacture their cars, bolts, hinges, radios, keys, and many other articles, used in their railway system, in the United States?
2. Is the government aware that many of the said articles show the commercial mark "Made in U.S.A.?"
3. Is it the intention of the government to remedy this state of affairs by having the Canadian National Railways manufacture said articles in Canada?

Mr. MANION:

The Canadian National Railways do not manufacture in the United States cars, bolts, hinges, radios, keys, or other articles used in

their railway system. Its equipment requirements for United States lines are purchased from car and locomotive builders in the United States. Radio and receiving sets purchased by the railways are manufactured in Canada, at Toronto and Montreal.

The policy of the government and its instructions are that the requirements of the railway shall be filled from Canadian sources, and the Canadian National management states that it is the practice of the railway to purchase in Canada all equipment, materials and articles which can be manufactured in this country. All contracts for locomotives, car equipment, buildings, etc., provide that Canadian materials must be used in their manufacture and construction, and the railway management state that considerably over ninety per cent of its total purchases are from Canadian manufacturers and wholesalers.

FAILURES IN CANADA

Mr. GIROUARD:

1. How many failures were there in Canada in each of the following months: September, October, November and December, 1930?
2. What were the total liabilities of the said failures for said months?

Mr. STEVENS:

1.	January	261
	February	205
	March	201
	April	194
	May	166
	June	178
	July	169
	August	159
	September	192
	October	216
	November	222
	December	239
2.	January	$8,661,000
	February	4,210,506
	March	4,310,085
	April	5,025,102
	May	2,600,755
	June	2,405,794
	July	2,540,478
	August	5,518,164
	September	2,081,447
	October	4,017,101
	November	3,295,951
	December	4,202,599

GLASS IMPORTS

Mr. REID:

1. How many firms are there throughout Canada who import glass?
2. What are their names?
3. Does one "Hobbs" control or own any patents on glass making machines?
4. How many factories manufacturing glass were in operation up to September, 1930?
5. How many factories manufacturing glass are in operation at the present time?

Mr. BENNETT: I believe No. 17 was passed as an order for return. It will have to be, anyway.

ST. FLAVIEN, QUE.—MAIL CONTRACT

Mr. VERVILLE:

1. Is the Postmaster General aware that tenders have been asked for renewal of the contract for carrying the mail on rural route No. 1, of St. Flavien, in the county of Lotbiniere?
2. If so, who recommended to the department the calling of tenders?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. Wilfrid Laliberte.

MAIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTS

Mr. VERVILLE:

1. Are the contracts for the transportation of mail always granted to the lowest tenderer?
2. Are there any cases where tenderers recommended by friends of the government, have the advantage of seeing the tenders and altering their own so as to obtain the contract, in preference to political opponents?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes, if found competent and sureties offered sufficient.
2. No.

LOTBINIERE COUNTY—POSTMASTERS, DISMISSALS

Mr. VERVILLE:

1. Is the Postmaster General aware that in the county of Lotbiniere postmasters have been threatented with dismissal?
2. Were inquiries held in each case?
3. What was the result of said inquiries?
4. By whom, in each case, was the request of dismissal made?
5. What is the name of the investigating commissioner who proceeded in each case?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Charges of political partisanship have been received in the case of six postmasters in the county of Lotbiniere and each postmaster has been advised of the charge and given an opportunity of denying such charge. Each postmaster has also been informed of the terms of the Civil Service Act providing for the dismissal of government employees who have engaged in partisan work.

2. Inquiries have been held in three cases. In the other three inquiries are pending.

3. The charges have been found proven.

4. Wilfrid Laliberte, K.C., Victoriaville, P.Q.

5. Alfred Powell, N.P., St. Ferdinand, P.Q.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT—MR. MCWORTH

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River):

1. Did the Post Office Department employ Mr. McWorth, underwriters' operative, for six months in the city of Montreal?
2. If so, what salary did Mr. McWorth receive per month?
3. What was the occasion for his employment?
4. To whom was he directly responsible?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Mr. McWorth was employed by the Post Office Department for seven months, from the 17th January, 1927.
2. $350 per month.
3. General situation of postal service in Montreal as regards the protection of the mails.
4. To the general superintendent of postal service.

INTERPROVINCIAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River):

1. What is the value of all material purchased by the Post Office Department from the Interprovincial Equipment Company, each year from 1914 to date, inclusive?
2. What is the amount of travelling expenses to Robert Hill, mechanical equipment employee of the Post Office Department for each of the years, 1928, 1929 and 1930?
3. What is the amount paid by the Post Office Department for padlocks for tie sacks in each year from 1914 to date, inclusive?
4. From whom were they purchased?
5. Have they proved to be efficient and satisfactory?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Prior to 1924-25—Nil.

1924-25	$ 12,428 64
1925-26	115,876 09
1926-27	92,246 70
1927-28	102,374 26
1928-29	83,823 84
1929-30	115,213 89
1930-31 to date	55,430 01

2.

Calendar year 1928	$ 767 32
Calendar year 1929	565 80
Calendar year 1930	903 78

3. Prior to 1924-25—Nil.

1924-25	$ 12,428 64
1925-26	52,113 27
1926-27	87,539 76
1927-28	86,023 07
1928-29	68,263 25
1929-30	84,150 00
1930-31 (to date)	53,439 10

4. Interprovincial Equipment Co., Ottawa.
5. Yes.

ROBERT COTE

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Was Mr. Robert Cote, advocate of Quebec, appointed commissioner to investigate charges of political partisanship against postmasters?

[Mr. Sauvé.]

2. If so, what is his remuneration?
3. When and where in the county of Bellechasse has Mr. Cote held inquiries?
4. Was the said Robert Cote a conservative candidate in the county of Bellechasse in the provincial election of May, 1927?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. Twenty dollars for each full day's attendance or occupation in connection with the work of the Commission, plus reasonable moving and living expenses where he has to travel for the purpose of executing the commission.
3. 22nd January, 1931, La Durantaye; 2nd February, 1931, Faucher; 9th February, 1931, St. Damien de Buckland; 11th February, 1931, St. Nérée Station; 27th February, 1931, St. Philemon.
4. No official information in the Post Office Department.

ST. RAPHAEL DE BELLECHASSE, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Was Adelard Dallaire dismissed as postmaster at St. Raphael de Bellechasse for so-called political partisanship?
2. Was he replaced by F. Antoine Labrecque?
3. Was said Labrecque appointed by the Civil Service Commission after making application and passing examination, etc.?
4. Were there other candidates for the position, and who were they?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. The postmaster at St. Raphael de Bellechasse was dismissed for active political partisanship.
2. F. Antoine Labrecque was placed in temporary charge pending an appointement by the Civil Service Commission.
3. No. Vacancy will be advertised in the near future and the commission will be requested to make a permanent appointment.
4. Full list of candidates not received but the following have made application, Messrs Abraham Godbout, Geo. Tanguay, Honoré Roy.

HONFLEUR, QUE., RURAL MAIL SERVICE

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Has the establishment of a rural mail service from the post office of Honfleur, in the county of Bellechasse, been decided?
2. If so, what was the date of said decision?
3. Were tenders called for said service?
4. At what date were the tenders opened?
5. Who was the lowest tenderer?
6. Was a contract given to the lowest tenderer?
7. If not, why?
8. Is this rural mail service now in operation?
9. If not, why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1 and 2. No.
3. Yes.
4. August 1, 1930.
5. Philippe Marceau.
6. No.
7, 8 and 9. The department has not fully decided to establish the route.

POSTMASTERS—POLITICAL ACTIVITIES—CIRCULAR LETTER

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Is the government aware that two days previous to October 20, 1930, the date of the provincial by-election which was held in the county of Bellechasse, all the postmasters of that county received from the Postmaster General a letter charging them with political partisanship at the federal and provincial elections, without giving the name of the party making the charge, nor any detail with regard to the charge, and asking them to prove their innocence under pain of being summarily dismissed without any further proceedings?
2. Did the official of the department who forwarded these letters act under instructions of the Postmaster General?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. No.
2. See answer to No. 1.

PHIPPEN, SASK., POSTMASTER

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon):

1. Who recommended the appointment of W. L. Olson as postmaster at Phippen?
2. When did his duties as postmaster commence?
3. What condition was found to exist in the operation of said post office (the inspector's report to be included in the answer)?
4. Is he being relieved of his duties?
5. If so, for what reason?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Appointed by the Civil Service Commission.
2. September 20, 1920.
3. The post office was inspected on December 3 last, when a considerable shortage was found in the postmaster's accounts. There were also indications of other serious financial irregularities (the inspector's report is being given to Mr. MacMillan).
4. Yes.
5. Shortage and other financial irregularities.

HURON VILLAGE, QUE., POST OFFICE

Mr. DESROCHERS:

1. Has a new post office been established at Huron Village, Lorette, Quebec?
2. If so, who was appointed to the position of postmaster, and at whose recommendation?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.
2. Ovide Sioui. Recommended by Mr. C. N. Dorion, M.P.

H. J. BOULAY—PUBLIC PROMISES

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Is it the intention of the government to implement the following public promises made by its candidate in the county of Rimouski, Mr. H. G. Boulay, if his leader came to power, namely: (a) to reduce the salary of Sir Henry Thornton to $15,000 per annum, (b) to reduce the salaries of all vice-presidents and other high officials of the Canadian National Railways, including general managers of divisions, by 50 per cent, (c) to provide on all dining and buffet cars, pullman parlour cars, first and second class cars, being operated between Ottawa and Montreal, Montreal and Halifax, only employees who speak fluently French and English?
2. Has any request been received by the Minister of Railways and Canals, or by Sir Henry Thornton, or any other high officials of the Canadian National Railways, from Mr. H. G. Boulay, asking that a large portion, if not all, of the sub-staff and railway employees employed on trains operating between Ottawa and Montreal, Montreal and Halifax, be compelled to speak both French and English?
3. If so, what action does the honourable minister or the executive of the Canadian National Railways intend to take?
4. Has the Board of Railway Commissioners any jurisdiction in the choice of the sub-staff and railway employees of the Canadian National Railways?
5. Has the board the power to compel the railway to employ only employees speaking both languages?

Mr. BENNETT: I think, Mr. Speaker, this question is not a correct one.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It would be improper to make promises.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so; I think the question should be dropped out.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I would suggest it be allowed to stand.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question dropped.

MR. W. W. CORY

Mr. CHEVRIER:

1. Is it the fact that Mr. W. W. Cory, C.M.G., Deputy Minister of the Department of the Interior for over 25 years, was retired from such position by the government on January 31, 1931?
2. If so, is it the fact that he was given but two months' salary upon such retirement and was then placed on superannuation?
3. What was Mr. Cory's age on the date of such retirement?
4. What was the reason for his retirement?
5. What notice, if any, did he get of the government's intention to retire him?
6. Does the government intend to recognize the long and faithful service of over 31 years

in the federal government's employ, and accord to him the same treatment as was given to the late Sir Joseph Pope, Under Secretary of State, when he was retired under superannuation from the government service?

Mr. MURPHY:

1 to 5. Order-in-Council P.C. 19/161 dated 22nd January 1931, containing information asked for has been tabled.

Question 1 to 5 are answered but I submit that No 6 is not a proper question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Answered except as to No. 6.

FOREIGN-BORN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Mr. LAFLECHE:

1. How many foreign born are in the employ of the federal government in Canada?
2. What are their names, occupations and salary?

Mr. CAHAN: This question should stand as an order for return in any case because it means a very lengthy inquiry and a long return. I would ask the hon. member what is the meaning of "foreign born." Does foreign born mean born outside of Canada, or does it mean born outside the British empire? Unless the hon. gentleman amends his question and states exactly what he means, it will be impossible to obtain a return of this nature.

Mr. SPEAKER: Passed as an order for return.

Mr. CAHAN: Will the hon. member amend his inquiry?

Mr. POWER: Look the other way.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The question is put by a member on the other side.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I imagine the hon. member means by the term "foreign born" people born outside of Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: Then it is perfectly obvious that the question cannot be answered; the evidence is not forthcoming.

LOUIS FRANCOEUR

Mr. YOUNG:

1. When was Louis Francoeur, described in the summary of proceedings, Imperial conference, part 1, page 13, as assistant private secretary to the Solicitor General, appointed to that position, and at what salary?
2. Did he act as such prior to the Imperial conference?
3. Did he act as such since the end of the conference?
4. Is he still employed on the staff of the solicitor general?
5. Was he appointed merely to attend the Imperial conference with the solicitor general?
6. What amount did he receive for salary and travelling expenses?
7. Is he the same Louis Francoeur who is editor of a weekly newspaper in the city of Quebec called Le Journal?

[Mr. Chevrier.]

Mr. DUPRE:

1. Mr. Francoeur undertook the duties of assistant private secretary to the Solicitor General in September, 1930. He served without salary.
2. Answered by No. 1.
3. His duties ended upon the return of the Imperial conference delegation to Canada.
4. No.
5. Yes.
6. He was paid no salary. His travelling expenses were included with those of the Solicitor-General.
7. Yes.

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT—DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURE

Mr. VENIOT:

In the matter of temporary appointments to the civil service pending a permanent appointment under the certificate of the Civil Service Commission, what is the mode of procedure adopted by the various departments of government?

Mr. CAHAN: A uniform practice is authorized throughout the various departments of the government, as follows: when a vacancy occurs the department sends a requisition to the commission to fill the same. If there is an eligible list established in the commission for this class of vacancy, an assignment is made forthwith. If there is no list of eligibles, the commission advertises a competition for the purpose of establishing an eligible list, and in the meantime the department is granted local selection for temporary employment pending the filling of the position permanently as a result of the competition. A temporary certificate is then issued by the commission covering the temporary appointment until the permanent assignment is made.

In the past there has been abuse by the departments in connection with these acting appointments. The Civil Service Commissioners have reported on it in their annual reports from time to time and in the report for the calendar year 1928, at page 8, reported as follows:

"Acting appointments:

"In their last report the commissioners drew attention to the practice, which has frequently been found to exist, of placing officers in vacant positions in an acting capacity for considerable periods of time before asking the commission to take steps to fill the vacancies either by promotion or by open competition. When the competition is finally held, the

temporary incumbent of the position has obviously an unfair advantage over the other competitors. The commission accordingly requests that requisitions for appointments or promotions be filed at as early a date as possible, so that when the position in question becomes vacant there will be no necessity for an acting appointment, but the new appointee will be ready to take over the duties."

In their annual report for 1929, the commissioners reported as follows on page 10:

"Certificates necessary for acting appointments:

"In previous reports, the commissioners have had occasion to call attention to the delay on the part of departments in installing in office persons who have been certified for appointment, and the practice of retaining in their places persons for whose employment no legal authority exists. This difficulty has now been overcome, to a great extent, in one department at least, a ruling having been received from the law officers of the crown to the effect that a temporary certificate from the commission was required in the case of all persons placed in charge of revenue post offices, pending a permanent appointment. Under present procedure, the department, as in the past, installs a temporary incumbent in office as soon as a postmastership becomes vacant; but application is made immediately to the Civil Service Commission for a certificate of temporary employment for the person placed in charge, and the position is immediately advertised. The result is a greatly reduced delay in the making of the permanent appointment, and the installation of the properly certified candidate as soon as may be after the issue of the permanent certificate."

In order to expedite matters in connection with the filling of such vacancies as postmasterships, lightkeeperships and so forth, an arrangement has been arrived at between some of the departments and the commission, which permits the department to advertise the vacancy as soon as it occurs and to immediately advise the commission regarding its action, furnishing a copy of the poster. This practice is not always adhered to promptly.

When the establishment of a permanent position is pending, or when the outgoing incumbent of a position is given retiring leave, the commission is advised by the department and thereupon assigns temporarily the candidate, whose name being next on the eligible list, will automatically be permanently appointed when the permanent position is established, or when the position officially becomes vacant through the expiration of the retiring leave of the late incumbent.

When the commission makes an assignment to a department, provision is made under Section 24 of the Civil Service Act for a probationary period during which time the deputy head of the department may ask for an extension of the period of probation or reject the assignee entirely. In the event of final rejection the candidate next on the list is assigned. In the absence of available eligibles a new competition is required.

Mr. CAHAN: Mr. Speaker, I furnish the answer as supplied by the Civil Service Commission in the exact terms in which it is drawn by that commission, but it is an answer for which I do not take personal responsibility.

Mr. VENIOT: That is not a question to be answered by the Civil Service Commission. I want to know what is the practice in each department.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understood question 45 was answered.

Mr. VENIOT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, but the hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) says he gives the answer as supplied by the Civil Service Commission, and is not responsible for it. I am not asking for an answer from the Civil Service Commission. I want to know what is the practice of each department in filling temporary positions.

Mr. CAHAN: If the hon. gentleman finds the answer not sufficient for his purpose, he can put the question again.

Mr. VENIOT: I do not wish to take up the time of the house but I think we ought to know—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) has not yet had an opportunity of examining the answer; when he does so he may find it is complete; if not, the hon. Secretary of State says he can repeat the question.

Mr. VENIOT: I want an answer from the department that it should come from, not from the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member gets the information he desires it does not matter where it comes from.

Mr. VENIOT: No, Mr. Speaker, it is the principle involved.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is a larger question involved I think, Mr. Speaker, if I may interrupt for a moment. There has

to be responsibility on the part of the government for every answer given. A minister of the crown can not relieve himself of responsibility by saying that the answer he is making is that of a commission. He may not be satisfied with the answer, but he has to take responsibility for it.

Mr. CAHAN: Mr. Speaker, I take responsibility for giving the answer in the house; but certainly I am not responsible for all the acts and measures of the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hope not.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would remind hon. members that if they wish to discuss the government's action in answering questions they can do so on orders of the day or at some other appropriate time, but certainly the answering of questions ought not to be interrupted in this way.

Mr. VENIOT: I am not going to discuss the action of the government at all, Mr. Speaker. I rise to explain why the question should be answered by the minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member would be out of order.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSION—RAILWAY BARGE

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver):

1. Did the Vancouver board of harbour commissioners recently purchase a railway barge?
2. If so, was this barge purchased in the United States?
3. Who arranged such purchase?
4. What are the dimensions of this barge?
5. When was this barge originally constructed?
6. What was the purchase price?
7. What was the cost of towing this barge to Vancouver?
8. What was the cost of insurance on the said barge?
9. From whom was the barge acquired?
10. Was the barge acquired from an American corporation or through an agency?
11. In whose name was the barge cleared through the American customs?
12. To whom was the insurance on the barge paid?

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, No. 46 raised a question of some importance, with respect to which the late administration took what many thought to be the correct view. The Vancouver Board of Harbour Commissioners is an independent body over which the government of the day exercises no jurisdiction, except as to the auditing of its accounts. It will be recalled that the minister then in charge of measures dealing with harbour boards indicated that the committee on public accounts might investigate the accounts of all harbour commissions if it was thought desirable. This question involves asking for information from another source and then, as the right hon. leader of the opposition has said, passing it on to this house on the responsibility of the government. The view taken by the late administration, with respect at least to one of the harbour commissions, was that they could not be expected to make answers to questions when they had no knowledge or means of knowledge that were not open to others as well to make that answer. If the question stands in its present form the government would accordingly answer: The government is without information. That is all it could say. As I have already said, this was the view taken by my predecessors in office with respect to a similar principle relating to the Quebec harbour commission, if my memory serves me. Yesterday I mentioned it only casually.

Mr. CARDIN: If I may make an observation on what the right hon. Prime Minister has said, Mr. Speaker? I remember that several questions dealing with harbour commissions were put by hon. members when the late government was in power; we would communicate with the harbour commission concerned; and on receipt of the information we would table it as an answer to the question.

Mr. BENNETT: With the permission of the house, Mr. Speaker. My hon. friend the former Minister of Marine (Mr. Cardin) will remember that an effort was made on one occasion—I cannot fix the date—to secure certain information with respect to the Quebec harbour commission. The minister met it—I thought very fairly—by saying that with respect to the harbour commissions of Montreal, Quebec, Vancouver, and I think, Three Rivers, the accounts published by them would be audited, that the Auditor General would certify them, and that the public accounts committee, if it so desired, might deal with those accounts. I can turn up my friend's words in Hansard. That gave us a power of investigation and control that we had not previously exercised. But with reference to this question, the minister, as I have said, can write a letter to the harbour commission of Vancouver for the information, but that commission is not bound to answer. The answer I would give at the present moment would be: The government is without information. That is all I could say with respect to it.

Mr. DUFF: They can give the information voluntarily.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Why not let the matter stand until a reply comes?

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

Mr. SPEAKER: Answered.

Mr. LAPOINTE: No, it stands.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understood the Prime Minister answered the question.

Mr. BENNETT: I said that that was the only answer that could be given at the moment. I am quite content that the matter should stand for further investigation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Forty-six stands.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSION—HASTINGS MILL SITE

Mr. REID:

1. Did the Vancouver harbour commissioners enter into an agreement with any engineer, or engineers, in regard to the cost of a new pier on part of the property known as the Hastings mill site?
2. If so, what were the names of the engineers consulted?
3. Was any agreement entered into as to the payment by percentage of estimated cost?
4. What was the total estimate of cost of the principal designs submitted by the said engineers concerned?
5. Have any amounts of money been paid these engineers on this account to March 31, 1931?
6. Have any efforts been made by the Vancouver harbour commissioners to terminate such agreement?
7. Have any attempts been made by the Vancouver harbour commissioners to settle the matter out of court?
8. What is the basis and amount of proposed settlement?
9. Are any of the engineers concerned paid for any other service by the Vancouver harbour commission?
10. If so, what are their names, service rendered, and amounts paid to each up to March 31, 1931?

Mr. BENNETT: This is in the same category as No. 46, only it is a question that, in part, was discussed in the house at a previous session when the estimates of the harbour commission of Vancouver as settled by statute, were under consideration. A partial answer could be given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Stands.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE—PURCHASE OF TRUCKS

Mr. LUCAS:

1. How many trucks have been purchased for mechanization of batteries by the Department of National Defence?
2. How much did each cost?
3. Where were these trucks purchased?
4. How much has been spent on these trucks as repairs, during the one year of service?

Mr. SUTHERLAND:

1. 14 Leyland six-wheeled chassis; 14 bodies therefor; 9 Crossley war department type six-wheeled chassis with technical bodies.

2. 4 Leyland chassis, at $7,926 each; 10 Leyland chassis, at $7,368 each; 1 body, at $1,517.60 each; 3 bodies, at $650 each; 10 bodies, at $612 each; 9 Crossley war department type six-wheelers, at $4,797.27 each; f.o.b. Ottawa.

3. The Leyland chassis were purchased from Messrs. Leyland Motors, Limited, Toronto. One body was purchased from Messrs. Ottawa Car Mfg. Company, Ltd., Ottawa; three bodies were purchased from The Robert Elder Carriage Works Limited, Toronto; ten bodies were purchased from Messrs. Coady Bros., Toronto; the Crossley six-wheelers were purchased through the High Commissioner for Canada from Messrs. Crossley Motors Limited, Gorton, Manchester, England.

4. $2,829.99 during the financial year terminating March 31, 1931, or an average of $123.04 per vehicle.

CHARLES-EUGENE LEVESQUE

Mr. GAGNON:

1. Was Charles-Eugene Levesque, returned soldier, of St. Pacome, in the county of Kamouraska, Quebec, appointed by the Civil Service Commission as postmaster of St. Pacome in 1929?
2. Did the Post Office Department approve the nomination so made by the Civil Service Commission?
3. If not, for what reason?
4. Was an inspector's report favourable to Mr. Levesque made to the Post Office Department?
5. Was the inspector's recommendation in favour of Mr. Levesque not accepted by the Post Office Department, and for what reason?
6. Was the complaint made by some one against Levesque, and if so, by whom?
7. Was an inquiry held following Mr. Levesque's request to the Post Office Department to give way to the recommendation of the Civil Service Commission, and if not, why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes, on December 12, 1928.

2. No.

3. Rejected by Postmaster General as unsuitable.

4. Mr. Levesque was given a favourable rating in the inspector's report.

5. See answer to No. 3.

6. No record of any complaint.

7. No. Mr. Levesque's re-appointment could only be considered in the event of a vacancy.

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

GLASS IMPORTS

Mr. REID:

1. How many firms are there throughout Canada who import glass?
2. What are their names?
3. Does one "Hobbs" control or own any patents on glass making machines?
4. How many factories manufacturing glass were in operation up to September, 1930?
5. How many factories manufacturing glass are in operation at the present time?

REPUBLIC OF SPAIN

RECOGNITION OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT BY HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENTS IN UNITED KINGDOM AND DOMINIONS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Before the orders of the day are called perhaps it is expected that I should communicate to the house in a formal way the recognition by His Majesty's government in Canada of the provisional government in Spain. Hon. members will be aware that in the first step towards the return of constitutional government, municipal elections were held throughout Spain on April 12, being the first election since the establishment of the dictatorship in 1922. They resulted in an overwhelming victory for the Republicans in all the larger centres. A republic was proclaimed at Madrid with Senor Alcala Zamora as provisional president, and at other provincial centres. No resistance was offered by the supporters of the monarchy. The King of Spain left the country without formal abdication. The new government appears to have established its authority without disturbance. Following consultation between His Majesty's governments, recognition of the provisional government of the republic of Spain was accorded in notes delivered by His Majesty's ambassador at Madrid on April 22, on behalf of His Majesty's governments in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Irish Free State. Recognition has also been accorded by some seventeen other countries, including France and the United States.

PEACE RIVER OUTLET

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): May I ask the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) if he will now implement the promise he gave me during the special session in regard to announcing the government's policy in relation to the construction of the Peace River outlet?

[Mr. Sauve.]

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): While that matter very properly belongs to the Department of Railways and Canals, I am not unaware, Mr. Speaker, of the discussions which have taken place in this house since this session began. The report upon which action in any event must be predicated is not yet available to the government to enable us to determine what action should be taken or what direction it should take.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH CUBA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. WILLIAM DUFF: (Antigonish-Guysborough): I am very pleased indeed to see the hon. member for Kings, P.E.I. (Mr. Macdonald) back in his seat after his trip to Cuba where he was sent by this government to consult with the authorities of that island in regard to the duties on fish and potatoes. I quite understand, of course, that the Prime Minister may not be in a position to-day to give either the house or the country any information with regard to the negotiations between his government and the Cuban government, but in view of the fact that a large number of people in the maritime provinces are very much interested in this important question of the excessive duties on fish and potatoes, I should like to ask the Prime Minister if, at the earliest possible opportunity, he will give the country any information he is able to give with regard to that matter.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The very reasonable suggestion of the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff) will be acted upon. The hon. member for Kings, P.E.I. (Mr. Macdonald) has in the course of preparation a report which will embody all the information which in the public interest, having regard to existing conditions to which the hon. gentleman referred, may be reasonably given to the house, and this report will be laid upon the table at an early date or made verbally in this chamber.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

REMOVAL OF TERMINUS OF GASPE LINE FROM MATAPEDIA TO CAMPBELLTON

On the orders of the day:

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): I should like to ask the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) if it is true that the Canadian National Railways contemplate changing the terminus of the Gaspe railway from Matapedia, Quebec, to Campbellton, New Brunswick.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): I think it is the intention of the Canadian National Railways to make that change. That is among the changes which they have notified us they intend to carry out in order to cut down the expenses of the railway. I may save time by adding that I have received very many protests in regard to this action, which I have passed on to the railway. So far as I know, however, that is their intention.

Mr. J. F. POULIOT (Témiscouata): May I ask the minister, in connection with the same matter, if the railway men of Riviere-du-Loup will be affected thereby?

Mr. MANION: I am sorry but I have not any information on that point.

Mr. MARCIL: Could the minister tell me when that change will take place? Has the date been fixed?

Mr. MANION: I understand, speaking from memory, that it will take place on the 26th of this month, which is three days from now, but I am not positive as to that. I understand most of the changes are coming into effect on that date, but I should say that to-day I received a telegram from some people there asking that a stay of ten days be granted them, which request I passed on to the president of the company. The proposition was that the town of Matapedia would like to appear before the railway company and argue the question, and they stated that if it were proved to their satisfaction that this change was necessary, they would agree to it. For that reason the change may be delayed.

MONTREAL HARBOUR

CONSTRUCTION OF WHARF AT WINDMILL POINT —FINANCIAL SITUATION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Richelieu): May I ask the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the government to authorize the Montreal harbour commission to proceed with the construction of the wharf it proposed to build at Windmill Point in the harbour of Montreal? In order to help the Prime Minister to recall the case, the construction of this wharf was part of a program which was made public several months ago, and which included the construction of a wharf in the upper Montreal harbour as well as a wharf at this point in the lower harbour. Since the first part of that undertaking has been carried on and a contract let to the Canadian Foundation Company for the construction of the wharf in the upper part of the harbour, I should like to know from the Prime Minister if he will permit the Montreal harbour commission to go on with the second part of their program, which includes the construction of this wharf at Windmill Point.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I do not understand what the hon. gentleman means by asking if the Prime Minister will permit something to be done.

Mr. CARDIN: I can explain if the right hon. gentleman wishes.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman may be very glib at explaining hearsay, but it might be well to confine ourselves to the facts in this case. The Montreal harbour commission is a body corporate which from time to time receives authority to borrow money, which money is secured for it by the federal government, involving the credit of Canada. At the moment, because of a bridge which was recently constructed, and for which the Montreal harbour commission pledged its credit, a situation has arisen which is reflected in the estimates for this year. I suppose the hon. gentleman realizes that the result has been to create a financial condition with respect to the harbour commission which never has arisen before, and it involves a reconsideration of the whole problem of that port, for if the Dominion of Canada is to be called upon to raise sums of money to pay deficits resultant from the building of the bridge, it changes the whole aspect of the relation of this parliament to that harbour.

I need hardly say that the matter is engaging the very serious consideration of this government, as would be the case with any government called upon to face a condition which it did not create, involving the provision of nearly $1,000,000 per annum to care for a deficit over which it has no control. Until that matter has been finally determined and some conclusion arrived at that will enable this government to deal with that staggering situation, I am not in a position to answer the hon. gentleman's question, further than to say that the Prime Minister does not permit; the Prime Minister, in his position as Minister of Finance, is very greatly perturbed about a situation which he inherited and with which he must deal, and about which the hon. gentleman should be the last man in this house to ask a question.

Mr. CARDIN: In view of the observations which have been made by the right hon. Prime Minister I think I am entitled to say just a word. All the reasons which have

been advanced by the right hon. Prime Minister existed when the contract was given for the work in the upper part of the harbour of Montreal. If the reasons were good for delaying the work in the lower part, they were good for delaying it in the other section of the harbour of Montreal.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sorry to question my hon. friend's statement, but I can assure him that the government was not as fully aware of the situation that exists, until within the last few weeks when it received the reports it did from the auditors with respect to that condition. I may add, now that my hon. friend has raised the question, that the city of Montreal claims, with respect to the approaches to that bridge, that there are arrears of taxes amounting to $283,000, and they say that they propose to offset those taxes against the payment which they were to make upon the interest on the securities of the bridge. I may also add, what the hon. gentleman already knows, that even the titles to the properties have not yet been vested either in the harbour commissioners, the bridge or the crown; and that knowledge has only been brought to the attention of this administration in consequence of the audit which is now being carried on and is not yet completed.

Mr. CARDIN: That could not be the reason why the work was stopped in the lower end of the harbour, because it was stopped three months ago.

Mr. BENNETT: That was stopped at the time when it was concluded to be desirable to have a report from an eminent engineer on all harbours in this country. And I do recall that the hon. gentleman himself at one time considered this highly desirable. In view of that opinion, which certainly at that moment was my own, now that the government is in a position to do so it has employed the services of one of the most outstanding firms of engineers in London, some of whose staff are now on the ground. A very earnest effort will be made to try to secure the best possible layout in the various harbours to carry on the trade and commerce of Canada. The work that was stopped in the winter was stopped because of the necessity for ascertaining the facts before it should be resumed. But since then the further information which has come to hand as a result of the work of the auditors has introduced a much more serious question into the whole matter and one with which we must be able to deal; because a million a year is a very large sum of money in the budget of any harbour commission.

[Mr. Cardin.]

Mr. CARDIN: The last reason is much better than the previous one.

Mr. BENNETT: I am glad that either of them is good.

SALMON FISHERIES REGULATIONS

COMPLAINTS RESPECTING EFFECTS OF PROPOSED CHANGE

On the orders of the day:

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): In the absence of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rhodes), I would ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) whether it is possible for him—in view of the position of the Minister of Fisheries—to make known as soon as possible the attitude his government intends taking regarding the contemplated changes in the regulations concerning salmon fiisheries in the Baie des Chaleurs, as I have received a large number of protests from both sides of the bay respecting such change being made at the present time, which would be very detrimental to the men fishing in that section of the country.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I regret that the illness of the minister makes it impossible for him to be in his place to-day, but he did mention to me that, owing to the early season, he had under consideration the whole question of licences in connection with salmon fishing in that section of the waters of this country to which the hon. gentleman refers, and I am quite satisfied that as soon as the minister's condition will permit him to be out he will make known the changes, if any, that are contemplated and will lay the regulations on the table of the house.

CUSTOMS TARIFF CHANGES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): At the special session of parliament the Prime Minister promised that at this session an apportunity would be given to consider and discuss in detail the changes that were then made in the tariff. Could my right hon. friend indicate to the house at what time that opportunity will be given? I am asking the question now because I think it is advisable that the opportunity should not be delayed until too late in the session.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The opportunity to which the right hon. gentleman refers will be afforded when the budget is brought down.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. DENIS (Translation): Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day are called may I ask the Hon. Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) whether the statement published by "L'Illustration" of Montreal, on the 21st is correct; whether it is the intention of the government to increase the number of the Civil Service Commissioners to five and whether the dismissal of Messrs. Tremblay and MacTavish has been discussed. I have no objection to the Secretary of State giving his answer in English.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): I would ask the hon. gentleman to put his question on the order paper, when I shall provide the answer.

SURVEYS OF NATIONAL PORTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): In the regretted absence from the house of the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) may I ask the Prime Minister a question. The question is as follows: In the preliminary survey of the national ports situation, just what ports are to be affected by or included in that survey?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The five ports are, Halifax, Saint John, Montreal, Quebec and Vancouver.

Mr. DUFF: Not including Churchill?

Mr. BENNETT: Well, not at the moment, because that harbour—

Mr. DUFF: Is in cold storage.

Mr. BENNETT: —is being built on plans recently prepared by an engineer.

Mr. McINTOSH: That was the point I was leading up to. I understand, then, that the survey will not at present include Churchill, western Canada's ocean port.

Mr. BENNETT: I am sorry that the hon. gentleman should have made that observation in the sense in which he means it. Churchill was not included in the ports of which the engineers were asked to make a survey at this time, because the work is being carried on under the plans prepared by a firm of engineers doing business in London, England, as is the consulting firm at the moment, and they have not been asked to pass upon the plans of their confreres.

DOMINION CENSUS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ROBERT McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens). Are returned men, who are unemployed and are fully capable, given the preference in the selection of enumerators for census work? There is a second question along the same line, that I wish to ask the minister. It is based on a letter I have received, stating that a returned soldier in my district, who has a wife and four children to support, and who has earned approximately one dollar a week since last September, having made application for a position as enumerator, was told that he was on the wrong side of the fence to obtain such work. The question is: If I supply this gentleman's name will the minister see that his application receives fair consideration?

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): In the first place, the question should be put on the order paper, so that I can consult the officers of the department having the matter in hand. Further than that, I may say that in all appointments, so far as we are aware, every consideration is given the returned man. But it does not follow that in every instance the returned man will be appointed. If the hon. member will place his question on the order paper I will make inquiries and give a suitable answer.

Mr. POWER: May I put a question on the same subject? Are returned men being given the preference for positions as census enumerators or are they not? I am asking now about enumerators.

Mr. STEVENS: If my hon. friend will possess his soul in patience his question will be answered together with the question asked by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. McKenzie).

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): This is an urgent matter.

Mr. STEVENS: These appointments are not going to be made for some little time yet, so that my hon. friend need not worry in that respect.

Mr. BROWN: Perhaps when the minister is giving that information he might tell us how many defeated candidates—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. BROWN: —are census commissioners.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman might put that question on the order paper.

IMMIGRATION INSPECTION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. GOTT (South Essex): I want to discuss briefly a matter of concern—and I use the term literally—to a large number of people of United States and Canadian citizenship. It is a subject that I hesitate to bring up on the floor of the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. GOTT: If I am out of order, I will discuss the matter as a question of privilege and I will use my authority for that. Furthermore let me say that if I am out of order I think the Speaker will so rule, and if he does so rule, I will resume my seat.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. GOTT: No person asked the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) to sit down. The question I propose to discuss briefly, if I am not out of order, is in regard to a system of examination of people entering Canada, an examination, I may say, bordering on the insane. I want to place on record, if I may—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. GOTT: I do not want to move the adjournment of the house to get this on record. We are proud of our port, the port of Windsor.

Mr. SPEAKER: That may be so, but it does not constitute a question of privilege, nor a matter for discussion on the orders of the day.

Mr. GOTT: May I place on record a letter of complaint?

Mr. SPEAKER: Probably not.

Mr. GOTT: Then I shall discuss the question at a more opportune time and probably at greater length.

NATURALIZATION ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved the second reading of Bill No. 3, to amend the Naturalization Act.

He said: In introducing this bill a few days ago, I suggested that it was not a bill which involved any partisan discussion, but was one which interested members on both sides of the house and in respect to which the government desired to have the best advice possible after careful consideration. In introducing the bill I called attention to the fact that section 13 of the Naturalization Act, chapter 138, Revised Statutes of Canada of 1927, provides that:

> The wife of a British subject shall be deemed to be a British subject, and the wife of an alien shall be deemed to be an alien.

On that occasion I pointed out that it was obviously impracticable to regard a woman as having her alien husband's nationality if, according to the law of his country, she is deemed to be an alien in his country or elsewhere.

We have at present expressed certain exceptions in section 13 of the Naturalization Act. We have provided in subsection 2 that:

> Where a man ceases during the continuance of his marriage to be a British subject, it shall be lawful for his wife to make a declaration that she desires to retain British nationality, and thereupon she shall be deemed to remain a British subject.

That exception we have still retained in subsection 3 of this bill. Subsection 3 of the existing section 13 is retained in subsection 5 of this bill with a slight change in the wording to make it conform to the terms of the proposed new amendment.

This amendment of the existing law in Canada is rendered more urgent in view of recent changes in the law of the United States of America. Until a short time ago the law of the United States was similar to the law which prevails in this country. Section 1994 of the act of the United States congress of February 10, 1855, provides that:

> Any woman who is now or may hereafter be married to a citizen of the United States, and who might herself be lawfully naturalized, shall be deemed a citizen.

That was the same principle which was embodied in the English law and introduced into our own Naturalization Act as the law of Canada.

Section 3 of the act of the congress of the United States of March 2, 1907, provided that:

> Any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband.

That was the English law and the law of Canada. Those two provisions were in strict conformity with the original provisions of our law. But those two sections were repealed by sections 6 and 7 of the Cable act, which was enacted by United States congress on September 22, 1922. The Cable act enacted in section 2 thereof:

> That any woman who marries a citizen of the United States after the passage of this act, or any woman whose husband is naturalized after the passage of this act, shall not become a citizen of the United States by reason of such marriage or naturalization, but, if eligible to

citizenship, she may be naturalized upon full and complete compliance with all the requirements of the naturalization laws.

That act contains certain exceptions, to which I shall now refer, in favour of speedier naturalization, which were further provided for in a subsequent amendment by a law of the United States congress passed on July 3, 1930. The Cable act of 1922 also provided that:

A woman citizen of the United States shall not cease to be a citizen by reason of her marriage unless she makes a formal renunciation of her citizenship before a court having jurisdiction over naturalization of aliens.

A woman who was a citizen of the United States upon her marriage with a British subject, thereby attained a dual nationality. With respect to that I am not for the present concerned. A woman, on the other hand, who was a British subject, upon her marriage with a citizen of the United States, thereby became stateless. She thereby lost her status as a British subject under our law without attaining the status of a citizen of the United States under the law which prevails in that country. So intimate are the social relations existing between Canada and the United States, and so frequent are the marriages of Canadian women to United States citizens, that the enactment of the Cable act by the United States congress has rendered many Canadian women stateless. A woman, who is a Canadian national, and who marries a citizen of the United States, does not now, by reason of such marriage become a citizen of the United States, although she thereby loses her status as a British subject.

There are at present hundreds of Canadian-born women who have lost Canadian nationality and who are no longer British subjects by reason of their marriage with citizens of the United States, although by such marriage they do not acquire United States citizenship. Such a woman—there are many hundreds of them in Canada, because if you will look at the statistics of marriage for the last few years you will find that many American citizens coming into our country and taking charge of large industrial institutions or being actively employed in the industrial life of this country, have married Canadian women—such a woman can no longer leave this country. She cannot obtain a passport from the United States authorities, because she is not a United States citizen; she cannot obtain a passport to go abroad from the Department of External Affairs of Canada, because she is no longer a British subject.

This matter was considered by a select committee of the parliament of the United Kingdom which was appointed in 1923 to consider the nationality of married women who were formerly British subjects. Before that committee the representative of the British Foreign Office deprecated a change in the law which would result in varying nationalities in the same family, varying nationalities of husband and wife, varying nationalities also because the children under British law take the nationality of the father and not of the mother. The representative of the British Foreign Office before that committee expressed apprehension that such a change would inevitably lead to a demand for a change in the nationality of the children which, as I have said, now universally follows the nationality of the father. The British Foreign Office also urged the desirability of consulting and acting in concert in this matter with the self-governing dominions, and urged that no substantial change in the British law should be made without consultation with the dominions, and then only if the representatives of the dominions should concur in such change.

In order that the house may be aware of the varying arguments produced on that occasion I shall quote from the report of that committee, which by a majority vote approved of this particular section of the report, although as to the whole report there was a division of opinion.

Mr. LAPOINTE: To what committee is my hon. friend referring?

Mr. CAHAN: To the special committee of the parliament of the United Kingdom which met in 1923 to consider the effects of the enactment of the Cable act upon the nationality of women who before their marriage with Americans were British subjects. I am quoting from the report simply in order that the house may understand the arguments pro and con, because I do not regard this as a party measure; I think all measures of this kind should be generally accepted by the house. Section eleven of the report contains the following:

The committee as a result of this inquiry have come to the conclusion that a case is not made out for a complete reversal of the principle governing the present law. They recognize the growing demand of many women and of organized women's societies for equal rights with men in every respect, but they cannot overlook the fact that by marriage a woman is merged in the unit of the family, and that within the family it is at present the husband who is head, who bears its legal responsibilities such as the maintenance of the wife, the children and the home, and whose occupation in most cases is the decisive factor as to where that home is to be established, and who among other things gives his nationality to the children. It is their opinion, therefore, that in this important sphere of family life the nationality

of the husband should be the governing factor and determine the nationality of the wife. If two ride a horse one must ride in front.

The committee then proceeded to deal with one particular case, and to report specially thereon as follows:

There is one special case, however, where in the opinion of the committee amendment of the law is required. It sometimes happens that through divergence in the laws of states a woman finds herself through marriage deprived of the nationality of her parent state and not invested with the nationality of the state whose national she has married, e.g., a British woman to-day who marries a citizen of the United States under British law loses her British nationality, but by virtue of the operation of the Cable act she does not acquire the nationality of the United States. This position of statelessness is undesirable and should be obviated by an amendment of the law to the effect that the woman shall not lose her original nationality if she does not acquire that of her husband under the law of his country.

In the end the special committee of the parliament of the United Kingdom were equally divided with respect to the whole draft report from which I have quoted these two sections, which fairly express the ideas which prevailed in the minds of the majority of that committee.

This question came before the Imperial conference of 1926, and that conference deferred definite consideration of the matter of nationality of married women until the expert committee on inter-imperial relations might have an opportunity to report thereon. That committee met in October, 1929, and Canada was represented on the committee by the Minister of Justice in the late administration (Mr. Lapointe). After consideration that committee took no definite action. It is suggested to me that the reason for deferring definite consideration was due to the fact that on that occasion the government of the United Kingdom recommended that the matter be considered at an international conference on the ground that it was a proper subject for international agreement. Subsequently, at the Hague conference of 1930, at which Canada was represented, all the governments of the British commonwealth signed the Nationality convention, which was considered by that conference, and which contains the following articles:

Article 8. If the national law of the wife causes her to lose her nationality on marriage with a foreigner, this consequence shall be conditional on her acquiring the nationality of the husband.

Article 9. If the national law of the wife causes her to lose her nationality upon a change in the nationality of her husband occurring during marriage, this consequence shall be conditional on her acquiring her husband's new nationality.

[Mr. Cahan.]

Article 10. Naturalization of the husband during marriage shall not involve a change in the nationality of the wife except with her consent.

These articles of the Hague international convention which met early in the year 1930 were considered at the last Imperial conference. Hon. members will have noticed that fact from the reports of that conference which have been laid upon the table of the house. The report of the Imperial conference of 1930 contains the following reference to this subject under the heading "Nationality of married women."

Careful consideration was given to the subject of the nationality of married women. All the members of the commonwealth represented at The Hague conference of 1930, signed the Nationality convention there concluded, and will, it is assumed, introduce such legislation as may be necessary to give effect to articles 8-10 of that convention. The conference was satisfied, however, that any proposals for the further modification of the principle of the existing law would fail to secure unanimous agreement. It followed that the conference was unable to make any recommendation for the substantive amendment of the law on this subject except to the extent stated above.

This bill has been introduced to amend section 13 of the Naturalization Act, so as to incorporate therein the exceptions so approved at the Imperial conference, and to conform to those three articles of the Hague convention of 1930.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Will similar bills be introduced in various parliaments?

Mr. CAHAN: The governments of the dominions were requested to introduce bills to carry out those provisions.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Practically the same as these.

Mr. CAHAN: I understand each government was requested to introduce a bill to carry out those provisions.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Practically the same as these?

Mr. CAHAN: I may say to the hon. gentleman that the bill before this house has been considered by the law officers of the Dominions Office in England. Since it has been introduced in this house there have been a few changes of verbiage which have been suggested and which I shall bring to the attention of the house at a later date. However in England they suggested no material amendments whatever since this bill was introduced. As there is a constitutional convention or understanding that amendments to the Naturalization Act defining the status of a British subject shall be made only by common consent of the dominions, the provisions of

this bill, as I repeat, have been restricted simply to carrying into effect the amendments which were agreed upon by the several dominions. I refer to such amendments as have now received approval in principle of the representatives of governments of the dominions, as well as the government of the United Kingdom. I think my predecessor in office will bear witness to the fact that when I assumed the office of Secretary of State there was a large volume of suggestions and recommendations from various women's associations throughout Canada for such an act as this. Those suggestions were not proceeded with for the reason that it was deemed advisable to have, first, an international agreement and, secondly, to have a common inter-imperial understanding with respect to the proposed amendments. These amendments are confined simply to the carrying into effect of the articles of the Hague conference which have been agreed upon by all parties. Since the bill has been introduced and distributed it has been discussed at length in many journals throughout the country. I have received a number of letters from various womens' organizations recommending that this principle, if I may so term it, be carried into effect. In their letters and resolutions they have not discussed with me the exact terminology of the bill, but there seems to be a general consensus of opinion, especially in the minds of women who take an active interest in public affairs, that such amendments should be made to the Naturalization Act of Canada. I repeat, I am simply submitting the bill for the careful consideration of members of this house. I think there might be some slight improvements made in the terminology, if the bill goes before a committee. To-day however I am merely dealing with the principle to which we have given effect in drafting the measure which is now submitted to the house.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle): May I be allowed to ask the hon. gentleman one or two questions. I would like him to elucidate one or two points. As I read it subsection 2 states:

> A woman, having been a British subject, shall not be deemed to have ceased to be a British subject upon her marriage with an alien, except upon condition that in consequence of such marriage she acquire the nationality of her husband.

How would the hon. gentleman deal with the case of a woman acquiring by letters of naturalization the nationality of her husband in a foreign country? I refer to a British born woman.

Mr. CAHAN: My answer to that question is that under our law the moment a British subject acquires a certificate of naturalization under any foreign law and thereby becomes a subject or citizen of any foreign country he or she immediately thereupon ceases to be a British subject.

Mr. BOURASSA: Would not subsection 2 have the effect of precisely curtailing that right of the woman to acquire another nationality by naturalization? It says here that a woman, upon certain conditions:

> Except upon condition that in consequence of such marriage she acquires the nationality of her husband.

. . . remains a British subject. Therefore, under this section, if pleaded literally, her naturalization under the foreign law would not be acknowledged.

Mr. CAHAN: May I say to my hon. friend that I think the committee is the proper place to discuss that subject.

Mr. BOURASSA: Quite true.

Mr. CAHAN: Furthermore although I drafted this bill in conjunction with permanent officials of the Department of External Affairs I intend to suggest a very slight change in the first clause. My hon. friend will understand that upon reflection one may foresee technical difficulties which might arise. In the committee however I would prefer to entertain a discussion of such details.

Mr. BOURASSA: Quite true. My other question is this: In the preparation of the bill has consideration been taken of what will happen with regard to the children?

Mr. CAHAN: Under our law there is no doubt whatever that the children follow the nationality of the father. We have not interfered with that.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James): Mr. Speaker I do not intend to speak at length on the second reading of this bill, but I wish to say that I fully approve of the principle involved. Without referring particularly to the bill may I be permitted, in a very courteous way, to express regret that the practice of presenting bills followed in former sessions, has been discarded. It was the custom to place explanatory notes opposite to the sections of the bill giving in a summarized way the reasons for the proposals, and when a section was repealed to reproduce the text of such section. In the case of a new bill it was the practice to underline the new words in order to distinguish them from the paragraphs retained from the former act or bill. I think that might make the discussion of such technical matters as this easier for hon.

members. I am not speaking for myself; I have the documentation on these matters. I think the ministers themselves will find when they come to discuss the bill in committee that with the information I have referred to printed on the bill the discussion will be more relevant to the subject matter; otherwise questions will be put that have no bearing on the proposed amendments. I admit that in this instance the former section is practically repealed; in fact the whole section is changed and the words retained are not very material. But my remarks apply not only to this bill but to all bills introduced by the government, and which do not contain the explanatory notes and underlined changes as was the practice under the former government. I think the whole house will bear me out in my submission that this was a good practice and that it should not have been discontinued.

As to the bill itself, the Secretary of State has given the whole story of the change, and I think he has given it accurately. The question was raised in this house while I was in charge of the Department of State by the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail), who made a motion in the session of 1927, asking the house to resolve that a woman of British nationality residing in Canada should not lose, or be deemed to lose, her nationality by the mere act of marriage with an alien, but that it should be open to her to make a declaration of alienage if she so desired. At the time I intimated, speaking for the government, that this was in full accordance with the policy of the government, but gave the reason—now given by my successor—that the delay then in taking action was due to the fact that the British citizenship recognized by the Naturalization Act is not confined to Canada but is empire-wide, and consequently there must be some degree of uniformity throughout the empire in order that British citizenship should be recognized internationally. The conditions for the obtaining of British citizenship were agreed upon by the different dominion governments and the government of the United Kingdom; that is, as to the number of years of residence, the character of the applicant, knowledge of official languages in the different parts of the empire where naturalization was sought, the desire to remain permanently within this or that part; there were also other matters such as this one regarding the status of British women marrying aliens, a status which was not altogether decided at the time. There was a series of conferences bringing no definite result. In 1926 it was decided, as the hon. Secretary of State has indicated, to leave the matter over for an international conference, and later on for agreement between the different parts of the empire at the Imperial conference of 1930. I understand from what has been said this afternoon that an agreement has been finally reached, and that this bill incorporates the essentials of the agreement. I am glad to see the matter has been adjusted. I claim to be a feminist in my own province; there I am fighting the cause of feminism, and we hope that eventually success will crown our efforts. This I regard as another victory for the rights of women, and I think it will cure the very unsatisfactory condition of things that prevails where a British woman by marrying an alien loses her citizenship and does not acquire that of her husband.

But before I resume my seat I should like to direct the attention of the Secretary of State to another part of the Nauralization Act which might perhaps be amended at this time. In the interpretation section of the act will be found a definition of the word "disability", which I think is very unhappily phrased. It might have been warranted by the act as it now stands, but I do believe it should be changed if we adopt this bill. Paragraph (f) reads:

> "Disability" means the status of being a married woman, or a minor, lunatic, or idiot.

The idea, of course, was to group together without what I may term any degree of relativity the different causes for disability. I think we should do away with this definition. It does not at all appeal to my sense of gallantry, and I think with the adoption of this bill it will become superfluous.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It had better be put into two sections, anyway.

Mr. RINFRET: I have not read through the bill to the extent of seeing if there remains any such disability with respect to married women, but I do submit to my hon. friend that if the disability of married women is removed by this measure, then surely we should amend the definition.

The bill will be examined in committee, but with the principle of changing our act in order to meet the agreement arrived at in 1930 I am very fully in accord, and it was always the policy of the late government to work towards the achievement of such a position.

Hon. W. D. EULER (North Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I do not desire to delay the proceedings. I am quite in agreement with the principle of the bill, especially with regard to such Canadian women as marry American

citizens, who, as the minister has stated, lose their British nationality and do not acquire that of their husbands. I can say that perhaps with great force because a condition of the kind arose in my own family; but of course that does not touch the question. My purpose in rising is to make an inquiry. I observe that under the bill a British woman marrying the citizen of a country which does not itself give her citizenship does not lose her British nationality. I wish to inquire whether, if she marries a citizen of a country in which she would acquire the national status of her husband, under this bill she might by her own act retain her British nationality?

Mr. GEARY: Look at paragraph 3.

Mr. EULER: I do not think that covers it. I understand very well that a British woman marrying an alien does not lose her British citizenship if she does not acquire the citizenship of her husband; but if she does acquire his citizenship, can she by any act of her own retain her British status?

Mr. LAPOINTE: In any case, it seems to apply to only paragraph 3, that is, when the husband ceases to be a British subject during the marriage and not when the marriage takes place.

Mr SPEAKER: May I remind hon. members that the house is not yet in committee.

Mr. RINFRET: I presume my hon. friend will give attention to the proposal I made, with regard to the definition?

Mr. CAHAN: Certainly. I may say there have been a number of suggestions made by very learned lawyers in regard to this matter, and I should like an opportunity of considering them. The house may be assured that I will present them for consideration when we go into committee.

Mr. LAPOINTE: May I call my hon. friend's attention to the fact that there is no explanatory note, as required by the rules of the house, in connection with this bill, and I see that the same thing occurs in connection with most of the bills which are on my file. These explanatory notes are required by the rules of the house, I understand, and they are very useful in the consideration and study of the bills.

Mr. CAHAN: That objection was raised by the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret), but I do not think there is any such rule. We are providing in this bill an entirely new section. I was under the impression that the law clerks were required to prepare the explanatory notes; perhaps I was under a misapprehension. It may be my duty to do that, but I will look into it again, although in this case we are simply providing a new section.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: May I make this suggestion? We are not all lawyers in this chamber, and many private members who have not studied law find these explanatory notes very valuable. I know nothing about law, and if a short explanation appears I think it facilitates matters.

Mr. JACOBS: I think it is only just to my hon. friend the Secretary of State to say that his speech this afternoon upon the bill was the best explanatory note we have had for some time on these questions. I think he should be given credit for that.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time.

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) moved the second reading of Bill No. 4, to amend the Copyright Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to discuss this bill at length upon the second reading; I will merely make a few explanations. Every member of the house is well aware that in 1886 an international copyright union was established for the protection of literary and artistic property. A convention in that year was signed at Berne. This convention was revised at Paris in 1896 and again at Berlin in 1908, where the nations of Europe particularly were represented.

Then came a protocol which was signed at Berne in 1914, revising in certain particulars the anterior conventions. The original Berne convention of September 9, 1896, was signed by Great Britain on behalf of Canada and the other dominions. It was not until January 1, 1924, that the protocol signed at Berne was accepted by Canada on the initiative of the late government. The revised convention of November 13, 1908, however, was signed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland only on its own behalf. Canada was represented on that occasion and it was ratified on behalf of Canada on April 10, 1928. This convention was again revised at Rome on June 2, 1928. Canada was represented at Rome by Hon. Philippe Roy and Mr. John Désy, another gentleman from the office of the Canadian government in Paris, who signed the Rome convention on behalf of Canada.

The present bill has for one of its objects the granting of authority to the government of Canada to procure the ratification of that

convention on behalf of the Canadian government. The time in which ratifications may be deposited at Rome expires on July 1, 1931. In order that Canada may adhere finally to the Rome convention it is necessary that certain definitions of our own act should be amended so as to bring the enforcement of the Rome convention within the terms of the principal clauses of our own act.

Then another matter is dealt with. My hon. friend from St. James (Mr. Rinfret), my predecessor in office, will recollect that while he was in office he received numerous protests from the various governments of Europe, from representative societies of authors throughout the world, and even from the Dominions Office in London, suggesting that section 40 of our act requiring compulsory registration of assignments of copyright could not possibly be carried out. That section requires that assignments of copyright should be registered by producing duplicate original copies. As a matter of fact many such assignments were made in one copy only; the assignors are long since dead, and it has been impossible therefore to prove title by such registration. Section 40 came up for decision in an Ontario case, that of the Canadian Performing Right Society versus the Famous Players Canadian Corporation, which case was carried to the privy council for decision and in which final judgment was rendered in 1927.

When I was in London during October and November, various delegations called upon me insisting that section 40 of our Act could not be complied with. They stated that if it were complied with it would bankrupt the societies which attempted to comply with it, and that it was not in strict conformity with the provisions of the Berne convention. For instance, it may not be known to hon. members that we have the Canadian Performing Right Society, which is organized under the Companies' Act, and which has its head office in the city of Toronto. That company controls between 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 copyrights, in respect of the right to perform those works. The registration by that company under section 40, involving a payment of $1 for each work registered, would impose a tax, as they call it, or would involve the payment of from $2,000,000 to $2,500,000 into the copyright office, a sum which I may say we would be very pleased to receive. But two sessions ago my predecessor introduced a bill to amend section 40, which received very general approval, I think, but which was not enacted owing to press of other work at the close of the session. I propose to repeal section 40 and to abolish compulsory registration of copyright in Canada. But in doing so, there are certain conditions forced upon my attention with which I think we should deal. For instance, it is well known that Canadian authors find it advantageous to them to assign their copyright rights to American publishers. These assignments are made so as to cover not only the teritorial district of the United States, but some of them, by having sections introduced in the printed forms, as you see them sometimes on the back of an insurance policy, imply an assignment of the author's rights not only in respect of the territorial district of the United States but in respect of Canada as well. In fact, some of them which have come under my observation assign the author's rights in respect of the entire territory from the gulf of Mexico to the North Pole.

But our authors are sometimes not lawyers, sometimes not very practical business men; and in cases which have been brought to my attention they have, after making assignment of their rights for the whole continent to the American publisher, made a subsequent assignment of their rights to a Canadian publisher, which is confined to the territorial district of Canada. In that case there are conflicting assignments. It seems to me that those who wish to ascertain who has real title should be able to go to the copyright office in connection with the department of the Secretary of State and ascertain with whom they must deal with respect to such copyrights. I have therefore retained in the bill the provision that where an author assigns his right to copyright, and that assignment is registered voluntarily at the copyright office, so long as that registration is extant it shall prevail over any other unregistered assignment which he has made. If any other assignee thinks that he has prior rights, then he can go to the courts and contest the issue and have that prior registration removed. We must protect the Canadian public to this extent, that if there are divergent rights which are irreconcilable in their terms, then the one who first registers his right shall, so far as the public is concerned, be deemed to have title.

There are certain other minor amendments made in the bill to bring it into closer conformity with the Rome convention. For instance, the Berne convention, and now the Rome convention also provides that in case of a joint authorship the copyright shall extend fifty years from the date of the death of the last of the joint authors. By, I suppose, some inadvertence we provided in our act that copyright should extend for fifty

years from the death of the author who died first, and very considerable technical objections have been made by foreign governments and authors in foreign countries to this provision. We are now attempting to make our law conform to the convention to which we have subscribed.

Another important feature of this bill is found in the last section. This new section is introduced for the purpose of regulating the exercise of their monopoly by associations, societies and companies which carry on in Canada the business of acquiring, assigning and licensing performing rights in which copyright subsists. I have drafted that clause in ample terms with a view to its being considered by a select committee of this house in order that both parties to the controversy may have sufficient opportunity to present their views. I am overwhelmed with petitions and complaints from one end of Canada to the other that such performing right societies should be regulated. The general tenor of these complaints is this: that an author as an author should have a complete monopoly with respect to his work; that is, a monopoly created by statute. But when a thousand authors or the authors of a million works form a society and vest in that society title to all their works, then such monopoly, which can exist only by virtue of a statute, should be regulated with respect to its fees and charges, exactly as a telephone company might be regulated.

I am simply giving the gist of the complaint. I am not saying that the Canadian Performing Right Society exacts fees and charges which are exorbitant. But their contracts must be signed by the hotel companies, because they cannot perform a musical work in any hotel, from the Atlantic to the Pacific unless they have a licence from the performing right society. And it is alleged that the contract so far pressed upon their attention is a contract, not for the right to perform a single, individual work, but a contract to perform the whole two million or two and a half million works which this society controls.

I have received protests from representatives of the Canadian Pacific Railway with respect to their radio performances, and protests from the Canadian National Railways as well. I have received protests from nearly every large radio broadcasting concern in Canada. There must be a general discussion before that select committee as to the special measures to be taken to prevent a monopoly of that character from making undue exactions from the Canadian people.

Mr. POULIOT: I have just received a protest from a parish priest with regard to presentations which are made for charitable purposes. Would it be possible to amend the act to provide that no fee shall be paid in the case of performances given for charitable purposes?

Mr. CAHAN: There is one clause dealing definitely with that aspect of the matter.

Mr. POULIOT: Thank you.

Mr. CAHAN: I am making no charge or complaint against the Canadian Performing Right Society. But it is represented to me that in many districts in Canada which are more or less isolated—for instance, in northern Ontario and in certain parts of Quebec—community centres are formed, usually about the parish church, or around the local band or community choir, and during the winter they hold three or four entertainments to provide funds for a community hall, perhaps, or to maintain some other community undertaking. They charge fifteen, or twenty, or twenty-five cents for children and sometimes as high as fifty cents for adults, and the fund so raised is used for community purposes. There is hardly one of these entertainments that does not perform through the village choir or through the village band, two or three or more of these musical works, the copyright to which is vested in a Canadian or foreign copyright society or association. I do not know about the truth of the charge, but it is suggested to me that from time to time, when such community entertainments are held, persons who are or who purport to be agents of such societies intimate to the village choir or to the village band that unless they pay performing rights fees to such a society, they will be haled under our law before a magistrate, or they will be brought up in court and compelled to pay. With that in view I have introduced a clause which may be too broad, but which is the clause to which I just referred my hon. friend. It is clause 11 which reads:

> Nothing contained in the Copyright Act nor in this act shall be construed to prohibit the performance of any musical works in which copyright subsists by churches, colleges, schools, or by philanthropic, charitable or fraternal organizations, provided the performance is given for religious, educational, benevolent or charitable purposes.

That may be too broad. It has been suggested to me by some who are interested in performing rights that I should introduce there the words "provided the performance is given gratuitously," but such matters must be dealt with by the select committee after

hearing the evidence. Therefore I submit the bill for the favourable consideration of the house, and if it passes its second reading I shall move that it be referred to a select committee, of which the names of the members comprising it have been agreed upon by the whips of the several parties.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James): Inasmuch as this bill is going before a special committee, I shall not endeavour to discuss it to-day. I wish, however, to point out that the second reading of a bill always involves the adoption of a principle. There are two schools of thought regarding copyright and from that duality comes the whole difficulty about having the proper distinction. One school of thought, which is the European school, is that copyright is a right in itself; that whenever a writer has composed, or a painter or whoever he is has created a work, he has the full ownership of that work in using the copyright. That is the conception adopted by all European countries which formed the convention in Berne, later on confirmed in Rome, whereby in every country in that union the mere fact that a person was the composer or writer of a book gave him the fullest rights as to all the copyright privileges that might be attached to it.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is the claim of the authors.

Mr. RINFRET: Yes. The other school of thought is what I shall call the United States school of thought, which says that copyright is a privilege and can be enjoyed only if it is registered. In the United States of America a copyright will not be recognized unless it has been properly registered. From that duality arises the whole difficulty to which the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) has alluded, and protests, sometimes from the north and sometimes from the south, have always accompanied any attempt to legislate in regard to this matter.

Whilst I was listening to my hon. friend I thought he was endeavouring to write my own biography. It is true that as a member, and later on as a minister, I tried to introduce and I did introduce legislation, the latest bill being I think in 1930, doing away with section 40. My hon. friend is right when he says that a whole group of societies and institutions were once elated over the fact that the government had decided to introduce a bill of that kind; but when he said that it was due to pressure of work that the bill was dropped or not proceeded with, he did not give the complete story. There were protests from innumerable societies, church societies, charitable institutions and also performers and publishers, representing that we were going too far and that it was not fair to them to grant copyright without any registration whatever.

The point I wish to make to-day is that we shall have to make our choice. We must have in this country copyright legislation which will be clear-cut. Either we shall adhere to the convention of Rome and do away with registration, or we shall withdraw from Rome and have our own registration. We have been hesitating—and I will take my share of the blame for that if parliament so desires—we have been going from one point to the other, listening to protests first on one side and then on the other. I surmise from this bill, which is somewhat more extensive than, but in principle very much along the line of the bill which I introduced last session, that the policy of the present government is to have our copyright legislation in conformity with the decisions reached in Rome. It is on that understanding that I shall agree to the second reading of the bill being passed to-day, but I know very well when we get into committee we shall hear representations from all sides and every effort will be made by the usual people who come around when copyright is being discussed, to prevent the bill from coming back from the committee and the committee from reaching a final decision. I hope the government intends to proceed with the bill to the fullest extent. It is hard to say what the Senate will do with it later on.

I wish to insist upon this point, because it has been the whole crux of the difficulty in the past; we must make up our minds whether we wish to deal with copyright as the European countries do and do away with registration, following the convention strictly without any reservation, or not. If we wish to follow the convention, I believe there are in the bill certain sections which we shall have to drop in order to put our legislation into full conformity with the decisions of Rome.

Mr. CAHAN: We do not recognize the decisions of Rome.

Mr. RINFRET: I say: If we fail to do that, then we shall have to withdraw from the convention and have our own registration, a very improper course, I think. I have been trying very hard from year to year to achieve the purpose which my hon. friend says he has in mind now. He can count upon my fullest cooperation, but I know on both sides of the house there are members who will not be with us, and we might as well make up our minds that by the first of July we must give our adherence or withdraw it.

Mr. CAHAN: I am most happy to have the cooperation of my hon. friend.

Mr. RINFRET: Then we had better get busy, have the committee sit at once and do our best to achieve this year what we have not been able to achieve in former years.

Mr. E. R. E. CHEVRIER (Ottawa): My words will be few, but they must be words of commendation to the minister for having brought this matter before the house at the earliest opportunity. With what the hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret) has said, I agree, but I should like to get the assurance of the minister that it is the intention to adhere in toto to the convention as it was revised in 1928. We must either adhere to the convention or not. The terms of the convention are clear that there must be no restrictions of any kind; that registration must be done away with. The law, if it is adopted, is as simple as any piece of legislation that was ever drafted. I doubt very much that the intention is to adhere to the revised convention just as it stands. I shall take only one section, to demonstrate my meaning, section 5 of the bill. That is a vital section. Those who have followed this discussion in years gone by will know that there is "copyright," which is a translation of the words, "droits patrimoniaux," and there is also this other right, the moral right.

Mr. CAHAN: I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend. I will say at once that some societies in Europe have complained of the use of the word "publication." I think they give a meaning to "publication" different from that which I intended. As the leader of the opposition has suggested my hon. friend's name as one of the members to be appointed to the select committee, I would suggest that such details might well be left to the consideration of that committee.

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am grateful. I did not anticipate such an honour. In view of that, I shall be pleased to defer my observations and to support the second reading of the bill.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time.

Mr. CAHAN moved:

That Bill No. 4, to amend the Copyright Act, be referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Bury, Cahan, Chevrier, Cowan (Port Arthur-Thunder Bay), Ernst, Irvine and Rinfret, with power to send for persons, papers and records, and to report from time to time.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DIRECTORS FROM FIFTEEN TO SEVENTEEN

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved the second reading of Bill No. 5, to amend the Canadian National Railways Act.

He said: Perhaps I had better give a few words of explanation, although the bill itself is very clear. Section 1 is for the purpose of increasing the number of directors of the Canadian National Railways from fifteen to seventeen. Section 2 is merely to correct an error in the Canadian National Railways Act. Through an error the act as enacted in the revised statutes of 1927 refers to section sixty-one of the Railway Act; it should have referred to section seventy. The important clause of the bill is that increasing the directorate from fifteen to seventeen.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Why?

Mr. MANION: There are two provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, which are not represented on the directorate. This is really for the purpose of giving them representation on the board, so that all nine provinces—some represented by more members than others, it is true—will then have representation.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Are the directors paid?

Mr. MANION: Yes—$2,000 a year and some travelling expenses.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Cotnam in the chair.

On section 1—Nomination of directors.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Would the minister explain to the committee not only the reason for the appointment of two additional directors, but how the directors are appointed? Is it by order in council? Are their salaries paid by the Department of Railways and Canals or out of the income of the Canadian National Railways? These are questions on which some members of the committee would like information.

There are other questions that I should like to put to the minister. What is the jurisdiction of each of these directors? Are they appointed by territorial district, provincial district, or with regard to divisional points on the railways? How far does their jurisdiction extend? Let me give a concrete example to illustrate better what I mean. Take, for instance, the appointment of Mr. Lucien Morand as a director for the Quebec district. As the minister knows, the Quebec district forms part of the central division, and the

central division ends at Rivière du Loup. The section from Rivière du Loup down, including the Gaspe peninsula, forms part of the eastern division. A few years ago when the French Canadian employees of that division wanted to bring before the authorities of the Canadian National Railways some of their grievances, among them was the very question the minister mentioned to-day in answer to an inquiry made by the hon. member for Bonaventure, the question of the transfer of the terminal of that special section of the eastern division of the Canadian National which we call no man's land, which belongs to nobody and which comprises an entirely French Canadian section, and extends, including Gaspe peninsula, for nearly four hundred miles of railway. We thought that we could at least get located at Mont Joli a French Canadian superintendent who has recently been appointed to supervise the administration of that division. Last September a large deputation comprising the members of the chambers of commerce of Gaspe, Mont Joli and Rimouski interviewed Sir Henry Thornton. We presented a petition signed by thirty thousand citizens. We tried to explain to him that that French Canadian section of the Canadian National Railways was administered by officials of the eastern division residing at Campbellton. We were given the usual buttered answer, and were told that the matter would be taken into consideration. We were extremely well received, but may I assure the Minister of Railways and Canals that it will be a great disappointment to the population along the lower shore of the St. Lawrence to read in the newspapers to-morrow the policy which has just been announced. The minister says that the government cannot interfere with the administration of the Canadian National Railways. Sir, that is the very reason I am asking this question at the present time: Are the directors of the Canadian National Railways responsible to the government? Are they appointed by order in council? Are their salaries paid by the Department of Railways and Canals or by the Canadian National Railways out of income? The hon. minister realizes that the appointment of the directors by order in council and payment of their salaries by the Department of Railways and Canals constitutes them as civil employees. They have not the right to mix in politics. Lately we have seen accounts indicating that one of the new directors took an active part in the central Conservative organization of Quebec. That is a dangerous precedent to introduce in the administration of the Canadian National Railways.

There is another phase of the question to which I take exception, notwithstanding the fact that even some of my Liberal colleagues may not agree with me. I have sat for years on the special committee on railways and shipping. With many of my colleagues who have been acting on that committee I have come to the conclusion that the greatest mistake which has been made in the organization of the Canadian National Railways lies in the fact that the presidency of the board of directors has been given to the president and administrator of the railroad. It seems to me that the chairmanship of the board of directors should be entirely separated from the administration of the road. Of course in that regard I am expressing only my personal opinion. Each year estimates of capital expenditure are submitted to the house. We authorize the floating of loans, by the Canadian National system, some of which run as high as $81,000,000, $71,000,000, $60,000,000 and, as in the present year, $70,000,000. We authorize persons who are not responsible to the people to float those loans either abroad or in Canada. For one thing, those loans should be floated by the government, and the Canadian National Railways so far as expenses are concerned should be considered a department of the federal administration. I do not wish to continue my remarks at further length, but I do think the appointment of two other directors at the present time is unwarranted. In these days of stress we should not add to the expenses of the railway company, especially since in the present year we are facing a deficit of nearly $39,000,000 in the operation of the road.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend has asked so many questions that I am sure he will pardon me if I do not deal with all of them. I shall however cover as many as I can remember.

In the first place he asked how directors are appointed. May I say that they are and always have been appointed by order in council. In the second place he asked if they were paid by the railroad or by the government. In answer to that may I say that theoretically at least they are paid by the railroad.

The next question is as to whether they are geographical representatives. I assume the hon. member means to ask if they represent on the board a special section of the country or the Canadian people generally. I would say that certainly they do not and should not represent any special locality; each member of the directorate should represent the Canadian people as a whole. At the same time it is obvious that

a man from the province of Quebec who happens to be on the board naturally would take a special interest in that province.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I am afraid my hon. friend is wrong. So far as their duties are concerned these directors are allotted to special districts. In Quebec there are two directors; one is allotted the Quebec and the other the Montreal jurisdiction.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend is wrong in that statement; they are not allotted special districts at all. True, one is appointed from Quebec and one from the Montreal district, but that custom has been followed in the past. In that particular we are merely living up to the customs which have been established. However I must state that the men representing or coming from those districts are not supposed to represent on the board those districts alone. They are supposed to act for the whole of Canada. As an illustration Mr. Lucien Morand from the province of Quebec is supposed to represent equally the province of British Columbia or any other province; in like manner Mr. J. Fyfe Smith, although coming from the province of British Columbia, would represent equally the rest of the Dominion. They form a directorate exactly in the same way as the directors of any other company.

The next point mentioned by my hon. friend was that of the Gaspe railway; that is a large question. May I say briefly however that so far as I am concerned I can temporarily at least dispose of the question. The railway company, which after all must recommend construction before such construction can be undertaken, has not made any recommendations. In fact a recommendation has been made against the building of the Gaspe railway.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I am afraid the hon. minister has altogether misunderstood me. I said that the Gaspe railway was included in that section of the eastern division of the Canadian National Railways which extends from Riviere du Loup to Matapedia, and from Matapedia around the Gaspe peninsula. In that section there are four hundred miles of railway running through a country populated with French-Canadian people. They have used French-Canadian employees, and arising out of numerous requests addressed by deputations to Sir Henry Thornton and other railway officials they have given us a French-Canadian superintendent so that he may deal with French-Canadian employees in their own language. However instead of stationing that superintendent in the section of the country where he is needed at the present time he is being stationed at Campbellton to which place it is proposed that the headquarters of that section of the eastern division should be transferred. I have received to-day a letter from the chamber of commerce of Mont Joli stating that instructions have been given to transfer to Campbellton the staff of employees residing at Mont Joli, constituting nearly 2,200 of the local population. Those people will be compelled to abandon their homes in Mont Joli unless they wish to sacrifice nearly a quarter of their pay. I have received further the information that between fifteen and twenty employees of the local works at Mont Joli have been dismissed, and also that the terminal at Mont Joli is being transferred to Campbellton. What affects Mont Joli affects Matapedia. Notwithstanding the statement made by the minister that members of the board represent the whole of the Canadian people, the fact remains that they are appointed for and are allotted to certain jurisdictions or special districts.

Sir GEORGE PERLEY: No, there is no special jurisdiction.

Sir EUGENE FISET: It is all right for my hon. friend to make that statement, but I must say that is the way it has worked out in the past. There was representation for that section of the railway from Montreal to Riviere du Loup, but for the central division from Riviere du Loup to Matapedia there was no representative on the directorate.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend has stated that the directors are allotted to certain definite sections of the country. That may arise through some internal arrangement of their own. I speak merely to explain our relations with them.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I do not blame the minister at all.

Mr. MANION: We appoint them as representatives of the whole of Canada, although they naturally have to come from some portion of Canada.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Otherwise you would not ask us to appoint new directors to represent two of the provinces.

Mr. MANION: If my hon. friend will permit me to continue. He also complained of the location of the French-speaking superintendent at Mont Joli or Campbellton or some other section. Of course he understands that that is entirely a matter of administration. Until now I did not know where the

French-speaking superintendent was located. As I say, that is entirely a matter of administration, and I have no control over it whatever. The hon. member also referred to my stating the policy of the government to-day or yesterday.

Sir EUGENE FISET: To-day.

Mr. MANION: That is not the appropriate expression.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I say the policy of the road.

Mr. MANION: The hon. member meant that, but he did not say so. I wish to say that this is the policy of the road, not the policy of the government. If we in any way interfere with the railway management we are introducing politics, as my hon. friend knows quite well, having been for some years a member of the special railway committee dealing with Canadian National Railway affairs. He also mentioned that one of the directors was on the executive of a central Conservative Association in the province of Quebec. I heard something of the sort myself. I say quite frankly that I do not believe that a director of the Canadian National Railways should be in that position. With due respect to my hon. friend, I do not think the director to whom he refers is in that position.

Mr. LAPOINTE: He still is.

Mr. POWER: He still is the most active politician we have in Quebec.

Mr. MANION: I presume hon. members will admit that the gentleman in question has a right as a citizen of this country to take some part in politics. I do not suppose that his going on the directorate of the Canadian National Railways precludes him from so doing. I am informed, after some inquiry on my part, that the gentleman to whom my hon. friend has referred is not on the executive of any Conservative association. If it turns out that he is, I will do all in my power to see that he retires from that position.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Will that apply also to British Columbia?

Mr. MANION: Yes. Neither I nor the government believe that any director of the Canadian National Railways should be an active officer of any political association, whether Conservative or Liberal. If I find any of them acting on the executive of a Liberal association I will endeavour to secure their withdrawal from it. My hon. friend also expressed the opinion that the president should not be the chairman of the board of directors.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I am expressing my personal opinion, of course.

Mr. MANION: Yes. As a matter of fact the late government which he supported made the arrangement with Sir Henry Thornton. I looked up the agreement when we were appointing the new board of directors, and I find it provided that Sir Henry Thornton shall be not only president of the road but chairman of the board. I am afraid my hon. friend will have to direct his criticism to the late government.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I said so.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): Is it the intention of the minister in any reorganization of the Canadian National board of directors to have a Labour representative on the board?

Mr. MANION: There is a Labour representative on the board in the person of Mr. Tom Moore.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Mr. Chairman, the reason given by the minister for the increase of the number of directors from 15 to 17 is that each province ought to be represented on the board. But surely there are not 17 provinces.

Mr. MANION: Quite right.

Mr. LAPOINTE: May I ask how many members on the board have been appointed from the province of Ontario?

Mr. MANION: I will gladly give my hon. friend the information.

Mr. SPENCER: Could the minister name them?

Mr. MANION: I think I can do so from memory. At the present time there are 15 directors. Three of them are ex-officio members. Sir Henry Thornton, naturally, is one of them; Gerard Ruel, K.C., the vice-president in charge of legal affairs has been on the board from its inception; my deputy and the deputy of my predecessor, Mr. Smart, is the third. Mr. Tom Moore has always been on the board as the representative of Labour. The other members are: Mr. Murdock Kennedy from Prince Edward Island; Mr. James T. Cumming from Nova Scotia; Mr. John D. Palmer from New Brunswick; from Quebec there are Messrs. Lucien Morand of Quebec city, J. Edouard Labelle of Montreal, and Geo. Henderson also of Montreal.

Mr. FACTOR: Five from Quebec and five from Ontario?

Mr. MANION: Three from Quebec, not including the president and the other ex-officio directors that I have mentioned. From Ontario we have Mr. W. A. Boys, K.C., of Barrie, Mr. F. K. Morrow of Toronto, and Mr. Gordon Perry, also of Toronto. From Manitoba we have Mr. S. E. Richards of Winnipeg, and from British Columbia, Mr. J. Fyfe Smith of Vancouver. With regard to the other provinces it has not been the custom in the past, I am free to admit, that they should be represented on the board. But we felt that the country as a whole was so vitally interested in the Canadian National Railways that there would be a feeling of greater satisfaction and content if each province was directly represented on the board. Therefore we thought it wise to increase the board to 17. My hon. friend from Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) asked how, with 15 members on the board, all the provinces were not represented. That is a very reasonable question, but the fact remains that due to the necessity of having the executive committee meet every week it was absolutely necessary to have a number of the directors within a night's run of Montreal, the headquarters of the system. We thought the matter over very seriously and tried to figure out how, without enlarging the board, we could give each of the western provinces a director, but we could not do it and have the members of the executive committee within a night's run of Montreal; this can only be accomplished by selecting its membership from Ontario and Quebec. That is the reason for the change. My friend from Rimouski opposed the idea of enlarging the board because of the additional expense entailed. As a matter of fact, the directors each receive $2,000, and under the circumstances the extra expense is not really serious.

Sir EUGENE FISET: For the last four years I have tried to ascertain what are the real duties of that famous executive, and of the board of directors. I quite understand what the minister says, that these directors have been chosen in Quebec and Ontario in order that they may meet together, but has the minister ever seen a copy of the agenda containing the questions which are ordinarily submitted to the executive of the board of directors? Is he aware of the fact that, for the most part, the policy of the railway is usually submitted to the executive and very rarely to a full meeting of the board? I fail to understand what really are the duties of these directors. Are they administrators? Do they administer, or do they simply decide on the policy to be followed by the administration?

Mr. MANION: I do not wish to reflect in any way upon the late board of directors, but I do say I do not think they took a very active part in the business affairs of the railway. The board of directors which has been appointed has been chosen largely from outstanding business men. There may be an exception to that statement, but I think the fifteen men are at least the equals—I do not want to say the superiors—of any board of directors the Canadian National Railways ever had. Personally I think they are much superior, but I am not going to argue that point. They are all reasonably outstanding business men. Their duties are to pass upon the business affairs of the company, just as the directors of any company are expected to pass upon its business affairs. If the directors happen to be of the lame duck variety; if they do not ask for or demand any information, and do not show some power or force in the management of the road, we cannot help it. I do not mind telling my hon. friend that I will be disappointed if members of this group take that attitude. Some of the individual directors already have spoken to me, and I have pointed out to them that it is their business to find out from the railway officials anything they wish to know. I have said to them, "You are directors and it is your business to demand any information you wish."

Sir EUGENE FISET: Perhaps if I put a concrete question—

Mr. MANION: Just let me finish. My hon. friend asked if I ever saw the agenda presented at any of these meetings, and it just happened that I had one laid on my desk this morning. The executive committee meets once a week. It is true that perhaps things may pass through quickly, as they sometimes pass through parliament in the latter weeks of the session, but they go through in a formal way. I spent at least half an hour this morning glancing through the agenda for the last meeting of the executive committee, and it was very well and completely done. I do not know whether the business was efficiently handled by the meeting, but the record laid before me would seem to indicate that such was the case.

With regard to the whole board of directors, they are in office from a business standpoint. I do not think they should interfere in the detailed administration of the roads that is, in regard to the working men on the road or the officers. I do not think they should do that, in a general way, but it is their business, as it is the business of directors in any other large company, to go into the organization

and administration of the business affairs of the road and to protect the people of Canada if necessary.

Sir EUGENE FISET: This is the concrete question I should like the minister to answer: Do those directors, for instance, deal with the salaries of the superior staff of the Canadian National railways?

Mr. MANION: They certainly could do so.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Have they done it in the past, to the knowledge of the minister?

Mr. MANION: No, not to my knowledge.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Then let me ask another question. The minister is aware that for the last four years the special committee on railways and shipping has tried to obtain from the officials of the Canadian National railways a list of the salaries paid. I am not talking about the union wages paid the employees of the company; I mean the salaries of the officials and their staffs. We desired this information in order to try to ascertain what really were the overhead charges in the administration of the road. We have not succeeded as yet in getting that information; we did not even succeed in getting it in camera. Is the minister going to change the policy, and if he does appoint a committee this year will it be part of the duty of that committee to inquire into such questions? Of course, it may be due to the change of administration, but some of us are receiving rather queer inquiries from all over Canada. I have received them even from Vancouver, inquiring into that special phase of the organization of the Canadian National Railways. Can the minister give us any hope that we may be entitled to inquire into that matter if we desire to do so?

Mr. MANION: The attitude of the late government was that the salaries of the higher officials should not be given because it was not considered in the public interest.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I am afraid the minister is mistaken; it was not the attitude of the government but the attitude of the officials of the railway, supported by the minister.

Mr. MANION: I understand that, but it was also the attitude of the government in this way, that when questions were put on the order paper having to do with these matters, the answer was that it was not considered in the public interest to give this information. There is at present on the order paper a question along these lines proposed by an hon. member of the house. I do not mind saying quite frankly, speaking for myself only in this matter, that I see no reason why it should be hurtful to the national interest to disclose the salary of any man. I do not know what was the reason in the past; I have never gone into the matter, but I may tell my hon. friend now that I have been more successful as minister than the whole committee was in the past few years, because I have in my desk in my other office a list of the officials and their salaries.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I hope the minister will give us that information confidentially.

Mr. MANION: No, at the moment I do not intend to give it. I simply say I have it, and I think it is the intention of the government to reappoint a special committee which will have the same right to go into all questions that it had in the past. I have not discussed the matter, so I cannot say positively, but I do not imagine it would be a policy of the government to overrule the decision of the management in regard to the salaries in question. However, since my hon. friend was chairman of the committee for some time, probably he will be a member of that committee this year; he will have the opportunity of taking up some of the matters to which he is now referring, and he can push them as far as he likes.

Sir EUGENE FISET: But the committee has turned into a mutual admiration society during the last few years.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend was chairman of the committee.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Perhaps that was the reason.

Mr. SANDERSON: I should like to ask the minister whether, in the event of two new directors being appointed, he and the government will take into consideration the question of choosing at least one director to represent the agricultural sections and interests of this country.

Mr. MANION: Yes, certainly we are considering that matter, and have been considering it for some time. I am hoping—and I can only go that far, because we have not chosen the two new directors—that one may be representative of the agricultural interests.

Mr. HANBURY: I have here the report of the Canadian National Railways for 1930, and it shows as members of the executive committee, up to December 24, 1930, Sir Henry Thornton, Mr. Ruel, Mr. Henry, Mr. Decary,

Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Raeside and Mr. Smart. Could the minister tell me which of these gentlemen are officers of the railway and serving their full time in the employ of the company?

Mr. MANION: Sir Henry Thornton and Mr. Ruel, and Mr. Smart is my deputy; I think those are all. Mr. Ruel is vice-president in charge of legal affairs, while Mr. Smart is deputy minister of railways, and represents the minister on the board.

Mr. EULER: Is Mr. Henry on the board?

Mr. MANION: No, not at the present time.

Mr. HANBURY: Did he serve full time with the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. MANION: No, he was deputy minister at that time.

Mr. HANBURY: What was Mr. Smart's position? According to this report they were both on the board at the same time.

Mr. MANION: Mr. Henry retired as deputy minister and became associated with the Beauharnois company as an official. They left him on as one of the executives and directors and when Mr. Smart took the position of deputy minister of railways he went on the board in Mr. Henry's place, so the two of them were only on together for a short time.

Mr. SPENCER: What position did the deputy minister hold before he was appointed to that office?

Mr. MANION: I do not know exactly. He was an officer of the railway, had been in the railway business all his life, and for some years, I believe, was professor of railway engineering in McGill university.

Mr. VALLANCE: Does the deputy minister, as a director of the company, receive the $2,000?

Mr. MANION: Yes.

Mr. HANBURY: I understood that the policy of the government heretofore has been that there should be the minimum of interference by either political party with the operation of the Canadian National Railways, and that with that object in view there was created an executive committee, the officers of the Canadian National Railways being practically in control.

Mr. MANION: They were only two out of seven.

Mr. HANBURY: Three out of seven.

Mr. MANION: The deputy is not an officer of the railway; he is an officer of the Department of Railways. He is not in any way an officer of the company. The deputy minister is entirely—if I may use the expression in its widest sense—the servant of the Minister of Railways.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Does not the deputy minister, over and above his salary as a civil servant, receive certain emoluments as a member of the executive of the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. MANION: He gets the director's fees.

Sir EUGENE FISET: And to that extent he is as much an administrator of the railway as are the other directors.

Mr. MANION: I did not say he was not as much an administrator; I said he was not an officer. My hon. friend from Vancouver-Burrard said he was an officer of the road. He is not; he is a director. He is not associated with the Canadian National Railways in the sense that Sir Henry Thornton is, or Mr. Hungerford.

Mr. POWER: It has never been quite clear to me what the duties of the executive directors are. I had an idea—I may be wrong in this—that these men were largely appointed to stand between the railroad officials and the general public. Am I right in that assumption—that they stand between the railroad officials and the general public of the particular section of the country from which they come?

Mr. MANION: I rather think the Minister of Railways has to stand between the railway officials and the public. I do not intend that as a short answer, but that has been my experience. So far as the executive is concerned, it acts as any other executive does. The Canadian Pacific Railway also has an executive. The executive has to meet every week, and it would not be possible, for example, to have Mr. Fyfe Smith from Vancouver present at these weekly meetings—I do not remember the late director from British Columbia. He could not get here every week unless he remained here permanently, so that there was appointed an executive, in the case of the late directorate, of seven, and at the present time eight, to meet every week and pass upon such matters as might come before them. The directorate as a whole meets every month.

Mr. POWER: What particular advantage is it to any province to have members from that province on the board of directors?

Mr. MANION: There should be no particular local advantage inasmuch as a director

is supposed to represent the whole people of Canada and should not try to obtain any advantage for his own province. But my hon. friend knows this country well enough to realize that, not only in railway directorates but in governments as well as in everything else, Canada has a sort of geographic mind whereby the people demand representation on almost all bodies that are appointed. It is rather a disadvantage to the country as a whole, but that feeling exists nevertheless. And I may tell my hon. friend that when we appointed the directorate—the fifteen that are now appointed—although Alberta and Saskatchewan had not been represented for many years, I received some very severe protests from those provinces because they had no representation. It illustrates the point I am making. Properly, the directors should not attempt to seek any advantage for the parts of the country from which they respectively come, although possibly it would afford a greater feeling of satisfaction to the different sections of the country if they felt that they were represented by a man who at least would see that they were done no injustice.

Mr. POWER: I am not speaking of the board of directors but of the executive. Is there any particular advantage derived by any province in having a representative on the executive?

Mr. MANION: As regards the executive, geography has not been taken into account. The directors themselves appointed the executive for two reasons: first, supposedly, that the men so appointed were suitable; and secondly, that they were accessible—that they could easily reach Montreal for an executive meeting.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That second reason is really the more important one. Those gentlemen who can reach Montreal more readily are selected to serve on the executive.

Mr. MANION: Naturally, if they could not reach Montreal they could not be on the executive.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I say that, because I have read in the newspapers in my own city how important a man we had to represent us on the board, inasmuch as he had been made a member of the executive. If it is merely because he can take a night train to Montreal—

Mr. MANION: I am sorry to hear my hon. friend imply that he has not much admiration for the gentleman in question. I have heard that the representative from Quebec city was an outstanding man.

[Mr. Manion.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: Well, he was outstanding enough to be campaign manager of the Tory fund at the last election.

Mr. MANION: And apparently he made a pretty good job of that. I hope he makes as good a job of the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Did these directors who are no longer in office resign or were they dismissed because they were not performing their duties satisfactorily? Is it necessary to change directors at every election? Were these gentlemen not performing their duties properly? If they were, why was there a change?

Mr. MANION: At least, politics had nothing to do with it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Tell it to the marines.

Mr. MANION: My right hon. friend the ex-Prime Minister and present leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) would not, I think, admit that his directorate was appointed for political reasons.

Mr. HANBURY: I am sure the Minister of Railways has a sense of humour.

Mr. MANION: I am glad I have; it is an important thing to have. To answer my hon. friend's question, the directors are appointed—I believe this is the exact phraseology—"from one annual meeting to another, or until their successors are appointed." In the case of the late directorate, the annual meeting had passed and we appointed their successors. Their term had lapsed.

Sir EUGENE FISET: Does not the minister think—

Mr. MANION: One at a time, please.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Does the minister say that these directors are appointed at every annual meeting?

Mr. MANION: No, from one annual meeting to another, or until their successors are appointed.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: By whom—the government?

Mr. MANION: By the government.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: There were no delinquencies on the part of the directors who were there before?

Mr. MANION: I would not say there were. I do not know of any delinquencies, but we have appointed a better board, I think.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Was there any complaint from the public, the patrons of the Canadian National Railways, as to the manner in which the gentlemen who were discharged had performed their duties?

Mr. MANION: This is no time to go into such questions. I know of nothing of a criminal character against any of the late directors. They have been simply replaced. But suppose I had had such complaints, would it be of any particular use to disclose it in the house? I do not think it would do any good.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I ask the question because I have received letters from several persons among those whom I represent, patrons of the Canadian National Railways, who were satisfied with the service which the road was giving and who were inquiring whether these directors were dismissed for any political reason. They are asking whether these gentlemen had failed to perform their duties satisfactorily; and if they were satisfactory, why were they dismissed?

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend can assure his friends that politics had nothing whatever to do with it.

Mr. McINTOSH: Did the government, in making the appointments we have heard about this afternoon, receive any O.K. from the leading officers of the company before the appointments were made, if there were no politics in the matter?

Mr. MANION: I do not think we have yet reached the stage of the government letting the management of the Canadian National make our appointments; we make our own appointments and after we have made them, we get the endorsation of the Canadian National.

Mr. McINTOSH: The minister does not take any suggestions from the company in that respect?

Mr. MANION: Not in the least, although, to be fair I may tell my hon. friend that I did ask Sir Henry Thornton whether he had any suggestions; and they were given consideration.

Mr. McINTOSH: That was the point about which I was inquiring.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Can the minister say how many Liberals, how many Liberal-Progressives and how many Progressives are on the board?

Mr. MANION: For all I know, they may be all Liberals. I have not the faintest idea about the politics of any of them. I learned this afternoon from the hon. member for Rimouski that one of them acts on the Conservative committee, but if that be true I am going to try to stop that.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The Minister of Railways has shown me that he is one of the kindest men I know if he appointed some of his old friends of the time when he himself was a Liberal.

Mr. MANION: I did not quite catch that.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The minister said that they might all be Liberals. Probably he appointed some of his old friends of the time when he was a Liberal.

Mr. MANION: I hope I did.

Mr. HANBURY: For the information of the minister I would like to assure him that the appointee from British Columbia, Mr. J. Fyfe Smith of Vancouver, who is a very fine and able gentleman, is a Conservative. If I am mistaken, probably the Minister of Trade and Commerce can correct me, but I think Mr. Smith was the treasurer of the Conservative party in British Columbia.

Mr. MANION: He is not at the present time.

Mr. STEVENS: I do not think he ever was.

Mr. HANBURY: I do not know; there are several treasurers, but I understand he handled some money.

Mr. MANION: Not having known anythink about their politics, I am glad to hear that some of them are Conservatives, because since we came into power we are hearing that everyone we appoint is a Liberal.

Mr. JACOBS: Speaking from this side of the house, I want to congratulate the minister on the appointments he has made. During the period the Liberal party was in power, every man who was a director of the Canadian National was a Liberal appointed by a Liberal government, and I think it is only right, now that we have gone out of power, that they should be superseded by men appointed from the Conservative party, as Conservatives, by Conservatives and for

Conservatives. This is only as it should be, and in due time, when this government retires—and I hope it will do so within the time that I am still living—these men will be superseded by Liberals. This is part of the system. I recall that in 1922 after the Conservative government had gone out of power I was in Winnipeg shortly before the appointment of the new directors of the Canadian National. I made the prediction at a public meeting that every man who was to be appointed to that board would be a Liberal, regardless of his ability or his position or whether he was an outstanding man or not. I was glad to see that the gift of prophecy which my people always claim had descended upon me. Why dissemble? I am surprised that the Minister of Railways and Canals should try to sidestep the question.

These men were no doubt appointed because they were men of ability. After all, we do not claim to have in our party a monopoly of ability. There are some men of ability on the other side; some of them are on the front benches, and others, perhaps more able, are on the back benches. It is a mistake for us to endeavour to decry the appointment of these men because they happen to be Conservatives. I know some very estimable, respectable men both inside and outside of this house, who are Conservatives. This is only part of the spoils system, and as long as the government is running an enterprise of this kind, it will exist. I congratulate the Minister of Railways and the government upon their appointments. Every man who has been appointed has, I understand, rendered some service to his party, and what more do we want? We are satisfied; we went to the country; we were defeated; we know we were defeated; the thing is made more evident to us every day.

Sitting here on the opposite side of the house in the cold shades I feel very much like Marius, the conquerer of Hannibal. When he was dismissed from his own country and ostracized, he went to Carthage, the country that he had conquered. There he was found by one of his friends and he said to him: "Go back to Rome and say that you have seen Marius weeping on the walls of Carthage." I feel very much like that every day. That is why I do not like to come into the house. I am thinking of the ancient glories of the Liberal party. And see what we have come to! Sometimes, however, I am inclined to think there is a good time still coming for the Liberal party. I hope it will not be deferred too long. We ought to be glad and happy, owing to present conditions, that we are on this side of the house without

[Mr. Jacobs.]

responsibility, and that our friends are on the other side making these appointments and trying to convince the people of Canada that never before in our history were we as happy as now.

Mr. POULIOT: It is all right to say that there will be no politics in the national railways; this is always being said, but I cannot understand why there are so many mysteries about the railways. When we ask the Minister of Railways for some information about the Canadian National, that information is not always given to us. For this I am not altogether blaming the present minister, because under another administration I had reason to make a similar complaint in the house several years ago. This situation is sometimes very embarrassing on account of the high figures of the railway appropriations that are submitted to us for our approval. The Canadian National Railways come to the House of Commons asking members of parliament to vote large sums of money, and when we ask the minister for information about this or that, sometimes the minister answers about this, but about that he says it is not in the interests of the public or of the railway to give the information. Supposing a man goes to a friend and asks for his endorsation on a note for $500 or $1,000, the friend would be perfectly justified in asking that man to tell how he stands financially, if he has assets, and so on. How can it happen that information is refused to members of parliament who are called upon to vote these large sums, especially this year when the deficit of the Canadian National, as the Prime Minister has announced and as the Minister of Railways knows very well, will be very substantial? The Canadian National Railways will have to come to parliament again this year, as it has done in previous years, and probably ask us to vote money blindly. That is far from being satisfactory. Whenever a member of parliament asks the Minister of Railways for information about the railway the minister may not always have the information at hand, but I cannot conceive how it happens that the management of the railway refuses to give that information to the members of this house. I am quite sure that the minister himself can get all the information he wants from the railway. Why can it not be given through him to the members of this house? Surely the minister can trust hon. members of this house with information that may be of a confidential character. It may sometimes happen that the railway would not like information of a semi-private character given

to the press. That is quite understandable, but it might be given to the members of this house just as well as it is given to the minister. If the management of the railway trusts the minister, why does it not trust the members of the house? I suggested the very same thing four or five years ago when the previous government was in power, but I did not receive a favourable reply. Now I address the same complaint to the present minister. I do not know what his answer will be, but it seems to me that the request I am making is only fair. How can we tell our electors that we are satisfied with the management of the railway if information about the railway is refused to us? To give you an idea, Mr. Chairman, of what happens in large companies, I know, for instance, of one lumber concern which shows a certain acreage of timber limits as security for the bondholders, whereas as a matter of fact this concern is renting about one hundred square miles of burnt timber. It is not worth very much, but it gives the impression that the company is the possessor of one hundred more square miles of timber than it really possesses.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, just before the adjournment I was speaking of the fact that sometimes information is refused members of parliament by the Minister of Railways and Canals on behalf of the Canadian National Railways. The reason is given that it is not in the interests of the country or of the railway company to give such information. I will ask the minister to be kind enough to trust the members of this house. Probably I should not suggest that he is unwilling to trust them, but there is no doubt that the Canadian National Railways do not always trust hon. members, and I would ask the minister to speak concerning that matter to the officials, and to the directors he has recently appointed. I have before me a copy of the Canadian National Railways magazine of February, 1931, in which there is a report of a dinner at which the minister was guest of honour. At that notable gathering were directors, representatives, employees and guests of Canadian National officials. The speeches were reported, and if one may judge from the article in this magazine it was what might be termed a social affair. No indication is given of the special duties of directors of the Canadian National Railways. It is stated that the hon. minister through his deputy represents the people on the board of directors. My hon. friend may correct me if I am wrong, but it is so stated in this issue of the magazine published by the Canadian National Railways. Sometimes we are in a very difficult position on account of these mysteries, but I would repeat that the minister can trust hon. members on this side of the house as well as those on the other side. If he wishes to give information of a confidential character he may be sure that the secret will be kept. On the other hand hon. members will have the satisfaction of not being required to vote blindly.

I do not wish unduly, to take up the time of the house, nor do I wish to read any lengthy report concerning proposed construction by the Canadian National Railways. I would like, however, to answer the question put to me, the other day, by the minister; I believe it bears some relation to the proposed legislation now before this committee. In that connection the directors of the railway company may have something to say; however, my hon. friend expressed the wish to be enlightened on the point, and I shall endeavour to comply with his desire. If my memory serves me correctly, he asked me why the station at Riviere du Loup had not been built while the Liberal party was in power. Mr. Chairman, the reason is very clear. The first year I was elected I sent a memorandum to Sir Henry Thornton, president and chairman of the Canadian National Railways, requesting the building of the station. At that time I was told that they had to curtail expenses to the limit. That was the reason given; yet hon. members may see in Hansard of Monday last the translation of the report made by the board of health. At that time parts of the Canadian National Railways, especially the old Canadian Government Railways and the Intercolonial Railways, were not on the same footing as other sections of the system in regard to the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners. If hon. members will refer to Hansard of April 12, 1928, they will find the following:

Mr. Dunning: Under the old section, which will be seen in the explanatory note, the Canadian Government Railways were under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners with respect to their operation but not with respect to construction and maintenance. The object of the amendement is to put the Canadian Government Railways under the Board of Railway Commissioners as all other railways are under their control, especially with regard to the construction and maintenance of the lines. It is thought that there is now no reason for what might be called special

privilege for the government railways, and when I speak of government railways I am distinguishing between them and the Canadian National Railways generally. It is understood that the Canadian National Railways generally are already under the control of the Board of Railway Commissioners. This section deals with the old Canadian Government Railways, the Intercolonial Railway and the National Transcontinental Railway, and seeks to bring them more completely under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners than is now the case.

Mr. Bennett: What necessity has arisen to demand this legislation?

Mr. Dunning: The necessity arises through the demands of people along the lines affected for improvements of one kind or another for which, in any other part of the country, they would secure an order from the Board of Railway Commissioners. With respect to these particular lines they find it necessary to come to the minister exactly as they did when the minister had direct control over the Intercolonial Railway and the National Transcontinental Railway.

Mr. Bennett: Surely this does not apply to the Intercolonial Railway?

Mr. Dunning: Yes.

Mr. Cantley: Do I understand that the minister wants to be protected from the people of the maritime provinces?

Mr. Dunning: No, I have no desire to be protected from the people of any part of Canada, but I do desire to give the people of every part of this country the same right to appear before the Board of Railway Commissioners and appeal for anything they think should be done which comes within the scope of the Railway Act. Really this simply creates a standard practice on our Canadian railways, and I think the house will agree that it is desirable that all our system should be operated in a standard manner.

Section 16 of chapter 172 of the Canadian National Railways Act, Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, reads as follows:

Notwithstanding anything in the Government Railways Act or any other act, the provisions of the Railway Act respecting the operation of a railway, as distinguished from the provisions of such act respecting the construction or maintenance of a railway, shall apply to such of the Canadian Government Railways as would but for the passing of this act be subject to the Government Railways Act, during such time as the operation and management thereof is entrusted to the company under the provisions of this act.

The provisions of the Railway Act, respecting maintenance of a railway, shall also apply to such railways during the time aforementioned in so far as such maintenance affects the safety and protection of railway employees and the passengers upon the railway.

Then follows the amendment brought forward by the then Minister of Railways and Canals as contained in chapter 13 of 18-19 George V:

Section sixteen of the Canadian National Railways Act, chapter one hundred and seventy-two of the revised statutes of Canada, 1927, is repealed and the following is substituted therefor:—

16. (1) Notwithstanding anything in the Government Railways Act, or any other act the provisions of the Railway Act respecting the construction, maintenance and operation of a railway (excepting those relating to the location of lines of railway, the making and filing of plans and profiles—other than highway and railway crossing plans and the taking and using of lands and expropriation proceedings) shall apply to any Canadian government railway which would, but for the passing of this act, but only for the period during which the management and operation of that railway is entrusted to the company under the provisions of this act.

(2) All the provisions of the Expropriation Act and all legal procedure in matters arising under the Expropriation Act shall apply, during the said period, to such Canadian government railway in like manner as if this act had not been passed.

The intention of the amendment was to put construction and maintenance on the same footing as operation. Afterwards the chamber of commerce and the city council communicated with the railway management, and the board of health made a report on the Rivière du Loup station. In 1928 the matter was discussed with the manager of the Atlantic region, and in January, 1929, at Moncton I met Mr. Appleton and told him I intended to bring the resolutions and the report to the attention of this house. I would refer hon. members to Hansard of Monday last containing these papers, a perusal of which, I am sure, will be interesting to them. Mr. Appleton told me that the estimates of 1929 had to be reduced from $5,000,000 to $1,700,000, and that therefore the item could not be included in the budget of 1929, but that it would be placed in the budget of 1930. May I bring to the attention of hon. members a resolution passed on April 13, 1931, by the city council of Riviere du Loup. As it is very short I will read it:

At a meeting of the Riviere du Loup city council held at the city hall, on Monday, April 13, 1931, were present: His Worship the Mayor Charles Eugéne Dubé, Messrs. the Councillors, E. Laforest, pro-mayor, L. P. Lizotte, A. Dumais, J. H. Mailloux, A. Marquis, J. G. Parent, forming a quorum of said council under the chairmanship of His Worship the Mayor.

Councillor L. P. Lizotte moves, seconded by Councillor J. H. Mailloux: That this council desires to protest against the decision of the Canadian Railway Commission to repair the present station instead of building a new one, and, request them to reconsider their decision.

That copy of this resolution be transmitted to the competent authorities.

Unanimously adopted.

(Signed Chs. Eug. Dubé,
Mayor.

(Signed) J. Lebel, Sec. Treas.
Certified copy,
J. Lebel, Sec. Treas.

What was my surprise the other day to hear my right hon. friend the Prime Minister complaining of the fact that in this connection I had read to the house reports by the board of health! May I tell him that the course I took should not be treated as a joke. I regard my duty as a member of parliament very seriously and I brought the case to the attention of the house as a matter of principle. We want definite information about what is to be done by the Canadian National Railways. I understand the management is doing very well under the circumstances. But parliament is endorsing all the liabilities of the Canadian National Railways and voting public money from time to time to continue their operation We want to know what is going to happen. We know what has happened in this case, that a certain sum of money was inclued in the budget of the Canadian National Railways for a definite purpose. As my right hon. friend the Prime Minister said, and rightly said, if money is voted for a certain definite purpose, and the money is not spent, the vote lapses. As a matter of fact, the money so voted was spent for another purpose,—I do not know what. Certainly there was no economy in so doing.

An hon. MEMBER: What was the amount voted?

Mr. POULIOT: The amount voted was $77,136, of which $50,000 or $60,000 was on capital account; but there being a deficit in the Atlantic division, current expenditure other than capital had to be included in the vote.

You, Mr. Chairman, as batonnier of the Quebec bar, are familiar with the decisions given by the courts of Quebec in municipal matters, and no doubt will recall the case of Riou v. Martin which went to the Supreme Court of Canada. That case was decided in 1925 by the highest tribunal in this country. The Supreme Court of Canada held that when certain money had been appropriated by a municipal corporation for a definite purpose, and it was spent for some other purpose, the mayor and the whole council became liable personally for the full amount so diverted. I do not ask the right hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues personally to reimburse the vote of $77,136, although some of my hon. friends to your right, Mr. Chairman, told me they would be ready to form a "bee" and come down to Riviere du Loup and build the station.

Mr. SPOTTON: Hear, hear.

Mr. POULIOT: I am glad to hear my hon. friend from North Huron (Mr. Spotton) applaud my statement. I told him the other day that I would ask him to be the cornerstone of that station. Truly, he would make a wonderful cornerstone; for the ceremony would be performed by Sir Henry Thornton, and they would be a perfect match. I say this in the most friendly spirit. Although, Mr. Chairman, I would not characterize the diversion of the vote as a fraudulent conversion of funds by the government, for I am sure no member of the cabinet appropriated the money personally, still it was spent for a purpose other than that for which it had been presented to the committee on railway and shipping last session.

Mr. MANION: How does my hon. friend know that the money was spent for some other purpose? Where does he get his information?

Mr. POULIOT: I got that information from the right hon. Prime Minister the other day.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. MANION: No, the Prime Minister did not give any such information.

Mr. POULIOT: If my hon. friend will allow me I will answer his question. Every hon. member who was in the house on the occasion will recall that I asked the right hon. Prime Minister if under the Audit Act any vote not spent within the financial year lapsed, and he said yes. Afterwards I spoke of vote 323 of last session, which included the special amount of $77,136 for the building of the station at Riviere du Loup, according to a letter signed by the deputy minister of Railways and Canals, which letter will be found in Hansard. I asked the right hon. gentleman if all that money had been spent, and he told me it had. The money was spent, but no station was built. In that case the money must evidently have been spent for something else, or no one can understand anything at all about it. The station was not built but the money has been spent. Where has it gone?

This is a matter of principle, and to-day we are asked to vote a certain amount of money for this, that and the other thing. Who will tell us that this money will not be spent in some other part of the country altogether and for some purpose other than that for which it has been voted? This money has

gone some place, but I do not believe the minister himself knows where it has gone; he does not know any more about it than I do. All they know is that it has vanished. If I put a question on the orders of the day the government will be so embarrassed that they probably will answer that it is not in the public interest or in the interests of the railway to give the information. I wish to be fair, but I wish to be treated fairly also, and my request is very reasonable.

Mr. BENNETT: What was that request?

Mr. POULIOT: This is a very good start, at all events. If the right hon. Prime Minister had been here; if he had been in charge of the department he would not have tolerated such a thing. I know the Prime Minister well enough to be sure that he would not have taken such action; he would not have refused to sanction the building of that station. I am sure the Minister of Railways also would not have himself done such a thing; it was done when both were not here. He is a very able doctor, and I take this opportunity of saying that I will not make any disagreeable reflection on him to-night, and if he seemed offended because he lacked a sense of humour one day, I am sorry for it.

Mr. BENNETT: If he is a very able doctor I should be afraid of his diagnosis if I were the hon. member.

Mr. POULIOT: I would never offend my hon. friend the Minister of Railways as a doctor, because he is a very able doctor and if I ever feel ill I hope he will come to my rescue.

Mr. MANION: I am afraid I should send my hon. friend to the hospital.

Mr. POULIOT: I think my hon. friend would like me to be in hospital when the estimates of the Department of Railways come up, but I am here and thank God I am in good health. If my hon. friend the minister were the cleverest lawyer in Canada; if he were as good a lawyer as he is a doctor, I should nevertheless say to him that he has a very bad case. Why did he take such a bad case? He is wasting his time trying to defend it. No one can explain it, and because no satisfactory explanation is given I am fighting for an answer.

Mr. BENNETT: What was it the hon. member was asking for?

An hon. MEMBER: He wants a station.

Mr. POULIOT: I am sure the right hon. Prime Minister is very familiar with the matter. He is very quick; he understands things, and he undoubtedly knows what I am asking for.

Mr. BENNETT: I thought it was an epitaph.

Mr. POULIOT: No, it is not an epitaph, but if a new station is not built the old station will be the epitaph of the Tory party in my county. It will not be a beautiful one for them, because that mausoleum is eaten away by rats. It is in terrible condition, as my English-speaking friends in the house will see by looking up the translation in Hansard of last Monday. For the honour of this government, and to show that the policies of the right hon. gentleman are put in practice, would it not be proper for him to tell the Canadian National Railways to go ahead and put in their budget for this year the same amount that they had put in it last year, and which has been spent for other purposes unknown. Is it not a fair suggestion?

I have another question to address to my hon. friend the Minister of Railways. Since no station was built last year, would he agree to tell the house the amounts of the tenders that were put in for the construction of that station? I hear no answer from the minister, so I will put my question on the order paper and see if the minister will answer it then. Would it be against the interests of the railway or of the country to give that information to the public? I would not like to have the prices changed; I should like to get the original prices, which would prove my contention that the interference of the defeated Tory candidate in Témiscouata was the reason for the decision made by the acting Minister of Railways (Sir George Perley).

I see my friends the Postmaster General and the Minister of Public Works here to-night. I ask them if they had anything to do, directly or indirectly, with the decision of the acting Minister of Railways in regard to this station. Did they have anything to do with the decision not to build that station? I wonder if the Postmaster General or the Minister of Public Works will tell me what was then said by the defeated Tory candidate, that it was not a proper time to build that station.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My hon. friend knows very well that if we did have anything to do with it we would not be able to disclose it.

Mr. POULIOT: Because it is not in the interests of the country to know about it?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My hon. friend knows better than that; he knows that the

oath of a privy councillor prevents him from disclosing any information such as the hon. gentleman is requesting.

Mr. POULIOT: I trust my hon. friend enough to believe him even when he is not under oath. Something mysterious happened, and a wrong was done. The Canadian National Railways wanted to build that station but were prevented from doing so by the acting minister. My friend the Minister of Railways said it was a matter of economy, but it was included in a vote of $51,600,000, which was spent; later on $11,000,000 was spent by the Canadian National Railways; $2,000,000 was spent very easily on the Welland canal, and $1,500,000 was taken from the unemployment fund to cover the interest on other railway expenditure. All that money was spent, but they could not find $7,000 to make up the difference between the amount of one tender and the amount voted by parliament.

I claim justice and fair play, Mr. Chairman, and in doing so I represent the views of my electors. They have sent me here to defend their rights, and that is what I am doing. Last winter several people suffered hunger because they could not get work, and that suffering would have been prevented if this building had been constructed at the proper time. In all fairness I ask the Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways to be good enough to take sufficient interest in this matter, so that their manner of dealing with things in connection with the Canadian National Railways may not be a standing reproach to them. It is all very well to spend large sums of money in the big cities, but the small centres should be treated fairly; because otherwise the carpenters and other workmen who are unable to secure employment in their own places have to migrate to the larger cities, thus adding to the numbers of the unemployed. This is one of the causes of unemployment in this country, and I can assure the leader of the government and his colleagues that it is a serious matter. Indeed, if the same thing had occurred in any other part of the country I would have taken the same stand, because one has to be fair to every section, the small centres as well as the larger ones. All the money should not be spent only in big cities like Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. I am not saying this critically; I am merely emphasizing my point. The country people who cannot get work at home migrate to the big cities, and this only increases unemployment, at the same time adding to the burden which now weighs upon the shoulders of the population. For all these reasons, as we say in legal proceedings, I conclude, with the hope that in the near future the Prime Minister will put into effect the policy which he enunciated in Brandon and inform the Canadian National Railways that they have a free hand to do what they think best. Then they will resume their program and construct that building, which I am sure will be an asset to the community.

Mr. VENIOT: I wish to direct the attention of the Minister of Railways to a situation which I pointed out to him some ten days ago, when he promised that he would have the matter looked into and give me a reply. Up to the present time I have not received that reply. I can well understand how busy the minister is, and I do not wish to blame him for the delay.

Mr. MANION: What was the subject?

Mr. VENIOT: The resolution of the board of trade of Tracadie, regarding the cutting down of railway service in the county of Gloucester. I wish to deal with that question to-night in the hope of throwing some light upon it and placing the minister in a position where he may be able to take it up, more intelligently than he can at present, with the head office at Montreal.

The Caraquet railway was taken over by the Canadian National Railways some years ago. It has become one of the most paying branches or feeders to the Canadian National Railways, if not the most paying, in the eastern section of the line. Up to this year we have had in the summer time a daily freight and passenger service. During the last two or three years we have had in winter season a regular daily freight service and passenger express service. The people of the lower section of Gloucester, through which the line runs, make up a population of about 35,000. They applied to the railway in 1928 for a daily express service in the summer. Knowing as I did that that could not be a paying undertaking, I did not approve of their application. I consulted the different interests of that section of the county and convinced them that they should confine their application to a daily express service in the winter, when it would pay. They did so and the railway granted a daily express winter service. That express is now on and will be taken off around the 26th of this month. We find no fault with the taking off of that service because in summer it will not pay, owing to the autobus and taxi service in that section of the country. But when the railway, for the sake of economy, deprives a population

of 35,000 people of the daily mixed freight and passenger service it is time I raised my voice in protest.

The section of the county of Gloucester through which the railway passes has, as I have stated, a population of 35,000. We have some of the largest fisheries in the maritime provinces located along the line of this railway and if we are to have a railway service only three times a week the fishing business will be completely destroyed, because the people will not be able to ship fresh fish to the Montreal market and elsewhere. The salmon fishing industry, which is now overburdened by new regulations, will be still further hampered by want of railway communication. The large cod-fishing industry in that part of the country will be seriously affected. The lower part of this county is one of the best sections of New Brunswick for the production of pulpwood. We have the oyster fishery also, which the Department of Fisheries is doing all it can to encourage, and that industry will be affected. We have large catches of mackerel to be shipped fresh. We shall have to go out of that business, because we cannot any longer continue it under the system which they are now going to adopt. We have lumber interests in the lower sections of the county which also will be affected. There are large quantities of railway ties taken out for the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway, and these too will be affected. The lower section of the county will be seriously handicapped, and I would point out to the minister that retrenchments are being made for the sake of economy, in the Atlantic region of the Canadian National Railways, which should not be affected. The Canadian National railway in that part of the country has had the largest carloadings in the last year of any section in Canada, and retrenchments in the interests of economy will only throw back the railway and create a larger deficit in the earnings of that section of the Canadian National. I know I shall be told that there are other sections of the Railway in the province of New Brunswick which have been curtailed. Yes; there has been a curtailment on the Valley railway from St. John to Fredericton and Centreville. But it must not be forgotten that all along that section the people have communication with three and four trains a day, furnished by the Canadian Pacific Railway, so that the curtailing of railway service by the Canadian National Railways would not and does not affect that section of New Brunswick as seriously as it affects the section in which I am interested, which has only one railway to depend upon.

Speaking of retrenchments in the administration of the railways, if the management at Moncton wished to economize, why did they keep on a daily freight train during the winter season when there was scarcely freight enough to keep the trains moving? That was the time to retrench rather than now when business is coming up, when large shipments of fish are about to take place, and when the interests of the country are more at stake than they are in the winter season. If they had retrenched in the month of December down to a month ago, they would have saved money and they would not have seriously affected the business interests of that section of the country. To-day there are 250 carloads of potatoes waiting to be shipped from that section of the county of Gloucester, and the very moment that we are getting a market for them we are deprived of the railway facilities that we should have in order to get those potatoes readily to market.

Let me go one step further and point out the discrimination which the railway authorities have shown in connection with the transportation of potatoes in that section of New Brunswick. Up the river St. John potato dealers have been allowed to ship their potatoes in bulk in refrigerator cars, but in the counties of Gloucester and Northumberland potato dealers were refused the same privilege, and they were told that they would have to bag their potatoes before they would be allowed to put them into refrigerator cars. The matter was taken up and it took some seven or eight days to have it adjusted. Finally we were permitted to ship our potatoes in bulk in refrigerator cars the same as others were doing elsewhere in New Brunswick. I would not even hint that the railway is playing politics in this matter: I do not believe the management would do so, but it looks as if a discrimination existed against that section of New Brunswick which was the only constituency in that province to elect a Liberal in the last general election.

Let me go a step further. In the reduction in railway service the little town of Bathurst in which I live and which has a population of about 6,000—when the Minister of Railways and Canals has finished conversing with his colleague, if he will listen to my case I shall proceed.

Mr. MANION: I have listened to every word the hon. member has said, and I am ready to reply as soon as he gives me an opportunity.

Mr. VENIOT: The minister cannot catch everything that is going on and at the same time keep up a running conversation as he has been doing for the last five minutes.

Mr. MANION: Yes, he can.

An hon. MEMBER: The hon. member is not saying much.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The minister has not a single-track mind.

Mr. VENIOT: I want to say to the hon. gentleman who is interjecting, that I am endeavouring as best I can to lay the case of my people before the Minister of Railways and Canals. My arguments may not be sufficiently strong to convince hon. gentlemen opposite that the case is a good one, but I shall proceed and do the best I can.

In the little town of Bathurst, which is the junction point of the Caraquet railway with the main line of the Canadian National, I am credibly informed that within the last two months no less than twelve men have been thrown out of employment. Two train crews have been taken off, one off the shunting and one off the regular freight train. That represents a sum by way of yearly salary of $22,000 taken from that town, which is already suffering greatly from lack of employment owing to the fact that, for instance, the pulp and newsprint mill has been running only two or three days a week and was closed down entirely for several weeks during the winter months. The railway management should at least give to the 35,000 people living in the district through which that line passes, a daily freight and passenger service. If we could obtain that, it would help our business, keep our people at home and employed, and no injustice would be done to the numerous industries that are operating in that section of the province. Will the minister be kind enough to take this matter up, or if he has a reply to the question I put to him some ten days ago, will he give it to me to-night? If not, will he take the matter up with the management of the railways and see if something cannot be done to give us at least a daily mixed freight and passenger service over the Caraquet road?

Mr. MANION: The hon. gentleman has made a plea that would convince a much harder hearted man than I am but unfortunately I am not the person who should be convinced in this regard. The persons who should be convinced are the management of the railways.

Mr. VENIOT: We submitted our case to them and we got no satisfaction.

Mr. MANION: Of course my hon. friend would be the last man in the house to believe in political interference in a case where there should not be any.

Mr. VENIOT: Certainly.

Mr. MANION: I must apologize to my hon. friend for not having told him some days ago the result of my investigation but the result was so bad that I did not like to give it to him. I have a list handed to me by the management of the Canadian National as to the changes in traffic referred to by him in one of the cases of the Bathurst-Tracadie line. The mileage is a little over seventy-seven miles. According to the statement given to me by the National Railways the revenue per train mile on that road is thirteen cents and the expenditure or cost per train mile is $1.26·2. In other words, the cost is almost ten times the revenue.

Mr. VENIOT: Is the period dealt with a year?

Mr. MANION: They do not state, but I presume so. Even if the showing were a little better in the summer than in the winter, my hon. friend will admit that it would not make a very good showing even in the summer. They show that by taking off the daily service and putting on a tri-weekly service—

Mr. VENIOT: I do not wish to interrupt, but what daily service are they cutting off? There are two daily services there.

Mr. MANION: They give the present service, number of trains daily, six days a week, as two. For the proposed service, number of trains daily, six days per week, they also give two, but they give the mixed train three days a week. That is the cut that is being made.

Mr. VENIOT: At the present time we have an express daily service and a freight daily service. The express daily service goes off, as a matter of fact, every spring, and instead of leaving us the mixed freight and passenger service on the basis of a daily service six days a week, they are going to give us the mixed freight and passenger service three times a week.

Mr. MANION: Well, whatever the cut is that they have proposed, I am not going to argue what they are going to give the hon. member's section of the country. They give the mixed train service as three days a week. My hon. friend says that they are cutting off

the express. I do not so understand from this, but I will accept his statement. They claim that by changing the service the saving will be $30,479. Under these circumstances, though the hon. gentleman has made on behalf of his section of the country a very eloquent plea that would convince me, I am afraid he will find it difficult to convince the management of the railway. In fact, I may tell him—I do this with no other object than to elucidate the point—that the data I have here shows that this particular service is the greatest loser of any service in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, and the management in reducing that service are eliminating a loss of a little more than $30,000 a year.

Mr. VENIOT: Perhaps I may be allowed a further word, Mr. Chairman, as this is a vrey serious matter. The comparison is not a fair one. The comparison is made for the year. It is not made along the line of a daily mixed freight and passenger service. The passenger express which is on to-day was first put on in 1928, on the first of October, and that service caused a loss of $10,000 a month to the railway for the months of October and November and up to the 15th of December. The next year, in view of the loss incurred by that daily express, I advised the railway authorities at Moncton not to put on the service until somewhere around the 1st or the 15th of December. They looked into the matter, and acted accordingly. They were in competition with the autobus and taxi services, and that is what made them lose that amount on the passenger traffic.

It may be that they can save $30,000 in a year by cutting out all this service and counting on it being cut out during the whole year. But the express service is operated only during four or five months in the year, and therefore I say that the comparison is not a fair one. It is said that figures cannot lie, but figures can be made to misrepresent facts, and when it comes to making a comparison of that kind, it ill becomes the management at Moncton to make the comparison in that way in order to convince the minister that there should not be an increase in the service.

Let me go further. The cutting off of this service and giving us only three trains a week will disrupt the mail service not only of the county of Gloucester but of every other section of the Dominion that is doing business with the county of Gloucester. The mail to-day is carried by rural route a distance of 28 miles and by train a distance of 68 miles. There will be no daily mail service by rail, and the Post Office Department will have to enter into new contracts, cancel the old contracts they have for the side service from the railway and inaugurate either an autobus or a taxi mail service which will cost the country much more than the Canadian National Railway can save by this reduction in the service. It is simply robbing Paul to pay Peter—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. VENIOT: —Or robbing Peter to pay Paul. I did not use that expression in any personal way simply because my name happens to be Peter.

The minister is quite right when he says that this case should be presented to the railway management at Moncton. It was first presented to the management at Moncton, and then to the management at Montreal; at least, that is my information. To-day a representative of the interests in the lower section of the province is waiting on Sir Henry Thornton in the hope of having the matter straightened out. So I say that we have gone to the proper authorities, and we have failed to get satisfaction. Now I come to the foot of the throne, and I am appealing to the infallible justice of the crown to see that the rights of the people be protected. Once more I ask the minister to take up this matter at Montreal and see if he cannot give that large population the service which they require. Imagine, Mr. Chairman, a population of 35,000 people getting only three trains a week. Even if there was a deficit of $30,000 a year, that is no worse than the deficits that we see throughout the country on other sections of the Canadian National Railway. Why should the maritime provinces be singled out? Why should we be told that there is a deficit of $30,000 a year on 68 miles of railway, and therefore our railway communication is to be cut down and we must put up with it? That is not a fair way of looking at the matter, simply to consider whether or not a service pays. When the service is stopped the people suffer, and the industries along the line of the railway must equally suffer. In having the railway service work detrimentally to those industries along the railway, you are increasing unemployment and you are not living up to the policy which the government has laid down of helping to relieve unemployment in the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. MANION: The hon. gentleman has just made a statement which I think should hardly go unchallenged, when he said that the railway management had singled out the maritime provinces. I happen to have with me a statement of the saving which the

Canadian National Railway proposes to make in different sections of the country. It shows that while in the maritime provinces they expect to make a saving of something like $198,000, in the central section, comprising eastern Ontario and Quebec they expect to make a saving of nearly $500,000, and in the western region a saving of $250,000. So they are making reductions pretty generally throughout the whole country. I appreciate the hon. gentleman's plea, and more particularly because yesterday I had a deputation wait upon me in regard to this very same line of railway. The deputation was introduced by an oustanding and straightforward fine-looking chap from down there—perhaps my hon. friend remembers his name—it was Mr. Robichaud.

Mr. VENIOT: Yes, my opponent.

Mr. MANION: He made an argument about on the same line as that of my hon. friend.

Mr. VENIOT: He consulted me before doing it.

Mr. POWER: Does the minister happen to know that gentleman's politics?

Mr. POULIOT: The Tories of that constituency are better than those in my constituency.

Mr. MANION: The deputation made practically the same plea as that made by my hon. friend from Gloucester. I have already taken the matter up with the railways and laid the representations of my hon. friend and his friends and of the friends of Mr. Robichaud before the railway, but I will bring the matter again to the attention of the management. My hon. friend is quite at liberty, of course, to argue the matter out himself before the management, and there is still the last resort of appealing to the Board of Railway Commissioners. The hon. member for Gloucester has presented his case very ably, and I can assure him that it will be given fair consideration.

Mr. VENIOT: This is my last word as to the comparison which the minister has placed before the house. He stated that in the eastern section, by the elimination of certain accommodation, the railway will save $198,000, while in the central section, Ontario and Quebec, it will save $500,000. Perhaps the Minister of Railways is not familiar with the territory in the maritime provinces, or if he is, he gave me no evidence of it when making such a comparison. In the maritime provinces the old Intercolonial railway is the only railway of main line dimensions that we have between Lévis and Halifax, and between Truro and Sydney, and when you are cutting out a service in that section of the country to the extent of saving $198,000, while you save only $500,000 in the central provinces of Ontario and Quebec, where you have the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian National and the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario railway all giving accommodation, then I claim that the comparison is unfair and unjust, and it should not be used as an argument against the maritime provinces.

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): Mr. Chairman, while I do not agree with some of the remarks of the ex-Postmaster General (Mr. Veniot) I must confess that many of the statements he has made on this question I am pleased to corroborate to the fullest degree. In the first place we must remember the purpose for which the Intercolonial Railway was built. Its construction was not carried out from an economic point of view but was regarded by the Fathers of Confederation as necessary to providing means of communication between the lower and upper provinces, and making Canada into one great dominion. To-day I believe we are looking upon this railway system more particularly from an economic point of view, and I think we ought not to lose sight of the London agreement, which was hidden away for so many years and upon which the British North America Act was framed. We in the maritime provinces feel that sometimes so far as railway rates are concerned, we are not treated on the same basis as other parts of Canada. Hon. members, should take into consideration the distances over which freight has to be hauled in other parts of Canada and compare them with the distance in the maritime provinces; you in western and central Canada say that the distances are much shorter, yet your rates are lower than ours. At the same time hon. members forget that the Intercolonial railway was originally built by the people of Canada for the purpose of cementing the lower with the upper and central parts.

I wish to make some futher remarks in connection with the cut in the service of the railway companies. In the constituency I represent in the province of New Brunswick we have experienced a cut in service. I am not saying that the cut was not warranted; I do not stand here to-night for the purpose of saying that the railway companies of Canada should not be operated economically so that they may serve the interests of all the people of Canada. I do say, however, that the ex-Postmaster General made a rather unhappy

comparison of the treatment which had been accorded to the people of the St. John river and the people in the constituency he represents. He tried to contrast the service in my constituency with that which had been accorded to the people of the country of Gloucester. Surely he knows that the very same treatment which was accorded to his people in the county of Gloucester was accorded to the people along the St. John river, namely, that when they had restrictions placed upon them in respect to the shipment of their potatoes in bags from Gloucester county the same restriction was placed upon the people along the St. John river. That restriction was placed upon us by the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National Railway companies. It applied to both companies at the same time. If my hon. friend had wanted to be fair he might have said that those farmers who shipped on what was known as the Gulf Shore and Caraquet railway did not ship their potatoes in bulk last fall when they could and should have shipped them, the same as we did. They waited until this spring because they thought the price would be better. However these restrictions when they came into effect hurt them a little more than some of the other people in the province of New Brunswick. These are statements of fact which my hon. friend cannot refute; he knows they are true. There was no discrimination. So far as the railways are concerned I simply want to say the same rules were applied in connection with the St. John river district that applied to the Gloucester county section from which my hon. friend comes. At all times I shall try to say a word on behalf of the people of the maritime provinces, and on behalf not only of my own constituency but of the county represented by my hon. friend the ex-Postmaster General. I would be pleased to say a word on behalf of Prince Edward Island, of Nova Scotia or any other portion of the maritime section of Canada. But, Mr. Chairman, I cannot refrain from challenging the statements which have been made by the ex-Postmaster General to the effect that there was discrimination in favour of the farmers along the St. John river against those in the county of Gloucester which he happens to represent.

Mr. VENIOT: Were you not allowed to ship potatoes in bulk in refrigerator cars?

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): Yes, and you were allowed to do the same thing at the same time.

Mr. VENIOT: No, we were not.

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): I beg your pardon, you were.

[Mr. B. F. Smith.]

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. VENIOT: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): There was no discrimination shown.

Mr. VENIOT: We were refused the right. We had to send a delegation to Moncton to obtain the right to ship.

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): When were you refused the right?

The CHAIRMAN: Order. Hon. members must address the chair.

Mr. SMITH (Victoria-Carleton): We were refused the right at the same time.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I would like to take a minute or two of the time of this committee to speak to the question of the reduction of train service in the province of New Brunswick.

Mr. GARDINER: Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. Would you please tell me under what clause of this bill the present discussion is taking place?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Clause 2—no, it is clause 1.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I would like to say—

Mr. GARDINER: Is this discussion in order?

The CHAIRMAN: Well, as yet I have not heard any point of order taken.

Mr. GARDINER: My point of order is that we are dealing with clause 2.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Well, let us stay at it for a little while.

Mr. GARDINER: It is a clause concerning the appointment of a person to represent the Minister of Railways and Canals to investigate any matters pertaining to the Canadian National Railway. I submit, Mr. Chairman, the cutting off of train service does not come under this particular clause.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The question of the directors of the Canadian National Railways involves a matter of policy.

Mr. GARDINER: I understand we are dealing with clause 2.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): As I understand it we are dealing with clause 1.

The CHAIRMAN: Clause 1.

Mr. GARDINER: We are not—

The CHAIRMAN: I think the discussion should be confined to the clause under consideration, but it may to a certain extent involve the policy of the government.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): On that ground I would like to address a few remarks to the chair in answer to the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) who has made a very eloquent plea on behalf of his constituents. I wish to speak in a general way of the situation in the province of New Brunswick. There has been no discrimination against the county represented by the hon. member for Gloucester. All of us who are within the sphere and influence of the Canadian National Railways in the province of New Brunswick are feeling the pinch of the cut in the service. I feel that the people themselves in a degree are at fault because they are not patronizing the railway companies but are using the cheaper modes of travel such as motor busses and motor cars which are operating in direct competition and conflict with railroad traffic. That is the tendency all over the American continent, and it is one to which we cannot shut our eyes.

At the same time I have something further to say with respect to the management of the railways. I do not wish to interfere with or attempt to dictate to them, but I do think that in their new-found zeal for economy—and I use those words advisedly, having regard to what we have seen in relation to the operation of both railways in days gone by—in cutting to the bare bone they are going too far. I am not familiar with the railroad which traverses the country between Bathurst and Tracadie. In days gone by I had the discomfort of travelling over it, before it became part of the national system. The district through which this railway passes is very thickly populated, and I do not see how it can be served by a tri-weekly service. It seems to me that the railway should adopt a middle course, and if I can say anything in favour of their doing so I want to say it here and now. Instead of running an express and freight service over that 77 miles of road, as they have been doing in recent months, they should run a mixed train daily up and down the entire section. By so doing they would save a very substantial sum of money. There are other portions of the province of New Brunswick served by the Canadian National Railways which are not being discriminated against by the cutting down of service that is being put in to effect in other sections, but in which the service has been reduced beyond what is reasonable in the circumstances. I think that will be the sense of members from the province representing the constituencies affected. I would suggest to my friend the Minister of Railways that in this zeal for economy they do not go too far, because if they do I believe they will defeat the very purpose they have in view.

In addition the question of postal service must be considered, only to-day I received representations from my constituency with relation to that particular matter. It is from the country lying between the city of Fredericton and the town of Woodstock, a distance of 65 miles, perhaps the oldest portion of settled country in the province of New Brunswick. To my knowledge it has been in enjoyment of a daily mail service for thirty years. That service is to be cut down to three times a week. I protest. I have suggested to the department that they put on a motor service to take care of the three days when the trains are not running; that is a consideration in connection with the reduced service, and this alternative will cost a considerable sum of money. I would suggest that instead of going to the extreme that they have gone to in relation to the operation of these branch lines in New Brunswick, they endeavour to adopt a happy medium. This, I think, could be worked out and still save a large sum of money, without starving the service as is now proposed.

Mr. HANBURY: Do I understand from the minister that the directors are solely responsible for the direction and operation of the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. MANION: The directors in association with the managing officers of the railway, yes.

Mr. HANBURY: The directors are in control of the management, and they would have authority, if they wished, to make a change in the management?

Mr. MANION: No, I should hardly like to say that. They are not in control of the management; they work in association with the management. I presume that if one of the high executive officers did something illegal or something that would justify his dismissal, the directors would have a good deal to say in the matter; but they are not in a position to dictate to the officers of the system.

Mr. HANBURY: The minister suggests, then, that the management is really not subject to the government?

Mr. MANION: Absolutely; so far as the administration of the system is concerned the government has not anything whatever to do

with the management. In regard to these questions which we have been discussing for the last hour, the government has nothing whatever to do with them; the reductions in train service were decided by the management. May I say that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in the same way has decided to cut down its services on many lines. I have had some protests in that regard also, although not so many, because naturally the people think we have more influence in dealing with the national system. The cutting down of the train service is entirely a part of the policy of the Canadian National Railways management in an endeavour to bring their expenditure somewhere near their revenue. May I point out to my hon. friend (Mr. Hanson) who a moment ago on behalf of New Brunswick dealt generally with the subject in an excellent speech, that while it is true that the mail service may be interfered with by some reduction in train service, I think it is hardly fair to say that the Canadian National Railways, with a heavy deficit, should be asked to handle at a loss the mail service. Any additional cost for such service, say $10,000, should be undertaken by the Post Office department, or, if you will, by the country generally.

Mr. HANBURY: If the board of directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company desire to make any change in the management or the presidency they would have full authority to do so. Would the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways have similar authority?

Mr. MANION: The present president of the Canadian National Railways was appointed by the late government, under an agreement, for a period of five years from 1928 at a certain salary. So the directors, without very good cause, would not, I presume, be in a position to interfere with him; and of course, the president has control of the officers under him.

Mr. EULER: Is this not the fact, that the only authority the government exercises, so far as the Canadian National Railways are concerned, is by way of appointment of a board of directors and the president of the road, exercising control, also, we will say, over capital expenditure? Is that not the extent of the authority exercised by the government?

Mr. MANION: That is absolutely correct.

Mr. EULER: The operation of the railway itself is entirely in the hands of the management.

[Mr. Manion.]

Mr. MANION: Yes. It must be remembered that, as Minister of Railways, I receive representations such as we have heard to-night, and I find it my duty to pass those representations on to the management. I suppose that every day I send to Sir Henry Thornton some five to ten representations of one kind or another, which I feel are matters for his consideration and that of his officers. I have no control whatever over the management.

Mr. EULER: You might do that too, occasionally, so far as the Canadian Pacific Railway is concerned?

Mr. MANION: I do. I had a letter this morning from Mr. Grant Hall with regard to representations that I passed on to him in connection with the cutting down of train service in British Columbia.

Mr. SANDERSON: Many hon. members are receiving petitions and resolutions from county councils and township councils and also from farmers' clubs in regard to the freight rates on farm commodities. I have received several myself and have been asked to send them on to the Minister of Railways, and in one case to the Prime Minister; which I did. He acknowledged the petition and advised me to send a copy of it to the Board of Railway Commissioners. The Minister of Railways also acknowledged those I sent to him. Three I sent to him to-day which he will not get until to-morrow morning. He also advised me to communicate with the railway commission. I desire to read one of these petitions, Mr. Chairman; they are all in the same form. This particular one is from a township council in my constituency:

> We, the members of municipal council feeling that one of the heaviest burdens carried by agriculture to-day is that of high freight rates, wish to draw your attention to and ask your careful consideration of the following resolution:
>
> Whereas prices obtainable for farm products now are on the average considerably below pre-war prices, and
>
> Whereas the farmers of Ontario find it practically impossible to make a fair living on their farms, and
>
> Whereas freight charges on hauling farm products to markets are the same as they were when prices of these products were at their peak, being in some cases several times what the Ontario farmer receives net to-day for his product, and
>
> Whereas we believe that the keen competition which trucking services now provide for the railways can best be overcome by establishing competitive freight rates and securing a larger volume of business;
>
> Therefore we urge on the government, through your department, the necessity of a downward revision of freight rates on farm commodities so that at the low prices now

prevailing we may be enabled to make a living which will compare favourably with that enjoyed by other classes who perform a service of no greater value.

I am quite aware that the government are correct when they say that the question of freight rates is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners, but I would request the government, and especially the Minister of Railways, to take these resolutions and petitions into very serious consideration, because they have to do with a grievance held by the farmers of Ontario and of every province in Canada. If the Minister of Railways would use his good office and the persuasive powers he has displayed at times in the house, and take up the matter seriously with the railways and if necessary with the Board of Railway Commissioners, because it is a vital matter and one of public interest, something might be done. The question of freight rates, especially as they pertain to the farming community, is really important, and I would call upon the Minister of Railways now to make some commitment to-night that he will at least consider seriously these resolutions and petitions and make some effort to right the wrong under which the farmers are labouring at the present time. Would the minister be good enough to take that into his consideration?

Mr. MANION: I suppose I have had some hundreds of resolutions of this type sent to me from various parts of the country, but I must point out what my hon. friend pointed out in his opening remarks, that freight rates are not under my control in any shape or form. Freight rates, and for that matter passenger rates as well on the railways, are entirely in the hands first of the railways themselves and then of the Board of Railway Commissioners, over which I have no control any more than my hon. friend.

Now, in regard to my taking the matter under serious consideration, I certainly consider it a serious matter, but there is another very serious matter which we cannot forget. That is the fact that the revenues of the Canadian National Railways—and the Canadian Pacific Railways as well, because what affects one affects the other in regard to rates —are to-day decreasing materially even as compared with last year, and last year's earnings were very much lower than those of the year before. For example, in 1930 the gross earnings of the Canadian National Railways amounted to $46,000,000 less than in 1929, and at the rate they have been going so far, this year they will earn about $46,000,000 less than they earned last year. That is the way it looks now, because according to statements which have been published in the press, and to which my hon. friend had access just as I did, although they were sent to me personally as well, the decrease in earnings of the Canadian National Railways for the first three months of 1931 as compared with the same period of 1930 was over $12,000,000, and last year they were down about $12,000,000 as compared with the year before.

When you take that into consideration, Mr. Chairman, and when you have regard also to the fact that last year the Canadian National Railways were nearly $30,000,000 short of paying their interest charges to the public, to say nothing at all of the $32,000,000 interest on money loaned by the government or paid by the government at various times to the national railways, their subsidiaries or their original component parts, it will be seen just how serious it is. When you consider these things, you cannot really argue very strongly that either the Canadian National Railways or the Canadian Pacific Railway is in a position to cut freight rates at all, if they are to keep their heads above water. So I must confess to my inability to argue very strongly that the railways must bring down their freight rates.

May I tell my hon. friend and the committee generally that demands are coming in from all over the country, not only for capital expenditures which I mentioned yesterday but for freight rate reductions. I suppose nearly every day I receive requests from some section of this country to move freight of one kind or another for nothing, not for just a cut in rates but for a movement free. For instance, the other day quite a well known member of this house requested that some carloads of seed grain be moved about fifteen hundred miles for nothing. On a number of occasions within the last few weeks I have had requests to move potatoes from one section of the country to another for nothing. I do not suppose I could name any commodity which I have not been requested within the last few weeks to endeavour to get one railway or the other to move for nothing, or next to nothing. In many cases the request was that the movement should cost absolutely nothing. I feel that as far as these freight rates are concerned, if the railways are to be asked to make such reductions for the good of the country, then the country as a whole must pay the bill rather than the railways. It is not fair to ask either the Canadian National Railways or the Canadian Pacific

Railway to carry freight for nothing. As I say, if it is in the interests of the country that freight should be carried for nothing, then the country should pay the piper.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Does not my hon. friend think the country is putting up enough now?

Mr. MANION: I think the country is putting up too much now.

Mr. SANDERSON: Is not the public now paying the deficits of the Canadian National Railways?

Mr. MANION: I should say the public is paying.

Mr. SANDERSON: This further reduction in freight rates would be a very small matter to the public if it were divided all over the Dominion of Canada. The question is one of vital public importance.

Mr. McDADE: It is a matter for the railway commission, is it not?

Mr. SANDERSON: Yes, but surely parliament has something to say about such a question as this, which affects the farming communities of the whole Dominion.

Mr. MANION: And may I suggest as well that parliament has a good deal to say about the financial condition of this country. That condition is not such that $100,000,000 a year can be added to the national debt in respect of the national railways without affecting our financial structure. That is the way it seems to me, and I do not think we have any right to increase the expenses of the national railways, which are already very heavy, and at the same time decrease their earning power. The Canadian Pacific Railway, in common with all other railways of this continent, is being hit just about as hard as the Canadian National, and I do not think it is the duty of parliament, of the Minister of Railways or of the government to ask the railways to absorb a greater loss than they are absorbing now. It is only fair to say that the railways in Canada claim that their freight rates are lower than freight rates for equal distances in the United States, and I think that fact has been proven many times. The railways claim that to be the case, and I think it is true. That being so, it seems fair that the people who ship the freight should pay the freight rates rather than the people generally who are not shipping freight, and I do not think it is fair to ask the railways to make any more decreases in freight rates, in a general way, such as those suggested in the resolution read by my hon. friend.

[Mr. Manion.]

Mr. SANDERSON: May I point out to the Minister of Railways that in this particular instance, in connection with the petition of the farmers, in the first place the product which they are shipping does not return a price sufficient to cover the cost of production. To that must be added the present freight rates, and I suggest to the minister that he put it to the railway companies in this way: that possibly by putting lower freight rates into effect they would get more business. A large proportion of farm commodities is now transported by trucks, automobiles and so on. A reduction in freight rates might mean an increase in business for the two railway companies and so bring in more revenue. To my mind this is a question which should not be lightly passed over, and I think the minister will agree with me that it is a matter of great importance. I would stress the point that the minister at least should give it serious consideration. If the Board of Railway Commissioners have full jurisdiction in the matter, a question of this importance should be brought to their attention by the Minister of Railways and by the government of the day. I would ask the minister to take it into consideration and at least get in touch with the board. I believe that in almost every case where petitions have come to members of this house they have sent copies to the secretary of the board. I repeat, the minister should give the matter his very serious consideration.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Has the matter been referred lately to the board?

Mr. MANION: Yes, these petitions have been sent to the board, and the hon. member has as much right to appear before that board as I have. The Board of Railway Commissioners is a judicial body which passes upon any changes in freight rates made by the railways, and any citizen can appear before it.

Mr. SANDERSON: Wouldn't the minister have more weight before the board?

Mr. MANION: No; it is a judicial body and I have no more weight before them than anyone else has. As regards taking the matter into consideration, this has been done; the question is before the board.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Was it a matter that applied to the whole of Canada or to a particular locality?

Mr. MANION: You cannot cut rates on one railway without affecting the other.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): It applied to Canada in general?

Mr. MANION: That is what the petition asks for.

Mr. EULER: While I have every sympathy with the pleas made by various hon. members on both sides of the house on behalf of their own constituencies in certain localities in the country, I must admit that I have also a good deal of sympathy with the views advanced by the minister with regard to rates. It appears to me that the pleas made to-night are in nearly all cases pleas to make the national railways reduce their rates. In other words, hon. members seems to think that the Canadian National Railways can be called upon to make sacrifices which ordinarily neither the Canadian Pacific Railway nor any other private railway would be asked to make. We have to make up our minds what the function of the Canadian National Railways is, and whether we are to use them only for the benefit of the country, without any reference to the rates that should be paid. If that is the case, we might as well decide to nationalize them completely and give free service just as we do in the case of canals—the wisdom of which I have questioned before—having the people pay the cost of running the railways, and allowing everyone to travel and to ship his goods free.

Mr. MANION: And having the Canadian Pacific Railway go bankrupt.

Mr. EULER: My contention always has been, inasmuch as I am a friend of public ownership, that we should give the system a fair chance, and allow the Canadian National Railways to run their business on business principles, the same as the Canadian Pacific Railway. While offhand one might have sympathy with the pleas that have been put forward, because they are sectional, and members wish to please their own constituents, nevertheless the minister should be very firm, no matter what party may make representations, and allow the national railways to manage the system with a free hand, just as a private corporation is conducted, on the merits of every case. Representations have been made to the effect that the minister should use his good offices, his genial and sunny ways, with the railways, to induce them to make reductions. I am afraid he would not have very much success. The railways know their business pretty well, and I certainly would object to the minister's attempting to use his influence with the Board of Railway Commissioners. It is entirely outside his functions as Minister of Railways to attempt to use any influence whatever with the board. There, again, I do not think he would meet with success, and he ought not to.

Mr. CHAPLIN: I have been very much interested in the arguments of some hon. gentlemen respecting rates in their vicinity, where the Canadian National Railways have endeavoured to save some money by a curtailment of service. Let me cite a case in point. The minister wrote me some months ago respecting twelve miles of road in my constituency, informing me that the Canadian National Railways deemed it advisable in the interests of the system to close that road because it was not paying. I examined into the matter and told him to close it. Why is the railway not making a profit on that road? Simply because the people along the road are not using it; they are using some other system. But the people are there just the same; they have produce to ship and they are using some other system that is cheaper. If that is the case, is it any hardship to close the road or to curtail the traffic? Not at all. If the people do not use the road then they should have the traffic closed, and I told the minister to close it up. If it is not paying we have no right to keep it going. A stretch of twelve miles of road costs this country a considerable sum of money to keep open. If these pieces of road throughout the country are not being used, what is the use of keeping them open? If there are other means of transportation, why keep the road open? The people themselves are the judges whether they want it or not. All along the road in my county there are good highways and the people are using motor trucks rather than the railway line to carry their stuff into the city. More than that, they are not using the line for passenger service. I think we have a right to stand behind the management, especially when they desire to curtail expenses on the road. By curtailing expenses in sections that are not being used, you can possibly reduce rates on other lines which the people are using. You cannot do it otherwise.

Mr. POULIOT: What is the quorum of the board of directors now and what will it be after the bill is passed?

Mr. MANION: I am afraid I cannot answer that question offhand, but I believe a majority constitutes a quorum.

Mr. POULIOT: Would my hon. friend be kind enough to inform me some other time when he gets the information.

Mr. MANION: Yes.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Does not the minister regard the directors as an advisory board?

Mr. MacDONALD (South Cape Breton): This section of the bill is probably wide enough to admit the discussion that has taken place, and I wish to join, on behalf of a section of the province of Nova Scotia, in the protests that have been made in the interests of New Brunswick. I have reference to one piece of railway extending from Point Tupper to St. Peters. It has been operated by the Canadian National Railways for the last fourteen or fifteen years. It was purchased from an American concern about that time and since then has given daily service, and good service too. Now it is rumoured that it will be reduced to a tri-weekly service. The people in that section of the country are entitled to a little better service. Indeed, instead of curtailing tha service and making it tri-weekly the Canadian National Railways should extend it. The fact that the service is not extensive enough is possibly one of the reasons that the road is not paying. In some cases where thirty miles of road have been built, there should have been sixty miles. If the railways extended this line to the town of Louisburg, they would have a branch that would probably pay is way; whereas the curtailment to a tri-weekly service will cause great dissatisfaction in that section, dislocate railway arrangements, and interfere with the management of the trains. The men will be transferred to Sydney, and altogether it is going to create a situation which will be very embarrassing. With reference to the daily mail service which it is stated they will have to cut, I would appeal to the Minister of Railways to see to it that at least this service is continued. If the finances of the railways are not sufficient this year, then next year or the year after, I trust we shall see the St. Peters road put through to Louisburg.

Mr. MANION: The hon. member for St. Henri asked me if the board of directors is an advisory board. The board of directors is more than that; I take it it is exactly the same type of board as the Canadian Pacific board of directors. The board could, if it chose, veto an act or proposed act or proposed policy of the management. The board of directors really directs or should direct, if it is properly fulfilling its functions, and I have no doubt that the board of directors recently appointed will do that. May I emphasize in that connection that so far as we are concerned the board of directors are handling the railway? We have nothing whatever to do with the policy of the railways. That, I think, answers my hon. friend's question.

As regards the line about which the hon. member for South Cape Breton has been speaking, I have to express the same feelings as I did with respect to the others; that is, I sympathize with him in his case and I shall lay his representations before the management. But the management have decreed that many of these lines in various part of the country shall be curtailed so far as service is concerned. I have no doubt, if business picks up, they will be only too glad to restore the daily service which they previously had, but at the present time it is the intention of the management, according to the statement which they gave to me, to curtail some of the services, and I am afraid the St. Peters-Point Tupper branch is one of them. There are two lines mentioned, but I believe after a further examination they have changed their opinion in regard to one of them. Whether it is the one referred to or another in the near neighbourhood, I am not sure. The management, however, is in control, and the best I can do is to say that I shall see to it that the management receive the representations of my hon. friend in that regard.

Mr. MacDONALD (South Cape Breton): What about the mail service?

Mr. MANION: As regards the mail service, it is not fair that the railway, if it is losing anywhere from $10,000 to $20,000 on a branch line, should be compelled to operate it in order to provide the mail service. There are other and perhaps cheaper ways of carrying the mails than by passenger train. If the mail service be the only issue involved, the railway, unless it has a contract to that effect, will not agree to assume the heavy loss that would be entailed by maintaining the service in order to carry the mail.

Mr. MERCIER St. Henri): I thank the minister for the answer he has given. I understand the newly appointed directors have the full responsibility of the administration of the railways?

Mr. MANION: Yes.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): I thank the minister.

Mr. DUFF: I understood the reference made by the minister with regard to curtailment of service was entirely in connection with branch lines. If the branch lines do not pay, and consequently the service is to be curtailed, why should the same thing not apply on the main line?

Mr. MANION: I think it does.

Mr. DUFF: For instance, I do not think it is fair to people living in country districts, which have been given a daily service for a number of years, that they should now be put to the inconvenience of a tri-weekly service, while people living along the main line are subjected to no such inconvenience although the main line trains are losing more money than the branch line trains. When the hon. member for Gloucester and the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton were speaking and the minister indicated that the Tracadie-Bathurst line lost some $30,000 last year, I took my pencil and did some figuring. This line is about seventy miles in length. Assuming that there are about 22,000 miles of railway comprising the whole national system, branch lines and main lines all over Canada. I figure that a loss of $33,000,000 last year, according to the information given, would work out at $1,500 a mile. This Tracadie-Bathurst line, the service on which the management is going to cut down to three days a week, did not lose $1,500 a mile, because $1,500 a mile for seventy miles would mean a loss of $105,000. The people living along the line from Tracadie to Bathurst or from Point Tupper to St. Peters or any other branch line in the country should not be treated differently from people along the main lines.

Mr. MANION: I do not think they are. According to the intention of the railways, there are going to be cuts in connection with both of the great systems, the national and the Canadian Pacific, in regard to the transcontinental runs also. That statement applies to what my hon. friend has just said. For instance, in the maritimes there are two trains, the Ocean Limited and the Acadian. One of those, I do not remember which just now, is, I think to be discontinued this year. I am saying that subject to correction but I think I am right. As regards the transcontinental service on both railways they are modifying it to some extent. For instance, as regards the fast transcontinental trains that are put on during the summer, they are being started later and discontinued earlier than in the past. Therefore the people across the whole country are being affected in the same way. What I believe both railways have done is to pick out the lines where they are making their heaviest losses in proportion and discontinuing or curtailing the service to a certain extent. I understand the point made by my hon. friend, but so many considerations enter into the earnings on investment in the national as well as the Canadian Pacific that it would be difficult to figure the thing out as my hon. friend has done on a basis of so much loss on so many miles. The investment in the national railways is so immense to-day that the interest alone is a very large item. The question of transcontinental service has to be considered from the standpoint of absolute necessity. Across Canada there are some sections where a transcontinental service could not be discontinued because there would be no possibility of serving that section in any other way. There are certain parts of the country that could not be served by motor vehicles of any kind.

Mr. LUCAS: I would like to ask the minister a question with regard to mail service. Where the railways are giving a six-day mail service at the present time and they cut that service to tri-weekly, will they receive the same amount for carrying the mail or will there be a reduction?

Mr. MANION: There will naturally be a reduction. The matter all depends upon the contract. If the railways have a contract to carry mail six days a week and cut the service to three days, they will certainly not receive the same amount of money as for the six-day service.

Mr. LUCAS: While I quite agree with the minister that the railways cannot be expected to carry on a service where they are making a loss, it is hardly fair that the people should be deprived of the mail service. If there is going to be a cut, the government will save a certain amount on the mail service in view of the lessened train service, and therefore it is only fair that the government, through the Post Office department, should provide some other means of providing the daily mail service. I know that does not come under the Department of the Minister of Railways, but I hope he will bring it before his colleague the Postmaster General so that it may be dealt with.

Mr. MANION: I have no doubt the people affected will see to it that the matter is brought before the Post Office department. If they forget to do so, it will be the only thing that has been forgotten this year.

Mr. POULIOT: I listened to the hon. member for Lincoln, who spoke in almost extreme terms, and to the hon. member for North Waterloo, who proved to-night to be an extremist. This is the first time that I have heard the reductio ad absurdum reasoning here. The hon. member for North Waterloo says that the railway would have to carry passengers or freight free. I would point out that if the Minister of Railways has received so many requests for reductions in freight

rates it has been because of the business depression. He has told us that the deficit on the Canadian National for the first three months this year averaged about $4,000,000 a month.

Mr. MANION: Pardon me—the decrease in earnings this year as compared with last year. A deficit is not the same thing.

Mr. POULIOT: I do not wish to misquote my hon. friend. I understood, however, that the business on the railway this year was not so good as in the previous year. This depression will not last forever. Business will improve in due course, and we should not forget that once again we will have business as usual. As soon as business conditions improve and people are able to make more money by selling their goods at better prices, they will not need freight rate reductions so badly, so I suggest to the minister not to advise the Canadian National management to make too many cuts in their present expenditures. It has been stated by Sir Henry Thornton and by Mr. Hungerford, the vice-president of the railway, that cordial relations between the management and the employees is the keynote of efficiency. In hard times particularly the management should have sufficient regard for the welfare of the employees to keep them on as long as they possibly can. To reduce the staff of employees would only be to impose an additional burden on the country. I ask the minister, therefore, to be kind enough not to ask for too many curtailments in the expenditures of the railway. I must confess that I felt a little jealous when he said he had been convinced by the plea of my hon. friend from Gloucester. I hope that I also have been able to convince him in my plea for the station at Rivière du Loup.

Mr. MANION: May I suggest to my hon. friend that he will have a better chance of convincing us if he does not argue so much.

Mr. POULIOT: We have made such a good start that perhaps I may speak to my hon. friend again with respect to the station at Rivière du Loup. I thank him in the meantime.

Mr. PICKEL: I would invite the attention of the committee to two roads in my county where curtailment in the service is going to cause very considerable hardship, and where the people will suffer in a way that has not been mentioned here to-night. They are two milk routes, one on the Canadian National railway from St. Johns to Noyan, and the other on the Orford Mountain branch of the Canadian Pacific railway. The farmers in that district have no other means than the railway of getting their milk and cream to market.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Does it matter very much with butter at its present price?

Mr. PICKEL: It is not butter I am speaking of. The farmers are taking their milk and cream into the cities, and the curtailment of the service will work a hardship not only on the farmers but on the city residents if the farmers are unable to get their produce to market. Milk and cream are perishable products, and a tri-weekly service will not answer very well. I have already spoken to the minister with respect to these services, and he has promised to use his influence. I have also communicated with the Canadian Pacific Railway, but I have not heard from them.

Mr. BERTRAND: I notice that the hon. member for Lincoln, when speaking of a railway of twelve miles in his constituency, said that he had received a letter from the Minister of Railways. I wonder if it has been the practice of the minister to write to the different members throughout the Dominion before a cancellation of railway service is made.

Mr. MANION: The hon. member was written to simply because the railway management had told me incidentally that they were going to cancel that service. They said that that was their intention, and I wrote and advised the hon. member. So far as other members are concerned, my hon. friend may judge from the protests that are coming from behind me, from supporters of the government, that they have been hit very much heavier, particularly in the maritimes, where there are more of them, than hon. members on the other side of the house. I may say that I have had no communication with them. That is not the practice, nor would I have communicated in the case my hon. friend has mentioned, except that I happened to know what the intentions of the management were, and I advised the hon. member for Lincoln, and he took the big business attitude that if the road was not paying the service should be discontinued.

Mr. BERTRAND: The explanation of the miinster is clear, but the declaration of the hon. member for Lincoln left me under the impression that he had received an intimation from the Minister of Railways who was seek-

ing to get his sanction of the discontinuance of that service, and that the hon. member consented to have the service withdrawn.

Mr. CHAPLIN: That is only a surmise on your part.

Mr. McINTOSH: Last night when we were dealing with this question of railway service I pointed out to the Minister of Railways that I thought the people would always be fair with respect to curtailments in railway service if the facts and figures and the actual business situation of any particular piece of road were placed before them. I do not think that the people want a railway service that is not paying. It is only natural with conditions as they are to-day that the farmers should be demanding reductions in freight rates. I believe that the real reason for that demand is found in the prices which the farmers are being paid to-day for their wheat and coarse grains, and I believe that that demand will continue until better prices prevail throughout the Dominion for wheat and coarse grains.

But what I particularly rose to ask, Mr. Chairman, was a question dealing with Canadian National directors. Before the committee rose at six o'clock we were dealing with the directorate representation of the Canadian National Railways, and I understood the minister to say that there would not be what we might term geographical representation or sectional representation. That simply means that the populated and more highly developed areas of Canada will not receive greater representation than areas that are not as well populated or industrially developed. That brings me to the question I wish to ask of the minister. I understand that there are fifteen directors and that two more are to be appointed, seventeen in all. There are two provinces in Canada not represented on the board at the present moment, Alberta and Saskatchewan. When the representation is made complete, will the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, comprising the greater part of western Canada, have provincial representation on the board?

Mr. MANION: Yes.

Mr. McINTOSH: Thank you.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): What are the occupations of the directors appointed by the government?

Mr. MANION: The occupations are various. The representative from Prince Edward Island is a merchant farmer; probably he might be called a trader. The hon. member for West Algoma has suggested to me that Hansard of yesterday contains the answer to a question setting out the occupations of the directors.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Do they know something about railways before they are appointed?

Mr. MANION: Some of them did. They would know as much as directors of other companies know concerning the companies with which they are connected.

An hon. MEMBER: Or as little.

Mr. HANBURY: With regard to railway rates I would like to call to the attention of the minister one point in connection with a reduction of rates which would develop business. At the present time both railway companies have all the rails and equipment necessary to haul lumber from British Columbia to any port in Canada. On the other hand I understand the Canadian National steamships are operating a steamship line at a loss in competition with the rail service. Lumber of different kinds has been hauled at the same rate; for instance, the higher finished product, such as flooring and ceilings, enjoys the same rate as the rough sawn material used for rough purposes. There is no distinction whatever in the rate charged. On a previous occasion a suggestion was made to the railway company that they keep for the rail service the hauling of approximately 50,000,000 to 60,000,000 feet of lumber which goes annually to the St. Lawrence river by making a reduction on the rough sawn material, but not on the highly finished or manufactured article. As I see the matter at the present time the Canadian National steamships are operating a steamship line in competition with the railway line and I understand they are suffering a loss on their steamship service. Now we learn there is a loss on the rail service. I mention this fact merely as a suggestion to the minister.

Mr. MANION: What is your suggestion?

Mr. HANBURY: My suggestion is that the rate on this rough sawn lumber from British Columbia to points on the St. Lawrence river be reduced.

Mr. MANION: Via the railways?

Mr. HANBURY: Yes, by rail, but not on the highly finished article. Yesterday afternoon the minister was good enough to give us the assurance that he had no knowledge of the affiliations of the gentlemen who have been made directors of the Canadian National Railways. I am sure he expects us to accept that statement as his assurance that there will

be no political interference with the Canadian National Railways and no attempt to use them in any way as a basis of patronage. I assume that he is giving the house that assurance. Supposing however that patronage did happen to creep in—although I must confess I cannot conceive how under the present directorate it could—would the country look to the board to correct the fault, or would the government take the responsibility? The minister has told us that the board have full responsibility. I am suggesting to him that it is the responsibility of the government to see that there is no political patronage in connection with the operation of the Canadian National Railways, and I would now suggest that he give the committee some assurance to that effect.

Mr. MANION: So far as I know there is no political patronage in regard to the Canadian National Railways. As to assuring my hon. friend of what will happen if in the future it should occur, in view of the fact that I have so many troubles to which I must attend at the present time I hope he will wait until such patronage occurs before he asks me to deal with it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): My hon. friend's troubles have only started.

Mr. MANION: I do not think there will be any patronage. I think the national railway system is in a position to carry on without political patronage. If such a question should arise I shall deal with it; I am sure my hon. friend will trust me that far.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): I suppose if there are two more directors appointed there will be no patronage shown?

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Inquiry and report regarding company or operation of government railways.

Mr. GARDINER: Will the minister explain what he has in mind with regard to this section?

Mr. MANION: This is merely a technical correction; this afternoon I explained the nature of it. The clause previously contained the figure sixty-one, the correct figure being seventy.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

[Mr. Hanbury.]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

NORTHERN ALBERTA RAILWAYS COMPANY—SPIRIT RIVER AND GRIMSHAW LINES

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to extend the time for the commencement of construction and completion of the lines of railway which the Northern Alberta Railways Company was authorized to construct by section 11 of schedule B to the Northern Alberta Railways Act, 1929—namely, an extension of the main line of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railway Company from Spirit river, and a branch line of the Central Canada Railway from, at or near Grimshaw.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Maloney in the chair.

Mr. MANION: This is a resolution on behalf of the Northern Alberta Railways Company, a combination of the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National railways, for an extension of time for the construction of a couple of branch lines authorized two years ago. As members of the committee know, under the railway act these extensions must be begun within two years and completed within five. Of the branch lines then authorized, a sufficient amount of work has been done on six to meet the statutory requirements; but the two mentioned in this resolution have not yet been begun. Requests for extension of time were much more common in the past than they are to-day. Under the circumstances I think it is a very reasonable request.

May I say that if the resolution passes a bill will be introduced based on it, and then members will have full opportunity to discuss the measure either here or before the railway committee.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Grimshaw is a very important extension, is it not?

Mr. MANION: I do not know much about these branch lines.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Manion thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 36, respecting the Northern Alberta Railways Company.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION

APPLICATION OF PROVINCIAL COMPENSATION ACTS TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

Resolved, that it is expedient to amend the Government Employees Compensation Act to extend the benefits of the act to all employees in the service of His Majesty excepting those for whom provision is made under other statutes, and to extend the interpretation of the term "compensation" to include any benefits, expenses or allowances that are provided for under provincial compensation acts.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Maloney in the chair.

Mr. MANION: Mr. Chairman, this resolution is for the purpose of amending the Government Employees' Compensation Act so that provincial compensation acts will apply to all government employees. At the present time in the various provinces the law varies. For instance, postal employees are covered in the provinces of Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia only; customs officers are covered in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia only; lighthouse keepers and employees on boats carrying supplies to lighthouses or attending to aids to navigation are not covered in Nova Scotia. Some of the provincial compensation acts do not apply to government employees in the various departments; they may cover those engaged in some industry, but the courts rule that the government service is not an industry. The purpose of the bill to be introduced, based on the resolution, is to bring all employees of the government under the various provincial compensation acts. It is expected that this will cost the government an additional $70,000.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): In effect, Mr. Chairman, all the employees of the government of Canada will come under the provisions of the compensation acts in the various provinces by statute rather than, as formerly, by order in council.

Mr. MANION: No, I do not think that is correct. I think they are now under the various compensation boards by statute. The purpose of this proposed legislation is to put all government employees on the same basis. I may say that last year the government of my hon. friend introduced a bill of this kind, but due to the dissolution of parliament it could not be dealt with. In a nutshell, the purpose is simply to give the employees of the government in all the provinces the same treatment.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Under the old system the government carried its own compensation, but made the provincial laws apply in the adjustment. I am very much in favour of this proposal. I think it is entirely proper that by statute all the services of the government should come under the provincial compensation acts.

An hon. MEMBER: Are the railways under it?

Mr. MANION: No, the railways are not dealt with by this measure.

Mr. HEENAN: I am very glad that my hon. friend has introduced this resolution. As he says, we had a resolution on the order paper last year, but owing to the dissolution of parliament it was held over until after the general elections. Has the minister any information of the approximate aggregate amount which the Dominion government pays to the provinces in this connection?

Mr. MANION: I have those figures under my hand. Last year we paid in round figures the following; New Brunswick, $91,000; Ontario, $106,000; Manitoba, $94,000; Alberta, $7,000; British Columbia, $14,000; Prince Edward Island, almost $4,000; Quebec, $79,000. In Ontario, in addition to the amount given before, we paid $2,600 for medical aid, and in Saskatchewan $380. The total amount paid last year to the provinces by the Dominion was $452,000. This will add another $70,000, in round figures, to the expenses of the Dominion.

Perhaps I might as well explain in a few words how this work is carried on. The provincial compensation board, in whatever province the accident occurs, looks after the government employee just as it would look after an employee of one of the railways or of an industrial plant and gives him medical attention, sixty per cent or whatever it may be of his wages, and so on. They pay the usual charges and then bill the government for the amount. At certain periods the Dominion government pays the provinces the sums disbursed, with a small addition for administration expenses.

Mr. HEENAN: I am very glad the minister gave us this very full information, and I was wondering if he would not consider going one step further. I have not considered this question sufficiently to be able to state whether or not it would be economical, but

I suggest that instead of leaving it to the provinces this matter be administered by a department of the government. I think it could be done without very much extra cost. At present Dominion employees do not get equal treatment all over Canada. Compensation varies in the different provinces. In some provinces 55 per cent of the wages is paid, while in other provinces 66⅔ per cent is paid while a man is injured. There is also a difference in the maximum amounts. Some provinces pay 66⅔ per cent on a maximum of $1,200, while others have maximums of $1,500 and $2,000. There is a further difference in the allowance paid to widows of employees who are killed. That allowance may be $40 a month in one province and $30 or $35 in another. Then there is a difference in the time an employee may wait. In one province he will wait three days while in another he may wait seven days.

There are these differences all down the line, and I contend that all employees of the Dominion government, which is an institution by itself, are entitled to equal treatment. A mail carrier injured in Ontario, for instance, gets 66⅔ per cent of his wages with a maximum of $2,000, while a mail carrier in New Brunswick, if the law has not changed recently, gets 55 per cent based on a maximum of $1,200 or $1,500. That fact, together with the further fact that the administration would not cost very much more if it was placed in the hands of the Minister of Railways, would seem to justify this step being taken. I am sure the minister would not mind working another hour or two during the day in order to give Dominion employees equal treatment all over Canada.

Mr. MANION: I have not had this matter under consideration before, but I am afraid there would be a duplication of machinery if we followed my hon. friend's suggestion. I may say also that the provinces are endeavouring, as my hon. friend probably well knows, to bring about uniformity. As a matter of fact, before this bill which is to be introduced was decided upon by myself, representing the government, the representatives of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, who in turn represented all the provinces of Canada, waited upon the Minister of Labour and myself in my office and discussed the whole matter. This really was the proposal they brought forward. If, however, as my hon. friend suggests, there are still inequalities, this is a very good step in the right direction, and if those inequalities still exist, a little later we can perhaps make whatever modifications are necessary to equalize matters.

[Mr. Heenan.]

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Could the minister tell me the exact number of employees affected?

Mr. MANION: It covers all government employees in the different departments. I do not know how many employees there are in the outside service, but this takes in both the inside and the outside services.

Mr. POWER: There are forty thousand, anyway.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Around forty thousand.

Mr. MANION: All the government employes will be under the act.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): How many were injured last year?

Mr. MANION: There were 3,960 claims.

Mr. HEAPS: What amount was paid out?

Mr. MANION: We paid $452,000.

Mr. HEAPS: For how long a period?

Mr. MANION: For one year.

Mr. HEAPS: Was that entire amount paid out to the injured work people?

Mr. MANION: That includes about 5 per cent for administration expenses, amounting to about $21,000. Other than that, practically all this money went to work people.

Mr. HANBURY: Could the minister tell us whether all provinces have compensation boards, and whether the employees bear any portion of the cost?

Mr. MANION: I think all the provinces have compensation boards. I see payments were made to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Mr. VENIOT: I do not think Prince Edward Island has a compensation board.

Mr. MANION: I notice that we paid about $4,000 to Prince Edward Island. Perhaps that was for railway employees. I am sorry I cannot give that information definitely.

Mr. REID: What percentage is contributed by the employee?

Mr. MANION: Each provincial act is different, but I do not think the employees make any contribution. The amount is made up by the industries and the governments.

Mr. NEILL: In British Columbia the employees pay a cent a day for medical attention.

Mr. MANION: I know something of the province of Ontario, and so far as I know in this province the employees pay nothing.

Mr. VENIOT: They do not pay anything in New Brunswick.

Mr. NEILL: I would like to direct the attention of the minister to a matter which I have taken up privately with the Minister of Marine, and I hope the minister will take this opportunity to remedy a grievance which exists in British Columbia between his department and the local provincial authorities over the interpretation of the word "employee". A very simple change in the interpretation would remedy the situation.

Here is the difficulty: Lighthouse keepers, of course, are paid by the Department of Marine, and there is an arrangement under which certain lighthouse keepers employ assistants. The department is either too economical or too mean to pay the wages of the second man, so they have an arrangement whereby the lighthouse keeper must employ an assistant, for whom he is allowed a few hundred dollars extra. They do not allow a living wage for a man but only about half that wage, and they sanction the practice, which is often followed by lighthouse keepers, of employing their wives or junior members of their families to do the work, which really is not the full work of a man. Occasionally, where there are two or three assistants, they do pay a full wage for the assistant, but here is the situation: It is held by the Workmen's Compensation Board that this assistant is an employee of this government, inasmuch as he is paid indirectly by the government. There can be no question about that, with the record of wages paid to lighthouse keepers showing that when an assistant is necessary a considerably larger amount is paid. The Workmen's Compensation Board of British Columbia have always held in that case that the assistant was the employee of the government, but the Marine department have held that he was an employee of the lighthouse keeper. The result is that if an accident of that kind happens, the lighthouse keeper is of course quite unable to meet any claim against him, and there is therefore considerable criticism of the government. It is claimed that they are cheaply avoiding at least a moral responsibility by not paying out this sum to the injured workman. The trouble could be avoided very simply by having a change in the interpretation of the word "employee" so as to cover a case of that kind. The other case to which I wish to allude is similar. In certain cases the Public Works department does work by day labour, employing teams. These teams and their drivers may be taken off a farm in the vicinity at a time when they are not busy. The Workmen's Compensation Board of British Columbia does not apply to farmers, and the department here—possibly the Justice department—have ruled that in that case a man working as a teamster by the day on some clearing, or perhaps road making for some Dominion department, is not an employee of the government but is a farmer, or an employee of a farmer, although he is at the moment working not as a farmer but as a professional teamster for the government. That also is a case in which a rather cheap argument is used to withhold compensation from the man injured in that capacity. I understand that the act that governs this provides its own interpretation of the word employee, so that if the interpretation were changed along the lines I suggest it would not conflict with the meaning of the word employee as contained in any other act such as the Civil Service Act. "Employee" could be made to cover, amongst others, the two classes I have mentioned. I trust the minister will look into this before the bill is brought down, because it would remove a very real injustice. I do not think the Marine department would like to have it said that they were purposely unjust. I know of one case where a man risked his life and suffered considerable injury from fire to save the lighthouse property; but because he was an assistant to the lighthouse keeper in that technical sense of the word he was told to look to the lighthouse keeper as his direct employer if he wished compensation. Of course, the lighthouse keeper had no funds with which to compensate him. If the change were made as I suggest, it would do justice to a class of people, particularly lighthouse keepers, who are not overpaid as it is.

Mr. MANION: The hon. member spoke to me about the case of assistant lighthouse keepers, but unfortunately the argument against it is that the assistant lighthouse keeper in the case mentioned by him is not an employee of the government.

Mr. NEILL: He is, indirectly.

Mr. MANION: He is an employee of the lighthouse keeper, by whom he is hired. There is a principle involved; the act cannot be applied to someone not in the employ of the government, when you pass legislation applicable to such employees.

Mr. NEILL: But he is being paid indirectly by the government.

Mr. MANION: He is hired by the lighthouse keeper.

An hon. MEMBER: Could you not pay the assistant directly?

Mr. MANION: I suppose the Marine department could introduce a system of paying the assistant directly, but I fancy the reason for the present method is that in many cases the lighthouse keeper, being a man with a family, and receiving a little allowance, can secure the help at home which otherwise he might have to hire outside, paying more in the way of wages. I am, of course, subject to correction, but I suppose that is the reason.

I have not heard of any labourer driving teams for the government, but in this case I assume that the provincial compensation act of British Columbia does not apply to such an employee. It seems to me that it is necessary, if possible, to get this provincial act to apply, because we are going to work under this act through the provincial compensation board.

Mr. NEILL: The provincial act does not cover farmers. But the point is that when you take a man off the farm to grade a road he is not a farmer while so engaged. All we ask is that the department shall decide that a man is not a farmer when he is grading a road for a dominion department.

Mr. HEAPS: A teamster would in all probability be working under a contract and he would not come under the provisions of the act.

Mr. POWER: As I understand the act, it is to permit the workmen's compensation boards of the various provinces to pass upon claims for compensation. If the government employee residing within the province does not happen to fall into one of the categories covered by the workmen's compensation act of the province, this act does not affect him.

Mr. MANION: That is correct.

Mr. POWER: That is to say, a man employed on an experimental farm, we will say, as an agricultural labourer, would not come under the provisions of this act because in most provinces agricultural labourers are not under these compensation boards. What will become of a claim for compensation made by a government employee who cannot obtain an award from the compensation board of his province? Am I to understand that there is a system whereby, by order in council, it is proposed to award him the amount granted to labourers in similar callings?

[Mr. Manion.]

Mr. MANION: The hon. member was correct in the first place when he said that it applied to the employee as defined by the provincial act. But so far as this act is concerned, it is to bring in all government employees, with the exception of military, naval and air forces which are already covered by an insurance scheme of their own, and railway employees who have already been brought under the act in all the provinces. So that this will cover all employees of the government, with possibly some individual exceptions such as have been referred to by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni. I have not heard, however, of the case of a labourer on an experimental farm. The act will certainly cover all government employees, with, as I say, rare exceptions. If we find individual cases of an exceptional character they will have to be dealt with, but I do not know of any except those mentioned by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

Mr. POWER: The compensation acts in the various provinces specify the classes of employees who will come under the act. Other labourers do not come under the act—some because their salaries exceed certain amounts, and others by reason of the class of labour in which they are engaged. I mentioned the first example that occurred to me, that of the agricultural labourer. I speak again subject to correction, but I am under the impression that in our province, and I am quite sure in Ontario, agricultural labourers are exempt from the provisions of the workmen's compensation act.

Mr. CHAPLIN: That is true of Ontario.

Mr. POWER: And Quebec has recently copied the Ontario act. Now, what becomes of a claim made by an employee of the government who does not come within one of the categories outlined in the various provincial acts?

Mr. GUTHRIE: He is in the same position as he is now, and we can deal with him by order in council as a special case. But we cannot force into the provincial acts classes which those acts do not provide for.

Mr. VENIOT: You instruct the provincial board to rate the damage and they will do the rating for you.

Mr. MANION: Not necessarily. Before the treasury board there continually appear cases which are not covered and which are now going to be dealt with. The cases mentioned by the hon. member for Quebec South could be put into this category; they could be

treated by order in council and recompensed by order in council as they are at the present time.

Mr. REID: Speaking in support of what the hon. member for Comox-Alberni has said in regard to men employed by the Department of Public Works, in British Columbia a man might be a fisherman or an agriculturist to-day and to-morrow be employed by the provincial government or by any municipality, and he immediately comes under the provisions of the British Columbia compensation act. We had a case in our municipality where a man working under the provisions of the employment relief fund was injured after only one hour's work, but there was not an official capable of determining what compensation he should get for one hour. The act in British Columbia is wide enough to include a man employed by the provincial government or a municipality. I think the hon. member's suggestion should be taken into serious consideration.

Mr. MANION: It will.

Mr. HEENAN: My reason for starting a debate on this resolution was because I was interested in the matter before it came into the house last session. I have explained to the minister the inequalities that at present exist in the treatment of disabled dominion employees. As the minister has said, that can be looked into some time later on; but inasmuch as some provinces are backward in their workmen's compensation acts, could the minister not, between now and probably the time the bill will get into committee, take this into consideration? It would be a long step toward rectifying the grievances. The minister might very well include in his bill a clause to provide that the injured workman might be paid the highest compensation that would obtain in any province. I have not given thought as to how he would do this, but I have the idea that we could provide in the bill that if a man, for instance in New Brunswick, were injured, instead of getting 55 per cent of his wages, and if he were killed, instead of his widow getting $30 a month, I think it is, for the rest of her life, the amount paid would be the same as that paid in Ontario and that will be paid now in Quebec, that is, in case of injury he would receive 66⅔ per cent of his wages, and in case of his death the widow would receive $40 a month for the rest of her life. The same board would give the award, and the Dominion government would pay out the amount.

Mr. MANION: While there may be arguments in favour of what the hon. gentleman proposes, at the same time I think we are at the present time taking a pretty long step in the right direction, and if it be found that injustices arise, amendments can be made later on. We are now taking a step that is going to cost us $70,000, and in the present state of the national finances I do not think I would like to promise to take on more expense. I think the hon. gentleman will realize that we are doing pretty well as it is.

Mr. NEILL: Is it the intention of the government to give the same rate of compensation as prevails in the provincial acts?

Mr. MANION: Yes.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Manion thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 37, to amend the Government Employees Compensation Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SALARIES ACT AMENDMENT

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE SALARY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Salaries Act to provide that the salary of the Solicitor General shall be increased from seven thousand dollars per annum to ten thousand dollars per annum as from 7th August, 1930.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Section 5 of the Salaries Act, which is chapter 182 of the revised statutes of Canada, provides that the salary of the Solicitor General of Canada shall be $7,000 per annum. That act has never been amended, but in the year 1927 the salary of the Solicitor General was increased from $7,000 to $10,000 and it has continued at that figure ever since. But the vote under which the increase was made was peculiarly worded. It is number 445 of the votes of 1927 and it reads:

To provide increase of $3,000 per annum for Hon. Lucien Cannon, payable to him from the consolidated revenue fund, for the period during which he occupies the position of Solicitor General, the acceptance of such salary not to vacate his seat in parliament.

That was carried as a statutory vote in 1928, 1929 and 1930. On the 28th of July last the then government resigned and Mr.

Cannon was no longer Solicitor General. There will in any case have to be some amendment of the terms of the vote, and it is considered that the correct way of making the amendment is to amend section 5 of the Salaries Act, changing the figure from $7,000 to $10,000.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am not rising to take exception to the change being made in the manner which my hon. friend has just indicated. I assume that the government intends that the Solicitor General shall be a member of the cabinet, and the idea is to have each member of the cabinet receive the same salary.

Mr. GUTHRIE: He is already a member of the cabinet.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As my hon. friend has just indicated, that was the view the previous administration also took while the Solicitor General, was a member of the cabinet, and to effect that end the difference in salary was made in the manner indicated by the Minister of Justice. The point I desire to raise—and I wish the Prime Minister were present, because I should have liked to direct my remarks to him personally—is whether this is not a good time to consider reducing the number of portfolios rather than permanently increasing the number of portfolios as is being done by this increase in the minister's salary. The government has been cutting down the staffs of the civil service; it is endeavouring to abolish some of the boards and the branches of some of the departments, and it would seem, if that same spirit of economy and retrenchment were extended to the cabinet itself, it might be possible to reduce the total number of portfolios and effect a substantial saving also in that direction.

I think this would be a very good time for the taking of such a step. I am glad to see the Prime Minister coming in, as my remarks can be directed more particularly to himself as head of the government. I may say to my right hon. friend that I have just ben referring in his absence to the skill he has exhibited in attempting to cut down some of the services, and to the effort he is making from the point of view of economy, to abolish some branches and boards connected with the public service. I was going to ask if he did not think this might not also be an appropriate time similarly to reduce the size of the cabinet. I think he will agree that a small cabinet, particularly one headed by himself, would be quite as efficient as a very large one. My right hon. friend has managed

pretty well to get along without his ministers in the House of Commons, and from what I hear he has done quite a little as well in the way of administration of some of the departments other than his own. The other evening he told us there had been occasion to give a personal certificate to a member of the public service who was over seventy in order that he might be continued, and he asked us to imagine who the official might be. I thought it was a deputy minister, but he told us that it was an elevator man.

Mr. BENNETT: He did not give that certificate; he refused it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps I misunderstood. I thought that among his many other duties my hon. friend had been giving attention to the elevator men, and so it would appear from his reply. However, I do submit, in all seriousness, that the question of reducing the number of portfolios is something that is deserving of every consideration. My right hon. friend may have it in mind. He has sought to economize in the number of portfolios by taking three or four of them to himself. He might I think consider very seriously combining the functions of two or three of the ministries under one minister, and this particular resolution seems to make it appropriate to make that suggestion to him at the present time.

Mr. BENNETT: The observations of the right hon. gentleman are certainly worthy of very careful consideration. The government has considered the matter. I am sure that the right hon. gentleman would say that we considered it when the government was formed, but I hasten to tell him that there is no intention to impose upon the Prime Minister the Finance department as well as others and thereby reduce the number of portfolios, although the arrangement so far has resulted in a substantial saving of money. The matter is under consideration. I think that some of the departments, in view of the change that has been brought about by reason of the resources being turned over to the western provinces, might be consolidated. The right hon. gentleman has had ten years of very considerable experience; I recall quite clearly the effort he made to reduce the number of portfolios, but in the end he found it necessary to increase them. The recommendations of the Duncan report with respect to the fisheries was responsible, not wholly, but practically, for the creation of one new department, if the administration was to give effect, as was intended, to the report.

I have had in mind for some time that this country should have a department of communications. I have thought about it a very great deal. There is the air, there is radio, wireless and cable communication—

An hon. MEMBER: Post office and railways.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, post office, railways and other forms of communication. I have given some thought to the matter but obviously, for reasons which the right hon. gentleman understands and the house appreciates, I have been only a few months in Canada since undertaking this task and I have not had as much time to consider the matter as I should like. But what has been said to-night by the right hon. gentleman I shall be very glad indeed to take in the spirit in which it is offered, as giving his benediction to the efforts we are making to improve the public service, and if the results to be obtained can best be secured by the methods suggested we shall not hesitate to apply them.

I hope within the next few days to introduce a bill mentioned in the speech from the throne, which I can anticipate to this extent, that it will make for more efficient control with respesct to our revenues and expenditures. I happen to know of my own knowledge that the right hon. gentleman himself bestowed considerable thought to the matter. I am very glad that the committee has taken the view it has in the discussion we are now having; for, after all, at the beginning of this century the revenues of Canada were only $50,000,000. When Sir John Macdonald died the revenues were $37,000,000. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier went out of office in 1911 my memory is that the total revenues of this country, just a little time before that, crossed the $100,000,000 mark. Now they approximate, at the least, $1,000,000 a day, and the extent to which consolidation of departments would improve the public service is a matter that I am not prepared to speak about at the moment because I have not arrived at a definite conclusion. In a country as vast as Canada it is very difficult to say, where you have revenues of approximately $1,000,000 a day to be dealt with, that you are making for efficiency by imposing too much detail upon him who administers. When the chief administrative officer is unable at a glance to know the state of efficiency with which the details of government are carried on by those in the departments, there is failure; and if you have too large a responsibility on the one individual the data comes before him too much in tabloid form to make possible an efficient working of the machinery. The effort that my colleagues and myself are endeavouring to make at the moment is to utilize the experience of the past in the light of the knowledge of to-day and to accomplish just what the right hon. gentleman has in mind, namely, efficiency in the conduct of the public service.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I wish simply to correct one impression which my right hon. friend has left with the committee. It is true that, for the reason mentioned, the late administration did, in its last year of office, add one portfolio through the separation of the departments of fisheries and marine. But it is also true that when we came into office we made two or three very imporant consolidations. For instance, there was the Department of Inland Revenue, the Department of Customs, each presided over by a separate minister, and there was a separate branch of the public service dealing with the income tax. Those three were brought into the one department of National Revenue. Similarly, when we came into office, there was the Department of Militia and Defence, the Department of the Naval Service, and a separate air board. Those three were brought together into one department, that of National Defence.

Mr. BENNETT: But there was only one minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There was a separate Minister of Militia and Defence, and the naval service was under the Minister of Marine.

Mr. BENNETT: There were two deputy ministers, one for militia and defence, and one for the naval service.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That consolidation was made, bringing all three into the one department. From experience I can tell my right hon. friend that he will find it much easier to make his consolidations in the first year than he will thereafter, provided he is in office any length of time. If he does not contemplate being in office any length of time, he will find avoiding consolidations a much simpler matter.

Mr. BENNETT: Because he does, he is not hurrying.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Guthrie thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 38, to amend the Salaries Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Friday, April 24, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker now that the standing committees have been set up it becomes possible for me to move seconded by Mr. Guthrie:

That the Auditor General's report for the year ending March 31, 1930, and the public accounts for the year ending March 31, 1930, be referred to the select standing committee on public accounts.

Motion agreed to.

LIBRARY OF PARLIAMENT

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their honours that this house has appointed His Honour the Speaker and Messrs. Barber, Bertrand, Bourassa, Boyes, Butcher, Carmichael, Charters, Chevrier, Cotnam, Dubois, Factor, Ferland, Fontaine, Fortin, Fraser (Cariboo), Gagnon, Girouard, Guthrie, Hepburn, Irvine, Jones, Laflèche, Larue, LaVergne, Marcil, McGillis, McGregor, McIntosh, MacMillan (Saskatoon), Peck, Perley (Sir George), Pouliot, Quinn, Rhéaume, Short, Rinfret, Smoke, Stirling, Thauvette, Thompson (Simcoe East), Thompson (Lanark), White (London), Wright, a committee to assist His Honour the Speaker in the direction of the library of parliament, so far as the interests of the House of Commons are concerned, and to act on behalf of the House of Commons as members of a joint committee of both houses of parliament on the library.

Motion agreed to.

PRINTING OF PARLIAMENT

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their honours that this house will unite with them in the formation of a joint committee of both houses on the subject of the printing of parliament, and that the members of the select standing committee on printing, namely, Messrs. Anderson (Halton), Baribeau, Belec, Boulanger, Brasset, Buckley, Campbell, Charters, Desrochers, Dubois, Edwards, Embury, Esling, Factor, Fortin, Girouard, Gott, Gray, Hay, Heaps, Howden, Lucas, MacLean (Prince), Maloney, Marcil, Matthews, McKenzie (Assiniboia), Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon), Munn, Murphy, Peck, Perley (Qu'Appelle), Perras, Pickel, Porteous, Price, Quinn, Rhéaume, Rinfret, Roberge, Rowe, Ryerson, St-Père, Short, Simpson (Simcoe North), Spankie, Spencer, Spotton, Stewart (Lethbridge), Taylor, Tétrault, Verville, Wilson, Wright, will act as members on the part of this house, on the said joint committee on the printing of parliament.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY RESTAURANT

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister) moved:

That a message be sent to the Senate to acquaint their honours that this house has appointed the Honourable the Speaker and Messrs. Ahearn, Barrette, Black (Halifax), Bourassa, Carmichael, Cayley, Garland (Carleton), Hanbury, Howard, Howden, Laflèche, Macphail (Miss), Neill, Ryerson, Senn, Spankie, Spence, Sproule, Wilson, a committee to assist His Honour the Speaker in the direction of the restaurant so far as the interests of the Commons are concerned, and to act as members of a joint committee of both houses on the restaurant.

Motion agreed to.

CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER

REPORT OF SPEECH DELIVERED TO ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to ask the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, whether the government has taken steps to ascertain the accuracy of a report which appears in the papers of to-day of a speech made, or purported to have been made, in England last night by the Honourable High Commissioner of Canada in London, and whether the speech has had the authority and approval of the Prime Minister or of any member of the administration. The despatch to which I refer appears, among other papers, in the Montreal Gazette of to-day, and the Gazette's report is as follows:

Ferguson Warns British Leaders

Dominions Will Outstrip Mother Country If Cooperation Lacking, He Says

(Canadian Press Cable)

London, April 23.—"Unless you are very careful how you treat us it will be only another generation before we take your place as leaders in industry and as economic leaders of the world." With these words, Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Canadian High Commissioner to London, concluded an appeal to Great Britain to "take the dominions by the hands and negotiate with them." Mr.

Ferguson was speaking at the annual dinner of the Association of the British Chambers of Commerce here to-night.

He sometimes thought he declared, that owing to Great Britain's tremendous success through the centuries, when the world came to her as its financial centre and commercial leader, Britain had built up through the generations a feeling that she was more or less self-sufficient. It had not been realized that with the coming of war and destruction of the world's economic fabric, other nations had been rapidly growing in power and become powerful competitors of Britain.

"Where are you going to look for support if you do not turn to members of your own family?" he asked. "They are pressing to be permitted to sit down at the family table and work out problems on which your prosperity and happiness depend. Unless you are very careful how you treat us it will be only another generation before we take your place as leaders in industry and economic leaders of the world."

"Canada has the territory; the natural wealth and the right spirit, but we want from Great Britain to-day more capital and a helping hand. The time of depression will shorten if you will take the dominions by the hand and negotiate with them. The people of Britain and Canada want to come closer together and no government will stop them," Mr. Ferguson said.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I read the report in the press to which the right hon. gentleman has referred and which he has read to the house. I have not thought it necessary to ask for a verification, nor for a copy of the speech delivered. There was no antecedent discussion of the speech, nor was the ministry advised of the purport of the remarks that were to be made by the High Commissioner. In due course the government will be advised, and if it is desirable that the house should be informed, it will be informed.

PRIVILEGE— MR. B. M. STITT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. B. M. STITT (Nelson): On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I rise to resent, as I think every member of this house and western members in particular should resent, an imputation contained in the leading editorial of this morning's Ottawa Journal. I will read that editorial, which is as follows:

> Canadians presently engaged with pencil and paper figuring out how much they owe the treasury for income tax, and wondering what governments do with all the money, might profitably study a return tabled in parliament on Wednesday. It had to do with the Hudson Bay railway. With its cost.
>
> The Hudson Bay railway, as everybody knows, is not yet finished. Thus far, however, its financial story is this:

Cost of the road up to February 28, 1931	$30,997,136 44
Cost of Port Nelson terminals.	6,240,200 86
Cost of Churchill terminals	7,256,846 51
Cost of Hudson strait expedition	1,323,809 51
Cost of radio direction finding work	349,678 23
Total cost to date	$46,167,671 55

> Forty-six millions gone—and the end not yet! Even this year, when economy is vital, and when the government is harrassed to make ends meet, there is $6,000,000 more in the estimates for this craziness.
>
> We have two costly transcontinental railways hauling grain east and west. We have spent hundreds of millions on canals and harbours. We have spent lavishly to ship wheat through St. John and Halifax, through Montreal and Quebec, through Vancouver and Prince Rupert. We talk of the St. Lawrence deep waterway. Yet, while spending and building and talking that way, we have gone on putting $46,000,000 in a road whose steel ends with ice-floes and amid wolves and seals. It is an extraordinary study in folly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member for Nelson (Mr. Stitt) shorten up the matter if possible?

Mr. STITT (Nelson): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker; I was just leading up to my point. There is an imputation here that members who are supporting this project do not know a tramp steamer from a mowing machine. That is the point in the next paragraph I am leading up to, and I resent it. That paragraph reads:

> The advocates of this route, most of whom wouldn't know a tramp ship from a mowing machine, and who probably think that the nautical term "port" is something to drink, now tell us that, ships or no ships, the road will pay for itself. Look, they tell us; look at all the wonderful minerals along the road, and the timber, and the marvellous fishing in the Hudson bay!

There is another paragraph here which is not correct, and which with your permission I will read:

> Not a pound of grain has yet gone out over the Hudson bay route. Not a pound will go out this year, or next year.

Surely that statement is incorrect, when we remember the statements made by the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) to the press.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point about which the hon. member wishes to complain to the house?

Mr. STITT (Nelson): I am leading up to the point. I think this is a breach of privilege; I think it is an insult, and I will conclude

by simply stating that I resent it and disagree with every word of the editorial. I sincerely hope every member of this house will rise in his place and record his disapproval of this article.

TRANSPORTATION OF LIVE STOCK

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS McMILLAN (South Huron): Before the orders of the day are called I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir), based on a communication I received from him and for which I thank him. This question is in regard to the transportation of pure-bred live stock, and this is what the minister says:

> The Minister of Agriculture has authorized payment by the Dominion live stock branch of freight charges on a limited number of carload shipments of cattle purchased from breeders and farmers within the Dominion and shipped as follows:
>
> From any point of loading in the Dominion of Canada, including points in the prairie provinces, to any railway point in the prairie provinces.

Will the provisions of these regulations be extended to live stock farmers of Ontario and Quebec, and the other provinces as well?

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): Does the hon. gentleman want to know whether the farmers of Ontario and Quebec will be able to sell cattle for this purpose, or does he wish to have the freight paid within these provinces?

Mr. McMILLAN: The last portion of this statement is to the effect that cattle may be shipped from any point of loading in the Dominion of Canada, including points in the prairie provinces, to any railway point in the prairie provinces. My question is whether this provision of these regulations will be extended to the live stock farmers of Ontario, Quebec and the other provinces.

Mr. WEIR: I would like the hon. gentleman to put his question in writing, and I will be glad to give full information.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether it is true that his administration intends to call a Dominion unemployment conference, and if so, how soon that conference will be held.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The hon. member will be advised when the event happens, if it does happen.

[Mr. Stitt.]

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I have in my hand a despatch from Alberta intimating that the premier of that province stated recently in Lethbridge that an unemployment conference would be called by the Dominion later on in the present parliamentary session. I am sorry the Prime Minister has not seen fit to vouch for the accuracy of Mr. Brownlee's statement.

MR. W. A. WILSON

On the orders of the day:

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): I should like to ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) whether the services of Mr. W. A. Wilson, agricultural produce marketing agent, have been dispensed with.

Hon. ROBERT WEIR (Minister of Agriculture): Would the hon. gentleman put this question on the order paper?

SURVEY OF NATIONAL PORTS

INQUIRY AS TO APPOINTMENT OF SIR ALEXANDER GIBB

On the orders of the day:

Hon. P. J. A. CARDIN (Richelieu): I should like to ask the Prime Minister, in his capacity as Minister of Finance, or the Minister of Marine, if they would place on the table of the house a copy of the order in council appointing Sir Alexander Gibb to make an investigation into the harbours controlled by harbour commissions.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I think there was no order in council passed; there was merely a direction by correspondence. I will look it up and the correspondence will be brought down.

COPYRIGHT ACT AMENDMENT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. R. E. CHEVRIER (Ottawa): I desire to direct the attention of the Secretary of State to a statement which appears at page 902 of Hansard for yesterday. The hon. member for St. James (Mr. Rinfret) was speaking about the copyright matter and said:

> . . . . I believe there are in the bill certain sections which we shall have to drop in order to put our legislation into full conformity with the decisions of Rome.
>
> Mr. Cahan: We do not recognize the decisions of Rome.

I should like to ask the Minister if he would tell us what he meant by "the decisions of Rome", because as far as I know there is no

authority in Rome to give decisions in any matters of copyright, nor is there any such authority in Berne, which is probably the place meant by the minister. Would he tell the committee what these decisions are?

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): I was simply replying to the hon. gentleman. There was a small committee which was, I understand, at one time sitting at Rome, and which at other times, I understand, sits at Berne. That committee, without any authority and without any jurisdiction, from time to time presumes to send out circulars in which it purports to give legal opinions upon the provisions of the Berne convention and latterly upon the provisions of the Rome conventions. I have received these opinions from time to time. They are not authoritative; they are not the findings of a judicial authority; they decide nothing. And so far as I am concerned I refuse to regard their decisions as anything else than the opinions of gentlemen who are without any jurisdiction in the matter.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

AGREEMENT FOR JOINT USE OF PREMISES AT REGINA

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved the second reading of Bill No. 9, to ratify and confirm certain agreements respecting the joint use by Canadian National Railways of certain tracks and premises of Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Regina.

He said: Perhaps I should explain to the house very briefly what this bill refers to. An agreement was made in 1912 between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian Northern Railway for the joint use of passenger and freight facilities in the city of Regina. Later, I think in 1926, that became applicable to the different subsidiaries of the Canadian National Railways. But in 1930 the agreement was supplemented by certain sub-agreements with reference to office space and various other minor details, which changed the form of the agreement. This bill is introduced on behalf of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways to ratify that agreement, making it, as was the original agreement, for a period of ninety-nine years. Both companies desire it, and so far as I know it involves nothing of a controversial nature.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION

APPLICATION OF PROVINCIAL COMPENSATION ACTS TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved the second reading of Bill No. 37, to amend the Government Employees' Compensation Act.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. MANION: Might I suggest to my hon. friend that we allow the bill to get into committee, where it can be more easily discussed. The principle is acceptable to the whole house.

Motion agreed to, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On section 1—Definitions.

Mr. HEENAN: The minister very properly requested that we should go into committee forthwith inasmuch as there is not an hon. member in this house who is opposed to the principle of the bill. Undoubtedly we can better discuss it in committee. When the resolution was before the house last night we had not the advantage of having the bill before us. Now that the bill is before the committee I find that what I feared last night is the case: the bill does not cover the points which I brought up. I trust the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Chaplin) is not taking up too much of the minister's time.

Mr. MANION: I am listening to my hon. friend.

Mr. HEENAN: I am a pretty hard man to listen to.

I hope the government will take into consideration the suggestions which I made last evening. The compensation act which governs Dominion employees is not fair or equitable, as I have already pointed out. The same wages and salaries are paid to all Dominion employees in like employment all over the country, but when accidents occur and they are disabled or lose their lives, then we differentiate in the treatment accorded. For instance, if a Dominion employee is injured in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, British Columbia or any of the western provinces, he receives 66⅔ per cent of his wages up to a maximum of $2,000, or, about $111 per month. If an employee similarly employed in New Brunswick is injured—I think it is the same in Nova Scotia—he would receive 55 per cent of wages up to $1,200.

Mr. MANION: Just as a matter of information, is it not 60 per cent in Ontario?

Mr. HEENAN: No, 66⅔ per cent from Quebec west. The employee injured in New Brunswick would receive 55 per cent of $1,200, or $55 per month as maximum remuneration. I contend that equal treatment is not accorded to our federal employees. If a Dominion employee should be killed in any province from Quebec west his widow would receive $40 per month, while in New Brunswick she would receive only $30—I mention New Brunswick because I have some knowledge of what is done in that province—and I believe the amount paid in Nova Scotia would be $35 per month.

There are other inequalities in the act which could be referred to, but I do not desire to take up the time of the committee in discussing them. I approve of the principle of the bill and I thank the hon. minister for bringing it before the committee. However, I would reiterate that there was some difference of opinion with respect to the bill prior to the last elections, and that is one of the reasons why it was not presented. I want to take the position now as I did then, that this bill does not give equal treatment to Dominion employees or their dependents in the event of injury or death in the course of duty. I do not know of anything more discouraging or more productive of dissatisfaction than the unequal treatment of employees working for one employer, whether that be the Dominion or provincial government or some industrial institution. It is not fair to pay the widow of a man killed in one part of the country only $30 per month, when the widow of a man killed in another part of the country receives $40, nor is it fair to pay $111 per month to one employee who has sustained injury while another receives only $55 per month. I am sure that the ingenuity of the government and especially of the Minister of Railways can conceive of some amendment to this bill which would eliminate these inequalities and which could be presented before the bill passes the committee stage.

Mr. MANION: Mr. Chairman, I do not desire to quarrel with the hon. member in regard to the attitude he takes on this matter; he probably has good grounds for his argument, but the fact remains that this is the same bill as his own government introduced last year and which was not proceeded with. This is the same bill as was drawn up by the representatives of the different provinces in this Dominion. I explained last evening that before this bill was presented to me for presentation to the house a meeting was held in my office at which the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson), representatives of Ontario and Quebec, certain officials of the different departments and myself were present. The representatives from Ontario and Quebec spoke for the whole Dominion of Canada, and they agreed to the bill as it is drawn up.

While that is all true, the fact remains that there are some inequalities existing in regard to the matters referred to by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan). The passing of this bill will add at least $70,000—that is a very rough estimate—to the cost of the administration of the act, or 15 or 20 per cent, and the government feels that it is a move in the right direction. The hon. member admits that himself. We feel that it is going sufficiently far in these times without adding further to the cost. After this bill has been in force a year or so there is no doubt that we can then consider alterations or amendments to the act, but, speaking for the government, I should prefer at the present time not to offer any amendment unless it be of a technical character.

Mr. RALSTON: Mr. Chairman, would the hon. minister give the committee the meaning of the definition of "employee" given in subsection (a) of section 2, reading as follows:

while performing duties or services by virtue of being appointed, certificated or licensed by His Majesty or by a minister of the crown acting in any capacity other than on behalf of His Majesty,

Mr. MANION: That part of the section refers to those who are not actually paid by the government. For example, a pilot would be appointed by the Dominion government but would be paid out of fees received from the ships which he pilots. There are other cases, such as harbour masters, who are paid by fees. It refers to all those who may be appointed by the Dominion of Canada but who do not receive their compensation direct from this government.

I quite understand the difficulty of following this section because it is a rather involved sentence. The part which my hon. friend read has reference to the preceding part of the section, which reads:

but does not include persons who are permanent members of the military, naval or air forces of Canada,

—who have a special method of insurance of their own. Perhaps the words "it does not refer to" should have been repeated, so that the remainder of the section would read:

it does not refer to persons who are caused personal injury by or whose death results from accident while performing duties—

and so on. My hon. friend will understand that it is a matter of direct payment; if they do not receive payment direct from the government, then they are not subject to the benefits of this act.

Mr. RALSTON: I read the first part of the clause, but I wanted to find out just exactly the classes referred to, and the hon. minister has been good enough to give me certain examples.

My hon. friend said something else in reply to what was said a few moments ago by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River. I understood him to say that the provinces agree. I do not see much difficulty in that regard. As I understand the matter, the compensation assessed is really paid by the Dominion, and the provinces have not much interest in such an agreement. The point is really whether the federal employees in the various provinces are satisfied with the arrangement which is made. My hon. friend has suggested that this is somewhat similar to or perhaps textually exactly the same—I do not know—as an amendment which was suggested last year; but what has been said by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River has a good deal of force, as my hon. friend has admitted, inasmuch as these employees are all federal government employes and if there should be any inequality, it can only be on account of the differences in wages or salary, because, as I understand the matter, under the compensation acts of the different provinces the compensation is based on a percentage of the wages or salary. Would it not be advisable, while my hon. friend is doing this, to make a clean job of it and fix a certain percentage of salary for all federal government employees. If the salaries are the same, there is no reason why a man in Nova Scotia should receive one amount for compensation and a man in Ontario, another? The fact that the provinces have agreed does not help very much; neither does the fact that the representatives from Quebec and Ontario have agreed help very much, because the other provinces have a different scale of compensation. I join with the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River in urging the minister to consider the possibility of fixing the scale of compensation for all federal government employees on an even and uniform basis, having regard to the fact that all have a common employer.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend is quite right; perhaps I should not have said that the provinces agreed inasmuch as they have not very much to say about the matter, as we are paying the bills. But when he says that the people who will not be satisfied will be the federal government employees, I am afraid, as he well knows, having been a minister for quite a long time, that we would be in difficulty if we endeavoured to satisfy all the federal government employees. The proposal, however, that my hon. friend and the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River make is a little difficult of administration, and it would also cause an inequality. It is difficult of administration for this reason; if, for example, we pay in New Brunswick, using the province mentioned by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River, a different scale of compensation from that which is paid by that province under its compensation act, we would have to have some machinery set up here to handle that ourselves, because otherwise we would be complicating their efforts in New Brunswick. Secondly, while it is true that under the present act as it stands there may be some inequalities due to the different rates of compensation paid by the various provinces, if we pay the same throughout the Dominion, we must have inequalities in any case, because we would be paying to Dominion government employees in New Brunswick and some of the other provinces a greater rate of compensation than is paid to provincial government or industrial employees. Therefore, either way we are going to establish inequalities. We take the attitude, I think fairly, that this is a move in the right direction; indeed we have taken the excellent example of the late government which last year introduced this bill just as it is to-day.

Mr. HEENAN: No.

Mr. MANION: I am informed that it is exactly the same bill and in the same form as that introduced last year as far as the terms are concerned.

Mr. HEENAN: The bill was not introduced.

Mr. MANION: Well, the resolution, if my hon. friend wants to argue on a technicality. As it is a move in the right direction, I think we can take a chance for a year, and if there be some inequalities that cause dissatisfaction, we can amend it next year. I do not think at the present time we should add to the liabilities of the Dominion which are heavy enough. We do not wish to assume any heavier financial responsibilities than we have taken in this bill. It must be remembered that after all we are adding to the advantages of the employees themselves; those employees who

are covered in this bill had no compensation previously. They pay nothing for it; it is a gift to them, and so it is an advantage to them which they did not have in the past.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Does the federal government administer this fund, or is it administered through the provincial compensation boards?

Mr. MANION: Through the boards.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Then there must be some agreement between the provinces and the Dominion. I am quite in sympathy with the suggestion made by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River and the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth. But I can see a great difficulty. For instance, in New Brunswick a royal commission is now at work considering whether the rate of compensation shall be increased from 55 per cent where it has stood since 1918. I should like to point out that the trades and labour council of New Brunswick are asking, not for 66⅔ per cent, but for 75 per cent. I do not say that they are going to get that, but I would be surprised if they did not get some increase. If the royal commission should report to the legislature or government of New Brunswick that it is desirable to grant 75 per cent, the whole scheme is going to be a lever to raise the rate of compensation throughout the Dominion to 75 per cent. I do not think employers of labour are ready to go that far. They may not think 55 per cent is large enough. But this bill is a step in the right direction, and we had better leave it alone until the provinces themselves arrive at a uniform rate of compensation. I know employees of the Dominion government welcome this bill. Those outside of the railways have not had any compensation heretofore.

Mr. RALSTON: My hon. friend is mistaken. Compensation is awarded all the time to government employees. The minister will correct me if I am wrong. This is only to correct a comparatively few cases in which there is no similar employment in civil occupations to that which can be found in federal government service.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): My understanding was that the compensation applied only to the railway employees. I am glad to hear that it has a wider application. Federal government employees, however, who are at present not under the act, are going to be brought under it by this bill. The question of inequality is bound to arise and exist just as long as there are inequalities in rates of compensation paid by the various provinces. Until those are settled on an equitable and uniform basis, this bill ought to go through as it is.

Mr. DUFF: Am I right in assuming that the Dominion government does not pay this money directly to the employees, but that it goes to the different workmen's compensation boards in the provinces when they send in their bills?

Mr. MANION: That is right with the exception of Prince Edward Island. Last night I think I gave a wrong piece of information to the hon. member for Gloucester; I was not sure about Prince Edward Island having a compensation board. It has not. Every other province has. In the case of Prince Edward Island we have a referee there who handles the matter for us; in his case he sends in the accounts, medical, hospital and compensation, for the man injured, and we pay the bill directly from the Department of Railways and Canals at Ottawa. In all the other provinces the provincial compensation boards pay the bills, render us accounts plus about 5 per cent for administration, and we pay their accounts.

Mr. DUFF: Is the money paid to the workmen's compensation boards of the different provinces or to the individuals?

Mr. MANION: The workmen's compensation boards.

Mr. DUFF: If that be the case, I certainly think we should not set a standard here. Our rate should be guided by the percentage paid in each province.

Mr. MANION: That is what we are doing.

Mr. DUFF: If we establish a standard here, whether it be 65 per cent or 75 per cent, or whatever it be, every employer of labour and provincial government will get into trouble, because people will want to raise the standard in their own province.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I am sorry, but I do not agree with the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough. I take very strongly the ground that the governing factor is the wages paid to the employee. The governing factor in that particular case, the wages of the employee, is the same all over Canada. Why in the world should less compensation be paid in case of injury or death in the maritime provinces than if the accident had happened in British Columbia? I can assure the minister that he will have nothing but trouble until the federal

government themselves fix rates of compensation and make them universally applicable throughout Canada. It would be a very simple matter to do. All the provinces have rates of compensation fixed now. The Dominion government could easily adopt a scale of its own and pay compensation to every employee throughout the Dominion according to that scale. While I am in entire sympathy with the idea that every employee should come under the provisions of this act, at the same time I can assure the minister and the government that they will have nothing but trouble until this matter is adjusted on a basis of equality from one end of Canada to the other.

Mr. DUFF: The best thing for the federal government to do would be to set up a workmen's compensation board of their own.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No, I am not suggesting anything of the kind. The matter can be handled very simply. The boards are there, and all that is required is a scale set up by the federal government. There is no necessity at all for setting up a federal compensation board.

Mr. DUFF: In other words, if an employee of the Public Works department in Ottawa comes down to a town in Nova Scotia and works alongside a local man in that particular town, and both are injured while at work, then under the scheme proposed by the hon. member for West Edmonton one man would receive a different rate of compensation from the other. I say that until we have a federal compensation board and pay compensation direct from Ottawa, we must take the scale that prevails in the different provinces. In Nova Scotia, for instance, by an amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act the fishermen of the province were brought under the act, paying their money direct to the government, and the government paying out the claims. About three years ago the government decided they could not afford to carry the fishermen any longer, at rates which the fishermen could afford to pay and the result was that the fishermen had to go to an insurance company in London and arrange for cover. The London underwriters stipulated that they would pay compensation to injured fishermen or for fatalities through the workmen's compensation board of the province of Nova Scotia, according to the rates set out in the Workmen's Compensation Act. The fishermen and the insurance company came to that agreement, with the result that while the government of Nova Scotia does not collect money direct from the fishermen, it is paid by the fishermen to the insurance company, and the fishermen are paid the rates of compensation set by the board. In the present case, if the federal government simply pays the money over to the workmen's compensation board, it would never do for employees of the government to get a different rate of compensation from the ordinary employees of any other concern in any of the provinces.

Mr. HEENAN: That is where my hon. friend and I entirely disagree. Surely we should try to treat all the employees of any particular industry in an equitable manner, and as the Dominion government is an employer of workmen in certain districts, I say that it should treat its men similarly, in the matter of compensation for injuries, throughout the whole Dominion.

What my hon. friend from Antigonish-Guysborough suggests is that the Dominion government should agree to subscribe funds to those provinces that are backward in the matter of providing workmen's compensation. In other words, he suggests that Dominion government employees who are working at the same rate of wages in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as Dominion government employees working in Ontario, Quebec or the western provinces, should be treated differently in the matter of compensation in the event of an accident. I do not believe that this house will agree that the men should be treated differently in the matter of compensation in the case of an accident in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick as compared with an accident in any other part of the country. I do not wish to repeat myself too often but I think it is worth while for me to repeat this: If a railway mail clerk should be disabled at his work in Quebec or in any province west of Quebec he would be entitled to obtain compensation at the rate of $111 a month so long as he was disabled, while if he became disabled in the province of New Brunswick or Nova Scotia he would be entitled to draw only approximately $55 a month.

The Minister of Railways suggests that the government will be spending $70,000 or more under this act. I would point out that that amount will only be spent in the case of injuries to employees. I think there is a better way to save that money, and that is that we should refrain from disabling workmen working for the Dominion government. The labour men would rather refrain from collecting compensation because they do not wish to be injured; but in the event of their being injured I claim that they are entitled to as much compensation in one province as if the

injury had occurred in another and that in the event of their being killed the widow and dependants are entitled to just as much compensation as the widows and dependants receive in other parts of the country. I appreciate the action of the government in bringing down this measure as prepared by the late government. That measure was not gone on with for reasons that I do not wish to disclose at this particular time. The resolution which was introduced last session was by no means satisfactory to me, and the amendment before us is not satisfactory, although I accept it as a step in the right direction. But I do not see the use, to borrow a phrase from my hon. friend the Minister of Justice when he was leading the opposition, of taking so many bites at a cherry. We have shown that there are inequalities in the Dominion public service, and I think that we should amend this measure. I do not want to offer an amendment; I do not even want to suggest one because I know that the ingenuity of the minister and his officers is quite equal to bringing in a suitable amendment. If I recollect aright, at the present time Prince Edward Island has no Workmen's Compensation Act, but there is an act of the Dominion parliament making provision for a referee in Prince Edward Island to base the compensation for injured Dominion employees on the basis which obtains in New Brunswick. So that precedent has already been established. I can easily conceive of a simple amendment to this bill which would provide that in cases where employees are disabled or killed in New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island they or their dependants would get the same rate of compensation as they would have been entitled to had the accident happened in Ontario or Quebec. If we cannot get such an amendment from the government I am perfectly ready to support this measure, but I would still plead with the minister to take my suggestion into serious consideration and see if he cannot bring in an amendment to give equal treatment to all Dominion employees in all parts of Canada.

Mr. MacLEAN: Mr. Chairman, I desire to endorse the suggestion made by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) because I know from personal experience that what he has referred to is causing considerable dissatisfaction in the maritimes at the present time. Last year the legislature of Prince Edward Island enacted a compensation measure, but whether it is in operation yet I do not know. But I do know that two years ago compensation for railway employees was based on the New Brunswick Compensation Act. I know of one case where the widow of a trainman was receiving compensation under that act; after a couple of years her compensation was cut down, and the reason given for the reduction was that she had been put under the Nova Scotia act. I know this created a great deal of dissatisfaction at the time.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If she was under the Nova Scotia act they could not place her under the New Brunswick act.

Mr. MacLEAN: I know they did reduce her compensation, and that was the reason given for the reduction. That is why in Prince Edward Island the legislature was asked to put through a compensation act. It seems to me only fair that the same rate of compensation should apply to all government employees, no matter what province they may be in. I cannot agree with my hon. friend from Antigonish (Mr. Duff) who states that the suggestion made by the hon. member from Kenora-Rainy River would interfere with the compensation acts of the various provinces.

Mr. DUFF: I am right just the same.

Mr. MacLEAN: Each province has its compensation act for local purposes, but every Dominion employee should receive the benefit of the Dominion act. May I ask the minister, does this measure apply to men in the government merchant marine?

Mr. MANION: I don't think so.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): They are under a different company.

Mr. MacLEAN: I know of the case of a young man on one of the government merchant marine boats who lost his sight in the service, but is not in receipt of compensation. Is there any possibility of bringing the government merchant marine under this legislation? I repeat that I support the position taken by the former Minister of Labour, that the same rate of compensation should apply to all government employees.

Mr. NEILL: Mr. Chairman, speaking, if not for, at least from British Columbia, I must support the attitude taken by the member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff). The member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) says he does not want to precipitate a condition where a government employee in one province would be paid more or less compensation than a government employee in another province. As a member from British Columbia I am more concerned with this aspect—I do not want government employees

in British Columbia to be paid more or less compensation, particularly less, than other men in British Columbia. I can see that British Columbia is going to be the goat if the system proposed by the member for Kenora-Rainy River were put into effect. If I remember rightly, the rate of compensation paid in British Columbia is 62½ per cent; someone on the other side has said that in New Brunswick it is 55 per cent; some other province may have a lower rate. Now, if we leave the minister to strike a percentage rate to apply to all Canada, he will be almost sure to strike an average, and that average naturally will be less than the highest rate now prevailing; consequently British Columbia, having at present the highest rate, will be at a disadvantage. Therefore I support the attitude taken in this particular instance by the minister.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Chairman I am not impressed by the solicitude of the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River for our departmental employees having regard to the fact that he was Minister of Labour in the former government from 1926 down to August last. Neither am I impressed with his repudiation of his own child. This is an attempt to do something which he failed to do when he was Minister of Labour and I would suggest to him that he had better leave well enough alone. There has been a certain amount of misrepresentation, or perhaps I should say misinformation, as to the attitude of the workmens' compensation board in New Brunswick. The rate of compensation in New Brunswick is 55 per cent, with a maximum compensation of $1,500 a year; which is somewhat different from what the hon. gentleman stated. I do not know what the rate of compensation is in Nova Scotia, but I imagine it is at about the same level as the New Brunswick rate. Any attempt under this bill to pay the Canadian National Railway employees in New Brunswick a higher rate of compensation will have the effect of immediately raising the rate of compensation payable to all employees in that province, and I tell him right now that the payrolls of New Brunswick will not stand any such increase, especially in the pulp and paper business with the companies finding it difficult to pay wages under prevailing conditions. Let me tell him something further: there is a reflex action to this question, which perhaps he appreciates, namely, that a higher rate of compensation inevitably reacts on the scale of wages paid. I do not think this is just, but I know it so works out in practice; and the men themselves know it. I suggest that the hon. gentleman had better leave well enough alone and not repudiate his own offspring.

Mr. HEENAN: I had not intended to say anything further, Mr. Chairman, but the remarks of the member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) require some answer. It is quite evident that he has not been listening to the Minister of Railways, or he would have heard him state that this bill is practically the same bill as was introduced last session by the King government.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): But you were Minister of Labour six years and did not get the bill through.

Mr. HEENAN: Therefore the member for York-Sunbury is admitting that we did something.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You made a gesture.

Mr. HEENAN: For the hon. member's information I may say that one reason why the bill was not proceeded with was that inequalities were discovered in the bill by the Minister of Labour.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You are just finding it out.

Mr. HEENAN: For the further information of the hon. gentleman let me say to him that I welcome the introduction of this bill and I am going to support it.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): So am I.

Mr. HEENAN: But I reiterate that to treat employees in one industry in a different way in the different provinces is neither fair nor equitable. I am not going to enter into a discussion as to the position of the pulp and paper mills of Ontario or New Brunswick further than to say that I do not think the pulp and paper industry of New Brunswick is very much different from the industry in Ontario and I helped to get some of the pulp and paper mills located there. They secured from the provinces valuable timber limits and water powers in consideration of erecting and operating pulp and paper mills for so many months in each and every year and employing so many hands. No pulp and paper mill in any part of the country is performing that obligation, so I have not very much sympathy with the plea that they cannot stand any increase in wages. The way to economize in compensation is to refrain from disabling too many workmen.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I agree with that.

Mr. HEENAN: I knew my hon. friend would. He has a big heart, just like myself. One would imagine he came from Ireland instead of New Brunswick.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I came from a better place.

Mr. HEENAN: There is no better place on the face of the earth. I repeat, the pulp and paper mills might economize by not making so many widows through their eagerness to speed up the work of their employees. The compensation boards of Ontario and Quebec, I understand, have been consulted in this matter with respect to its legal aspect. Would not my hon. friend consent to leave this matter to a committee, so that the Dominion employees might have an opportunity to make their representations in that regard?

Mr. MANION: I do not think there is anything to be gained by letting it stand. The government have brought forward this measure; they had the advantage of having the previous government bring forward the same bill and while I do not know that political recriminations get one anywhere, particularly when one is in power, at the same time while my hon. friend was Minister of Labour these people who are now going to get compensation, including the widows of whom he spoke, received nothing. Now they are going to get fairly good treatment under this bill. I do not mean that any treatment can compensate for the loss of a husband—at least, some husbands—but at the same time it is some form of support. Speaking for the government, I must say that my hon. friend's proposal will simply delay the bill and delay the time when these people who require compensation will get it, because so far as the government is concerned the act is ready to go through, and unless it is held back altogether we are going to put it through. These people will receive compensation when they deserve it.

I am not satisfied at the present time to change the proposals in the act, because I have given them very serious consideration. We understood before we brought in the bill the differences which exist, but there are also the points made by the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough, the hon. member for Comox-Alberni and the hon. member for York-Sunbury. Those points are important. I do not believe it is our duty to set up a discrimination in the province itself, and that is what we should be doing if we adopted the suggestions proposed by my hon. friend. I say, with all due respect, that we would like to pass this bill as it stands. It is our proposal and I cannot agree to any changes in it unless something is shown to be of much more importance than the points already made. I am very anxious to put through the bill, for the benefit of the people who need compensation.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Has the minister examined the possibility of a universal rate, to be administered by the compensation boards of the various provinces, based on the wage scale of the federal employees?

Mr. MANION: I am informed that if we tried to do that we would have to set up another organization here in Ottawa to administer it ourselves. That is the information I am given, I think we have enough departments here at Ottawa now.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I agree.

Mr. MANION: I am very glad of that, and with these compensation boards already in all the provinces it seems to me that as a trial this proposal should be adopted. After all, these people will get more this year than they ever received before, and if there is some dissatisfaction this provision can be amended later.

Mr. GERSHAW: When this bill passes employees of this government will be under the compensation boards of the various provinces. In case an employee is injured and disabled, is he bound to accept the award of the compensation board or has he any appeal in common law?

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend is a medical man; he knows that in Ontario at least, and I presume it is the same in the other provinces, an injured workman has no appeal under the law.

Mr. RALSTON: The minister has said that he does not feel that he can accept any amendment unless something which he considers perhaps more important or more vital than the question which has been raised is brought to his attention. I just want to mention one or two matters which have been discussed already, and to point out to my hon. friend for his consideration either now or later on, when he comes to find out whether or not the trial of which he speaks has been successful, that the inequalities which he suggests exists to-day by reason of the fact that we have all over this Dominion those who are employed by the federal government and who are paid rates of wages fixed without referenec to the conditions in the provinces. That is

fundamental; you have a different employer, as I said before. My hon. friend from Antigonish-Guysborough suggests that you cannot have a man employed by the Dominion government receiving one rate of compensation while the employee of a civilian employer receives another rate. We have that condition to-day; for example almost every Dominion government employee is entitled to superannuation, while the civilian employee does not receive that advantage. Almost every Dominion employee is entitled to a statutory increase in salary, which is not the case with a civilian employee. Almost every Dominion employee is entitled to holidays regularly, which is not the case with a civilian employee. They are working side by side, perhaps in the same town, but that inequality exists already by reason of the fact that they have different employers.

Further than that, you already have inequality in connection with workmen's compensation. Until very lately Prince Edward Island has no provision for compensation to employees of private employers. But for some years the act we are now amending has provided for compensation in Prince Edward Island to employees of the government, notwithstanding the fact that there is no such compensation to civilian employees. So the inequality does exist, I suggest, and I suggest that where we pay our employees at a level rate of wages all over the Dominion, the compensation should be at a level rate also.

I have listened carefully to what has been said, and I feel that to some extent at least it seems as if the views expressed depend on where the speakers happen to be living. The very fact that all these people are employed by the federal government would seem to indicate that there should be uniformity and not inequality as to their compensation. I may say further that while the workmen's compensation boards are used as the machines through which this compensation is disbursed, every dollar of that compensation is paid to the workmen's compensation boards by the federal government through the Minister of Finance, and my hon. friend is in charge of this bill at the moment because his own department is really the one charged with the administration of this act, and is the conduit pipe, if I may use that expression with deference, through which these cases are presented to the various boards. The provincial boards are only tribunals after all, set up for the purpose of administering the act, and I submit it does not make any difference whatever that it happens to be a local workmen's compensation board which is doing the work, because as a matter of fact it is acting as an agent of the Dominion government.

May I say further that I do not think we are perhaps altogether seized of the fact that what is being done is not something entirely new. I quite agree that it is an improvement on the condition which existed formerly, but for years, ever since this act, which is now being amended, was passed, we have had a compensation act for employees of the federal government. All we are doing now is to say that a certain class of these employees who were not receiving compensation before, because the words "under similar circumstances" contained in the old act did not apply in certain cases, shall receive compensation now. There are certain positions under the federal government which have no counterpart or corresponding employment in civilian life, and all we are doing by this act is to pick up these odd cases and put them on the same basis as the others. My hon. friend from Kenora-Rainy River suggests that while we are doing that, without making any change in the resolution brought down previously, we might go a step further. He suggests that the government should not simply rely on what its predecessors did but at the same time should provide for a rate of compensation which will be uniform to all Dominion government employees throughout Canada.

I submit these observations to my hon. friend, notwithstanding his attitude regarding no amendments. This matter of trial is really not very impressive. We know exactly what the issue is; we know just as well to-day as we shall know two years hence what will happen. The question is whether federal employees will be paid a uniform percentage throughout Canada or whether the rates will be different in the different provinces. The reasons which the hon. member (Mr. Heenan) has given are, I think, impressive and might well be considered with a view to making a complete cleanup of the situation. I think the principle he has laid down should be accepted.

Mr. GEARY: What would be my hon. friend's proposal as to working it out? I do not believe that the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) wishes to have set up a Dominion government tribunal, but merely to have the Dominion government continue as in the past to be a conduit pipe for the transfer of moneys. Does my hon. friend from Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) mean to have the administration carried on by the provinces? If so, it is quite plain that there will have to be amendments to the provincial statutes. For instance, in Ontario it is definitely set out by statute that the payment shall be 66⅔ per cent, while in other

provinces I believe it is different. There is at present in the Ontario act no scheme whereby regulations may be made so as to change the rate of compensation. Similarly, in Nova Scotia, I suppose there is no provision for such regulation. It seems to me, therefore, outside all points that have been taken care of this afternoon, that there is a good deal of difficulty ahead of us, even if we decide in this house to have a uniform percentage throughout the Dominion, in arranging how that should be done. In the meantime, a certain advance is being definitely made; everyone agrees with that. Why not let that advance continue? We have the word of the minister that all these representations that are being made, and made with great force, will be considered and a proper working out of the scheme undertaken. I do not believe it can be worked out at all at the present time.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): In my hon. friend's opinion would there be a conflict if the federal government fixed the schedules and the provincial boards administered the system in accordance therewith?

Mr. GEARY: I am not in the confidence of any one of the legislatures and I do not know what tribunals are set up. There are certain conditions upon which the percentage is fixed in the statute. I am not at all sure that the provincial board would feel at liberty under the present legislation to adjudicate upon a case, make an award ignoring the provision as to the amount payable, and come to the Dominion and say, "There is the award; if you can pay such a percentage it will be put through."

Mr. DUFF: At present the percentage which prevails in Nova Scotia is paid equally to all classes of labour. Every class is given the same; there is no differentiation. Miners are paid the same percentage as lumbermen or any other class. Now if by this statute we fixed the rate at 75 per cent would it be fair for the Minister of Labour or the Minister of Finance to say to the provincial government, "We have fixed the rate at 75 per cent and we will use you as a conduit pipe to pay the compensation. One class of labourers will be paid 75 per cent while others will receive only 65 per cent"? If I were premier of Nova Scotia I would say to the federal government, "You pay your own money." The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River no doubt has the interest of the working man at heart. If he wants a uniform schedule for federal employees throughout Canada why should he not want a uniform schedule for all labourers in the country? What he should work for is to get all the provincial governments, at the first conference they have, to try to agree to a uniform rate for all employees, including those of the federal government, making it 50, 65, 70 or 75 per cent, whatever the provincial governments might agree upon. But so long as the rate in Nova Scotia is 55 per cent, or whatever it is, the rate in British Columbia is 66½ per cent, and the rate in some other province 40 per cent, the only thing the minister can do is to say to the provinces: "We will put ourselves in your hands and pay to our employees any money which they are entitled to receive under your schedules."

Mr. HEENAN: The remarks of my hon. friend from Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Duff) have emphasized my argument better than I could have done it myself, because the federal government has a uniform rate of wages or salaries throughout Canada. Customs officers get the same rate; mail clerks get the same wages; mail carriers and preventive officers the same. The difference comes in when they are injured or killed. In the case of a mail clerk in Ontario or Quebec the maximum rate of $111 a month is paid in the event of injury, whereas in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia it is approximately $55 a month. I do not consider that fair or equitable.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The cost of living is lower.

Mr. HEENAN: When I was in Nova Scotia the cost of living was high. I may have been living high.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The rate is $68.75 a month.

Mr. HEENAN: Well, a couple of dollars is neither here nor there; I would not argue with my hon. friend about a few cents. It may be lower than my hon. friend thinks.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I have the statute right here.

Mr. HEENAN: And I have the amounts before me, so that what the statute says and what the workman gets are two different things. At any rate, I contend that hon. gentlemen who have spoken against my suggestion are only encouraging those provinces that pay a low compensation to maintain that attitude. They are not encouraging their provinces to come up to the level of other parts of the Dominion. I say to the Minister of Railways that if he does not accept the suggestion offered he is only encouraging these several provinces by the sea to continue pay-

ing a lower compensation than is paid elsewhere in Canada. The precedent has already been established that inasmuch as Prince Edward Island has no compensation act and no compensation board in the event of a Dominion employee being injured or killed in that province, a referee shall be appointed to award compensation on the basis of compensation paid in New Brunswick. It is very easy to amend this bill to provide that employees of the Dominion government in any part of Canada shall be paid a compensation based on the provisions that obtain in the province of Quebec or of Nova Scotia or of British Columbia. For the information of my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), I am not so sure that British Columbia is the highest. If he says the rate there is 66½, in the province of Quebec and in Ontario also it is 66⅔—just a little bit better than even British Columbia. I still think that the minister would be doing a good thing for the public service, and I am sure it would be in accordance with the wishes of the people of Canada, if he provided that federal employees should get equal treatment not only in salaries and wages, but also in the matter of provision to meet disability or accidental death. Their dependents should receive equal treatment. The minister could very well bring in a simple amendment which would provide this equal treatment. I want to say frankly to the minister, I would prefer delaying this measure for a year rather than have the measure go through still maintaining, as it does, this principle of inequality.

The CHAIRMAN: I would remind the committee that it has been discussing clause 2, when in fact we are still on clause 1. Shall clause 1 carry?

Mr. NEILL: Mr. Chairman, before the clause carries I have an amendment to suggest to the committee. It will be remembered that I brought up last night the question of compensation to lighthouse keepers' assistants. Possibly I was misled by the glamour of his language and the hon. minister's genial manner, but I got the impression that he was going to give this matter some attention. I have more than glamour to go on, because I find that in speaking upon this matter last night the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) said:

> I think the hon. member's suggestion should be taken into serious consideration.
>
> Mr. Manion: It will.

Mr. MANION: I mean in the future.

Mr. NEILL: There was no qualification or modification made. Speaking as a minister of the crown he said: "It will." It reminded me of the fateful occasion when a man says: "I will." The hon. minister said it would be taken into consideration, but what do we find? The bill was introduced last night and almost in his opening sentence this afternoon the hon. minister said that he would not accept any amendment unless it were of a technical character. The consideration promised must have been of a very ephemeral character.

I will not waste the time of the committee in rehashing my argument of last night, except to say this: This is an attempt to bring under the act the assistants to lighthouse keepers. Is there any reason why these men, paid the very lowest salary imaginable, should not come within the provisions of this act? In many cases it is the wife or minor child who acts as assistant, and an added salary is paid to the lighthouse keeper himself to include their wage. There is no question about that, one has only to look at the payroll to find that where there is no assistant the keeper receives so much, while in those cases where an assistant is kept the keeper receives a few hundred dollars more per year. When the lighthouse keeper receives an injury in the service of the country he comes under this act, but when his assistant who may be his wife or child—at times it may be an old man who is hired—is injured, no compensation is paid. The government always falls back upon the technicality that such persons is not an employee of the government but is employed by the lighthouse keeper direct.

It would not cause any conflict with any other act if the word "employee" in this section were enlarged to cover these assistants. It might be said that it would conflict with the Civil Service Act but it would not because this particular act contains its own interpretation of the word "employee." Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I beg to move to add a subsection to be known as subsection (c) to read as follows:

> The word "employee" in this section shall include lighthouse keepers' assistants for whose payment allowance is made in the salary paid by the government to the lighthouse keeper.

That would not include a man who might be hired temporarily to chop wood, or for like labour; he must be a man for whom the government has provided a salary wrapped up, so to speak, in the salary paid to the lighthouse keeper.

I know the hon. minister is going to oppose this amendment, but what does he think of a case where a man might be killed

—as I mentioned last night, I know of an occasion where a man risked his life and was hurt to save government properties from fire—and yet no compensation is paid. These men are told to go to the lighthouse keeper for their compensation which is impossible. I do not like to think that these men are to be deprived by some technicality from receiving that compensation which the hon. minister admits is the rightful due of all employees of the government.

Mr. MANION: Mr. Chairman, in regard to my hon. friend's comment upon my remark of last night, I meant exactly what I said, but I did not mean that this matter would be given consideration between last night and this morning. This matter will be given consideration in the future, as will also the matter brought up by the hon. member for Kenora (Mr. Heenan).

As the hon. member knows, this question has been thoroughly considered. He has called upon officials of the department; they discussed it with him, he discussed it with them and it has been fairly considered. But apart from that, this amendment introduces into this bill a principle which we cannot adopt. This bill is for the purpose of providing compensation for the employees of the government, and the men and women to whom the hon. member refers are not employees of the government.

Mr. NEILL: They are sub-employees.

Mr. MANION: No, not sub-employees either. They are assistants hired by the lighthouse keepers and they are not paid directly by the government.

The hon. member knows that the proper way to go about this matter is to get the Marine department to appoint an assistant, who would automatically come under the act. I think this is a matter which should be considered by that department, and I have no doubt that it will be.

Mr. NEILL: Has the minister ever attempted to get the Department of Marine to do anything?

Mr. MANION: The hon. member is speaking of the late government; we have not been in power very long and perhaps he will have better success with the present minister.

Mr. NEILL: The system still exists.

Mr. MANION: There is another reason for not allowing this amendment to pass; it is out of order because it would increase the cost of administering this act. The hon. member knows that the rules of the house do not permit of his moving an amendment which would entail the expenditure of government money.

Mr. GUTHRIE: And which would impose an additional burden.

Mr. MANION: This amendment would impose an additional burden inasmuch as it would increase the number of people to whom compensation would be paid, therefore, I submit the amendment is out of order.

Mr. NEILL: Surely the hon. minister is demonstrating the last resource of a lack of logic when he is forced to fall back upon that argument of increasing cost.

Mr. STEVENS: It is a bald fact, that is all.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member propose to speak on the point of order?

Mr. MANION: I brought up the point of order.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member (Mr. Heenan) wish to speak on the point of order?

Mr. HEENAN: No.

Mr. NEILL: On the point of order; the matter is trivial, entailing as it does such a small expense. Hardly an amendment is moved in the house that cannot be construed as involving some expense, supposing it is only a question of writing a few letters. The Workmen's Compensation Act in a province as a matter of fact is administered on the basis of the compensation being paid, not by the government at all but by the industry. The industries are classified and each industry pays a percentage of its pay-roll. A very small contribution in the way of medical attendance is made by the employee himself. Therefore, in British Columbia, and probably the other provinces, the compensation due to an injured man is not paid by the government in any sense at all. The same principle is in vogue here, but the government in their wisdom have found it more convenient, instead of paying on the basis of a percentage of their pay-roll, to pay the particular sum, whatever it may be, assessed in each case. This, I imagine, is on the same principle as that on which they do not insure their buildings, preferring, in a broader sense, to carry their own insurance. In that sense, it is not the government that is paying this; it is the industry, so to speak; but they pay it not by a percentage of the pay-roll—which would involve

the argument made by the minister—but by a specific sum. This puts the matter in a somewhat different position from what it would be if I were asking the government to spend money directly. This thing might go on for years without involving any payment at all.

While I am on my feet, might I suggest, although I am going away from the point of order, that the minister, if he is determined to defeat this amendment, give an undertaking that a case of that kind will receive favourable consideration as regards compassionate allowances to these very poor people.

Mr. MANION: I do not like hon. members taking the attitude that I am raising a point of order on trivial grounds. After all, the rules of the house are for observance, and if this is out of order, that is the reason I drew it to the attention of the Chair.

In regard to the question of compassionate allowance, the government would certainly take those cases into consideration. Bills are constantly being approved for medical attendance, hospital accounts, and so on in the case of people who have been hurt outside the provisions of the compensation act. The government always takes those compassionate grounds into consideration, and if the hon. member ever brings to my attention a case of that kind I shall be glad to sponsor it if it be a just case.

Mr. NEILL: If the minister says "I will" to that, I shall withdraw the amendment.

Mr. MANION: I will.

Mr. HEENAN: As a last resort I want to make an appeal to my genial friend the Minister of Justice. I have not been able to do very much so far with the Minister of Railways except that I must admit he is willing to take into consideration the suggestions that have been made. I feel sure, if the hon. member for Quebec East were sitting on the other side in the seat of the Minister of Justice, he would listen to my suggestion. I think I can tell by the twinkle in the eye of the present Minister of Justice that he has been very sympathetic to some of the suggestions from this side. I was wondering if the Minister of Railways would not let this bill stand at least until after to-day, in order to allow the Minister of Justice to introduce an amendment along the lines suggested by the Minister of Railways, to provide that in the event of any inequality or discrepancy the government of Canada could pay out of the consolidated revenue fund to the dependents or to the injured workman, sufficient to cover the inequality or discrepancy. I am not a lawyer, but I think I could outline in a very few words an amendment to that effect. That is to say, in a glaring case of inequality or a discrepancy the governor general in council would have power to pay out of the consolidated revenue fund a sufficient amount to make up the difference.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I think it would be better to put the matter in the form of an act of parliament rather than to vest discretion in the governor in council for that purpose. The facts and arguments stated by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River are worthy of consideration, but there are great difficulties in the way of carrying them out.

In regard not only to workmen's compensation but to many other questions in connection with the laws of the country, uniformity is very desirable, but we have not yet attained it. Meetings are held from time to time throughout Canada by various responsible bodies whose object is to secure greater uniformity in regard to matters of general public interest, but they have not yet succeeded to any very great extent.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Quite a little.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Not to any very marked extent. This is another instance where uniformity may be desirable, but is very difficult to obtain. Different conditions exist in the various provinces. There are different modes of living in the various provinces; there are parts of the Dominion, for instance in the extreme north, where special wages have to be paid on account of living expenses being much higher than they are in other parts. We cannot get complete uniformity. The effort of the Minister of Railways in respect to this legislation is to do just as much as he can under existing conditions, for a class of people who are entitled to some relief. This proposal has gone further than any other proposal that has ever before been introduced in this chamber. It may not yet be a perfect measure. Experience will show its defects more rapidly than anything else. Let us try it out for a year or two. We are all agreed that it is a long step in advance of anything we have had heretofore. Let it have a fair trial, and if defects develop, then let us remedy them; but rather than postponing action let us give the people who are not provided for now a fair chance of getting this compensation.

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Compensation to be same as under law of province where accident occurs.

Mr. REID: Paragraph 2 reads:

Provided that the benefits of this act shall apply to an employee on the government railways.—

In Port Mann, British Columbia, the railway employees have an association of their own whereby they pay compensation and sick benefits. Would this in any way conflict with or override that?

Mr. MANION: No. The railway employees are now under the compensation acts of the different provinces. This does not apply to them at all.

Mr. REID: The employees in British Columbia have an association of their own.

Mr. MANION: This would not interfere in any way with that.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported.

Mr. SPEAKER: When shall the bill be read a third time?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Now.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is much to be said for having the different readings on different days. Occasionally there are hon. members who desire to speak on a measure who are absent on the second reading. I happen to know that there was one member who wished to speak on this particular bill but who was not able to be present to-day.

Mr. MANION: Next sitting of the house.

NORTHERN ALBERTA RAILWAYS

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved the second reading of Bill No. 36, respecting Northern Alberta Railways Company.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

CANADA EVIDENCE ACT

PROOF OF FAILURE TO TAKE OUT LICENCE REQUIRED BY LAW

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. 10, to amend the Canada Evidence Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

On section 1—Proof of entries in Dominion books.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The object of this bill is to amend and to extend the operation of section 26 of the Canada Evidence Act. Section 26 now provides:

A copy of any entry in any book kept in any office or department of the government of Canada . . . . shall be received as evidence of such entry, and of the matters, transactions and accounts therein recorded, if it is proved by the oath or affidavit of an officer of such department—

—that that record is so entered. All that is required is the affidavit of the proper person. The proposal is to amend that, in order to supply a sort of negative proof whereby the negative can be proved as well as the affirmative. A difficulty has arisen in this way: Many departments of the government issue licences, and those licences extend throughout the length and breadth of Canada. Cases arise where persons are carrying on various activities without the proper licence; that is the charge. We can prove the fact of a licence by the affidavit of an officer of the department based on the records in the books of the department, but we are not able to prove that the party charged has no licence unless we send the book and the officer to the court to give evidence at the trial. We have a very large number of cases where the charge is that radios are operated without licence. It is a very expensive and a very difficult thing to have officers of the government travelling from one end of Canada to the other to produce books and prove that the party charged has no licence. Now, it is proposed by this section to allow the officer of the department in charge of the books of the department to make an affidavit that the party charged has no licence according to the records of the department, and that affidavit shall be received in the court only as prima facie evidence of the fact; it can be rebutted; but it is prima facie evidence that the man charged has not a licence. That is all that is sought by this amendment. We are able to prove the licence now by an affidavit, and we desire to prove the fact that there is no licence through a similar affidavit, and thereby save a great deal of expense to the country and a great deal of trouble to the officials.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Mr. Chairman, I have no objection to this bill, indeed I think it is an improvement, but I want to make the same complaint as I did yesterday on a bill introduced by the Secretary of State (Mr.

Cahan), that there is no explanatory note. My friend the Secretary of State yesterday said there was no rule requiring such explanatory notes. I desire to refer my hon. friend to the rule. It will be found at page 348 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms. It was adopted on June 14, 1923. Not only should there be an explanatory note, but the whole section should be printed as amended by the bill which is being considered, and then the new words inserted must be put within brackets. This rule is peremptory, and it is a great help to members of the house in considering a bill.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I was quite aware of the rule, Mr. Chairman. I noticed the omission, but this proposed subsection 2 is all new.

Mr. LAPOINTE: But I think the printing of the whole section would have helped members to understand the change.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I am sorry for the omission and will bring it to the attention of the official in charge of these matters.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

TICKET OF LEAVE ACT

ADMINISTRATION BY SOLICITOR GENERAL OR OTHER MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. 11, to amend the Ticket of Leave Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On section 1—Administration.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Mr. Chairman, I see the same omission in regard to this bill; the explanatory note has been omitted for some reason, and I shall call the attention of the official in charge of these matters to the omission.

This is a very simple amendment. Under the Ticket of Leave Act, section 2, it is provided:

> It shall be the duty of the Minister of Justice to advise the Governor General upon all matters connected with or affecting the administration of this act.

For a good many years in practice this work has been done very largely by the Solicitor General. During the war while the War Measures Act was in force, and while I happened to be Solicitor General, an order in council was passed under the authority of that act, transferring the administration of the Ticket of Leave Act to the Solicitor General. In 1920, I think it was, the War Measures Act came to an end. The practice has been continued more or less to allow the Solicitor General to make recommendations in regard to the cases coming under the Ticket of Leave Act. This amendment is proposed merely for the purpose of making it definite and legal that the Solicitor General may continue to do so in future. The provision of the bill now before the committee is:

> It shall be the duty of the Minister of Justice, or of such other member of the government as may be designated by the governor in council, to advise the Governor General upon all matters connected with or affecting the administration of this act.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Could not this be done under the statute to authorize rearrangement and transfer of duties in the public service? There is a statute which authorizes the governor in council to transfer duties which devolve on one minister of the crown to another minister, and I know that so far as the late Solicitor General, Mr. Cannon, was concerned it was done by order in council under that statute, which is chapter 165 of the Revised Statutes of Canada. Has my hon. friend considered that?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes.

Mr. LAPOINTE: And he came to the conclusion that it was better to take this course?

Mr. GUTHRIE: Yes. I may say that the officers of the Department of Justice considered it and I joined with them. The difficulty is that the Solicitor General is not a minister of the crown, he is an officer of the Department of Justice.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Quite so, and I realize that as Solicitor General he could not do so; but in the case of Mr. Cannon he was a minister of the crown, as is also the present incumbent of the office.

Mr. GUTHRIE: We might have done it for the present Solicitor General, but this course was taken in order to make it clear that the duties could be transferred to any minister who happened to be a member of the government. As proposed now, any minister may be designated for the purpose. The present Solicitor General is a privy councillor; he is not what is known as a minister without portfolio, and the question has arisen as to whether he can be properly designated as a minister of the crown though he may be a member of the privy council. The privy

council, of course, consists of a great many people who are not in the cabinet. The Solicitor General is in the cabinet, but in order to make the matter clear this amendment is suggested.

Mr. LAPOINTE: But is the point made clear in the amendment proposed by my hon. friend? The amendment says:

. . . . or of such other member of the government as may be designated by the governor in council.

Is the Solicitor General a member of the government?

Mr. GUTHRIE: He is a member of the government, but whether he can be fairly called a minister of the crown is one of the questions as to which there may be some debate. At any rate, the law officers of the Department of Justice directed my attention to the matter and I thought a simple act would put the matter straight and avoid any conflict in the future.

Section agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SALARIES ACT AMENDMENT

PROVISION FOR INCREASE OF SALARY OF SOLICITOR GENERAL

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. 38, to amend the Salaries Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On section 1—Salary of Solicitor General.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Last evening the Minister of Justice drew attention to the fact that the previous administration had, by naming him in the estimates, voted an additional amount for the Solicitor General in order to bring his salary up to the figure now suggested in this amendment. I mentioned at the time that the previous administration had sought to reduce the number of portfolios rather than to increase them, and I was going to direct the attention of my hon. friend and also that of the Prime Minister, to the fact that one reason amongst others the amount was voted in that way by the previous administration was to avoid the necessity of creating an additional portfolio. It was contemplated that the then Solicitor General would, in due course be given a portfolio in the administration, and it was the intention of the then administration at a convenient date to combine the offices of Solicitor General and Minister of Justice. It was felt that so long as the Solicitor General was in the cabinet as a member of the Privy Council he should receive the same salary as a cabinet minister, but it was not contemplated to perpetuate the office of Solicitor General as a separate ministerial office in the cabinet.

I mention the matter at the moment because this would seem to be an opportune time for some reduction in the number of ministers. I should be very sorry to see the position of the present Solicitor General affected in any way, but by continuing the former method of making payment of the difference in salary the government would not be committing itself as it seems to me it now is to increasing the number of portfolios but would leave the way open at an appropriate time to a reduction, in the manner indicated.

Mr. GUTHRIE: There may be great force in what the right hon. leader of the opposition has just said, but I have a very distinct recollection of what happened when the salary of the previous Solicitor General was increased and I think my right hon. friend will remember it if I recall it to his memory. He consulted me at the time; I happened to be leader of the opposition during 1927, and he pointed out to me that the Solicitor General was going to take a great many government briefs in the supreme court and before the privy council, which would entail an enormous amount of work and save the country an enormous amount of money. I agreed, and there was not a thought or suggestion of anything else in my mind. I approved of the proposal, and I know the former Solicitor General did a tremendous amount of work in the courts and saved the country a very large sum of money. I assume the present Solicitor General will do the same thing.

That was the only reason put to me when the increase was made. I cannot add anything to what was said by the right hon. Prime Minister last night in reply to my right hon. friend with regard to the number of cabinet portfolios. I think there is a great deal to be said in favour of a reduction, but it is not the easiest thing to bring about and I do not know that I am in a position usefully to discuss the question. It is a matter for the Prime Minister himself to consider. What my right hon. friend has said just now certainly will be brought to the attention of the Prime Minister.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The former Solicitor General was made a member of the government a couple of years, I believe, after he was appointed Solicitor General, and it was

only after he became a member of the government that his salary was increased to the amount which is paid all the other members of the government, and I think properly so. The same thing would apply to the present Solicitor General, who also has been made a member of the government, and my pride certainly would not be great if the minister who represents the district of Quebec in the government was not a full member of that government. He is a full member, and as long as he has to attend all the meetings of council and act as other members of the government act, I am inclined to think he should be paid this salary.

I do think, however, that the other method was preferable. The former Solicitor General was paid the increase through an estimate every year, and I think this should be done as long as the Solicitor General is a member of the government. Under this bill, however, the Solicitor General will be paid, as such, the same ministerial salary received by other ministers, while he may be absolutely outside the cabinet and not have to attend meetings of council or come to Ottawa or be put to the same expense and the same loss of time as the other ministers.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): But might he not be of much greater use?

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is a matter of opinion; my hon. friend is entitled to his own view on the point. But as the condition will be when this bill becomes law, the Solicitor General, though not a member of the government, will be virtually a minister so far as salary is concerned. I do not really object to the bill, although I do not consider it an improvement. He might have been paid the salary by an item in the estimates so long as he remained a member of the government.

Mr. GUTHRIE: The former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) knows that the duties now cast upon the Solicitor General are very serious, and he will in the future save the country an enormous amount of money over what has been previously paid by taking important cases for which in former days the government has had to pay heavy counsel fees to other lawyers. In the future, as in the past, we may have to employ a certain number of lawyers outside the department, but so far as we can we will utilize the services of those who are now in the department. Apart altogether from that question, however, the burden cast upon the Solicitor General to-day in respect of the Ticket of Leave Act is becoming a heavy one. There are four thousand applications a year for clemency and they have all to be carefully considered in order that the applicants may be fairly treated. It takes a great deal of the time of the Solicitor General, of the Minister of Justice, and of a considerable staff to attend to the applications of four thousand prisoners annually for relief under the Ticket of Leave Act. So that the office is by no means the sinecure it may have been in early days, and the salary of $10,000 is little enough for any man who has the capacity to be Solicitor General of Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Minister of Justice has referred to conversations between himself and myself at the time it was decided to have the extra amount voted in the manner in which it has been voted. I rise just to say that his recollection is entirely correct and I am pleased that he has made mention of the circumstance. It confirms also what I have just said, that it was thought preferable to vote the additional amount to the then Solicitor General by name, because it was recognized that as an individual he possessed unusually high legal attainments and qualifications for the special class of professional service to which my hon. friend has just referred, namely, taking government briefs in the Supreme Court and before the Privy Council. But the reason that the step which is now being taken was not taken at that time was that it was by no means certain that there would always be available for the position of solicitor general an hon. member possessing like qualifications, and that for this or some other reason it might become advisable to return to the practice which had formerly existed when the solicitor general was not a member of the government. What was really contemplated at the close was that the two legal departments would be combined in one namely that of the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Has the question been considered at all of making the Solicitor General, by legislation, a member of the government? As it is, we seem to consider money the only important thing. The solicitor general is not a member of the government by statute. We give him a salary, and that is very important indeed. But I am sure his pride would be better satisfied if, in addition to the salary, ministerial standing were added to the office.

Mr. GUTHRIE: He is now a member of the government and a privy councillor.

Mr. LAPOINTE: By order in council.

Mr. GUTHRIE: But he is not a minister of any department of the government.

Mr. LAPOINTE: He is now a member of the government because there is a special order in council making him so. But he is not a member by statute.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Not by statute, no.

Section agreed to.

Sections 2 and 3 agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Maloney in the chair.

Public buildings — Nova Scotia — Halifax naval establishment—new buildings, $30,000.

Mr. DUFF: Before we deal specifically with this item which has been called I should like for a few moments to discuss the matter of compiling the estimates. You will notice, Mr. Chairman, that every year the government lays on the table of the house what is known as the main estimates. This year, as usual, we have to consider a great many items contained in the blue book entitled, "Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1932". These estimates in detail will be found from page 6 to page 108 of this book. As I say, these are known as the main estimates. On page 4 of these estimates a summary is given showing the totals of the various services, to the number of forty-two. On this page are also shown the increases and decreases as they may appear in different votes. I would call the attention of the committee to a mistake which has been made, not only in these estimates but also in the estimates for past years. I am not criticizing this government any more than I am criticizing the late Liberal government or other governments which were in power before 1922. I do not know what department is responsible for the compiling of these estimates, but I think I am justified in calling the attention of the committee to the fact that the columns are not made up properly.

For instance, on page 4 there will be found a column headed "To be voted 1931-32". The second column on that page is headed "Authorized by statute 1931-32," and the third column is supposed to give the total for 1931-32. However, these are not the total estimates for the whole year but rather the total amount of main estimates as compiled and shown in the various items from page 6 to the end of the book. The next column shows the total for 1930-1931 and is given for purposes of comparison.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

But what do we find? We find not only in these estimates but in the estimates of previous years that these particular columns are not the totals of the main estimates at all; they are all the estimates for the year and consequently, when carried out to show either increases or decreases the public is not provided with the proper information. When these estimates were tabled a few days ago by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) the following morning the newspapers all over the country came out with the information that there was a difference in these estimates as compared with the estimates of last year amounting to $37,327,754.72. I understand why the newspapers made that mistake because they took the figures as shown in this book. However, if hon. members will glance at the book published the previous year, taking the amount of the main estimates there shown, they will find that the main estimates were not as shown for this year, $423,722,163.35, but $399,358,101.87. I do not object to the department responsible for the publishing of these estimates showing the total estimates for the year including all supplementary estimates for the year previous and for this year, but if the comparison is to be correct, and if the public is to have the truth, then I say it is not right to show, as is shown in this book, that the estimates are some $24,000,000 more than they should be.

What are the real facts? Instead of showing a decrease of $37,327,754, the actual decrease in the main estimates of 1932 as compared with the estimates of 1931 amounted to only $12,963,693.

I am glad the right hon. the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of Finance, is in his seat because I desire to ask that these estimates be compiled properly in the future. The public should be given the proper figures with regard to all the estimates.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Chairman, would it not be better to have the column headed "Total vote of 1930-31"?

Mr. DUFF: No, that would not be quite fair, because, as I said, an increase or decrease, as the case may be, is shown in the other column and it is not fair to show a decrease in the main estimates by the subtracting of the main estimates of this year from the total estimates of last year. For instance, not only do these figures include the main estimates of 1931 but they include also the supplementary estimates passed by the Liberal government before the house dissolved last year, as well as the seven million dollars voted about three weeks ago. If the total estimates for the previous year including the supplementary estimates were shown for

comparison with the total estimates of this year, that would be proper accounting. The present book shows the total estimates for the year as compared to the main estimates of the previous year, or the total estimates of last year compared with the main estimates of this year, and consequently that does not give a fair comparison.

This matter should be brought to the attention of the government for reference to the statistical department or whatever department compiles this blue book, so that a change can be made in the blue book for next year and the following years. As I said before, I am not criticizing this government because the same thing has occurred for twenty years. Instead of a reduction of $37,000,000 being shown, comparing this year with last year, the proper figure of $12,963,693 should be shown.

Mr. GEARY: If there were no supplementary estimates then it would be correct.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): As my hon. friend knows, the estimates are prepared and submitted by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Bennett) and the same course has been adopted this year as was followed in previous years. My hon. friend is assuming that there are to be supplementary estimates presented to the house which would change the total, but up to the present moment, and upon the information which we have in the estimates submitted to the house, the statement is absolutely correct.

Mr. DUFF: No, I do not agree with my hon. friend.

Mr. BENNETT: I would say to my hon. friend that the form of the estimates is largely if not wholly determined by an official known as the estimate clerk in the Department of Finance. This gentleman has been in the department for some years and he follows a practice which, as the hon. gentleman has said, has been in vogue for years. I think this blue book indicates correctly what it undertakes to indicate, and the public accounts disclose clearly the exact expenditures in each year. The word "revote" in the estimates indicates that an expenditure authorized has not all been made and that a portion of the money in the estimates of another year which is unexpended is being revoted. There is no question that the figures in the estimates showing the expenditures of the past year include the supplementary as well as the main estimates and that the comparison would be complete when the supplementary estimates for this year have been tabled. The reduction of $37,000,000 is correct when the comparison is made as against the expenditures authorized last year, that is, the year ended March 31, 1931. It may well be that that sum will be reduced by supplementary estimates to be tabled later on and to that extent the amount indicated will be lessened, but there has been no change in the usual custom and this blue book correctly informs the house of the facts as they exist at the moment subject to the variations which may take place if supplementary estimates are tabled for a post office in Lisgar and other matters of that kind.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I hope the Prime Minister will not forget Dominion City. An amount of money was voted last year, but I do not see any revote in this year's estimates.

Mr. BENNETT: That is what I thought the hon. member would say.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the amount of $423,722,163.35 under the heading "total 1930-31" includes the $7,000,000 of supplementary estimates that were voted at the beginning of this session.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. DUFF: Three weeks ago we voted $2,000,000 for the Welland canal. If you take the amount under the heading "XIV, Railways and Canals—capital", you will find that last year the total shown is $18,279,500, whereas if you take the previous vote, you will find that the amount voted in the main estimates was $16,279,500, so that the $2,000,000 voted as supplementaries a few weeks ago is included. The same thing applies to nearly every item. My point is that to make a fair comparison we should put the main estimates for 1932 in one column and the main estimates for the year 1931 in another column. What should be done in the case of the main estimates at present before the committee is to have one column read "Main Estimates for 1930-31" and the second column read "Main Estimates for 1931-32". For instance, we can make up a true statement of all the estimates for both years now because three weeks ago we voted an additional $7,000,000 in supplementary estimates. These, however, are included in the gross totals shown in the blue book of estimates in order to indicate a greater decrease and to try to show a saving or reduction in the estimates of $37,000,000. The real saving so far as the main estimates are concerned is not $37,000,000 but $12,000,000. I cannot agree with the Minister of Public Works, because these figures are incorrect and

I certainly think it is in the interests of the country that a true statement should be given to the public. To make a proper comparison we must consider matters on their merits. We should compare this year's main estimates with the main estimates of last year, and when the supplementaries are brought down, we can compare the total both main and supplementary with those of last year. I think the Minister of Public Works practically said that this was the only estimate to be voted this year, and if so the comparison will be correct.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I did not say that.

Mr. DUFF: Just this afternoon we put through legislation which, according to the Minister of Railways, will involve an expenditure of $70,000. How are we to provide that money? What about old age pensions? I notice, according to the estimates, there is only $3,000,000 appropriated for the Welland canal. Last year the late government voted $7,600,000. Do you mean to tell me that the hon. member for Lincoln, with all the unemployment there is in the country, will be satisfied with a vote of $3,000,000 for the Welland canal? It is silly and idle for anybody to say here that all the estimates are before us at this moment. There are bound to be supplementary estimates, and members from Nova Scotia, both Conservatives and Liberals, are going to see that we have more public works provided for that province.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The hon. member has put up a straw man and then knocked him down. I did not assert that there would not be any supplementary estimates.

Mr. DUFF: What did the minister say?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My hon. friend must be assuming there will not be any.

Mr. DUFF: No. Hansard will bear out my statement. The minister practically said that these estimates were correct because they were all the estimates and there were not going to be any supplementaries.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): All the estimates up to now.

Mr. DUFF: Unless they are changed.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): In regard to the item of $30,000 for new buildings for the Halifax naval establishment, this is to provide for the construction of a seamanship instructional building as requested by the Department of National Defence. It is a revote.

[Mr. Duff.]

Mr. VENIOT: If I understand aright, this amount was voted last year and not spent.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That is right.

Mr. VENIOT: Now the department is going to proceed with the work?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes.

Mr. VENIOT: Why was the money not expended last year when there was so much unemployment in Halifax?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): A very large program of work was on hand last year, and the plans and all the details were not completed in time to have the work undertaken during that period. There was also some reconsideration of the work and an outside architect was engaged to prepare plans. He was taken ill and did not get them ready in time to have the work completed last year.

Mr. VENIOT: Another outside architect could have been engaged.

Mr. DUFF: The total estimates for public buildings for Nova Scotia this year is $261,000. Last year, under the late government, $302,000 was voted in the main estimates. How much of that sum was spent last year?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My hon. friend could ascertain that by just taking the total of the revotes this year and subtracting it. I have not done that.

Mr. DUFF: Will my hon. friend do that for me? If he likes I shall send a pencil across to him. He is the minister. I am asking him a question.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I shall try to get the information.

Mr. DUFF: If the minister wants his estimates passed he will have to answer questions when we ask them. I remember in 1921 we kept one minister from nine o'clock one night until two o'clock the following night because he refused to answer questions. If the minister wants a dose of that medicine we are willing to give it to him.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I want to assure my hon. friend at the outset that I am prepared to answer any questions and to give all information that is available. I did not intend to be discourteous to him. I have since ascertained that the amount is $141,500.

Mr. DUFF: Not spent, or spent?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Spent.

Item agreed to.

Halifax quarantine station—improvements, repairs, etc., $10,000.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This amount of $10,000 is required by the Department of Health for general improvements to the Halifax quarantine station.

Item agreed to.

Middleton—public building—under contract, $34,000.

Mr. DUFF: When was this contract awarded and who is the contractor?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This amount is required for the erection of a public building at the corner of Main and School streets in Middleton. The work is being performed under contract by the Gates Contracting Company, Limited, of Kentville, for the sum of $31,166.

Mr. DUFF: Were there any other tenderers?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes, there were four tenderers in all, as follows:

Gates Contracting Company Limited, Kentville, $31,166.
James N. Kenney, Truro, $32,435.
Rhodes Curry Limited, Amherst, $36,500.
M. C. Denton, Digby, $41,349.

The contract was awarded to the lowest tenderer on January 30, 1931.

Mr. GARDINER: What is this public building to be used for?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): For a post office.

Item agreed to.

Shubenacadie—public building, $21,000.

Mr. DUFF: Has the contract been awarded for this building?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I think the contract has not yet been awarded. There were ten tenderers.

Mr. DUFF: I suppose it would not be in the public interest to give the names if the contract has not been awarded.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I have no objection because I am of the opinion that the contract has been sent down for signature. The tenderers were:

W. Rod. McDonald, $15,124.90.
James N. Kennedy, $18,800.
M. A. Condon & Son, $19,890.
Henry J. Phillips, $19,948.
J. K. Hunter, $19,992.
Rhodes Curry Limited, $21,392.
Gates Contracting Company Limited, $21,800.
The Miller Construction Co. Ltd., $21,800.
D. K. Macaulay, $22,255.
Redden Bros., $24,700.

I recall that the lowest tenderer asked for leave to withdraw his tender, which was refused. Ultimately he wrote stating that he would accept and carry out the contract; so I presume the contract has been awarded.

Item agreed to.

At six o'clock the Speaker resumed the chair and the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 12, respecting Guaranty Trust Company of Canada.—Mr. Robinson.

Bill No. 13, respecting Grain Insurance and Guarantee Company.—Mr. Kennedy (Winnipeg).

Bill No. 14, respecting The Kettle Valley Railway Company.—Mr. Stirling.

Bill No. 15, respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway.—Mr. Willis.

Bill No. 21, respecting The Montreal and Atlantic Railway Company.—Mr. Pickel.

Bill No. 22, respecting the construction and maintenance of a bridge over the river St. Lawrence at Caughnawaga.—Mr. Dupuis.

Bill No. 23, respecting The Essex Terminal Railway Company.—Mr. Robinson.

Bill No. 26, respecting The Restigouche Log Driving and Boom Company.—Mr. Hanson (York-Sunbury).

Bill No. 27, respecting The Subsidiary High Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters in the Dominion of Canada.—Mr. Chevrier.

Bill No. 30, respecting the St. Lawrence River Bridge Company.—Mr. Rowe.

Bill No. 32, respecting The Montreal Central Terminal Company.—Mr. Bell (St. Antoine).

THE BURRARD INLET TUNNEL AND BRIDGE COMPANY

Mr. A. E. MUNN (North Vancouver) moved the second reading of Bill No. 31 respecting the Burrard Inlet and Bridge Company.

He said: I might, Mr. Speaker, offer an explanation with reference to this bill. The special validating act which I have the honour to present to this house affects not only the city of Vancouver, but all the towns and municipalities tributary to the city of Vancouver; but it affects the city and district of North Vancouver perhaps more seriously than any other part of British Columbia,

and since I have the honour to represent North Vancouver in this house, it was thought proper that I should present the bill for ratification.

On May 4, 1910, the parliament of Canada by special act gave the Burrard Inlet Tunnel and Bridge Company the power to build a bridge across the second narrows of Burrard Inlet, British Columbia. Under this special act the plans of a bridge were approved by order in council and by the Board of Railway Commissioners after investigation and report by a royal commission of government engineers.

After fifteen years of effort the second narrows bridge was completed in 1925 with public moneys at a cost of $2,000,000. The Dominion government contributed $269,000, the British Columbia government $120,000, and the cities of greater Vancouver and the tributary municipalities the remainder.

The Burrard Inlet Tunnel and Bridge Company is owned by the city of Vancouver, the city of North Vancouver, the district of North Vancouver and the district of West Vancouver.

Between November, 1925, and September, 1930, over ten million people and four and a half million vehicles used this bridge. In 1926 the traffic between the north and south shores of the harbour was trebled and has continued to increase each succeeding year.

The legality of the construction of the second narrows bridge was attacked in the admiralty court in September, 1928. Mr. Justice Martin gave judgment that the bridge was properly and legally constructed. Appeal was made to the exchequer court of Canada in October, 1929. The president of the exchequer court of Canada confirmed the decision of the admiralty court. A further appeal was made to the privy council in London, England, which has decided the special act of 1910 did not give sufficient power to build a bridge that in any way interferes with navigation. Therefore this privy council decision in effect says: When the parliament of Canada gave the power to build a bridge, it never intended a bridge to be built!

Five years of progressive development have now been cut off suddenly. It is within the power of the parliament of Canada to restore it and to stand behind the orders of the governor in council and of the Board of Railway Commissioners, and the expert professional opinion of its own departmental engineers. Therefore this validating act for the second narrows bridge is now being placed before parliament this session.

The approval of parliament is asked on these grounds: First, that the bridge was built in good faith, with public money, by Canadian citizens; second, that it was built with the approval of all the Canadian authorities required by law; third, that it will prevent a great waste of public moneys, and finally that it will rectify what otherwise would be a gross injustice to western Canada resulting solely from ambiguity in the wording of an act of the parliament of Canada.

A detailed history of this bridge and all facts regarding it have been sent to the Minister of Marine, the Minister of Public Works and the right hon. Prime Minister. I also have a copy which is available to each hon. member for perusal. I also had the honour to present to this house the following petition:

To the Honourable
The House of Commons of the Dominion of Canada in parliament assembled

The petition of citizens of municipalities bordering on Burrard inlet in the province of British Columbia and all municipalities so bordering as signatories hereunder humbly pray:

That your honourable house may be pleased to pass an act validating the railroad and traffic bridge constructed by the Burrard Inlet Tunnel and Bridge Company in accordance with plans approved by the governor in council and the board of railway commissioners.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Dated at the city of Vancouver in the province of British Columbia the 28th day of February, 1931.

This petition has been largely signed by the people of greater Vancouver and districts. For instance, there are the endorsements and signatures of four cities representing 300,000 people; official signatures of business firms representing 45,000 people; labour unions, associations and organizations representing 22,715 and letters of endorsement from organizations representing 2,500 people. Endorsements by the corporation of the city of Vancouver and adjoining cities and municipalities have recently been forwarded to this government. I will just refer to one, the endorsement of the West Vancouver municipal council, dated April 1, which reads as follows:

West Vancouver municipal council urge every effort be made to hasten solution of problem of Burrard inlet crossing. Loss of second narrows bridge costs municipalities interested two hundred thousand dollars per annum and personal inconvenience to five and one-half million people crossing by bridge and ferries resulting in serious loss to business connections on both shores.

J. B. Leyland,
Reeve.

In support of this representation from the municipality of West Vancouver, I wish to quote an editorial which appeared in the Vancouver Province of April 6, 1931. It says:

An Appeal To Ottawa

The municipal council of West Vancouver has sent an urgent telegram to the Dominion

government about the problem of the second narrows bridge. The council wants the government to hasten its decision, and to announce its policy at the earliest possible moment. The council recites the facts that the desuetude of the bridge has cost the north shore municipalities $200,000, and is causing daily inconvenience to the people who cross the inlet, at the rate of five and a half millions a year. We hasten to join our own appeal in this matter with that of the council's, and we are sure that therein we express the public opinion of greater Vancouver.

It is now six months or more since a log barge knocked down and sank one of the southern spans of the bridge, and put the whole structure out of commission. Since then there has been the decision of the privy council, declaring the bridge to be illegal and a menace to the navigation of the upper harbour. Since then, also, the Department of Marine has conducted its inquiry in this city, and has rendered its report to the government. We do not know what the exact loss has been to the north shore communities, but we should think the West Vancouver council's estimate of $200,000 must be moderate to the point of under-statement. As to the resulting inconvenience, it is the sober truth to say that the loss of the bridge cannot be described in those terms. It is much more than mere inconvenience for all the people of greater Vancouver; for the communities of the north shore it has proved a veritable disaster.

In the strongest possible terms, we desire to urge upon the Dominion government the necessity for a decision about the inlet crossing at the earliest moment, and one helpful to the clear necessities of the case. The government's responsibility is not merely the legal one which derives from its sanction for the building of the existing structure, but it is also the practical one that nothing can be done by way of relief to the present intolerable situation except with the government's consent and help.

Ottawa is not less obligated to assist in the speedy resumption of the interrupted communications between the north and south shores of Vancouver harbour than it is to protect the navigation of the harbour. It is not too much to say that this entire community has suffered far more from the loss of the second narrows bridge in the last six months than it could possibly suffer from any probable hindrance, by reason of any bridge at all, to the navigation of the upper inlet. This is not to say that the interests of navigation should be neglected, but it is to say that the interests of communication are even more important.

I wish to call the attention of hon. members of this house to one of the many requests received from greater Vancouver, which reads as follows:

Request your consideration and support for parliamentary measure validating present second narrows bridge. Many industries north shore Burrard inlet seriously affected. Several shut down completely. Present ferry system hopelessly inadequate for industry representing sixty-two companies and several millions capital seriously handicapped in transportation to north shore. Solicit your influence in procuring speedy relief. Situation urgent. Population leaving. Unemployment aggravated.

I might say to hon. members that there is a ferry system across Burrard inlet, connecting Vancouver city with North Vancouver, which is totally inadequate to take care of the traffic, although over $80,000 has been spent to improve it and an all-night service instituted to try to meet the situation. A few figures to show the importance of the bridge may be interesting. From 1926 to 1930, some 10,535,932 persons, 4,305,857 vehicles, 2,515 trains and 33,141 railway cars crossed the bridge. As many as 10,000 motor cars have crossed in a single day.

Traffic cannot be restored or efforts made to finance the repairs until the construction of the bridge is validated. An asset of about $2,000,000 lies idle, industries are crippled, with many shut down, and three municipalities are financially endangered through loss of revenue and payment of bond guarantees. Even if improvements to navigation are later required it is vital to North Vancouver and important to Vancouver that traffic be restored as speedily as possible. With proper regulations now drafted for control of shipping, a similar accident need not occur. Failure to validate now must lead to serious unemployment, heavy loss to industry and possibly bankruptcy of the north shore municipalities. I am thoroughly familiar with the situation, Mr. Speaker, and while there have been some accidents in connection with the shipping I can say without fear of contradiction that if there had been proper pilots working under proper regulations there would have been no interruptions to navigation at all. Hundreds of millions feet of logs have been towed up the inlet, perhaps at a cost of a few cents more, but as I said before with proper pilotage and regulations these accidents need not happen. I think with the cooperation of the harbour commission, if this validating act gets through we can have those repairs carried out in a short time and the bridge put in commission so that it can be used until such time as something better can be provided.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Certain telegrams have been sent to me with respect to this bill, which is designed to validate certain matters. It is requested that the validation be made subject to any existing claims, which is not an unreasonable thing with respect to legislation of that character. I assume there will be no difficulty in the committee considering, when the time comes, whatever suggestions may be made, by the representatives of those affected, be-

fore the proper committee to which the bill will be referred. I have been asked merely to mention that on the second reading of the bill, which I now do.

Mr. MUNN: It was not the intention to have it made retroactive by any means.

Mr. BARBER: As the bill stands at present, and in view of the fact that there are a number of industries located on the north arm situated in my riding that consider this a menace to shipping, I am opposed to the reconstruction of this bridge along the same lines. I will reserve any objection I have to offer until the bill is in committee. I understand that one of the departments of the government has made an investigation into the matter and I was wondering whether it would not be possible to have the report of that commission before the private bills committee when the subject is being considered. I believe it has been in the hands of the Marine department.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Munn moves, seconded by Mr. Reid, that the bill be referred to the select standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines.

Mr. MUNN: Seconded by Mr. Mackenzie of Vancouver Centre, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. STEVENS: He is not in his seat. The motion cannot be seconded by a member not in his seat.

Motion agreed to and bill referred to the select standing committee on railways, canals and telegraph lines.

WILFLEY PATENT

Mr. T. E. SIMPSON (West Algoma) for Mr. Anderson (Toronto-High Park) moved the second reading of Bill No. 20, respecting a certain patent of A. R. Wilfley & Sons, Incorporated.

Mr. GARDINER: Explain.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What is the patent?

Mr. SIMPSON (Algoma): If any explanation is required, Mr. Speaker, the matter will have to stand. I cannot explain it.

Mr. SPEAKER: The second reading has already been declared carried.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time.

[Mr. Bennett.]

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT

SUPERIOR CRIMINAL COURTS AND ORDER OF ADDRESSES TO JURY

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE (Montmagny) moved the second reading of Bill No. 7, to amend the criminal code.

He said: The object of this bill, which is very brief, is to provide that in cases tried before a jury the defence shall address the jury after the crown has done so. As the law stands to-day, unless the defence brings forward no witnesses it must address the jury first. The object of my bill is that, whether the defence produces witnesses or not, it shall speak after the crown attorney has addressed the jury. Without being in any way derogatory of British criminal practice as we have it to-day, I think it is only fair that a man should know just how to defend himself after he has heard the accusation against him. I have received letters from all parts of Canada commending the bill. I do not wish to comment unduly upon the administration of justice. As the law stands to-day, the defence addresses the jury, being followed by the crown prosecutor, and after that the judge delivers his charge. It will thus be seen that the defence has no rebuttal to offer to the address on the part of the crown attorney and the charge from the judge.

The second point in the bill is this. In his charge to the jury, I propose that the judge should be allowed to comment only upon law and not upon the facts. The jury is the master of the facts, as we all know, and there is no necessity, after the evidence has been heard, for the judge to comment upon those facts. The necessity for this amendment is demonstrated by the fact that in the province of Quebec in the last ten years about forty verdicts in criminal cases have been quashed for the reason that, in his comments to the jury, the presiding judge has gone, I will not say far, but altogether too far in discussing the facts. The theory is that if the judge comments upon the facts he shall expose both sides of the case. Unfortunately, however, it frequently happens that the moment a man appears in the dock, instead of being presumed innocent, he is presumed to be guilty, from the very fact of his appearance there on a criminal indictment, and he must prove himself innocent. Too often the presiding judge has forgotten to bring before the jury the facts in favour of the defence. The object of the bill, as I have said, is that the jury, having heard the evidence, shall alone consider the facts. They know them as

well as the judge does; and an exposition of the law in the case is sufficient from the judge.

Prior to confederation the judges of the court of sessions of the peace in Quebec were permitted to preside at jury trials in the criminal assizes, and this bill is to permit a reversion to that system. Our civil judges are too busy and it is out of their province to preside at criminal trials. Civil law is different from criminal law and the judges of the sessions of the peace are deciding at all times questions of law in non-jury trials.

I have received many letters of recommendation for this bill from lawyers in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, as well as from the west and the lower provinces. My long experience in criminal work leads me to believe that this bill is necessary. I might state that the only objections against the bill have been raised by attorneys in the province of Quebec.

I trust that this information will be sufficient for the house to gain an understanding of the purposes of this bill.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that I am entirely opposed to this bill. It is not advisable that the judges of the sessions of the peace in the province of Quebec should be constituted superior courts with criminal jurisdiction. They have a certain criminal jurisdiction, and it is my firm conviction that their existing jurisdiction cannot be enlarged at the present time with advantage to or so as to conserve the public interest.

Section 2 of the bill would bring about a complete reversal of the procedure which has obtained in the criminal courts of England and this country from very early times. Hardships may arise under the present procedure, but I think they would be infinitely increased if that procedure were reversed. I think it is of the utmost advantage that a judge should be allowed to comment to the jury on the facts of the case. He has followed the case and he is in a position to present to the jury in clear, definite and logical sequence the facts elicited in the evidence. Within the limitations imposed by our present rules I think he should be permitted to comment upon the facts in order that the jury may be assisted in giving the proper weight to the facts which have been adduced in evidence before them.

Mr. LAVERGNE: My hon. friend, who has a large practice, knows that within the last ten years the decisions in nearly twenty murder trials in the province of Quebec have been quashed because of the comments on the facts made by the trial judges.

Mr. CAHAN: I remember one case in particular where I resented the comments upon the facts which the judge made to the jury. I thought he went to the extreme in the use of most extravagant language and I bitterly resented it, and I resent it to this day; but I still think there should be no change in the procedure of permitting a logical summing up of the facts by a fair minded judge who knows the rules of evidence and who can assist the jury in determining the weight of the evidence. It is of great assistance to the jury and is a valued help in the proper administration of criminal law.

Sometimes an incompetent judge is appointed, but in recent years in the province of Quebec, especially in connection with the Court of King's Bench at Montreal, it has been the custom to delegate certain judges who have had experience in the administration of criminal law to preside at such trials. After all, the competent judge is a sure safeguard for the accused and he should not be deprived of any powers which he now has in directing the ordinary processes of the court. He should be permitted to give a logical summary of the facts and thus assist the jury in coming to a proper determination. I am absolutely opposed to this bill.

Mr. VINCENT DUPUIS (Laprairie-Napierville): Mr. Speaker, as a lawyer I am entirely in favour of this bill. As explained by the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) I think it deserving of the consideration of the house. The Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) objects to the bill because he claims that a judge should be allowed to summarize the facts for the benefit of the jury. As I understand the bill, it would not prevent a judge from explaining to the jury, shall I say in a nutshell, the facts as presented to the court by the witnesses; the judge will always be allowed to do that, but he would not be permitted to comment on the facts. The twelve jurymen are there as judges and are able to come to a conclusion; if they are not, then trial by jury should exist no longer.

I believe it to be a good idea that the order of the presentation of the facts to the jury by counsel be changed. Very often the defence makes its plea to the jury and then the case is adjourned; the next day the crown prosecutor presents his case to the jury, and then follows the charge of the judge. The

jury, being human beings and not accustomed to the proceedings, are bound to obtain a wrong impression which is not fair to the accused who, as was so well stated by the hon. member for Montmagny, is innocent in the eyes of the law until proven guilty. I am entirely in favour of the bill.

Mr. G. R. GEARY (South Toronto): Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that a change so drastic as that proposed in this bill should not be made unless it is so strongly supported by public opinion as to make it almost impossible for hon. members to vote against it. For centuries almost, the administration of criminal law in the British Empire—not only in England, but in our own Dominion—has proceeded along the line now sought to be changed by the provisions of this bill. The prosecuting or crown attorney is not a partisan; he is not one whose sole object is to secure a conviction. It is well understood that the function of a crown attorney is to bring out the facts as dispassionately and clearly as he may with perfect justice to the accused as well as to the crown. The system may have broken down in individual cases, but in the vast majority of cases it stands good to-day. Under the practice as it at present exists, the accused has his chance, which is a very good one. If the crown is to be placed in the position of having last minute appeals to passion and prejudice decide the case; if the jury are to be left open to appeals that may have little to do with the facts or the law of the case, the administration of criminal law may be more likely to go wrong than it is under the present system. We might have a crown attorney who misjudged his duty, but I repeat that in the great majority of cases the administration by the crown in regard to criminal offences is marked by fairness.

As to the other point, the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) has perhaps indicated the weakness of his own argument. He interrupted the Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) to say that in some twenty cases of trials for murder in the province of Quebec, the convictions had been upset by reason of misdirection on the part of the judge. An appeal on that ground is the safeguard that obtains everywhere and a very good safeguard it is. A judge has to be very careful in his direction, not to misdirect in any respect. Appeals may be taken to the courts where they are heard promptly, and so far as my knowledge goes—not that I have had any great practice in criminal law—such appeals are invariably considered with every regard for the interests of the accused. I cannot say that in my province we experience any miscarriage of justice by reason of the matters to which attention is called and amendment asked for in this bill. It seems to me that it would be going against the result of experience of administration of criminal law in the empire for many years to put through this proposed amendment; we would be doing it without sufficient evidence that the law should be changed, and for my part, I think that in criminal cases, as it is in civil cases, it must be of the greatest assistance to the jury to have from a judge whose business it is to know evidence and the proper way of giving it, not merely a summing up but a comment on the evidence as it is adduced. Moreover, if you have in the criminal code a clause such as that which is proposed in this bill, I doubt where we would ever draw the line between mentioning fact and commenting on it, and a judge in his direction to the jury, if he touches on a question of law, must invariably touch on the question of fact. If he is forbidden to comment on the facts, I doubt if he could ever direct a jury so that his direction would be found satisfactory by the appeal court, although he tried most carefully to avoid anything that might be called comment. I do not know the experience of the hon. member for Montmagny, but my observation of the administration of criminal law in British countries is that the present system works no injustice to the accused but rather gives him every chance to which he is entitled.

Mr. J. H. STITT (Selkirk): In the last eight years I have had some experience in the criminal courts of Manitoba and from my limited experience I am absolutely opposed to this proposed legislation. First, if the judge trying the case is deprived of the power to analyse the evidence or to comment upon the facts, the power is taken away from the one best qualified to exercise it. If the clause becomes law, which states that the defence should always address the jury after the prosecution, the procedure will be loaded in favour of the defence. Most of my experience has been as defence counsel, and I have no complaint whatever to make of the law or procedure as it stands. As the hon. member for South Toronto (Mr Geary) has pointed out, should the bill become law we would be very likely to lose many advantages which we now have, because if a judge is not extremely careful in his analysis of the evi-

dence and in his comments upon the facts, there will be grounds for appeal. To pass legislation of this kind would be flying in the face of history and of the whole experience of English jurisprudence, and I oppose the bill.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE (Montmagny): I have had some experience in murder cases before the courts. As regards the question of appeals, the hon. member for South Toronto (Mr. Geary) stated that the result would be that there would be so many appeals that the purpose of my bill would be defeated. I must remind the hon. gentleman that appeals are expensive and it is the accused who has to pay the piper in appealing in order to have, if possible, the conviction quashed and his innocence reestablished. If the administration of justice could do away with appeals, that would be so much easier for both the crown and the accused. The hon. gentleman has spoken of the man in the box as a criminal. He is not a criminal just because he is accused; on the contrary, he is innocent until he is proven guilty.

I shall give to the house an instance which to my mind shows how necessary this bill is, but before giving it, may I say I think it is worth while to send this bill to a committee to be discussed. In the province of Quebec, I shall not say in what city, a man was accused of poisoning his wife. The defence, for some reason or another, were not allowed to have their witnesses heard. The defence attorney decided not to address the jury. The crown attorney, in spite of the fact that the defence had not addressed the jury, decided to do so. I pointed out to him that when the defence did not address the jury the crown generally did not do so either. The crown attorney rose, spoke for an hour and a half, and secured a verdict of guilty. The man was sentenced to death; the case went to appeal and the court of appeal decided unanimously not only that there was no necessity for granting him a new trial, but that there was no evidence against him, and they set him free. He was acquitted by the court of appeal on account of that crown attorney, who should be—and in this I agree with my hon. friend—absolutely independent and not a prosecutor, who should be there to state the facts calmly and to put them before the jury without passion, but who, being human, or prompted by an assistant attorney general, as sometimes happens in our province, is not left with that freedom of mind that we see in England. Of course under the administration of justice in England the crown attorney when he has no case will stand up and say that his case is not proven, because in England presumption is no evidence. The presiding judge will tell the crown attorney that his case is not proven. Unfortunately, judging by the letters which I have before me from the different provinces, it seems, on the contrary, that that seldom or never occurs in this country; in fact we seem to have reached the stage where presumption is evidence. In England, before Queen Victoria, the judge was not allowed to comment on the facts. Certainly the comment of judges on the facts is taking away from the jury the freedom to judge for themselves which they should not be denied. The facts belong to the jurors; they are the province of the jury; yet I have heard presiding judges, supposed to be independent, who would say, "Gentlemen of the jury, we are impartial in this affair," and yet proceed to comment on the facts not in exposition of the case, but rather in the way of an inquisition of the man in the box as to the most natural actions of his life which he may have forgotten, and imputing guilt to him because of his forgetfulness. I think it is about time that we should go back to the law as it was seventy-five or eighty years ago.

I ask the house to send this bill to a committee, where I can cite letters that I have received from different criminal lawyers and crown attorneys, and where we can discuss the facts and reports and judgments in Canadian criminal cases. After all, what we are looking for is justice, and if under this bill some guilty party should escape in the future I am quite sure it will save many an innocent person who would otherwise be condemned because the crown attorney forgot his duty or because the judge was carried away by his passion or his prejudice.

The house divided on the motion, which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Beaubien,
Blair,
Bouchard,
Boulanger,
Brown,
Butcher,
Duff,
Dupuis,
Gardiner,
Garland (Bow River),
Hanson (Skeena),
Heaps,
Hurtubise,
Lacroix,
LaVergne,
Macdougall,
MacInnis,
Macphail (Miss),
McIntosh,
McKenzie (Assiniboia),
McMillan (Huron South),
McPhee,
Pouliot,
Reid,
Sanderson,
Spotton,
Totzke,
Veniot,
Weir (Macdonald).—29.

NAYS

Messrs:

Barber,	Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Beaubier,	Morand,
Bennett,	Motherwell,
Bothwell,	Murphy,
Bowman,	Myers,
Boyes,	Neill,
Burns,	Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Bury,	Perras,
Cahan,	Plunkett,
Chaplin,	Porteous,
Cormier,	Price,
Dickie,	Ralston,
Donnelly,	Rowe,
Duranleau,	Ryerson,
Embury,	Shaver,
Factor,	Simpson (Simcoe North),
Fafard,	Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Fortin,	Smith (Cumberland),
Fraser (Cariboo),	Smoke,
Gagnon,	Spankie,
Geary,	Spence,
Gershaw,	Sproule,
Gordon,	Stanley,
Guthrie,	Stevens,
Hackett,	Stewart (Edmonton West),
Hanbury,	Stewart (Leeds),
Hanson (York-Sunbury),	Stewart (Lethbridge),
Hay,	Stitt (Nelson),
Johnstone,	Stitt (Selkirk),
Loucks,	Sutherland,
MacDonald (Cape Breton South),	Swanston,
Macdonald (Kings),	Turnbull,
MacLaren,	Weese,
MacNicol,	White (Mount Royal),
McGillis,	Willis,
McGregor,	Wright.—74.
McLure,	
Matthews,	

Mr. LAVERGNE: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell) voted both ways.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Melville corrected his first vote at the time.

SUPPLY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Sydney Mines public building—improvements and repairs, $8,000.

Mr. RALSTON: Since we are dealing with public buildings in Nova Scotia, Mr. Chairman, I should like to mention to the minister a communication that I received from the town council of Lockeport with regard to the necessity of providing improved accommodation for the postal service there, and particularly the erection of a public building. I know the minister is not familiar personally with the situation and with the well-known enterprise of the town. The letter is dated March 12, 1931, and reads:

[Mr. LaVergne.]

I am authorized by the town council to advise you that the following resolution was passed unanimously at the regular monthly meeting held last evening.

On motion of councillors McKay and Weddleton—

Whereas the post office in this town is housed in a small, very inconvenient and unsanitary building—

Therefore resolved that this town council petition, and does hereby petition the federal government to erect a public building in the town of Lockeport, with suitable accommodation for post office and customs department.

I was asked to take the matter up. The hon. minister may remember that I wrote to him about it, and I have his reply stating that the matter will be given consideration. I am sorry that I do not find any evidence of the consideration having been favourable, at least in the estimates which he is now presenting to the committee. I might mention many facts in regard to the town of Lockeport, but I think one only will be sufficient at this time. With all due deference to my hon. friend who lives in Lunenberg (Mr. Ernst) I can say Lockeport is undoubtedly the largest and most important fresh fish station in the maritime provinces. It is an incorporated town with a number of progressive and important industries and I urge again upon the minister favourable consideration of this request.

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): I thank the hon. gentleman for again drawing my attention to his request. It was duly considered, but as expenditure on public buildings of this nature is made out of revenues, and these are not what they might be, it has been found necessary to curtail such expenditure. My hon. friend may find some consolation in the fact that he is in the same position as many others on both sides of the house. I am pleased to say that the reductions on expenditures for public buildings which will be noted throughout these estimates have been received by hon. members generally in the spirit in which they were made. It is to be hoped that in the near future we shall be able to meet the wishes of my hon. friend for a public building for the important town of Lockeport when revenues have increased to the point that will warrant the expenditure.

Item agreed to.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS—NEW BRUNSWICK

Atholville—public building—under contract, $2,200.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This is a revote of $2,200 to provide for the installation of fittings and lock boxes in the public building at Atholville, erected during 1930.

Mr. DONNELLY: Why was the money not spent last year when it was voted?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): There was some expenditure last year, but the building was not completed and the fittings were not installed. Therefore we have to revote the balance required.

Mr. VENIOT: Who got the contract for the fittings, and at what price?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The Canadian Office and School Furniture Company Limited, at $1,172. There were three tenders; that was the lowest.

Item agreed to.

Dalhousie—public building, $52,000.

Mr. VENIOT: Of this amount I see $12,000 was voted last year but was not expended. I understand the reason why it was not expended. Can the minister tell me if the old building and site have been sold? I think there was an offer for them.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): There has been no sale of the old site and building.

Mr. VENIOT: Tenders were asked by the late government for the purchase of the old building, and an offer of $11,000 was received from the International Paper Company. This was $3,000 above the physical valuation placed upon it by experts of the department. Is the department now considering the acceptance of that offer?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The offer still stands. It was not considered advisable to dispose of the old building until we had secured provision for a new one.

Mr. VENIOT: I understand that, and I do not think it was the intention to dispose of the old building until the new one was constructed, but have any arrangements been made to have that offer still stand when the new building is finished? You will never get such an offer for that site and building in the future from anyone but the International Paper Company, and it would be regrettable if the matter were allowed to drop.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I thank my hon. friend for the information. The offer still stands, so far as I know, and it is a good offer.

Mr. VENIOT: Has the site been purchased? If so which site is it, and what price was paid?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No, the site has not been secured yet. There is the usual difference of opinion in this case.

Item agreed to.

Forest City—building for immigration and customs-excise purposes, $5,000.

Mr. VENIOT: Why was not this amount expended last year? This is a revote.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The contract has been let. The work was not performed in 1930-1931 as a decision could not be reached regarding the site for the proposed structure.

Mr. GARDINER: What proportion of this building will be used for immigration purposes?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Approximately one-third.

Mr. GARDINER: Is there any immigration at that point?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): It is close to the border between Canada and the United States and tourist and other traffic is pretty heavy.

Item agreed to.

Moncton—public building, $75,000.

Mr. VENIOT: I had hoped the hon. member for Westmorland would be here when this item went through. I am glad to see that at last he has accomplished his purpose; it will encourage the hon. member for Temiscouata to keep after his station for Riviere du Loup. I should like to know what site will be occupied by the proposed new post office at Moncton.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The site already purchased.

Mr. VENIOT: Further, may I ask, in view of the fact that Moncton is perhaps the most rapidly growing city in New Brunswick to-day, whether in the preparation of the plans provision has been made for future developments. Perhaps the deputy could give that information offhand. Has allowance been made for the future postal growth of Moncton, which, situated as it is, soon will become the central distributing point for mail in New Brunswick? No doubt also, in the very near future, with this new building Moncton will become the distributing point of supplies for post offices within the maritime provinces, as well as the centre of distribution

for mail bags throughout the maritime provinces. I wonder whether, in making the plans, the Post Office Department has been consulted in order to ascertain exactly what the needs may be now and what they may be in the future.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I thank my hon. friend for suggestions of this nature in connection with postal buildings. His experience as Postmaster General qualifies him to make helpful suggestions. I am assured that consideration has been given not only to the present requirements but also to the probable requirements of the future.

Item agreed to.

St. John quarantine station—Patridge island —improvements, alterations, repairs, etc., $10,000.

Mr. VENIOT: I have no objection to this item, but I should like to know why the amount voted last year was not all spent.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The expenditure was not made last year because there has been a reconsideration of the requirements, and it will be seen that the amount this year is a little larger than it was last year.

Mr. VENIOT: You spent only about $2,000 last year. Why was not the whole appropriation expended?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Because some of the works that were asked for would have considerably exceeded the appropriation, and as I say there have been some changes and revisions of the plans.

Mr. VENIOT: But the amount spent was not expended under contract, so it could not have exceeded the appropriation.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I might give my hon. friend the details of the expenditure for 1930-31:

Repairs, etc.	$191 51
Smoke pipe, etc.	135 88
Couplings	429 17
Repairing above house	394 00
Pipe furnaces	229 00
Hot water front	29 58
Cast steel, etc.	89 73
Oil	101 75
Advertising	61 10
Bronze netting	24 00
Shaker bars	65 90
Hardware	107 54
Labour, paint, etc.	94 89
	$1,954 05

Mr. VENIOT: I understood the minister to say the balance was not expended because they expected the expenditure to exceed the amount voted. How did they arrive at that conclusion? They started out very well, by spending this money under day's work and without calling for a contract, but when the expenditure reached about $2,000 the work was cut off. Was it the intention to call for a contract for the remainder of the work, and of what did the remainder of the work consist?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The smaller items I have mentioned were expended under day's work. The further action taken was that public tenders were received for the various items of work, as submitted by the Department of Pensions and National Health, and these tenders stated the price for each item. The lowest tender, which amounted to $10,500, exceeded the balance of the appropriation available, which was $8,000. The Department of Pensions and National Health suggested deleting a number of items, which brought the lowest tender to $5,269. It was decided to hold it over and re-advertise the work.

Mr. VENIOT: The lowest tender amounted to $5,269, and you had $7,000 left. Why did you not go ahead?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That did not cover all the work that was required; the tenders were for only part of the work.

Mr. VENIOT: There is one other point. I am not going to complain; perhaps I should compliment the minister, but I notice that while a great deal has been said about retrenchment, in New Brunswick the expenditure is increased on public buildings by some $96,000. I am not condemning it; I am merely pointing out to the minister that he has become all at once generous to the province of New Brunswick in comparison with the other provinces. And when we are preaching retrenchment, the sum of $95,000 or $100,000 by way of increase in public buildings in one small province looks large.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I can answer that question—

Mr. VENIOT: I am not asking the hon. gentleman for an explanation; I am asking the minister for a reply. I have the floor, Mr. Chairman. There is only one Minister of Public Works I recognize in the Dominion, and that is the hon. gentleman who is now handling the case. I will not be satisfied with any reply that may come from the hon. member for York-Sunbury.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson) caught the chairman's eye first.

Mr. VENIOT: He was going to give me the reasons which I am asking the Minister of Public Works to give, and he had no right to do that.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The hon. member may not want to get the reasons from me, but he has to take them.

Mr. VENIOT: I want to ask another question. In what county is McAdam located?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): If I am correctly informed, it is in York-Sunbury.

Mr. VENIOT: I just want to have that on record. The hon. member for York-Sunbury last year was very apt at times to ask where certain expenditures were to be made, especially when they affected my own county, and now I see he has such pull with the present government I want it to go on record. He is succeeding.

Mr. DUFF: Will the minister be good enough to tell the committee how much money was voted last year for public works in New Brunswick and how much of that money was spent? I am referring to public buildings.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): We will look that up.

Mr. DUFF: Perhaps the deputy can get the information for the committee when it meets again. I should like to know what money was voted last year for public buildings in each of the provinces and what money was spent in each province. I shall be satisfied if I get the information later.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I shall be pleased to procure the information and give it to my hon. friend.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Don't forget Manitoba.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Not at all.

Item agreed to.

Maritime provinces generally — Dominion public buildings — improvements and repairs, etc., $50,000.

Mr. DUFF: Will the minister get the information also with regard to this item? How much money was voted last year and how much expended?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The amount appropriated for similar purposes last year for the maritime provinces generally was $55,000. The hon. member will observe that it is $5,500 less this year.

Mr. DUFF: How much was spent altogether out of that amount?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I cannot give that information at the moment; I will get it later.

Item agreed to.

Public buildings—Quebec—Asbestos—public building, $30,000.

Mr. POULIOT: I have tried to ascertain what was spent last year in connection with the public building at Trois Pistoles. I see nothing here; no building was constructed. Is it the intention of the government to put up that public building? Did something happen at Trois Pistoles last year? Will the minister tell us?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Instead of constructing a public building at Trois Pistoles from the money voted last year, an arrangement was made with the municipality to erect an addition to their town hall, which provides the desired accommodation on terms that are believed to be more advantageous to the Dominion and at the same time satisfactory to the municipality.

Mr. POULIOT: Is the minister aware that that very building has been condemned by the board of health?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This is the first intimation I have received of anything of that nature.

Mr. POULIOT: Does the minister say that there is nothing in the government files of previous years to the effect that that building has been condemned by the board of health?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My information is that the building is being remodelled and an addition constructed and that it is now quite satisfactory in every respect.

Mr. POULIOT: Did the minister mention, in making his arrangements with the town of Trois Pistoles, that that building should be renovated in order to comply with the requirements of the board of health?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): As already intimated, the department have no knowledge or information that the building did not or does not comply with the requirements of the board of health.

Mr. POULIOT: Will the minister be kind enough to tell the committee what arrangements have been made with the town in that respect?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The arrangement is on the basis of rental. The premises are a portion of the ground floor of a two-storey annex to the city hall measuring twenty-five by thirty-eight, a wooden frame building, brick-lined, galvanized iron roofiing, with stone foundations and situated on the main or national road on part of cadastral lot 163 of the parish of Trois Pistoles. The area is 900

square feet and the rental $1,000 per annum; term, five years from date of occupation, with option of renewal for a further period of five years on same terms and conditions. The lessor is to pay taxes, water, heat, light, cleaning, insurance, snow removal and the cost of large and small repairs.

Mr. POULIOT: Did the hon. gentleman say that the lease was to run for five years?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes, five years.

Mr. POULIOT: What was the previous rental?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I regret I cannot give my hon. friend that information.

Mr. POULIOT: Is there an increase in the rental?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I would say yes because of the improved accommodation.

Mr. POULIOT: Did the department stipulate that a reduction in taxes should be made by the town authorities because of the higher rental being paid by the government?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The department did not in any way interfere in the matter of taxation; the lease provides that the owner shall pay any taxes.

Mr. POULIOT: I understand that the increased rental is being paid in order to assist the municipality in the improving of the building to provide better postal facilities.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The arrangement was one of mutual advantage, and wherever we have an opportunity to make an arrangement of that kind we are pleased to do so.

Mr. POULIOT: Will the minister have any objection to producing all the correspondence, resolutions and so on in connection with this matter?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can tell my hon. friend that the estimate was $20,000, for the building; and a rental of $1,000 per annum, with heat and other services provided, is one of advantage to the Dominion.

Mr. POULIOT: I challenge what has been said by the hon. gentleman. It was because of numerous requests on the part of the citizens of that locality that the money was voted last year. My information is that the building is absolutely unsatisfactory. I do not blame the minister for that, but I do blame those who gave him wrong information. I regret that no public building was constructed last winter, as it would have provided employment for many in this locality who were asking for work. I told them that should a building be constructed during the winter they could obtain work by applying to the man who had the patronage in that county. The minister, I say, was given wrong information in this regard, and the same applies in connection with other matters to which I shall refer as they come before the committee. I regret the action of these narrow-minded people in this community, these disgusting Tories. I do not say that in any offensive way, because there are black sheep in every family, but the ones to whom I refer are the most disgusting in all the world. They prevented the poor people of this municipality from obtaining work last winter; because of their stupidity those people have had to suffer during the severe winter months. What has happened is a shame, but it will be publicly denounced in the press so that the people who gave the wrong information will be able to obtain a different view of themselves from that reflected in their own looking-glasses.

An hon. MEMBER: A bad colour.

Mr. POULIOT: The unemployed in that community were not asking for charity, they were asking for work. During the last election the Prime Minister said: "If the people will work, I will give them work."

An hon. MEMBER: He did not specify the time.

Mr. POULIOT: The country would have been no poorer had a building been constructed as previously arranged, because it would have been the owner of a good public building and at the same time the people would have obtained employment. Whenever the minister receives recommendations from the sour-mouths in my county, he should inquire into what they say. He should get in touch with independent people who are well posted and thus obtain the correct information. I do not blame the minister, but I warn him that if he continues to listen to these people I will have to put him in the same classification.

Will the minister have any objection to producing the whole file in this matter on a motion for the production of papers?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I have no objection whatever; I shall be pleased to bring down all the correspondence in relation to this arrangement.

Mr. BOULANGER: Mr. Chairman, the total amount voted last year for public buildings in Quebec amounted to $1,237,300, and I was wondering if the minister would be kind

enough to tell the committee—I am sure he will because he is very obliging—whether all of this amount was spent, and if not, what portion remains unspent?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I can answer the hon. gentleman's question in part; the whole amount was not spent, but I cannot give him the details now. I will secure that information if he wishes it.

Mr. BOULANGER: I notice in the estimates now under consideration that there is a column headed "Revote". Does that mean that money is being revoted this year which was not spent last year?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes, that is the idea.

Mr. BOULANGER: The total of that column would be that portion of the money voted last year which was not spent?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes, not spent for one reason or another.

Mr. BOULANGER: The total of the revote for this year is $630,500; would that be the money voted last year which was not spent?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes, that is correct.

Mr. LAVERGNE: There is a revote of $6,500 for a quarantine station at Grosse Isle; is that contract actually proceeding?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): This amount is to provide for general improvements and repairs to the various buildings at Grosse Isle quarantine station. It is requested by the Minister of National Health.

Mr. LAVERGNE: All I want to know is whether this amount of $6,500 will conclude the work, or is further work going to be done this summer.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): We propose to spend this year the amount provided by this vote and it will take care at least of present requirements.

Mr. POWER: I gather from the answer which the minister made to the hon. member for Bellechasse that out of the total amount voted last year for public works under the head of buildings in Quebec, the sum of $630,000 was not expended. Is it not a fact that other sums of money which were voted last year were also not expended, but do not appear as revotes? For instance, in the estimates of last year there appears an item of $30,000 for Farnham public building. I am not familiar with that locality, but was the money expended?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No; that work was not gone on with.

Mr. POWER: May I ask why?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I have not that information here, but I presume the reason is the same as that given in the case of other works: that in consideration of the revenues and the fact that these expenditures have to be made from revenues, it was deemed advisable not to proceed with the work at that time.

Mr. POWER: I do not suppose the minister would have this information, but I think he should. I wonder whether any work under the unemployment relief act was carried on in Farnham.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I might supplement the information which I gave with regard to Farnham by saying that there was a reconsideration whether there should be a new building or an addition to the existing one. As to the expenditures for unemployment relief, as my hon. friend knows, those are made, not through the Department of Public Works, but through the Department of Labour in cooperation with the provinces and the municipalities, and I have no information in that regard.

Mr. POWER: It would be of some importance, and certainly of some interest to the committee, to know whether or not in instances such as this, other works were carried on out of the unemployment relief fund and the municipalities, so to speak, taxed 50 per cent to provide for unemployment relief when the federal government with amounts such as this could have done the work itself. I have no knowledge whatsoever of the situation in Farnham; I do not know anything at all about it. This may or may not be a typical case. I know in some cases where moneys were voted by parliament to the Department of Public Works, the department did not carry on the work, but later, under the Unemployment Relief Act they forced municipalities to pay 50 per cent. We should have more information on that subject. I do not want to hold up the minister's estimates; I think they should go through; but when he comes here with his estimates he ought to be able to give the committee some information.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): As I have stated, I am anxious to give all information available, and I am assured by the deputy, who is familiar with all these matters, that no public works of ours that he knows of were constructed out of the unemployment relief fund.

Mr. POWER: I am satisfied that in the ordinary course of events that would be so; but parliament voted $20,000,000 to give employment in municipalities and localities throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. We asked the municipalities to pay 25 per cent and the provinces to pay 25 per cent. If the federal government had carried on the works authorized by parliament, in many cases it would not have been necessary for the municipalities and the provinces to carry on those works. I am asking the minister whether he does not agree with me. Perhaps he will agree with me. I think the committee should have some information on this matter. The minister, when he brought down his estimates, should have been prepared to tell us something along these lines. I do not want to criticize unduly the minister, who is a new minister, and I think everyone in the house wishes him well. We are only too anxious to assist him and not to obstruct his estimates. We shall be only too glad to pass these estimates, but before the public works estimates are passed, the minister should endeavour through his deputy and the Deputy Minister of Labour or the director of unemployment to furnish some statement along these lines. Perhaps he will. I ask him now whether he will make some effort in that direction.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I am not aware of any case in which employment has suffered through the fault of the Public Works department to carry out its program. The program was not curtailed in any case with a view of throwing any added burden on anyone, or of escaping any responsibility in connection with carrying on our work.

Mr. VENIOT: I wish to call the minister's attention to one case, which I think he will remember, where employment suffered because the program of expending the money that was voted by parliament last year was not carried out. I instanced the case of Gloucester county, about which I have written to the minister. From the reply given to a question asking what correspondence was received in connection with a certain undertaking in Gloucester county for which money was voted last year, I see that tenders had been called for and had been received, but the work was cancelled. In that section of the country there was a great deal of unemployment. It was a fishing district and the fishing in the fall of the year had completely failed. I wrote to the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Public Works in connection with the matter, urging that the money authorized by parliament to be expended should be expended, and I got no reply except that the matter was under consideration. The provincial government came to the rescue in some degree by expending a small amount of $500 or $600 in that district in cooperation with the federal government. I think the proportion was 60 per cent provincial and 40 per cent federal. In the reply that I got yesterday or the day before from the minister giving the names of those who had corresponded with the department I find three names given: Rev. Arthur Gallien, priest of that district; Mr. Albany M. Robichaud, barrister, Caraquet, the defeated Conservative candidate in the last election, and Mr. Geo. M. McDade, M.P., the present representative of the county of Northumberland, the adjoining county, which had nothing to do with the county of Gloucester. My name either inadvertently or for some reason was left out, and therefore it appears on the records of this parliament that I took no part at all in the matter, and that I never wrote to the minister or to the department in connection with it. I wish the minister would look up his file and have a correction made because he must have on his file a letter from me on behalf of the people of that district drawing attention to the absolute necessity of going on with this work. Only one tender was received, and if I am not mistaken the tender was below the estimate of the department for the building of this wharf for the fishermen. If I am not mistaken—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Maloney): I hesitate to call my hon. friend to order, but the New Brunswick estimates are passed and gone.

Mr. VENIOT: I am not dealing with the New Brunswick estimates, Mr. Chairman. I mention them only to bear out the argument of my hon. friend to my right and to strengthen my own argument.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Maloney): What about the Quebec estimates?

Mr. VENIOT: Quebec is all right and it will always be all right, no matter what the results may be. I would call the minister's attention to that particular work in New Brunswick. I shall deal with it further when we come to the estimates for harbours and rivers.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I was about to suggest to my hon. friend that that would be the appropriate place to discuss the matter, and I shall then have full information with me. I want to say in justice to my hon. friend, however, that certainly he communi-

cated with me verbally—I do not recall whether there is any correspondence or not—during the short session and impressed upon me the urgency of these two works, one at Caraquet, and the other at Little Shippigan. When we come to the estimates for harbours and rivers for New Brunswick, I shall be glad to make a statement as to why these works were not proceeded with.

Mr. BOULANGER: Would the minister be good enough to explain why the money that was appropriated by parliament last year for public buildings in Quebec was not spent? Looking over the estimates that we are now discussing I find that in many cases we are revoting the exact amount that was voted by parliament last year. For instance, parliament voted $3,500 last year for a public building at Beauharnois, and this year we are revoting exactly the same amount. Last year parliament voted $12,000 for a public building at Beauport, and this year we are revoting exactly the same amount. Last year we voted $4,000 for a public building at Grande-Mere, and this year we are revoting exactly the same amount. Last year we voted $6,500 for improvements to a quarantine station at Grossle Isle, and this year we are revoting exactly the same amount. Last year we voted $8,000 for an addition to a public building at Jonquiere. This year we are revoting exactly the same amount. We voted $25,000 last year for a public building at Maisonneuve. I am sure that the spending of $25,000 in a working centre like Maisonneuve would have been quite a relief to the unemployment situation in that city last winter, but not a cent of that appropriation was spent, and we are revoting the exact amount again this year. Last year $500,000 was voted for a postal terminal building at Montreal. Apparently this money was not spent as we are being asked to revote the same amount this year. There again, in such a big city as Montreal where unemployment is great enough now, and was greater during the winter, it would have been quite a relief to the unemployment situation to have spent half a million dollars last winter. Last year we voted $39,500 for a public building at Ste. Anne de Bellevue. Apparently only $10,500 of that amount was spent as this year we are being asked to revote $29,000. Last year we voted $17,000 for a public building at Ste. Martine, and only $5,000 was spent. We voted money last year for a public building at Shawinigan, and apparently that money was not spent. The total amount of money which was appropriated last year for public buildings in Quebec was a little over $1,200,000. Of that amount a little more than one-half $630,000, was not spent. The money had been appropriated and could have been used to relieve unemployment in the province of Quebec. I wish to contrast that situation in Quebec with the situation in Ontario. Last year for public buildings in Ontario we voted a little over $2,000,000, of which only $179,000 was unexpended, whereas in Quebec, with a total vote of $1,200,000, a little over $630,000 was unexpended. The government is taking a lot of credit for having voted $20,000,000 at the September session for the relief of unemployment. I think they would deserve a lot more credit if they had spent in the province of Quebec the money which this parliament had authorized to be spent in the province, but which, for reasons unknown to me, was not expended. The money was there available to the government; everything was in readiness to go ahead with these works, and yet over half of the amount appropriated for the province of Quebec remained in the coffers of the government unexpended.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I am afraid my hon. friend's friends did not call for tenders.

Mr. BOULANGER: I do not know, and that is why I am asking the minister. I am asking him why this $630,000 that was appropriated was not spent, and why in so many cases we are being asked to revote the exact amounts voted last year for public works in the province of Quebec.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): In reply to my hon. friend I can only say that he has confused the figures in some of the columns. Our expenditure last year was $32,700,000, a very heavy program, the largest expenditure, in fact, which the Department of Public Works has ever made in any one year in its whole history. That compares with an expenditure of $29,250,000 the previous year.

Mr. BOULANGER: But that $32,000,000 was not spent.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes. I am giving the figures of the actual expenditure, and I say that last year $32,700,000 was spent. Every year, of course, there is a number of items that are not expended, and for which the money has to be revoted. Hon. gentlemen will recall that the work was interrupted last year owing to the election, and then after we came in there was a delay in getting the plans completed. In fact the program was so heavy that all the plans have not yet been com-

pleted, and in some cases we have had to employ outside architects. For these and the other reasons which I have given some works were not proceeded with, but in many cases we are showing our good faith by going on with those deferred works this year.

Mr. BOULANGER: How much was voted?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Approximately $38,000,000.

Mr. VENIOT: Including supplementaries?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Including everything.

Mr. BOULANGER: The present government took charge on August 7 last. Even if the election interfered to a certain extent with the administration of national affairs, surely since that date the present government has had time to call for tenders and award contracts for the works voted last session. I wonder whether the elections interfered very much with the duties of the permanent officials of the Public Works department.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): In answer to my hon. friend, I might go back to the previous year, when although $30,000,000 odd was voted only $20,000,000 was expended; the year before that again when my hon. friends were in power $27,000,000 was appropriated and only $20,000,000 spent—a larger amount carried over and unexpended than the amount this year about which he is complaining.

Mr. POWER: There was $6,000,000 less expended on public works than was voted last year?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Yes.

Mr. POWER: So had we expended that money we could have saved $18,000,000 to $20,000,000 to the municipalities and to the provinces.

An hon. MEMBER: High finance.

Mr. POWER: It is very rapid finance. It is simply adding two and two together. More than that, these public works had already been provided for in the estimates, so plans of some kind must have been in the department; the engineers of the department at least must have known what they were about. Therefore these works could have been started as soon as the hon. gentleman and his friends came into office. Indeed, they might have had the prospect in some localities of ending unemployment in three days, as they promised; instead, they brought down their unemployment bill, the provisions of which could not possibly be put into operation until the winter. As a result, in many localities the municipal authorities were not able to take advantage of the fund. But here we had money voted, we had plans prepared, and the engineers and architects of the department must have known how this money could be expended. I am not blaming the minister, but for some reason or other the money was not expended. As I said before, we do not want to interfere with his estimates, but surely he should give an explanation to the house and the country with regard to this delay.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I think my hon. friend is all too general in his conclusions. Some of these works were not proceeded with for a variety of reasons; for instance, disputes as to sites, requests as to change of plans, reports that the buildings were not necessary or desirable. My hon. friend is quite inaccurate in saying that plans were already prepared; in some cases they were not.

Mr. POWER: I do not wish to question my hon. friend's accuracy of statement, but surely plans must have been prepared or the proposed works would not have been put in the estimates.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Not at all. You can put in votes for public buildings before you have plans, and you can say to the house that the plans have not been prepared, that the vote is just for a beginning. This has been done in some cases before the site had been acquired. As my hon. friend knows it is done right along.

Mr. POWER: I do not know anything of the kind.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Then I am telling him as a fact that that practice has prevailed for years.

Mr. POWER: If the minister tells me the practice is that items are inserted in the estimates without plans being prepared, I am quite willing to accept his statement; but these items were in the estimates when they were brought down last March, and surely after bringing down estimates of from $20,000,000 to $30,000,000 for public buildings, the minister must have consulted the officers of his department. When at the special session we voted money for unemployment, those plans at least should have been further advanced than any plans for unemployment relief, which was not thought of until late in September. Surely the hon. minister will admit that.

Mr. VENIOT: Is it not the fact that always a skeleton, as it were, of the plans is made

in order to prepare the estimates to be submitted to the house? When application is made to the department for the construction of a public building or a public wharf, the local engineer makes an examination and then reports to the department recommending or disapproving the application. On the strength of the recommendation and with the detailed information that is given to the deparment at Ottawa, a decision is taken whether the work is necessary or not. On the skeleton plan that the engineer prepares for himself he bases his estimates. If it is pretty certain that the vote will go through, an amount will appear in the estimates, the local engineers prepare their plan, at least they do for wharves and breakwaters, and those plans are sent forward to Ottawa for approval. For public buildings the procedure is somewhat different; architects have to be employed after the district architect makes his report. Generally the departmental architect is employed unless he is too busy with other work, in which case outside architects are engaged to prepare the final plans. But sufficient of the plans is known in the department to allow of a fairly accurate estimate being made of the probable cost of the proposed work. If that had been done I cannot understand why there should be delay in expending the money which was authorized by parliament, and which was so necessary to relieve unemployment. Let me point out further that between the date of the signing of this supply bill and the time the election took place there was an interval of about six weeks; that bill was signed about June 3 or June 4 and the elections took place on July 28. Within ten days after the election this government was installed in power, I think on August 7, and hon. gentlemen opposite at least will give us credit for the fact that during the election campaign we did not attempt to use this money or these public works for election purposes, since the plans, as the minister says, were not prepared. Between August 7 and the time when extreme frost strikes sections of the province of Quebec, which might prevent the carrying on of the construction of public buildings, there was an interval of some three or four months; there were the months of August, September, October, November, and up to December 15, yet we are told that the government did not have time to prepare plans, even by engaging outside architects, in order to carry on this work in the province of Quebec, whereas in the province of Ontario they spent almost the total amount voted by this house last year. I cannot understand the reason for that, and for me it needs some further explanation than the minister has given so far.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I cannot accept my hon. friend's statement that there has been any attempt at discrimination as between the provinces, with respect to the expenditure of public moneys.

Mr. VENIOT: I did not make that statement; I merely gave the facts.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I took that interpretation of it, and I want to point out to my hon. friend that there was one very large item in the province of Quebec, with which he is perfectly familiar. I refer to the postal station at Montreal, which accounted for $500,000 in the estimates. As my hon. friend probably knows, that is only a beginning, for the construction of that building probably will cost about $2,000,000 or $2,500,000.

Mr. VENIOT: About $1,750,000.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): We will say $2,000,000, and that does not include the site in connection with which expropriation proceedings are under way. They were carried on for a year or two by the former government.

Mr. VENIOT: The hon. gentleman is mistaken. The first amount granted was in 1929, I think, when $650,000 was included in the estimates, and that amount was reduced in 1930 to $500,000. There were some negotiations as to the purchase of the site from the time the first amount was included, but there were no negotiations before that.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): But $650,000 was voted, and not a dollar was spent that year.

Mr. VENIOT: That is quite true, because we found they wanted too much for the property.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That may have been a perfectly good reason, and there are perfectly good reasons this year as well. I can only come back to the fact that in the last year our expenditures were $32,758,000, as against $25,000,000 the year before.

Mr. POWER: A few moments ago the hon. gentleman said $29,000,000, did he not?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That was for another year, which I gave as a comparison, showing the next highest year of expenditure.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I should like to direct the attention of the minister to the item which provides for repairs to the Quebec citadel. The walls of that citadel are crumbling into absolute ruin, and I think unless something is done very soon this old historic place will be a thing of the past and

will have to be abolished, because actually the walls of the citadel and the walls of the city of Quebec, which are federal property, are in a very bad state of repair. I understand that in this year of economy it would require quite a large expenditure to repair these walls, but I think in a very real sense they represent an important part of your national wealth. I see the minister who represents the district of Quebec here, and I would ask him to support my demand that the government give attention to this matter. The only steps taken so far were taken by the late administration in connection with the demolition of the old St. John's gate, which was asked for by a decided barbarian who was at that time mayor of Quebec. This historic gate was abolished, and in its place was erected a monument of horror. I do not know who allowed it. I would not blame it on any administration or minister; I would rather put the blame on the municipal authorities of the city of Quebec. I was one of those who protested, but I understand the evil is not finished. On the street which is just at the old St. John's gate there are some old powder magazines, and it is intended that these should be demolished to widen a street on which there is practically no thoroughfare and no traffic, and which is one of the finest corners of the old city, and could easily be made into a park. The same thing applies to the Esplanade, where the walls are falling to pieces. I believe this part of the city should be put under the jurisdiction and control of the National Battlefields Commission. I have nothing to say against the present chairman of the National Battlefields Commission; he is a good friend of my hon. friends on the other side—

Mr. VENIOT: He is a good man, for all that.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Certainly; he has cultivated lovely flowers in the parks without thorns, and I suggest that should be a good example to be followed by hon. gentlemen opposite at election time. I certainly ask in the name of the city of Quebec and also in the name of Canada, that prompt attention be given the old citadel and the walls of Quebec, for if matters go on in this way for not many years, probably not more than a year or two, it will cost millions to preserve the wall and the work could be done now for much less.

I commend my request to the influential minister representing Quebec, and I am sure he will share the opinion which I am expressing now. We Quebecers are supposed to be a little parochial, but we have reason to be proud of the city of Quebec. There are but five or six cities in the world which have natural beauty and at the same time historic associations, and Quebec is one of them. I hope the minister and the government will give attention to the request I make in the name not only of the citizens of Quebec but of all those who love Canada and her history.

Mr. DUPRE: I certainly concur in the remarks my hon. friend has made with regard to the desirability of preserving the historic sites of old Quebec. I was asked to support certain demands that might have had the effect of causing the disappearance of those historic sites, and as to my views on that subject I think my hon. friend and myself would be on the same side.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I am glad to hear the hon. gentleman say so. May I cite one instance before the item carries. Quite a number of years ago the auditorium was built in Quebec and a part of the walls was used as a support for that structure. This, besides being an encroachment upon public property, served to obscure the view of the wall. I understand that it is now contemplated to use a part of the wall on the other side of St. Jean street for a public building to be known as the forum. The work has been stopped this year because the city is building a sort of public hall there, and I trust that the government will put a stop to the practice which has prevailed under the past administration of permitting encroachments upon public property just to satisfy some personal friend or partisan at the expense of what is most sacred among the public monuments of this country. Undoubtedly crimes have been committed in this respect. Just think of it, for instance: only fifty years ago the old Jesuit college was demolished by dynamite—public property—leaving a bare field for twenty-five years, to be occupied afterwards by a monumental horror called the city hall of Quebec. The old building was of beautiful architecture. This sort of thing has been going on year after year, the government allowing people to encroach upon public property with axe, shovel and pickaxe, among the most sacred stones in Canada. I am glad that the Solicitor General—who, by the way, must be in good humour seeing that his income has just been augmented—will take my request into serious consideration.

Mr. POWER: I am very glad that my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne) has taken this attitude. The present Minister of Justice (Mr. Guthrie) will recollect that many years ago, back in 1918 or 1919 I believe, and for some years thereafter, I

brought this matter to the attention of the house. In 1928 the ex-Prime Minister and present leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) visited Quebec and I took him all over the walls. We climbed up and down one rainy afternoon and before he got through he was quite willing to cry quits and promise to do anything he could to have the wall repaired, because he had to walk over slippery places and so on. The then Prime Minister, who has always taken a great interest in matters historic in Canada, gave to the people of Quebec the assurance—I believe he made the statement in parliament also—that he was prepared to have a certain amount voted every year for the repair, maintenance and upkeep of the walls of Quebec. I speak subject to correction by the former Minister of National Defence, but I believe the sum of $50,000 was voted for the year 1929-30 and the year 1930-31. I see no mention of it in these estimates, but I hope that after the eloquent address of my hon. friend from Montmagny and the kindly, benevolent consideration which the Solicitor General has promised to give the matter, he will discuss the question with his colleagues in the cabinet so that we may be able to continue the good work of keeping the walls in repair. With respect to the statement of my hon. friend from Montmagny, that the repairs to Porte St. Jean are hideous, I entirely agree with him.

Mr. DUPRE: We all agree.

Mr. POWER: The ex-Minister of National Defence informs me that the plans were carried out at the suggestion of the civic authorities of Quebec. I do not wish to pose as one who has a taste in architecture, but I do entirely agree with my hon. friend from Montmagny that the first thing we should do, if any money is voted, is to restore Porte St. Jean to its former condition.

Mr. BOULANGER: Apropos of what has been said concerning the fortifications of Quebec, might I be permitted to call the attention of my hon. friend the Solicitor General and the Minister of Public Works to a similar condition that eixsts in the military works at Levis. There also the forts and military works are crumbling. These works, of course, are not as important as those of Quebec; they are not as historic or attractive. Nevertheless they have their value, and we on the south shore should be pleased if the government would look after them. Seeing that they are situated in the home town of the Solicitor General, I think our case is in good hands.

[Mr. Power.]

Mr. DUPRE: This is certainly a very strong appeal to me.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. members who have spoken with reference to the fortifications and walls at Quebec are all from the province of Quebec itself. I believe that quite irrespective of the provinces from which they come, the feeling of the citizens of Canada generally is that there is no more important historic site in Canada, no site more precious to the Dominion as a whole than Quebec, and that it is a national obligation to keep the walls of that old city in a proper state of repair. What the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power) said a moment ago about the trip we had together over the site two years ago is quite correct except possibly in one particular: the trip was not at all necessary to convince me as to the need of what should be done. I was in entire sympathy from the outset, indeed I have been ever since I have taken an interest in public affairs, with every effort to preserve historic sites, and that of Quebec above all others. But I certainly did see on that occasion the necessity for immediate work, and whatever influence I was able to exert at the time with my colleagues and others was all in the direction of having the work gone on with at once. I believe the delay arose out of the difficulty of bringing about some sort of agreement or understanding between the city authorities, the battlefields commission and the provincial and Dominion authorities. There was an effort to have all parties make some contribution to the project, and I believe that in the endeavour to bring them together there were interminable delays. I hope that these delays may be avoided in the future, because the necessity is urgent. If I am not greatly mistaken, the acting leader of the government, the hon. member for South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie), when the matter was up in the house a couple of years ago, stressed from this side, in terms just as emphatic as those I am now using, the need for immediate expenditure in this very connection. I mention the point because I believe it is but fair to our colleagues from Quebec that they should feel that in all parts of Canada there is entire sympathy with them in their desire to see these historic walls kept in a state of adequate repair.

Mr. DUPRE: I thank my right hon. friend for his words and congratulate him on the stand he has taken. I may tell him that the Minister of Public Works, in spite of his many duties, came to Quebec to spend a few

days for the purpose of examining the works, the fortifications and walls and he was impressed, very much as the right hon. gentleman was. We all concur in what my right hon. friend has said.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I would advise the government to beware of too close an alliance with the civic authorities. We have sometimes mayors and aldermen who seem to think that these old stones should be discarded. That unfortunately is what happened in the case of Porte St. Jean. The Department of National Defence was induced to accept the opinion of the then mayor of Quebec, who was not a believer in old stone, and because his good faith was misplaced this monstrosity occurred. I understand there is an historic sites commission created by the federal government which should be consulted in matters of this kind. The city of Quebec derives a large revenue from tourists, and were this plan carried out Quebec would be a city like New York, with numbered streets instead of the old crooked ones so attractive to the tourists. These tourists are interested not only in old stone but in the Quebec Liquor Commission, but they could stop off at Montreal.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Mr. Chairman, I am quite satisfied that not only in this house but throughout the country there are no two opinions with regard to the propriety of doing everything possible to preserve historic sites, not only in Quebec but throughout the rest of Canada. I think it was in 1927, when I was the acting leader of the opposition, that I pledged the support of the opposition of that day to any reasonable scheme which might be brought down in this connection. I remember also in 1920 my hon. friend from Quebec—he is wrong in his dates—brought this thing very forcibly to the attention of parliament. This matter has been in abeyance a long time, but I am glad that something is to be done to preserve these historic monuments. This work will have to be continued from year to year, perhaps for all time, but the expenditure need not be very great. There are many valued sites in the city of Quebec as well as in other parts of the Dominion. There are sites in Kingston, Ontario, which should be maintained, but upon which no government money has yet been spent. We on this side of the house are just as heartily in support of a proposal of this kind as are our hon. friends opposite, and I am sure we express the view of the people of Canada as a whole.

[Mr. Dupre.]

Mr. POWER: I noticed that the hon. Minister of National Defence (Mr. Sutherland) listened most attentively to the remarks of the hon. member for Montmagny, the Solicitor General and the Minister of Justice. I know he is sympathetic in this matter, and I am confident he will give us the assurance that at least an amount of $50,000 will be placed in the supplementary estimates. I am sure that if he does that we on this side of the house will see that the estimate passes without objection, which is perhaps more than we can say for the rest of his items.

Having turned from the glories of war and the plains of battle to the lesser glories and perhaps more heated arguments of peace, I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works just why the different items providing for the expenditure of money in the estimates of 1930 and 1931 were not proceeded with. The first item to which I would refer is a vote of $11,000 for Cowansville. I can enumerate others, if the hon. minister so desires.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): If the hon. member has a list perhaps he had better complete it.

Mr. POWER: The next is Farnham, and in this connection the plans must have been prepared because it was a revote last year from the year before. In this case I think the department had ample time if it so desired to have prepared all the plans, and I hardly think the minister can offer that excuse in this case.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Some time ago there was a reconsideration of the plan; a desire for change was evinced and the matter is still under consideration.

Mr. POWER: May I ask just what was that desire for change?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): As I said before, the question was whether there should be a new building constructed or an addition made to the existing building. Representations have been received in support of both methods of procedure.

Mr. POWER: Were tenders called for the new building?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The tenders were called but no action was taken for the reason given.

Mr. POWER: When were the tenders called?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The tenders were received on August 21, in answer to public advertisements. Four tenders were received, as follows:

K. B. Jenckes, Sherbrooke, $31,957.
Stewart Construction Company, Limited, Sherbrooke, $37,642.
Newton Construction Company, Limited, Sherbrooke, $38,900.
Paquet & Godbout, St. Hyacinthe, $47,000.

Mr. POWER: Has the site for this building been purchased?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The site was expropriated.

Mr. POWER: When?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): An order in council was passed on July 26, granting authority to expropriate.

Mr. VENIOT: What year?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): 1930.

Mr. POWER: Has the money been paid as yet to the owner?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No, nothing further has been done.

Mr. POWER: Will the hon. minister tell me—

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Pardon me; I notice that on November 14, 1930, a notice of abandonment of expropriation was served.

Mr. POWER: In the case of La Tuque a vote of $39,000 was passed, of which $9,000 was a revote. Would the hon. minister tell me how that money was expended?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That building has been completed and we are now putting in the fixtures.

Mr. POWER: As regards the additions and alterations to public building in Montmagny: I am assuming that that building was completed also.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): My hon. friend's assumption is correct.

Mr. POWER: I come now to the item "Quebec, accommodation for military stores." An amount of $100,000 was voted for that purpose. The Minister of Public Works will doubtless recollect that that $100,000 was to be more or less of an annual grant until such time as an amount of $3,000,000 was reached, which was to provide for the construction of a new arsenal at Little River, Quebec. In the Department of Public Works there is an order in council, which I have never seen but which I know is there, providing that with the removal of the Ross rifle factory, the cartridge factory and the Dominion arsenal, there shall be expended for the replacement of those buildings at a location at Little River, an amount of $3,000,000. Originally it was intended that this money should be spent at the rate of something like $300,000 a year; but former governments, like this one, felt the need of economy and for one or two years an amount of $100,000 was inserted in the estimates of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of providing for a building for Quebec military stores, that is, I assume, for housing stores which for many years had been located in the Ross rifle factory. The Solicitor General knows very well the need was the same last year as the year before, and is perhaps greater now, because the Ross rifle buildings have been torn down. Part of the military huts which were to be demolished have been burned, and they are still as unsightly as they ever were. The arsenal is getting more obsolete, more dangerous for those who are employed therein, and the necessity for building a new arsenal is just as great as it was five years ago. Possibly it will be easier for my hon. friend and his friends to justify a military expenditure than it would have been for hon. gentlemen leading the house at the time I was supporting a government. Under those circumstances, with a militant Prime Minister and a militant majority back of the government, perhaps the Solicitor General might look carefully into this question of expenditure to replace the Ross rifle factory.

Only this week I received a resolution which was passed by the city council of Quebec, and a copy of which was doubtless also received by the Solicitor General and the other members from Quebec city and district, calling attention to the fact that in the month of November the then Acting Prime Minister, the hon. member for Argenteuil, had, in the words of the resolution, agreed that money would be voted forthwith to proceed with the construction of a new building to replace the Ross rifle factory. Of course, since the government has changed, and long before, I have never been called, either by the present Solicitor General or by the former one, into conference with the authorities at Quebec, so that I do not know what negotiations have proceeded between the mayor of Quebec and the Solicitor General, or rather, in his absence, his deputy, the hon. member for Dorchester, or the hon. member for Argenteuil in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister. But apparently the city council of Quebec are under the impression that a definite pledge was given. It may be all right to make pledges to the electorate and not to keep them, but it is a bad thing to make pledges to a city

council or other corporate body. If that promise was made, I would suggest that the Solicitor General now join with me and ask the minister to insert in the estimates a substantial amount to commence construction of an arsenal in Quebec. The Solicitor General will, I am sure, assist me in this.

Mr. DUPRE: All I can say to my hon. friend is that during the last three months I have heard more about the Ross rifle factory than about any other question. I have, as a matter of fact, received a copy of the resolution passed by the city council of Quebec. Not only is the matter still under consideration, but it has been under consideration for quite a few months—

Mr. POWER: For years.

Mr. DUPRE: —and we are trying to reach a conclusion.

Mr. POWER: I shall not take any more promises, but will the Solcitor General insist upon his colleague, the Minister of Public Works, placing to the credit of the department for accommodation of military stores at Quebec at least an amount similar to that which has been voted in former years? At the present time I understand those stores have been placed in the immigration building. Surely the Department of Public Works did not pay $100,000 to the Immigration department for the lease of its building for military stores. I am not to understand that, am I?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No.

Mr. POWER: Has any of this money been expended?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No.

Mr. VENIOT: It is almost eleven o'clock I want to discuss the matter of the postal terminals at Montreal. Perhaps the minister would hear me the next time these estimates come up.

Mr. POWER: If the minister will agree that the question of the Montreal postal terminals may be discussed on some other item, I do not think anybody has any objection to the estimates for the Quebec public buildings passing.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I shall be quite willing to do that.

Mr. VENIOT: I accept that.

Item agreed to.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

[Mr. Power.]

Monday, April 27, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

EGG AND BUTTER IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA

Mr. REID:

1. Have any eggs from Australia come into Canada during the past five months?
2. If so, how many?
3. Has any butter from Australia come into Canada at any time during the past five months?
4. If so, how much?

Mr. STEVENS:

1 and 2. There were no eggs imported into Canada from Australia during the past five months.

3 and 4. Canada's imports of butter from Australia during the past five months were:

Butter	Lb.	$
November, 1930..	117,600	39,676
December, 1930..	308,000	98,478
January, 1931..	432,768	129,940
February, 1931..	330,568	98,080
March, 1931..	862,904	252,877

SONIER-TRACADIE MAIL CONTRACT

Mr. VENIOT:

1. When did the contract for carrying the mail between Sonier office and the Tracadie office terminate?
2. Was this contract terminated before the date of termination named in the contract?
3. When was the contract held by Frederick Basque terminated, and on whose recommendation was this contract terminated?
4. Were tenders asked for the new contract? If not, on whose recommendation was the new contract awarded to Gregoire Sonier?
5. If contract was terminated before date fixed in contract, what was the reason for such termination?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. December 31, 1930.
2. No.
3. Contract expired December 31, 1930.
4. No. A. M. Robichaud.
5. Answered by No. 2.

BUTTER IMPORTS, 1930-1931

Mr. ROBERGE:

1. What quantity of butter was imported to Canada from August 1, 1930, to March 1, 1931?
2. What countries have exported butter to Canada during the same period?
3. What quantity from each country?
4. What duty was levied on each country per pound of butter?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. The quantity of butter imported into Canada from August 1, 1930, to March 1, 1931,

was 6,375,109 pounds. From August 1, 1929, to March 1, 1930, the imports of butter amounted to 28,176,634 pounds.

2 and 3. Canada's imports of butter in pounds, by countries, were as follows:

August 1, 1930, to March 1, 1931

Countries	Pounds
United Kingdom	47,600
United States	47,849
Australia	1,244,936
Bermuda	45
New Zealand	5,067,679
Total	6,375,109

August 1, 1929, to March 1, 1930

Countries	Pounds
United Kingdom	5,600
United States	55,596
Australia	408,912
New Zealand	27,704,664
Alaska	205
Newfoundland	828
Syria	829
Total	28,176,634

4. The average duty levied on each country per pound of butter from August 1, 1930, to March 1, 1931, and from August 1, 1929, to March 1, 1930, was:

August 1, 1930, to March 1, 1931

Countries	Cents Per Pound
United Kingdom	7.77
United States	14.00
Australia	1.00
Bermuda	4.00
New Zealand	1.36

August 1, 1929, to March 1, 1930

Countries	Cents Per Pound
United Kingdom	3.00
United States	4.00
Australia	1.70
New Zealand	1.03
Alaska	4.00
Newfoundland	3.00
Syria	4.00

WELLAND SHIP CANAL—SALARY REDUCTIONS

Mr. BOULANGER:

Have the salaries of any class of employees of the Welland ship canal been reduced since October, 1930?

Mr. MANION: No.

CHARLEVOIX-SAGUENAY—POST OFFICE DISMISSALS

Mr. CASGRAIN:

1. How many postmasters were dismissed from their duties in the counties of Charlevoix and Saguenay since July 28, 1930?

2. What are their names and where were they located?

3. What are the names and addresses of persons who made complaints against the said postmasters?

4. Were inquiries held before the dismissal of the said postmasters?

5. If so, by whom were the inquiries held?

6. What salaries or fees were paid to the inquiry commissioners in each case?

7. Why were these postmasters dismissed?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. 6.

2. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7—See attached list.

LIST OF POSTMASTERS IN CHARLEVOIX-SAGUENAY DISMISSED FROM OFFICE FROM JULY 28TH, 1930 TO APRIL 20TH, 1931

Post Office	Postmaster	Complaint made by	Investigation or not. By whom	Commissioner's Fees and Expenses	Reason for Dismissal
Cap à la Branche	Pierre Lapointe	Action taken on District Superintendent's report.	Investigated by District Superintendent, Quebec.	.....	Shortage and other financial irregularities.
Les Eboulements	J. H. Tremblay	Thos. Maher, Quebec	Enquiry held by H. Fanning Gosselin, K.C., Quebec.	$98 86	Active political partisanship.
Mille Vaches	E. Boulianne	Thos. Maher, Quebec	Investigated by District Superintendent, Quebec.	.....	Unsatisfactory service.
Ste. Anne de Beaupré	Raoul Fortier	Thos. Maher, Quebec	No investigation. Postmaster refused to sign declaration denying active part in politics.	.....	Active political partisanship.
St. Féréol	Cyrias Mercier	Thos. Maher, Quebec	No investigation	.....	Postmaster unable to read.
St. Irénée les Bains	Jos. Girard	Thos. Maher, Quebec	Enquiry held by H. Fanning Gosselin, K.C., Quebec.	$99 80	Active political partisanship.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF ACT—CHARLEVOIX-SAGUENAY GRANTS

Mr. CASGRAIN:

1. What are the names of the various municipalities in the joint counties of Charlevoix-Saguenay which applied for grants under the Unemployment Relief Act?
2. What grant was received by each municipality?
3. What was the federal contribution in each case?
4. What was the provincial contribution in each case?
5. What was the municipal contribution in each case?
6. What amounts have been expended and paid by the federal governments to each municipality in each case?
7. Were any amounts granted to these various municipalities out of the special fund and for charitable purposes by virtue of the Unemployment Relief Act?

Mr. GORDON:

Municipality	Amount	Dom. Contribution	Prov. Contribution	Mun. Contribution	Amount paid by Dominion	Direct Relief paid by Dominion
Saguenay County	$	$	$	$	$	$
Aguanish (Unorg.)	800	320	480			
Bonne Espérance (Unorg.)	900	360	540			
Bergeronne Township	3,500	1,225	1,225	1,050		
Bergeronne Village	4,000	1,600	1,600	800		
Godbout (Unorg.)	1,000	400	600			
Ha Ha Bay (Unorg.)	1,000	400	600			
Harrington (Unorg.)	1,400	560	840			
Hâvre St. Pierre Village	5,000	2,000	2,000	1,000		
Ile de Mai and Shelter Bay (Unorg.)	5,000	2,000	3,000	.....	246 96	
Ilets Caribou	1,000	400	600	.....	400 00	
Kegaska (Unorg.)	400	160	240			
La Tabatière	1,000	400	600			
Les Escoumains	8,000	2,400	2,400	3,200		
Longue Pointe de Mingan (Unorg.)	2,500	1,000	1,500	.....	746 40	
Longue Pointe de Blanc Sablon et Lourdes de Blanc Sablon (Unorg.)	1,100	440	660			
Magpie (Unorg.)	2,000	800	1,200	.....	375 36	
Mingan (Unorg.)	400	160	240			
Mutton Bay (Unorg.)	1,100	540	560			
Natashquam (Unorg.)	2,000	800	1,200			
Old Fort (Unorg.)	700	280	420			
Piastre Bay (Unorg.)	1,200	480	720			
Pointe des Monts (Unorg.)	300	120	180			
Pointe aux Anglais (Unorg.)	1,500	600	900	.....	205 04	
Rivière au Tonnerre	5,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	220 20	500 00
Rivière Pentecôte (Unorg.)	3,000	1,200	1,800			
Rivière St. Jean (Unorg.)	2,000	800	1,200	.....	462 00	
Romaine (Unorg.)	300	120	180			
Sacré Cœur de Jésus Parish	8,000	2,800	2,800	2,400		
Salomon Bay (Unorg.)	1,000	400	600			
Sept Iles—Letellier Township	6,000	2,100	2,100	1,800	873 76	124 22
Sept Cantons Unis du Saguenay	12,000	4,800	4,800	2,400	2,068 30	
Ste. Anne de Portneuf Canton	3,500	1,400	1,400	700	358 76	
St. Augustine (Unorg.)	300	120	180			
St. Firmin	2,000	700	700	600	383 88	
Ste. Marguerite et Clark City (Unorg.)	3,500	1,400	2,100			
St. Paul de Mille Vaches	5,000	1,750	1,750	1,500	529 92	
St. Paul de Mille Vaches Canton	1,000	350	350	300		
St. Paul River (Unorg.)	1,000	400	600			
Tadoussac Village	2,500	625	625	1,250	85 72	
Whale Head (Unorg.)	1,000	400	600			
Charlevoix County						
Cap à l'Aigle	2,000	500	500	1,000		
Paroisse de St. Pierre et St. Paul de la Baie—St. Paul	8,000	2,000	2,000	4,000		
Baie St. Paul	8,000	2,000	2,000	4,000		
La Malbaie Village	8,000	2,000	2,000	4,000		
Les Eboulements	8,000	2,000	2,000	4,000		
Pointe au Pic	5,000	1,250	1,250	2,500		
Rivière du Gouffre	5,000	1,250	1,250	2,500		
Ste. Agnès de Murray-Bay Parish	6,000	1,800	1,800	2,400	1,483 20	
St. Etienne de la Malbaie	8,000	2,000	2,000	4,000		

Municipality	Amount	Dom. Contribution	Prov. Contribution	Mun. Contribution	Amount paid by Dominion	Direct Relief paid by Dominion
	$	$	$	$	$	$
St. Fidèle	5,000	1,250	1,250	2,500		
St. Francois Xavier de la Petite Rivière Parish	4,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000 00	
St. Louis de Iles aux-Coudres Parish	4,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000 00	
St. Placide (Unorg.)	3,000	1,200	1,800			
St. Siméon Village	4,000	1,400	1,400	1,200	534 46	26 33
St. Siméon Parish	3,000	1,050	1,050	900	757 27	
St. Urbain	3,000	750	750	1,500		

NOTE.—(Unorg.)—Unorganized Territory.

2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7: See reply to No. 1.

COAL—CONSUMPTION, IMPORTS, DRAWBACKS

Mr. SMITH (Cumberland):

1. What was the total consumption of coal in Canada for the fiscal year 1930-1931, specifying varieties?

2. What quantity of coal was imported into Canada for the fiscal year 1930-1931, stating countries of origin and amounts from each; also specifying varieties as to bituminous, anthracite, anthracite screenings and coke?

3. What amount was paid individuals and firms in Canada in the fiscal year 1930-1931 under drawback item 1019, giving names and addresses to whom paid in each instance?

4. What amount was paid to individuals and firms in Canada in the fiscal year 1930-1931 under drawback item 1049, giving names and addresses to whom paid in each instance?

5. What was the total amount of money paid out under all drawback items in Canada, concerning coal, in the fiscal year 1930-1931, giving names and addresses to whom paid in each instance?

Mr. CAHAN:

1. Coal available for consumption, fiscal year 1930-31—

	Short tons
Anthracite	3,946,987
Bituminous	22,633,492
Lignite	3,122,467
Sub-bituminous	544,145
Total	30,247,091

2.

Item	Unit	Country	Quantity
Coal—anthracite, grate, egg, stove, nut and pea	Short ton	Great Britain	908,952
		French E. Indies	1,122
		Germany	11,480
		Russia	284,271
		United States	2,421,699
		Totals	3,627,524
Coal—anthracite, buckwheat, rice, barley and similar sized	Short ton	Great Britain	9,300
		United States	310,163
		Totals	319,463
Coal—bituminous, and coal, n.o.p.	Short ton	Great Britain	145,375
		Newfoundland	23
		United States	12,854,544
		Totals	12,999,942
Coal—lignite, and lignite dust	Short ton	United States	16,568
Coal—ex-warehoused for ship's stores	Short ton	United States	346,579
Coke	Short ton	Great Britain	16,443
		United States	985,002
		Totals	1,001,445

3. $513,868.57. It is contrary to usage to give such information as it would disclose the business of individual concerns.

4. $599,849.79. It is contrary to usage to give such information as it would disclose the business of individual concerns.

5. $1,157,679.43. It is contrary to usage to give such information as it would disclose the business of indivdual concerns.

POSTMASTER AT WINDSOR MILLS, QUEBEC

Mr. LAPOINTE:

1. Was Mr. Auguste Provencher, postmaster at Windsor Mills, Quebec, dismissed from his office?

2. If so, on what date, and why?

3. Was an inquiry held previous to his dismissal, and if not, why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. From 9th April, 1931, on account of unsatisfactory management.

3. Post office was frequently inspected and action was taken on reports submitted by the district superintendent, Montreal.

BONAVENTURE COUNTY—WORKS FOREMEN

Mr. MARCIL:

1. Have foremen been appointed for the works now being done at Fleurant, St. Omer, Carleton, and St. Charles de Caplan, in the county of Bonaventure?

2. If so, what are their names?

3. If not, what is the reason of the delay?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1, 2 and 3. No foremen to be appointed by Department of Public Works, as works mentioned are being done by contract.

Application has been made to the Civil Service Commission for the appointment of inspectors in all these cases.

MONTREAL—POSTAL PARCEL COLLECTION

Mr. RINFRET:

1. Who is at present in charge of the collection of postal parcels in the city of Montreal?

2. If a contract was granted for that purpose, on what date was it granted, and what are the conditions of said contract?

3. What are the names of those who had the contract before October 1, 1930?

4. Was said contract taken away from them, and if so, were they given three months' notice?

5. If not, why was their contract cancelled, and why were they not given three months' notice?

6. Did their contract stipulate that they were entitled to three months' notice?

7. Were tenders called before this contract was granted to the present contractor?

8. If not, why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. J. E. Laurent.

2. A temporary agreement was authorized on the 20th October, 1930, at 70 cents per hour.

3. A. Gour and Georges Richer.

4. Yes—no.

5. They were farming their contract.

6. Yes, but the Postmaster General has the right to cancel a contract for cause without notice.

7. No.

8. Service is being operated under a temporary agreement.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CIVIL SERVICE

Mr. RINFRET:

1. Is the Beatty commission, which was appointed to hold a supplementary investigation into the salaries of civil service employees, still in operation?

2. If so, when and where was its last sitting held?

3. If not, on what authority was it discontinued?

4. When will a report of its decision be made?

Mr. BENNETT:

1. Yes.

2. No public hearings have been held in connection with the supplementary investigation.

3. Answered by No. 1.

4. Not known.

VICTORIA HARBOUR, B.C.—DREDGING

Mr. PLUNKETT:

1. Did the Department of Public Works do any dredging adjacent to the property of the Dalziel Box Company in Victoria harbour at Victoria, British Columbia, during the year 1930?

2. Was an appropriation provided in the estimates of 1930 for such work?

3. What were the terms of contract, if any, under which the work was completed?

4. What was the total cost of such work?

5. Upon what date was the order for such work given, and on what dates was the dredging started and work completed?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. Approximately 4,000 cubic yards, overcast at 43 cents. Approximately 4,000 cubic yards, dredged and towed to dumping ground at 73 cents.

4. $4,536.83.

5. (a) May 29, 1930; (b) commenced July 10; completed August 18, 1930.

CHURCHILL—GRAIN LOADING FACILITIES

Mr. WEIR (Macdonald):

1. Does the government expect to be able to make a full test of the grain loading facilities at Churchill, if so, when?

2. Is it the intention of the government to use for that purpose steamships of the Canadian National Steamships or Canadian Government Merchant Marine at present anchored at Halifax?

Mr. MANION:

1. Yes, some time in September of present year.

2. Requisite vessel arrangements under consideration.

CHAMBLY CANAL SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. GOULET:

1. What is the name of the Chambly canal superintendent?

2. Is one Mr. Cantin in the employ of the government on the Chambly canal?

3. If so, what are his occupation and salary?

Mr. MANION:

1. Mr. J. E. Robitaille.

2. Yes.

3. Acting canal superintendent while Mr. Robitaille is on sick leave; salary, $160 per month.

BEAUHARNOIS LIGHT, HEAT AND POWER COMPANY

Mr. GARDINER:

1. Has the government received any notice to the effect that the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company has applied to the government of the province of Quebec for permission and has been granted the right to divert an additional 30,000 cubic feet of water per second through the Beauharnois canal?

2. Do the plans already filed by the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company and approved by the government, enable the company to divert the above mentioned 30,000 cubic feet of water per second through its canal?

3. If it is necessary for the government to approve of the plans of the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company to allow them to divert this additional 30,000 cubic feet of water per second, is it the intention of the government to approve of such plans without giving the house an opportunity of considering the said application?

4. Does the government approve and concur in the granting by the province of Quebec to the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company of the right to divert the said 30,000 cubic feet of water per second through the Beauharnois canal?

5. In whom is the legal title to this 30,000 cubic feet of water vested?

6. Is the government of the opinion that P.C. No. 422 dated March 8, 1929, is legal and valid in so far as it purports to grant the rights and privileges therein contained to the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company?

[Mr. H. A. Stewart.]

Mr. BENNETT: Before No. 9 is finally disposed of, Mr. Speaker, it will be observed by the house that a number of these questions are of a legal character, with respect to which I do not think the government is called upon to express its views. The fourth asks for the opinion of the government, which it is not bound to give; the same may be said with respect to the sixth; the third is in the same category. So with the exception of the first and second, I think these questions are such as should not be answered.

Mr. GARDINER: Stands.

Mr. SPEAKER: No. 9 stands.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS—RAILWAY BARGE

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre):

1. Did the Vancouver board of harbour commissioners recently purchase a railway barge?

2. If so, was this barge purchased in the United States?

3. Who arranged such purchase?

4. What are the dimensions of this barge?

5. When was this barge originally constructed?

6. What was the purchase price?

7. What was the cost of towing this barge to Vancouver?

8. What was the cost of insurance on the said barge?

9. From whom was the barge acquired?

10. Was the barge acquired from an American corporation or through an agency?

11. In whose name was the barge cleared through the American customs?

12. To whom was the insurance on the barge paid?

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, with reference to No. 26, I see the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mackenzie, Vancouver) is not in his place, but it is a question with respect to which the government would be glad if the house itself would determine what action should be taken, because all that could be done by us is to write a letter to the harbour commissioners asking them for the information and then transmit it to the house. The government itself is in no sense responsible for what action was taken or for the manner in which this railway barge was purchased, if it was purchased. What I know about it is what I see in the newspapers; beyond that I am not advised. Perhaps if my right hon. friend would look into the matter we could arrive at some common understanding as to how such questions should be dealt with. The tabling of information received from these harbour commissions does not in any sense pledge the government as to its accuracy; the government is bound only by the information received.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I believe the practice followed by the previous administration was that indicated at the moment by the Prime Minister. The harbour boards were written to by the minister, their attention was directed to the question, they were asked for the requisite information, and subsequently the minister gave the information to the house as coming from the harbour boards themselves. I do not think that more than that is expected.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question stands.

LACOLLE IMMIGRATION OFFICE

Mr. RHEAUME:

1. Who is the officer in charge of the immigration office at Lacolle, Quebec?
2. On what date was he appointed to this position?
3. Was he appointed by the Civil Service Commission?
4. Where was he located before coming to Lacolle?
5. Is he a veteran of the great war?
6. If so, what is his unit number?
7. Does he speak and write fluently the two languages of the country?
8. What is his salary?
9. What are the names and the years of service of each one of the other employees of the immigration office staff at Lacolle?

Mr. GORDON:

1. Henry McMillan.
2. April 1, 1931.
3. Yes.
4. He was employed as supervising relieving inspector and detailed for duty, as required, at ports of entry on the international boundary in the provinces of Quebec and Ontario.
5. No.
6. See answer to No. 5.
7. Speaks and writes English fluently.
8. $1,920 per annum.
9.

Names	Years of Service
C. Commette	22
J. A. L'Ecuyer	18
A. H. Clarkson	16
H. E. Lagare	10
L. H. Laporte	3
C. F. Millard	2
L. Lemothe	1
P. Poulin	6 months

SUBSIDIES TO PROVINCES

Mr. DUFF:

1. What was the amount due each province as subsidy, either regular or special, for the fiscal year 1930-31?
2. What amount was paid each province during that period?

Mr. BENNETT:

1 and 2.

Province	Amount
Ontario	$ 2,642,611 68
Quebec	2,256,419 88
Nova Scotia	1,536,841 28*
New Brunswick	1,266,765 76**
Manitoba	6,478,618 98†
British Columbia	738,816 66
Prince Edward Island	506,931 88‡
Alberta	1,670,435 00
Saskatchewan	1,938,295 00

* Including special grant of $875,000.

** Including special grant of $600,000.

† Including special payment of $4,822,842.72 under natural resources agreement.

‡ Including special grant of $125,000.

BAIE STE-CATHERINE WHARF

Mr. CASGRAIN:

1. What sum of money was voted last year for the construction of a wharf at Baie Ste-Catherine, county of Saguenay?
2. What was the nature of said works?
3. What was the total approximate cost of the said works?
4. By whom were they recommended?
5. Were plans and specifications and estimates prepared in connection with said contemplated works?
6. Were tenders called in order that the above mentioned works might be started with the moneys voted at the last regular session of 1930?
7. If not, why?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1. $25,000.
2. Construction of a wharf.
3. $104,200.
4. Municipality of Baie Ste.-Catherine, chamber of commerce of Chicoutimi, voyageurs de commerce de Quebec, Rev. T. Simard, and P. F. Casgrain, M.P.
5. Plans and specifications cannot be completed until negotiations concluded with Price Bros.
6. No.
7. See answer to No. 5.

NAVIGABLE CANALS

Mr. SPEAKMAN:

1. What is the total mileage of navigable canals in Canada at the present time?
2. What has been the total federal expenditure in respect of these canals up to the end of the last fiscal year, or the time of the last accounting, for the purpose of: (a) construction; (b) maintenance; and (c) operation?
3. What fees or other charges are made by the federal government in respect of the use of these canals?

4. What has been the total revenue collected by the federal government in respect of these canals up to the end of the last fiscal year, or the time of the last accounting, and from what sources?

Mr. MANION:

1.

	Miles
Primary canals	75·92
Secondary canals	433·48
Total	509·40

2.

Capital expenditure to March 31, 1930	$225,909,707
Heavy repairs	16,036,444
Maintenance	26,009,161
Operation	32,442,181
Total	$300,397,493

Capital expenditure above referred to includes $20,593,866 by the Imperial government prior to Confederation.

3. Canal tolls were abolished following the 1903 season of navigation.

4. Total revenue received to March 31, 1930, $27,139,532.

Since the abolition of canal tolls, these revenues have consisted of elevator fees, hydraulic and other rentals, wharfage, etc.

For the year following the abolition of tolls, 1904, these revenues amounted to $79,536.

For 1928 they amounted to $1,355,677.

For 1929 they amounted to $1,230,332.

For 1930 they amounted to $1,043,647.

POSTMASTER AT PONT VIAU, QUE.

Mr. MERCIER (Laurier-Outremont):

1. Was Mr. J. B. Arthur Primeau, of Pont Viau, Laval county, dismissed from his office as postmaster?

2. If so, for what reason?

3. On whose recommendation was the said dismissal made?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. Inconvenient location of post office.

3. Postmaster General.

EUGENE LEVESQUE

Mr. LAFLECHE:

1. Is the Post Office Department aware that one Eugene Levesque has been in the employ of the department at Montreal during the years 1928, 1929 and 1930?

2. If so, when was he appointed?

3. By whom was he recommended?

4. Was his appointment approved by the Civil Service Commission, and if so, on what date?

5. Did he pass the required examinations, and if so, when?

[Mr. Speakman.]

6. Is the department aware that the said Levesque is an offender previously convicted, and that he has served several terms of detention in some of the penitentiaries of the country?

7. Is he still in the employ of the department?

8. If not, was he dismissed or did he resign?

9. In either case when did he cease to be in the employ of the Post Office Department, and why?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. 26th January 1929.

3. He was selected from the commission's eligible list when his name was reached.

4. Yes, on the 25th February 1929.

5. Yes, in October 1928.

6. At the time Mr. Levesque was employed the department was not aware that he had a criminal record. This, however, was discovered shortly afterwards and he was assigned duty where he could be under constant supervision and where he would have no opportunity of misappropriating mail matter.

7. No.

8. He was dismissed.

9. He was dismissed on the 17th February 1931 for his irregular attendance and tardiness in reporting for duty.

W. ADALBERT GUAY

Mr. BOULANGER:

1. Is Mr. Adalbert Guay who was on October 27, 1930, appointed to the preliminary sorting of letters in the Quebec post office, still in the employ of the government?

2. Is the position of preliminary sorting of letters one of those classified under the civil service law, and which must be filled through the Civil Service Commission?

3. If so, how can the Post Office Department pay to Mr. Guay his salary if he was not appointed by the Civil Service Commission?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. Yes.

3. As an emergency appointment.

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY—SUBSIDIES

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

What grants and subsidies have been granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway and to the railway lines now incorporated in the Canadian Pacific Railway?

CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WHEAT PRODUCERS, LIMITED—BANK LOANS

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri):

1. Is the government aware that the Canadian banks have advanced, in loans or guarantees, the sum of $68,000,000 to the Canadian Co-Operative Wheat Producers, Limited?

2. Has the government, to date, guaranteed the banks interested in these loans in favour of wheat pools, for said amount of $68,000,000, totally or partially?

3. If partially, up to what amount?

GLACE BAY PUBLIC BUILDING

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton South):

1. What amounts have been spent yearly since 1925 on Glace Bay public building?

2. If the work was done by tender, who was contractor and what amount was paid?

3. If work done by day labour, who was foreman and what rate of wages were paid?

4. What amount was spent for electric fixtures and to whom?

5. Who did interior painting and decorating, and what amount was paid for such work?

6. What amount of money was spent on Glace Bay harbour improvements?

7. Was such work done by tender or day labour?

8. If by tender, what was amount; if by day labour, what was rate of wages?

9. How many civil service and other government employees are in active service in the town of Glace Bay?

10. What are the names, salaries and religious affiliations of such employees?

FOREIGN-BORN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Mr. LAFLECHE:

1. How many foreign born are in the employ of the federal government in Canada?

2. What are their names, occupations and salary?

Mr. CAHAN: This will stand as an order for return, on the understanding of course, as the hon. gentleman explained to the house, that "foreign born" means born outside of Canada.

PELAGIC SEALING TREATY, 1911

Mr. BUCKLEY:

1. Has the Dominion government received any portion of the award of $473,151.26 made on or about December 17, 1897, in connection with the seizure by the United States of America, of Canadian vessels in the Behring sea?

2. What portion of this money remains undistributed?

3. Does the government intend to distribute this fund among claimants therefor, and if so, when?

4. Has the Canadian government received any money from the United States government, direct or through the British government, under the sealing treaty made December 14, 1911, between the United States of America, Great Britain, Russia or Japan, and if so, what amounts have been received?

5. Does the Canadian government contemplate action on behalf of Canadian citizens interested, similar to chapter 308 of the acts of the sixty-eighth congress of the United States of America, passed June 7, 1924, conferring jurisdiction on the United States district court of California, northern division to adjudicate claims of American citizens for restraining their actions in sealing in 1886 to 1896, under which, awards were made to American citizens?

6. Is it the intention of the Canadian government that any of the moneys referred to in connection with sealing operations, shall be distributed to Canadian citizens who sustained losses by reason of the matters referred to in the arbitration, conventions and treaties above mentioned?

7. If so, what steps are being taken to that end?

Mr. BENNETT: This question in any event would have to stand as an order for return, Mr. Speaker. The question of distribution raised in the second paragraph is rather a long story, but if just a summary is required it can be provided.

Mr. SPEAKER: Stands as an order for return.

Mr. PLUNKETT:

1. What amount of money has been received from the United States government under the Pelagic sealing treaty of 1911 for each calendar year up to December 31, 1930, inclusive?

2. Were there any omissions of payments in any years between 1911 and 1930, and if so, for what reasons did such omissions occur?

Mr. BENNETT: Question No. 37, Mr. Speaker, should stand as an order for return. If all the details from 1911 to 1930 are to be furnished it will be a rather lengthy document.

Mr. SPEAKER: Stands as an order for return.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF—OTTAWA

Mr. LAPOINTE (for Mr. St-Pere):

For a copy of all forms, memoranda and regulations issued by the Department of Labour at Ottawa, or the Director of Unemployment at Ottawa, in connection with the expenditure under the Unemployment Relief Act.

BEAUHARNOIS POST OFFICE

Mr. RAYMOND:

For a copy of all notices, reports, letters, rating sheets, decisions, memoranda, telegrams or other communications, and all other documents, in the possession of the Civil Service Commission, the Department of Public Works, Postmaster General's department, or any other federal department, in conection with the appointment of a caretaker for the Beauharnois post office in month of February, 1931.

LITTLE BRAS D'OR BRIDGE

Mr. JOHNSTONE:

For a copy of all letters, tenders and other documents regarding the building of the wharf at Little Bras d'Or bridge in the year 1929, including a return showing the cost of construction, the number of men employed, the cost of lumber, the amount earned by Fred E. Reashore and the amount earned by Mr. Fitzgerald the head builder.

MR. AUGUSTE PROVENCHER

Mr. LAPOINTE:

For a copy of all correspondence, letters, telegrams, memoranda and other documents in connection with the dismissal of Mr. Auguste Provencher, postmaster at Windsor Mills, province of Quebec, and the appointment of his successor.

POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. POWER (for Mr. Marcil):

For a copy of all reports made to the Department of Marine by Mr. Sirois, of Gaspé, Quebec, commissioner appointed to inquire into political partisanship of certain employees of the department.

ST. ROCH DES AULNAIES POST OFFICE

Mr. FAFARD:

For a copy of all correspondence, requests and any other documents, exchanged between the Post Office Department and any person or persons in connection with the post office of St. Roch des Aulnaies, from the 28th of July last, to date.

JOSEPH G. SMITH

Mr. REID:

For a copy of all letters, correspondence, telegrams, orders and reports, between any and all officials and officers of the Department of Immigration and Colonization relating to the conduct, service, recommendations and dismissal of Joseph G. Smith, who was employed as a temporary inspector at Pacific highway, British Columbia.

INSPECTOR OF FISHERIES, NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. HEENAN (for Mr. Ralston):

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda, received or despatched by the Minister of Fisheries or any other member of the government or any official of the government or the Civil Service Commission or any member or official thereof and any person since August 8, 1930, respecting the qualifications or fitness of applicants for, or in any way relating to the filling of the position of inspector of Fisheries for Western Nova Scotia,

And for a copy of all advertisements and of proposals, rules or memoranda showing the basis on which qualifications were to be judged,

And for a copy of the statements, supporting documents and other evidence considered by the Civil Service Commission or by the advisory examining board, and all reports, ratings or results of the examination, oral or otherwise, which was made regarding the qualifications of all persons considered for such position, and for all orders in council relating to the filling of such position.

And for a copy of all records of investigation, letters, correspondence and other papers dated or made since August, 1929, relating to the retirement from office or dismissal of Harry H. Marshall from the position of inspector of fisheries, western division of western Nova Scotia.

DR. F. S. MESSENGER

Mr. DUFF:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, memoranda, correspondence, and other documents, between the Department of Indian Affairs, or any of its officials, and any person or persons in Nova Scotia, regarding the dismissal or removal of Dr. F. S. Messenger, of Middleton, Nova Scotia, as Indian agent.

HON. N. W. NEWLANDS

Mr. LAPOINTE:

For a copy of all orders in council, memoranda, correspondence, letters, telegrams and other documents concerning the retirement from office of Honourable H. W. Newlands as Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan, the appointment of an administrator or of administrators pending the appointment of a successor to Honourable Mr. Newlands, and the appointment of a new lieutenant-governor in replacement of Honourable Mr. Newlands.

BAIE STE. CATHERINE WHARF

Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a copy of all telegrams, memoranda, correspondence, letters, and other documents, exchanged during the years 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, between the Minister of Public Works at Ottawa and any of the officers of his department at Ottawa and Quebec, with the Highway department or the Minister of Highways of the Quebec provincial government, and the authorities of Price Brothers Company, Limited, at Quebec, regarding the construction of a wharf at Baie Ste. Catherine, Saguenay county, Quebec.

POSTMASTER AT ST. ANNE DE BEAUPRE

Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a copy of all telegrams, memoranda, correspondence, letters and other documents in connection with the dismissal of Raoul Fortier, postmaster at Ste. Anne de Beaupre, county of Montmorency, and the appointment of his successor.

POSTMASTER AT LES EBOULEMENTS

Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a copy of all telegrams, memoranda, correspondence, letters, and other documents in connection with the dismissal of J. H. Tremblay, postmaster at Les Eboulements, county of Charlevoix, and the appointment of his successor.

POSTMASTER AT ST. IRENEE LES BAINS

Mr. CASGRAIN:

For a copy of all telegrams, memoranda, correspondence, letters, and other documents in connection with the dismissal of Joseph Girard, postmaster at St. Irenee les Bains, county of Charlevoix, and the appointment of his successor.

CIVIL SERVICE DISMISSALS

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River):

For a return showing the name, address, position, grade, salary, department, branch and length of service; whether given superannuation or retirement allowance or both, whether permanent or temporary and what overseas service: (a) with Canadian expeditionary force; (b) with Great Britain or other allies; of every civil service employee dismissed in 1931 as a result of the transfer of the natural resources to the western provinces. The return to show the individuals mentioned above who have been taken back into the service after dismissal, and at what salary.

MONTREAL HARBOUR COMMISSION

Mr. VENIOT (for Mr. Cardin):

For a copy of all reports, letters, telegrams and other documents (exclusive of plans and specifications) exchanged between the Montreal harbour commission and the Department of Marine, the Department of Finance or the minister, since August, 1930, to date, regarding the construction of a wharf in the lower part of the Montreal harbour at a point called Windmill Point.

WHARF AT RIVIERE-A-LA-MARTRE

Mr. BRASSET:

For a return showing the name of each person who worked at the wharf of Riviere-a-la-Martre during the season of 1930, the salary of each, the cost of materials and the total cost of the work.

FRANCOIS TREMBLAY

Mr. BRASSET:

For a copy of all letters, telegrams, affidavits, inquiries, memoranda and any other documents, in connection with the dismissal of Mr. Francois Tremblay, fog horn engineer at Ste. Felicite, county of Matane, and the appointment of his successor.

POSTMASTER AT LAKEVILLE

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence, reports and other documents in the possession of the government relative to the dismissal of Samuel G. Barter, postmaster at Lakeville, Carleton county, New Brunswick.

NORDIN VERSUS REX

Mr. WHITE (Mount Royal):

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams and other documents, in the possession of the government, relative to the case of Nordin vs. Rex, being an action for reparation arising out of the loss of ss. Alette.

MR. D. W. MORRISON, DELEGATE TO GENEVA

Mr. McGREGOR:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda, and other documents, exchanged between the Department of Labour, or any of its officials, or the Department of National Defence and Mr. D. W. Morrison of Glace Bay, president of the United Mine Workers, regarding the appointment of the said D. W. Morrison as a delegate to Geneva; also a return showing the amount of money paid to the said D. W. Morrison in connection with his said trip, as salary and expenses.

DISTILLERY AT BERWICK, N.S.

Mr. ILSLEY:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams, memoranda and other documents exchanged between the government of Nova Scotia, or any member thereof, or any person or persons, and the government of Canada, or any minister or department thereof, or any of the officials thereof relating to the establishment of a distillery at Berwick, Kings county, Nova Scotia; or the granting of a permit or licence for the manufacture of intoxicating liquor at Berwick, Nova Scotia; or relating to one Richard Steppanski in reference to such matter or matters.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION—EXAMINATION FOR POSITION OF CLEANER AND HELPER

Mr. POWER:

For a copy of all correspondence, documents, certificates, reports of examination, rating and marks obtained by each competitor, recommendations in favour of any competitor by members of parliament, or others, with respect to an examination held in Quebec during the month of March, 1931, as a result of which an eligible list was established and promulgated in the Caanda Gazette of March 21, 1931, for the position of cleaner and helper, Department of Public Works.

POSTMASTERS IN BONAVENTURE COUNTY

Mr. VENIOT (for Mr. Marcil):

For a copy of reports made by Mr. Simard, barrister, and inquiry commissioner, Rimouski, Quebec, to the Postmaster General, in connection with the conduct of certain postmasters in the county of Bonaventure, accused of political partisanship.

L'ISLE VERTE RURAL MAIL ROUTE

Mr. POULIOT:

For a copy of all correspondence and reports in the possession of Post Office Department in reference to the rural mail route of L'Isle Verte, Quebec.

SASKATOON ELECTORAL DISTRICT—PAYMENT OF CONSTABLES

Mr. TOTZKE:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between Mr. P. R. Kreutzwieser, deputy returning officer for poll No. 53 of the electoral dis-

trict of Saskatoon, and the Chief Electoral Office, and the Auditor General or any officer of either of the departments concerned, relating to the payment for services rendered, of constables appointed to the said poll No. 53 of the electoral district of Saskatoon.

POSTMASTER AT PONTBRIAND, QUE.

Mr. POWER (for Mr. Roberge):

For a copy of all reports and documents in connection with an inquiry held at Pontbriand, county of Megantic, Quebec, in connection with the services of Alphonse Dupuis as postmaster; and also copy of all letters, telegrams, correspondence and other documents, exchanged between the Postmaster General or any employee of his department and J. T. Beaudoin, defeated candidate; and also for a copy of the order in council in connection with this matter.

MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

PROPOSED PEGGING OF WHEAT PRICES

Mr. MOTHERWELL:

For a copy of all petitions, resolutions, recommendations, letters, telegrams, or synopsis of verbal representations, addressed or communicated to the Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture or any other minister, recommending the pegging of wheat or grain prices, from any farmers organization, pool selling agency or unit thereof, municipality, board of trade, individual, or provincial premier from each of the three prairie provinces, since August 1st last, and the individual replies thereto.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: In the light of information given the house by the right hon. the leader of the government (Mr. Bennett), regarding this question, showing that there were many thousands of such petitions, and the impracticability of giving copies of all, it would be quite satisfactory to me to have this order discharged now. I will substitute a much less comprehensive order later on.

Mr. BENNETT: I thank the hon. gentleman.

IMPORTATION OF OIL OR OIL PRODUCTS

Mr. YOUNG:

For a copy of all correspondence exchanged between any or all of the Canadian oil refining companies and any department of the government in regard to the importation of oil or oil products.

Mr. BENNETT: It is hardly necessary to say that from 1867 there has been a large mass of correspondence in connection with the matter. Perhaps the hon. member will limit to a year.

Mr. YOUNG: Since the last Mayday budget.

Mr. BENNETT: Since May 1, 1930.

[Mr. Totzke.]

Mr. YOUNG: Yes.

Motion as amended agreed to.

AMALGAMATION OF WEYBURN SECURITY BANK AND IMPERIAL BANK

Mr. COOTE:

For a copy of all correspondence, including letters, telegrams and other documents in the possession of the government in connection with the amalgamation of the Weyburn Security Bank and the Imperial Bank of Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, with respect to this motion, I would point out that under the statutes certain correspondence would be of a confidential nature, namely, that which passed between the inspector general and the banks. Subject to that reservation, the return will be tabled.

Mr. SPEAKER: Shall the motion carry with the reservation made by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett)?

Motion agreed to.

MONTREAL HARBOUR COMMISSION

Mr. CARDIN:

For a copy of all contracts, agreements or understandings, between the Montreal harbour commission and the provincial government of the province of Quebec, and the city of Montreal, determining the contribution to the cost of the Montreal harbour bridge of the two last named.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, copies of communications, by-laws, resolutions and orders in council indicate understandings. There can be no such thing as an understanding except it be evidenced by some form of document, and I think the hon. member should strike out the words "or understandings." He not being in his place, the motion might well stand.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member in whose name this motion stands not being in his seat, the motion will stand.

Mr. BENNETT: The same thing might be said as to obtaining information from the Montreal harbour commission. We can only get that information from them and cannot be responsible for more than we receive.

Motion stands.

FEDERAL STATE MEDICINE

Mr. J. P. HOWDEN (St. Boniface) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, a measure of federal state medicine would be in the best interests of the Canadian people.

He said: Mr. Speaker, when I commenced the practice of medicine some twenty-seven

years ago it was in a suburb across the river from Winnipeg. The residents of this suburb were of the labouring class and were not very well off. It may be that a few of them found no difficulty in balancing the family budget, but I fancy the vast majority had to struggle pretty hard with the essential problems of life.

Those were the old typhoid days, this disease commencing about midsummer and running on past midwinter. There was no question about the doctors being occupied, they were kept busy from the onset of these epidemics until the disease petered out, at which time other infections occupied their attention. These epidemics were a severe test of the resources of such districts as that in which I practised. Sickness is always a deplorable matter to be faced by any household; there is always the immediate possibility of the expense of putting a patient in a hospital, there is the cost of medicine and sickroom supplies, the procuring of nursing help and one thing and another. If by any chance the patient happens to be the breadwinner, there is the double disadvantage of having no funds coming in during the time of sickness. On several occasions men have said to me after a sickness lasting from six to twelve weeks that they were not very anxious to get better, they did not see why one would want to get better when so far behind because of his illness and with no possible chance of catching up. In such circumstances when the patient himself is behind financially and is not in a state of health to take up the burdens of life, no medical man can expect him to come forward with medical fees when he is unable to purchase bread, butter and potatoes. In those days it occurred to me frequently—it may be that the wish was father to the thought—that some controlling body, be it the municipality, the city council, the province or anything you like, might very readily establish some system of public health service which would include care of and attendance on those people, thereby securing and guaranteeing an efficient medical service for such cases as those I have mentioned, and at the same time giving the medical man a living wage. At that time I little dreamed that I would ever bring such a matter as this to the attention of this honourable house. But though, as the years went by, there was not the same, shall I say consideration, for the necessity of state medicine, still I have always felt it would be a splendid thing, whether of a provincial or a federal nature, for the people of Canada. So I am happy to-day to submit this resolution and my argument in connection with it.

In order to pursue the line of my argument, I shall have to follow pretty closely the written text. I trust in so doing I shall not transgress the rules of the house. The resolution standing in my name reads:

> That, in the opinion of this house, a measure of federal state medicine would be in the best interests of the Canadian people.

In bringing such a matter to the attention of the house, one must necessarily make certain more or less hypothetical statements, the rationality of which, however, will, I trust be evident. Thus, the wealth of any country and particularly of this country was originally purchased, not by gold or silver but by the labour of the people. Efficient labour can be the product only of a strong and healthy body. The wealth of Canada must, therefore, depend on the health and strength of her people; that is to say, Canada's health is essentially Canada's wealth. I have travelled far enough afield to have had ample opportunity to realize the deep, inherited love I have for this land of my birth, the land also of my forbears; yet, notwithstanding the vast expanse of her domain, the fertility of her soil, the beauty of her lakes, the grandeur and majesty of her mountains, and the abundance of her natural resources in fish, timber, coal and minerals, I am bound to say that Canada was never a garden of Eden. No honest person who ever came here lived without toil. From the earliest days of Canada's history to the present, men of courage, men of resource, men of faith, men of industry, men strong in body and soul—these and these only have succeeded and have wrested from this great land of possibilities the treasure which has lain in her bosom. No weakling's country this, but a country for strong men and strong women, and if Canada is to make the best of her heritage we must see to it that her people are strong in intellect, strong in purpose, strong in body and limb.

Ill health and disease are neither necessary nor inevitable. The natural germ cell is not the subject of inherent disease. I emphasize the word "natural", for nature endeavours to give us all an even start. The vital principle of health that has come down to us through the ages is an integral part of the protoplasm of each living cell which, given a fair chance, shall surely prevail. The living cell begets cells of similar order and the inherent properties of the parent cell are transmitted to the offspring. It actually happens that the characteristics of the parent are reproduced in the child. Intelligent parents

beget intelligent children; musical parents beget musical children, and the issue of healthy, sturdy stock in favourable surroundings will come into life blessed with similar strength and stamina. But if an individual be the product of an unhealthy father by an invalid mother, and begotten in an atmosphere of poverty and distress, one can appreciate the unfair start with which such an offspring commences life. From the beginning of history to the comparatively recent past, survival of the fittest was the rule of life. Weakling babies seldom survived; delicate children often failed to mature, and at best fell far short of the allotted span. As late as the middle of the last century cholera claimed its victims in Canada by the hundred; smallpox wiped out whole communities; diphtheria left homes bereft of children. Each summer dozens of babies perished. Typhoid fever was more fatal in time of war than the attack of the enemy and in cases of severe scarlet fever one could but sit helplessly by and look for a certain and speedy demise. None but the strong, the sturdy, the virile, might, once taken, hope to escape death in those former fierce ravages of disease, and many of the best were carried away.

Now all this has changed. We hear no more of cholera. Smallpox now is but a mild disease, and though still seen, seldom destroys life. The same thing is true of other diseases. By the march and conquest of medical science all these formerly dread forms of disease have been shorn of their terror and tragic import. By isolation, vaccination, immunization, improved technique and methods of diagnosis, by a vastly enhanced knowledge of the cause and nature of disease, and by many wonderful curative discoveries, the human race is now highly protected from the onslaughts of disease, and the weakling, the susceptible and the predisposed find themselves almost as secure as their sturdy and more robust fellows.

Mr. BENNETT: From everything but common colds.

Mr. HOWDEN: Some day we shall prevent them too. Our social structure is now faced with a dual responsibility for having provided measures which make it possible for a class to survive which would formerly have perished. We must complete the work of transforming them into valuable, healthy citizens able to bear their share of the common responsibility, and not leave them at a point where they are a misery to themselves and a burden to those who must bear their load.

The business of living is a fairly big job for most of us. So keen is the contest, so arduous the struggle for success, or for even a mere livelihood, that a frail body or a neurasthenic mentality is a great handicap. If the greatest need of the state is health, then the greatest effort of the state should be directed towards securing the health of its people. If it has become possible for a defective portion of the population to reach maturity, to marry and produce others of like kind, it should be the object and duty of the state to adopt measures which will ensure their elimination.

Can this be done? I would say, yes without a doubt. By the adoption of a national health policy, a policy of health insurance for the nation big enough and broad enough to include all; a policy that will provide for the control, direction and care of the health of the Canadian people. The state now protects our bodies from injury and our property from damage by suitable bodies of police. The state prescribes and supervises our education to make of us reasonable citizens fit for the business of living. But of what avail is system of police to shield us from material injury if we are not protected from a more subtle and deadly enemy, the enemy of disease? Of what value is an ample education if we have not the health and strength to grapple with the daily struggle for existence?

Surely the provision of an adequate measure for the control and direction of the health of the Canadian people would be in the best interests of Canada. Provision by various governing bodies for the care of the sick and the health of the community at large is no novel idea. Some form of health control has been in vogue since the time of Moses, but a more modern, scientific development of service has now come into existence, especially in Europe and North America. The most notable examples of this are the health departments to be found in urban centres and in rural municipalities. These have developed along the regulation lines of sanitation, epidemiology, vital statistics, and laboratory facilities. In this country these departments are headed by a health officer, a duly qualified medical man, whose duties are chiefly supervisory; but where there is sickness in a community and its victims are unable to provide for their own medical attendance, it is his office to attend them or to deputize another to render that service. In Canada all the provinces have a well-appointed board of health whose sphere of activity is, of course, provincial. It applies especially in such isolated and undeveloped districts as are without regular municipal health control. In connection with these areas the county health units have come into being. Municipalities with a small and scattered population which

could not of themselves support the regular health departments unite to form one of these health units. The cost is shared three ways—by the province, by the Rockefeller Foundation, and by the municipalities forming the unit. The service parallels that of the ordinary municipal health board to which has been added of late pre-school child clinics, the inspection of school children, pre-natal and post-natal advice to mothers, the detection and treatment of tuberculosis, and general health education work, chiefly carried on by public health and district nurses.

The Dominion of Canada has a Department of National Health. Its health work is coupled with the medical care of returned soldiers and with soldiers' pensions. So far as public health matters are concerned the scope of the department is along very general lines, lending itself to the institution and enforcement of effectual quarantine regulations, research along health lines, control of tuberculosis and venereal disease, the provision and enforcement of regulations controlling the sale and distribution of narcotic drugs.

Besides the foregoing, there are in this country and in some of the American states many schemes of group medical attendance and health insurance. Here we might point to the sick benefits of the fraternal societies, providing free attendance and cash benefits to their members. There are also industrial insurance, workmen's compensation boards, pay clinics, as well as several schemes of commercial health and accident insurance, sold by companies regularly organized for the purpose. One should not forget to mention the excellent work being done by organizations like the Shriners, the Rotarians, and others in providing hospital care and other forms of relief for various classes of sufferers, but whereas each and all of these bodies have done splendid service in this country, each and all of them combined fail in affording that degree of control and relief which would be in the best interests of all the people.

Schemes for national health insurance have been general throughout Europe for years, and have been under the consideration of many American states and several provinces of Canada. They vary somewhat in detail, but have their main points in common. These are: (a) The funds are raised by a three-party contribution; (b) the benefits are restricted to the wage-earning classes; (c) both medical and cash benefits are provided. I believe that they have proven to be very satisfactory, and in England one of the oldest was so reported to be by a royal commission which was appointed to inquire into the matter. But to me, sir, they are lacking notably in two respects. First, they apply to but a portion of the population, to the wage-earners. Secondly, they attack the problem from the wrong angle. I would add that in the third place that what we should actually aim at is health assurance rather than health insurance. I firmly believe that the former is the business and duty of the government of the country. That that is true of the latter I am by no means so sure. If the state were to adopt a measure of unemployment insurance, something which is being widely mooted at the present time, there would be little need for health insurance. I would say that the only satisfactory system of state medicine would be a system of health insurance which would insure, or guarantee as far as possible, the health of all of us. Efficient medical service has been much modified in recent years. Time was when the doctor would feel your pulse, look at your tongue and then prescribe. Fortunately those days are past. In the last few decades many wonderful aids to diagnosis and the treatment of disease have been devised. Many of these are elaborate and expensive.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. HOWDEN: Yes, "hear, hear." The public however, rich and poor alike, have been educated to appreciate their value and to demand their application. Unfortunately, to have the advantage of these aids to health is a costly matter which is in no way the fault of the doctor. The result is that the well to do who have ample money are not affected by the cost of medical service, and the cost is of no great importance to them. The poorer classes, those who attend the hospital out-door department and find their way into the open wards, obtain their medical attendance free of charge, and for that reason the cost is of no moment to them. There is a class, a large class which ranges between the well to do and those who cannot possibly pay for the cost of medical care, who prefer to engage their own doctor and to pay their own expenses. So greatly has the cost of this medical attention increased in recent years that it is often extremely difficult to obtain such aid, and not infrequently following a long illness those people are financially crippled, perhaps for life. This class represents a majority of our citizens. They are the people who form the basis of our society; they are our smaller business men, our tradesmen, our clerks, our railway men, our farmers and so on. They are the people who actually carry on the business and

develop the wealth of the country. Surely if the state owes a service to any it cannot afford to neglect them. For these reasons I would have state medicine accessible to all so that this class might benefit from its operation. I have suggested before that the existing forms of the adminstration of state medicine failed to attack the problem from the right angle. The error however is not peculiar to them, it is general. The practice is to call a doctor only when we are sick. Often the doctor is called only when we are very sick and too often when the illness is too far advanced to mend. A system of periodic physical examination would discover early stages of disease which could often be checked and entirely removed, the person being saved from a lengthy and costly illness, and perhaps from death. These examinations would bring to light many mild defects in children such as big tonsils, bad teeth, adenoids, rickets and defective eyesight, the elimination of which would tremendously enhance the health and prospects of the individual. On the other hand the venereal menace could no longer hide behind shame or criminal indifference. Such assistance would replace and do away with all existing systems. It should be infinitely more effectual and much less costly, depending more largely on prevention than on cure, and eliminating overlapping. It should aim to direct and control the health of the whole nation; that is, it should be nation wide in its application. To be nation wide it would have to be national. It should be contributory and compulsory, requiring at least once yearly an exact enumeration and record of the people of the country who would be required by law to report for regular periodic examination. This is the first phase of the scheme, the other of course is the actual attendance on sick persons. To defray the cost of administration a regular percentage tax would be collected from the earnings or income of every wage earner, salary earner and person in receipt of income. This would entitle the contributor and his or her dependents to all the benefits of a system which would be uniform for all. The actual medical work could be carried on by the plan now obtaining with the workmen's compensation boards. Or the government could provide a list of medical men and women regularly trained and qualified for the various services. These trained people would act conjointly in the form of a loose clinic. The list should provide a wide range of choice, but any person wishing special service and attention not provided for by the system could obtain the same. Of course such service would be at his own expense. The system could be administered by specially set up governmental machinery or by a system of boards resembling the provincial compensation boards. Indeed, the two might be combined.

This, Mr. Speaker, is a rough sketch imperfectly set forth of a scheme for universal national health assurance. Doubtless it is open to grave criticism and it may not appeal to the serious consideration of many hon. members. Certain it is however there is need for improvement in the application of our most excellent science of medicine, and I can think of no better plan.

Mr. H. E. SPENCER (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words concerning the resolution before the house. I think the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden) is to be congratulated on bringing his resolution before this body. It seems to me that the subject of health insurance is as important as that of life insurance if indeed it is not more so. Throughout Canada to-day there are thousands of people trying to sell life insurance policies, but so far in the parliament of Canada the subject of public health has not been pressed as it should have been. To-day health is largely in the hands of private monopoly. I refer particularly to the care of health or cure of sickness. Although we are only too glad to pay a compliment to that large body of men, the medical profession, at the same time we place them in an invidious position, when we wait until we become sick before we seek their advice and pay them for it. It seems to me that the procedure at present followed is entirely the reverse of what it should be. Some years ago a medical practitioner in the legislature of Alberta said, "The trouble is that you are paying doctors only for making people well, and not for keeping them well. When you reverse that process you will have a lot less sickness." To-day the doctor knows full well that if all people are well and he is not called upon to make them well he will receive no pay. This being so, he would not be human if at times he felt rather relieved when there was a certain amount of sickness prevalent. As the preceding speaker has said, we should pay our medical practitioners for keeping people well rather than for making them well. Some years ago when the panel system was adopted in Great Britain there was a great outcry from the medical profession, but I am glad to say that to-day most medical practitioners are entirely in favour of it.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, health is equally as important as education, if not more

important, for without health education is quite a secondary consideration. Health treatment to-day is limited to the depth of the individual's purse, and we find that during hard times the greater proportion of the people are not in a position financially to have themselves or their families medically attended. No one wishes to be a pauper, no one wishes to have recourse to charity, and yet during this economic depression more and more of our people who have the misfortune to become sick must rely on charity in one form or another. Rather than do this they will put off calling for advice from the doctor until often times it is too late. I understand that sickness costs Canada about $311,000,000 a year, 93 per cent of which is borne by the individual. I am informed by medical men that death from such diseases as diphtheria, typhoid, tuberculosis, is preventable if the patient is medically treated at an early stage of the disease.

I have under my hand some extraordinary figures showing the seriousness of sickness from a national standpoint. During the period of bringing into effect the Military Service Act there were 465,984 voluntary enlistments. Of these nearly 45,000 were stricken off the rolls as medically unfit. Of the balance, some 300,000 odd, General Sir Arthur Currie, speaking in Montreal on September 12, 1924, before the Taxation and Civil Service Convention, said:

> Something like 100,000 men went overseas who were physically unfit for service, and cost the country some $150,000,000.

Coming now to the Military Service Act period, the total number of applicants for enlistment was 264,355. Of this number only 83,355 were accepted, and 181,000, or 68 per cent, were rejected. I feel confident that had we had throughout Canada a proper public health service such a condition would not have existed. Quoting from a pamphlet published a year or so ago by the Canadian Council of Child Welfare, I read:

> Of 232,205 children born in Canada last year 7,091 were still-born; 23,671 died before their first birthday; 30,973 died before their fifth birthday; 1,314 mothers died in childbirth. The greater number of these deaths were preventible.

May I conclude these remarks by quoting a statement made by the present Prime Minister during the course of a discussion last session on the question of the necessity of full-time health units throughout Canada, a subject very similar to that covered by this resolution. He said:

> Touching the necessity for the establishment of health units, nothing need be said. I think the case is complete and almost answered before it is stated.

With those words, Mr. Speaker, I entirely agree, and I very heartily support the resolution brought forward by the hon. member for St. Boniface.

Mr. L. W. JOHNSTONE (Cape Breton-North-Victoria): I desire, Mr. Speaker, to compliment the mover of the resolution on bringing the subject before the house, for undoubtedly it is of very great importance and deserving of very serious consideration. It is too large a question to be answered offhand, but federal state medicine is in the foreground, and I certainly think the time is coming when something along these lines will have to be undertaken federally for the benefit of our people. We have made great strides in medicine during recent years, but the advance has for the most part been in the treatment of disease by the use of serums, a treatment which does not come within the reach of the man of ordinary means. I find in practice that many of our hospitals are too expensive to be taken advantage of by many of our people. Several of our provincial governments are considering the question of health protection, and in Nova Scotia a department of health has been established. The minister in charge is organizing district boards of health, composed of medical men, to look after the health of those who are unable to pay for medical attendance. As I said before, I think the matter deserves our very serious consideration, and again I compliment the hon. member on introducing his resolution.

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): Mr. Speaker, the mover of this resolution (Mr. Howden) has put before us in a striking way the great importance of national health. Its importance has not been fully appreciated in the past, but to-day it is pretty generally recognized that the health of the people is a matter of first consideration, and that disease means national disaster. The education of the people in health matters is steadily advancing, and we ought not to forget what is being done in this direction. I do not suggest that everything is being done that might be done, far from it, but the fact is that persistent work is being carried on in the prevention of sickness. We must not lose sight of all the benefit societies which assist in care of sickness—the benevolent societies, corporations, companies, social workers and various other organizations whch arrange for the medical care of the people, particularly the poorer sections of the community. I am not putting that forward as a broad, comprehensive plan or as being sufficient. There it is, however. It is useful, and so we have it at the present time.

The mover in his resolution suggests that it is in the interests of this country to have federal state medicine. As we know, state medicine has been instituted and has grown in the European countries. Not so very long ago it was instituted in Great Britain—1911, I think it was. But it has not yet reached the American continent to any considerable extent. It has developed in the older countries because, there, there are such large communities among whom poverty is greater than it is in Canada. But it is coming to Canada; I believe the people are beginning to accept the idea that we shall have some plan of state or organized medicine. I do not say, with the mover, that this will include the whole population. I do not think so. But that is merely one phase of the question. There are many proposals with respect to state medicine, including or excluding many varieties that are being put forward. But with respect to the general question, I have sympathy with the idea of medical treatment being provided in some organized way for those who require it. I do not suggest that it come under the Dominion government. I am supporting and I am sympathetic with the idea that there should be a system of medical treatment in this country for those who need it. Whether it shall be provided by the provincial government or by the federal government, or by a combination of the two, is a different matter. At the present time, as we know, hospitals are under the control of the provincial governments. Similarly, nursing and medical qualifications and board of health requirements are all under provincial control. The mover of the resolution has not discussed the question why it should be placed under the federal government. We must have regard—if I may whisper the word—to the British North America Act, which I know is always suggested as the last resource. I do not think it is the last resource. There must be something laid down, recognized and accepted, as to whose responsibility it is. At the present time, I would submit, this matter is largely under the provincial governments. The federal government is concerned with certain health measures, but ordinary medical care is at present under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments. There is no doubt about that, and that is a point which would need to be considered.

There is also the question of cost to be considered. Even supposing it were a federal undertaking, what would the cost be? Nothing has been said with respect to this question, although my hon. friend to my right has given some indication of the loss. Whether it was the economic loss or the actual cost of medical treatment I am not quite clear.

I may direct the attention of the house to the proceedings, in relation to this question, of two sessions of a special committee—the industrial and international relations committee, I believe—and I would commend a reading of those proceedings of 1928 and 1929, which I have myself very recently gone through. They give some important information. I believe that in many particulars very excellent evidence was given at those two sessions of the special committee. But what I do refer to is the enormous cost, not only the loss through sickness, but the consequent cost which would devolve upon the country were the federal government to undertake such a system. That, of course, is an important question of policy for the government. At the present time the matter is under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments and I do not suggest in any way making any change in that regard. I do think that we can do much in the provision of treatment for those who need it, but that does not necessarily come as a federal measure. The mover has brought the matter forward very well, although I will not say he has done so fully; the question is such a vast one that it would not be possible to present it fully on this occasion. But it is a matter that must be fully understood by the country, and I believe the hon. member would serve his purpose quite well, having brought it to the attention of the house, to withdraw his motion.

Hon. RAYMOND MORAND (East Essex): If I may be permitted just a few words on this resolution, it certainly comes as a pleasant thing to be able to compliment a fellow doctor on the other side on a non-controversial subject on which we can both agree. The question of state medicine is undoubtedly but one phase of a much larger question, that of social security, which the people to-day are asking from the state. The question of unemployment and unemployable people and the question of state medicine are bound up pretty much into one larger problem, namely, the security which the people are looking for from the government because of the general change that has taken place in industrial conditions in the country.

Probably state medicine comes forward more now because of the fact that the cost of medicine has increased very materially. That cost is in no way due to the medical men; it is rather a reflection of the advance in the sciences. With that advance the cost

has increased. There can be but one basic reason why we should discuss state medicine, and that would be to carry to the people of the country the full benefit of the advance that has been made in the science of medicine. And that advance is one which undoubtedly is becoming very costly. There has been a very larg increase in the cost of mechanical equipment. The cost of X-ray apparatus, of laboratory supplies, of laboratory applications and of specialty aid in diagnosis, has become so great as to be almost beyond the means of the average individual. Consequently, the principal argument upon which state medicine can be based is that because of the inability of the people to receive the full benefit of these advances we must make some provision to give it to them.

One of the hon. members in this corner of the house made the statement that medicine was made available to the individual to the extent of his purse. To one who has practised medicine as long as I have among the labouring people, those who earn their daily bread, that remark certainly comes as a surprise because up to this time I believe a sincere effort has been made by medical practitioners to extend everything there is in medicine to the masses irrespective of whether or not they can pay for it. It is rather a strange thing that in this country, and in practically all America, we give more time and attention to the care of cattle, wheat, railroads, roads and most everything else than we do to health. The reason for that apparently is that the medical profession has up to this time made its own way and has succeeded very well in giving the attention needed by the individual. The question of the remuneration of the medical practitioner, while it may have a bearing on the matter of giving a proper return to the profession, is not the basis upon which state medicine can be argued. Considering the amount of time spent in acquiring the necessary knowledge, the amount of capital needed to enter practice and the amount of mental and mechanical effort required, the medical profession is to-day the poorest paid profession. It may be interesting to some of the legal profession, who have to listen to medical men once in a while, to know that it costs the city of Toronto just exactly five times as much to look after its legal affairs as it does to run its department of health. Of course, it will have to be left to the people to decide which is the more important.

This resolution opens up a very wide field and it certainly cannot be discussed in full in one day. The matter is being talked of in medical societies and among medical men all over Canada. There is a very general desire on the part of medical men to extend to the people generally the full benefit of the advances made in medical science and to make available all there is in medical science and in preventive medicine, which latter is by far the more important consideration, but much of this work is becoming so costly as to necessitate a complete revolution in the economics of medicine.

In industrial life to-day there is unknown ownership and distant control which does not furnish that paternal or fraternal care given to workers in the days when employers knew their employees and when they possessed that sense of responsibility which to-day is lacking. There is no doubt but that the people are looking to the state to bring about a proper organization, to evolve some way of regulating and making possible the application in a general way of all the advances of this science. To my mind, the question of cost does not enter into the matter. Once we admit the principle that the benefits of medicine must be extended to all people, whether paupers, rich or between the two, it becomes then simply a matter of transferring the cost from the individual to the state. It does not make a particle of difference what that cost is, it is a matter of distributing the cost and putting it upon those who are well able to stand it, instead of allowing it to rest upon those who cannot.

I believe it to be well worth the time of the house to discuss this matter, and personally I would like to see the question referred to a committee which could make a study of all its phases. Action should not be delayed; we must in the near future be able to extend to the people as a whole the benefits of all the advances which have been made in medicine.

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, as the seconder of the resolution introduced by the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden), I wish to make a few observations.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Is the hon. member a doctor?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I must ask the forgiveness of the house for my inability to express myself in the terms used by the medical men. If I understood him aright, I was rather surprised to hear the hon. Minister of National Health (Mr. MacLaren) say that this resolution should be withdrawn—if I did not understand him aright, then I stand corrected—in view of the fact that a resolution containing

a similar principle was presented last year by the hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer), reading as follows:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should take into consideration the advisability of making grants to the provinces equal to one-third the cost of establishing, and to cover permanently, such full time health units as may be organized.

Mr. MANION: That is a different matter.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: There is not a great deal of difference between the principles contained in the two resolutions. If the federal government is not prepared to carry out this resolution to the fullest extent, probably it could offer some suggestion as to the making of grants to the different provinces which take up this matter.

As I said before, I was surprised at the hon. Minister of National Health suggesting that this resolution should be withdrawn, because in Hansard of March 3, 1930, I find some remarks of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). The motion which I have mentioned was under discussion, and in speaking as to the subsidies and grants by the federal government to the different provinces, he said:

Those subsidies were, in some instances based upon arbitrary considerations, in others on population. As time has gone on the provinces have received larger and larger grants from the federal exchequer. Why? Because the provinces are limited to direct forms of taxation, and the Dominion may raise taxes by any method or form of taxation. Therefore it follows that taxes can be raised much more readily by the Dominion taxing power, which has recourse to many sources of revenue, than by the provinces. The customs taxes in this country last year amounted to over $200,000,000. Those customs taxes were paid by all the people of Canada, and the Dominion government had the power to appropriate that sum of money to any purpose it thought to be of national interest.

Then further on he stated:

There are large sums of money appropriated to various purposes that are expended by the bodies into whose hands the moneys are entrusted without regard to the fact that they may not raise them because they have no taxing power.

This is another quotation:

Remember, it is national health, not provincial health. Keep this in mind: the province deals with the municipal situation, with smallpox and matters of that kind; the province deals with epidemics in the communities and in some cases with hospitalization. There is, however, a field in which the province may not, it seems to me, properly function, and that is the creation of national wealth by ensuring the health of the Canadian people.

Mr. BENNETT: That is about health units, a vastly different thing.

[Mr. Beaubien.]

Mr. BEAUBIEN: It was on the same principle.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I expected that the Prime Minister would say no.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, the hon. member was not disappointed.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Further on the right hon. gentleman said:

To the extent to which men are able to labour, free from disease, we have added to the national wealth; to the extent which citizens by studying preventive medicine obtain knowledge, from clinics and other methods, for which the nation might well pay, we have added to the national wealth of Canada. . . . Would any appropriation that might be made by this parliament to the provinces equal one-half the money represented by the loss to this country in one year through illness and inability of Canadians to work? . . .

But no province can undertake to deal with the subject of health as a problem concerning the nation as a whole, and one affecting the creation of greater national wealth in the truest and broadest sense I have mentioned, unless they have a grant in aid from this parliament.

Further on he said:

Let us approach this problem, not as a problem of jurisdiction, not as a problem as to whether or not under the British North America Act it is a matter of provincial responsibility; let us look upon it as a national problem. This parliament has the power to appropriate any part of the national revenue for any purpose for the interest of Canada as a whole.

I offer those few observations because, when the Prime Minister was on this side of the house during the last parliament, he was always prepared to support any resolution of this character—for instance with respect to national highways—to state his reasons for so doing and to try to waive all the embarrassment which might exist in regard to the British North America Act. I was surprised—and I say this in all sincerity—to hear the Minister of National Health to-day suggest that this resolution should be withdrawn. I am pleased to second the resolution of my hon. friend and I think it should receive from the house the careful consideration which its importance justifies.

Mr. F. W. GERSHAW (Medicine Hat): I would like in a very few words to support the general principle of this resolution, although I believe its main purpose should be achieved in an entirely different way.

The object of the resolution will be endorsed by hon. members of the house and the people of Canada. It is to extend to every individual the very best that medical science has produced. I am glad to know that the minister has given a good deal of

sympathetic consideration to the resolution. As he says, the medical men of Canada have not been asleep in bringing forward what they have learned, and that has been done in an educational way. I shall not repeat the various things that have been done in that respect because they are already on Hansard. May I mention, however, that the press of the country has done much to warn people of danger signs and to give publicity to late discoveries with respect to medical care and treatment. The various medical associations of Canada have also done much in an educational way to bring to the attention of the people those urgent problems affecting health and medical care which are of general public interest. Not only have the medical associations given free service—seldom if ever have they refused to give medical service where it was required—but they have gone into the educational field as well in a sincere effort to fight the ill-health which is prevalent in this country as in all others.

Instead of having one large new organization to bring about the desired result, I believe it should be obtained by gradual extension of present services. We should start with the institutions and methods which we now have and which have stood the test of time, and gradually extend them until our objective has been achieved. In the various provinces we have workmen's compensation boards looking after injuries to workmen. They could be extended to look after the health of workmen. We have some municipalities paying for the full time services of doctors. That might be extended to other municipalities. We have, as has been mentioned, various contracts, such as the railway contracts, which provide for medical attention to the employees in both accident and sickness. While believing that this resolution is one well worthy of the attention of the house, I suggest to the mover this way of bringing about the desired end, not by the creating of one large new organization, but rather by gradually extending the services that are already in operation.

Mr. I. D. COTNAM (North Renfrew): I listened with a great deal of attention to the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden) who moved the resolution. He deserves the gratitude of hon. members on both sides of the house for bringing this very important matter before parliament. Possibly what appealed to me most in his observations was that they were purely of an academic character; he did not advance proposals which might take definite form in the minds of hon. members. We in the medical profession are intensely interested in problems of public health. Those whose profession calls them constantly to the bedside of the sick and the suffering realize to the full what ill health means to the great mass of the people.

For the purposes of this resolution I would divide the people into those who are poor, the indigent class; the middle classes, and those who are more well-to-do, the wealthy classes of our citizens. It seems to me that under our present system the poorer class of people receive just as good medical treatment as the wealthier classes. Through our municipal organizations and public health boards, through our provincial organizations and our hospital services, through the free services that medical men give, the poorer class of citizens are receiving treatment to-day probably as cheaply in Canada as in any other country in the world. No sick man or woman in Canada to-day, no matter how poor, need fail to receive the requisite treatment at the hands of the medical fraternity and in our hospitals if they will only apply for the service. I make this statement without fear of contradiction from any part of the house, that fully forty per cent, possibly fifty per cent, of all the medical treatment supplied in hospitals to-day by our medical men is furnished gratis; the medical men ask no remuneration for it, yet in respect to such service they give to mankind the very best of which they are capable.

The class of people who are suffering most under our system of medicine are the so-called poorer middle class, those who cannot and do not and will not accept free treatment, who do not wish to be classed as charitable and indigent cases, who are endeavouring and will endeavour, in some way or other, to pay their way in the world. They are the people, it seems to me, to whom some measure of state medicine, or assistance a little different from what we have at the present time, should be given under some system such as is now proposed. For my part I should like to see this subject studied very carefully in order that this class of people may secure, at not too great cost to themselves, adequate medical treatment in times of physical suffering and illness and distress. On that account I think that the federal authorities will have to assume some share in the responsibility for dealing with this whole question.

Unfortunately sickness and disease never stop at geographical boundaries, municipal, county, provincial, or even national. They affect our whole people, and if at the present time we have not jurisdiction under the British North America Act to deal with this

question, it seems to me that some way should be found, possibly by an amendment to that act, whereby parliament would be enabled to act. It would seem that in our fight against sickness and disease our attack has been more or less of a desultory character, that the efforts of the provincial and federal authorities have not been as closely coordinated as they should have been.

I would remind the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien), who spoke a moment ago, that when on the 17th of March, 1930 I introduced a resolution in this house asking for federal control over the supply and distribution of radium in the treatment of cancer, the federal Minister of Health in the government of that day crawled out from under the resolution by taking a similar attitude and saying that it was a provincial, and not a federal matter. It does seem to me that some system or method could be worked out whereby these great problems could be met by the whole Canadian people, and whereby the federal Department of Health would be enabled to cooperate with the provincial health authorities and other organizations in the fight against sickness and disease.

Mr. G. D. STANLEY (East Calgary) As this seems to be a field day for the medical men, Mr. Speaker, I shall offer a few comments on the resolution which has been introduced by the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden).

There can be no question that the distribution of the cost of sickness is a big problem, and one which affects a large proportion of the population. In listening to the address of the mover of the resolution, one could not help but feel that the argument he made in support of the view that the whole nation should stand behind what is so important a consideration to our whole population should receive the assent of hon. members who in this house represent the people of the country generally.

It is not a question, as I understand it, of objection to the scientific progress which medicine has been making, or to the nature of the treatment being given to those who are ministered to by the medical profession. The big problem behind it all is the cost of sickness and its distribution. When we consider that in this country it is estimated that there are continuously 250,000 people in bed from sickness, and that including that 250,000 there are 400,000 disqualified from attending to their business, we can see that sickness is a big problem, and that its cost is a very serious consideration.

[Mr. Cotnam.]

The medical director of the Rosenwald foundation made a thorough investigation of the cost of sickness in the United States. To summarize his report, he estimated that about 25 per cent of the total cost of sickness is accounted for by medical fees, 30 per cent by hospital charges, 25 per cent by drugs, equipment and so forth; and then, coming to the cost of preventive measures used in the United States—and I presume about the same percentage would apply in this country—he estimates the proportion of the cost for preventive measures at one-thirteenth of the total. Taking that figure as correct for Canada, it would mean that the various preventive measures taken by the federal, provincial and municipal governments account for one-thirteenth of the total cost. Then it has also been estimated that at least one-eighth of our population are receiving, without charge, medical attendance at the hands of the medical profession. Financially speaking we have a big problem on our hands when we begin to take medical care or our population over and above the one-thirteenth which is being provided for at the present time by preventive measures.

In considering the practice of medicine generally I think we might divide the subject into two headings: first, preventive and second, curative. Under the heading of preventive medicine we may take all the measures which are undertaken by federal, provincial and municipal authorities. Let us for a few moments consider their development. Going back a few years it will be recalled that there was a time when very few measures were taken by the state in any of its various divisions. These services, however, have been growing from time to time until at present a large list of undertakings is carried on by the municipalities or the provincial or federal governments. When we summarize the quarantine measures, the preventive measures, the clinics, the medical education and the various efforts which have been enumerated by the mover of this resolution, we have the total efforts which are included in this one-thirteenth of the cost. Under the preventive heading we see that the state deals with groups. Under the curative heading exactly the opposite is the case; here the medical practitioner deals with the individual. As I understand it, state medicine can and should be continued and every effort should be made to give all the assistance within the power of the state to measures for the prevention and alleviation of disease. I am fully convinced that if the state makes the best use of its preventive measures, ex-

tends the services which are being rendered at the present time, continues to develop along the lines upon which it has been developing and takes care of the demands which are increasing from day to day upon provincial, municipal and federal governments, a great service will be rendered to the people. How quickly we shall be able to pass beyond that point, and to the stage where curative measures will be extended to the individual by a physician controlled and directed by the state, is of course another problem altogether. A great service will be rendered if state legislation is passed which in its preventive measures will enlarge and widen the scope of the state, and which will extend to the people those very costly services which it is impossible for the individual to purchase for himself or for the individual practitioner to secure. Within the time of hon. members in this house I should think the municipal, provincial and federal governments would find themselves fully occupied in undertaking a great work of that kind. The state can extend its services, as soon as the people will provide by means of taxation the funds necessary for the expensive services required in an extension of state medicine; just so soon may state medicine develop.

Mr. ARTHUR DENIS (St. Denis) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, the resolution under consideration reads as follows: "That, in the opinion of this house, a measure of federal state medicine would be in the best interests of the Canadian people." I must congratulate the mover of this resolution because it places before the house a question of the utmost importance: the medical care of the health of the Canadian people. May I just state that this resolution, like many others which have been discussed in the house, does not conform with the provisions of the British North America Act. I think that all questions referring to health come under the jurisdiction of the provincial government rather than that of the Dominion government. However, considering the precedents established in this house—and we had evidence of this in the course of the emergency session, in September last, when certain amounts were appropriated not only to assist the provinces but also to carry on road work in order to build a national highway—I think that the mover was quite justified in submitting this question to the house so as to remind hon. members and the country at large that if there be, in Canada, or everywhere else, a service which is deserving of attention, it is that of a medical service as a help toward the conservation of our national health. Notwithstanding the fact, sir, that this resolution does not conform with our constitution and consequently should not be considered by the Dominion parliament, I am still of the opinion that the government should assist the provinces in establishing—as the Quebec Prime Minister did—health units in order to provide the people of each province with the necessary means to safeguard their health; I think the Dominion government, in concert with the provincial authorities, should aid in establishing health units throughout every county in Canada.

I entirely agree with the views of the hon. members on your right, sir, who stated that the Dominion government should contribute at least one third of the cost in defraying the expenses of these health units.

The tendency shown by all classes of society to claim assistance from the state when it is a question of preserving health, pensioning people who have no need of it—such as judges who receive salaries sufficient to provide for the future—as well as other people belonging to various classes of society who could economize so as not to be obliged to fall back on the state, in order to provide for the needs of their families when they die or become old, is very deplorable.

I make this slight digression in order to remind the members of the house as well as the country at large, that it is time to cease asking for assistance from the state for various purposes which cannot be constitutionally dealt with by the federal government. The Dominion parliament should cease once for all to encroach on the rights of the provinces.

We must first teach the people to live in a healthy state, and should they be without the necessary means to obtain medical care when sickness visits them, it is the duty of the state, but especially of the province, to assist these unfortunate people by giving them the necessary medical care in order that they may later render to society all the services expected from them.

Mr. THOMAS REID (New Westminster): Although the resolution deals with a measure of federal state medicine, I notice, Mr. Speaker, that the discussion has somewhat widened its scope. I believe the resolution should receive the earnest consideration of all members. I hesitate to disagree with the doctors, but I cannot allow to pass unchallenged the statement made by an hon. member on the other side—a doctor, I believe—to the effect that the poor of this country are looked after with respect to their health. In my own municipality in British Columbia— a municipality

that I suppose is fairly similar to other municipalities in the province in regard to the character of its population—the medical examiner visits the schools once a year and examines all the children. Any who are found to need medical attention are given notices to take home. I believe I am safe in saying that at least seventy per cent of the children are found to need dental or nasal treatment, but not five per cent of the notices are heeded by the parents, simply because they have not the means to engage the services of a doctor or dentist.

This resolution to me is the cry of the common people, and I feel it should receive the favourable attention of the house. Personally, I am heartily in accord with its purpose, and I am pleased that it has been introduced.

Mr. J. K. BLAIR (North Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I am in hearty accord with the purpose of the resolution and with the views expressed by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid). I do not think our children in the country school districts are as fortunately situated as those in our cities with respect to medical treatment. I am the medical examiner in a couple of country school districts. I make my examination twice a year. I advise certain treatment, but I regret to say that all too frequently the parents do not follow this advice, simply because they have not the means to engage a doctor. I think a measure of federal state medicine would be of great advantage to Canada. I do not suggest that such a measure should provide for payment of doctors' fees, but certainly unless the rural doctor looked after about a quarter of his patients free of charge, their health would be neglected. This condition of affairs should not be allowed to continue indefinitely. We provide for the education of our children, and the parent who fails to send his children to school renders himself liable to certain penalties. I regret to say that I have seen more children neglected medically than educationally. The hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. McGibbon) has a resolution on the order paper with respect to compulsory health insurance; I think the two resolutions might very well be combined and referred to a special committee for consideration and report.

Mr. J. H. STITT (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, coming as I do from a Manitoba constituency, I, too, wish to take exception to the remark of the hon. member for North Renfrew (Mr. Cotnam) that in this country no sick person is denied medical attention if he asks for it. In certain portions of my constituency the people are so remotely situated that there is no possibility or opportunity of their asking for medical attention, let alone receiving it. In the newer sections especially there is a very great need for the extension of medical service. At the beginning of my campaign I learned that in certain parts of the riding all the children were born without the attention of a doctor or a midwife. As a consequence infant and maternal mortality is simply appalling. I may perhaps be able more clearly to bring home the situation to the house if I refer to an incident which happened up in the Fisher Branch section of my riding. About three years ago a settler was stricken with pneumonia. The lone Red Cross nurse journed over twenty-five miles to the sick man and transported him to the nearest railway station, where she had him placed on a flat car and brought him to the nearest hospital, about fifty miles away. This was done in a temperature of thirty-five below zero, and the poor man died before he reached the hospital.

Federally assisted medical service is urgently needed in my constituency, and I desire to thank the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden) for introducing the resolution. If the federal government could in some way assist any scheme to improve the health of our people, it would be a decided advance socially, and they would earn the gratitude of all those who to-day are unable financially to secure proper medical attention. It seems to me that this resolution might well be accepted by the house and referred to a special committee for consideration and report. Possibly if we could not adopt a federal scheme of state medicine we might evolve some way whereby the Red Cross services in the outlying districts might be extended and assisted so that those people in Canada who need medical aid and are without it at the present time might obtain some assistance.

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): I wish to say just two or three words in regard to this resolution. It seems to me that the health of the people is the primary concern of government. Our people are our greatest national asset, and there is absolutely no doubt that there are thousands of families in Canada to-day going without adequate medical and hospital attention because they know they cannot afford it, and they will not see a docor so long as they can possibly attend to their work. This is certainly something to be greatly regretted and something that could be avoided by proper action on the part of the governments of the country. I want to say simply that this resolution as submitted, ask-

ing for a measure of state medicine, would be in the very best interests of the Canadian people and therefore has my heartiest approval

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I wonder if the attention of the house and of hon. gentlemen who have spoken in this debate has been directed to the resolution. The resolution reads:

That, in the opinion of this house, a measure of federal state medicine would be in the best interests of the Canadian people.

How many hon. members have considered the implications of that resolution? How many have considered its effect upon the existing provincial organizations, medical and otherwise? How many realize that it means the entire disbandment of the medical associations of the country of private practitioners, and the substitution therefor of the state as employer of all the medical men of Canada? How many have considered that? Yet that is what it means.

I hardly think it worth while referring to a statement made by an hon. member from one of the constituencies of Manitoba as to what I said last year with respect to health units. I have strongly supported assistance being given the provinces in their fight for health, and hon. members will observe in the estimates for this year that there is one grant not reduced—the grant for the Health department for venereal disease work, which work has been carried on by the federal and provincial authorities. To ask suddenly, after a few minutes debate in the afternoon, to change the whole theory upon which thus far in this country the medical profession has conducted its business is rather a large order. The hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden), with moderation, stated his case. No one disputes for a single moment that the nation's health is the nation's wealth. I indicated last year, as I have always said, that one of the great methods by which we may add to the nation's wealth is to curtail the sickness of its people. There are grave differences of opinion throughout Canada as to whether or not the medical service of this country should be nationalized. The hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw) pointed out that whatever is done in this country must be the result of a gradual understanding by the people of what is involved; and if this motion were to pass in the form in which it now is, it is a direction to the government of Canada to proceed to nationalize the medical services of the country. That is what it means. The hon. gentleman has certainly given no reason to warrant that action being taken. It means that the Dominion of Canada sets itself up as the employer of all the medical men in the country, in control of all medical services. That is what the resolution means in the terms in which it reads. Are hon. gentlemen prepared to say yea to that? Do any of them desire to say yea?

Mr. REID: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Then the hon. gentleman is one who knows nothing of it.

Mr. REID: Thank you.

Mr. BENNETT: I say that in no censorious sense because the implications are such that no man, unless he has spent years studying it, can understand what it involves. In England medicine is not nationalized. Some people think it is, but what happens is this. With respect to certain undertakings, certain portions of the population and the state make contributions and the attendance of the panel doctor, is secured. Individuals are entitled to this by reason of the payments made. The medical men retained are paid out of the moneys contributed by employees, employers and the state. Sometimes in Canada, workmen pay one dollar a month, sometimes two dollars, and sometimes fifty cents. Most doctors in Canada have been company doctors and are familiar with what is involved in that work. Have hon. members contemplated what the effect would be of setting up the Dominion as a company and the medical men of the country as company doctors? Have they thought of that? That is what is involved, and I hope the hon. member will realize the advisability at least of not pressing this resolution to a vote. For certainly I do not think that the most ardent believer in state medicine in Canada is ready to vote yea to such a proposal to-day. What will happen and is happening will be a clear and, I trust, proper understanding of the whole situation as a result of the education which is being carried on now by the schools, the universities, and other organizations in various parts of the country which are trying to impress upon men and women the value of preventive medicine.

The most powerful address I have had the pleasure of reading on the subject was made by the late Lord Moulton—I had the pleasure also of discussing it with him—at the university of Leeds; and I heard the late president of the university of Pennsylvania say that it was by all odds the most forceful statement of the case that had appeared in our language. It dealt with preventive medicine and the

effect of education. The theory of medicine has changed in the lifetime of even men of my age. The understanding of the germ theory, the operation and understanding of what is involved in preventive medicine in all its branches, has so changed the outlook of men upon medicine as to make those responsible for government realize their responsibility, first of all, to induce people to think in terms of their own wellbeing, by pointing out to them that disease is the result of a cause, an effect produced by a cause. Medical men, I know, will indicate to this house, as they have so frequently done, that causes are sometimes difficult to ascertain; and to the extent to which causes can be definitely ascertained, the diagnosis of the physician might as well be given antecedently to as after the disease. If it is antecedent, it is preventive, and disease does not occur. Yet, notwithstanding all our scientific knowledge and all the attainments of the years, the fact still remains that we have not been able to discover the germ of the common cold and isolate it and provide a remedy against it. The great Carnegie institute, the Rockefeller foundation, the Rosenwald foundation and others, have spent vast sums of money and paid for years the salaries of the most patient, thoughtful men in laboratories, and have not yet isolated that germ and provided against the recurrence of common colds. We have made a great advance with relation to diphtheria. You will be told to-day that to have any person die of diphtheria is practically an indictment of the judgment of the person under whose care the patient was. And they will tell you that smallpox, as the hon. member for St. Boniface has said, should be dealt with by vaccination. Yet day after day, in more countries than this, there is being carried on propaganda against vaccination—and very powerful is that propaganda too. Pneumonia has yielded to some extent to the treatment which medical men have discovered in the laboratories, and they have a serum that may bring about very beneficial results. Yet medical men in this house will tell you that it is not always possible to discover the cause of a disease from indications which should be infallible. so that there is uncertainty in diagnosis with the resultant death rates which we have in connection with most diseases. Instead of this great effort, instead of medical men vying with one another in an ambitious desire to excel—and I apprehend that this would include surgery as well—the suggestion is that we should substitute the state as the employer of all. This would be an experiment in socialism which has been carried out in no country in the world but one, and time has not permitted the results in that country being made known to mankind. Can we in this parliament this afternoon declare that Canada is to engage in such an experiment in socialism? I fancy the hon. member for St. Boniface did not intend us to say yea to-day to this resolution. He has very frankly discharged what he conceived to be a public duty; he has made known to this house his own views—that the increased cost of medical attendance and hospital service has made it impossible for the average man to secure the services which he should be able to command. A friend of mine pointed out the other day that his nursing services alone were costing something like $100 a week. The average man cannot pay that much. However, an effort is being made to reduce these charges. One of the greatest hospitals on the American continent has been making an earnest effort to reduce its charges for the very reason mentioned this afternoon by the hon. member for St. Boniface. Other hospitals have followed the practice of charging all that the traffic will bear, of making the rich who are afflicted pay for the services rendered to the poor who are afflicted also. As perhaps this house knows, most of the great hospitals of Great Britain are maintained by voluntary efforts. A constant appeal is being made for the benefactions of those who can afford to give, and the scale upon which these institutions are carried on indicates how thoroughly the problem is appreciated by those who give their money for that purpose.

Without discussing the matter at length; without going into the legal difficulties in connection with the provincial and federal positions and endeavouring to define the relation of one to the other, I would suggest that we do not undertake to make a declaration of such far-reaching consequences without realizing fully what we are doing in the light of all the knowledge that can be secured. Knowledge upon this subject can be obtained, but it involves the studying of experiments and the reading of the histories of those countries that have adopted similar proposals on a small scale in some sections of their communities.

I hope the house will accept the view suggested by the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw). It must be realized that we have two jurisdictions dealing with the same problem, the health of the people of

the country. The municipality maintains its clinics in the schools for the purpose of ensuring that the teeth and tonsils of the youth of the country are so tested as to prevent the toxic conditions so often produced and having disastrous effects in later life. Then we have the civic hospitals maintained by the taxes paid by the people; we have the provincial boards of health, and the courts have held that the provinces may maintain such boards of health and upon the province alone rests that jurisdiction. We have a federal parliament with power to appropriate to any purpose it may desire the moneys which it collects, and it has given liberal grants in aid of medical education in the large sense of the term, and to assist in the discharge of very onerous responsibilities, to that extent lessening the obligations of the municipalities and provinces.

These matters are not free from legal difficulty. Just a few hours ago the courts in Saskatchewan held that a statute which had been passed in connection with a one hundred per cent pool was ultra vires of the provincial legislature. By passing a statute based on this resolution we would be inviting litigation, because the people are not ready, nor are the medical men themselves ready, to adopt this proposition with all the attendant difficulties which would follow. The hon. member for St. Boniface, a medical man, stated his case with great precision this afternoon, so that we have one medical man who is convinced that the only remedy for the difficulty to which he refers is state medicine, so-called; but that is a far cry from concluding that it is the only remedy to effectuate the end he has in view, the accomplishment of that end by legislation. To pass this resolution this afternoon would be tantamount to saying to the government of the day: You must enact such legislation.

We are not at the present moment prepared to discuss completely the subject matter of the resolution and as the question will become more and more a subject for discussion I trust that every hon. member will in the meantime endeavour to make himself familiar with the points involved in the enactment of any legislation based upon a motion such as that which the hon. member has introduced.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I think it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) should have sought to dispose of an important question like this by reading into the resolution what an ordinary man could not possibly find in it. The resolution reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this house, a measure of federal state medicine would be in the best interests of the Canadian people.

I cannot understand how the Prime Minister can possibly say that that means or would involve the entire disbandment of the medical associations.

Mr. BENNETT: What else does it mean?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It does not seem to me that this resolution involves anything of that kind. It suggests only that something in the way of state medicine would be desirable, and I submit that there exists in a number of countries a measure of state medicine. It does not mean that we would be sweeping away all the private practitioners, nor does it go so far as to say that we should have a full-fledged state medical scheme; it is a tentative suggestion put forward that something should be started.

The impression has been given that the mover of this resolution (Mr. Howden) is more or less alone among medical men in suggesting what he does in his resolution. I know in my own city of Winnipeg medical men have been considering the whole field and have come to the conclusion that something of this kind is eminently desirable. It is not my intention to attempt to make a speech on the subject, but I should like to point out that those who have preceded me are in my judgment absolutely correct when they say that under modern conditions the ordinary worker as well as the lower paid salaried man is not in a position to pay the costs involved to-day in hospital treatment or in the obtaining of proper medical services. That is one of the reasons why medical men throughout the country are beginning to feel that something must be done. Superintendents of hospitals are coming to that conclusion and, speaking as one who has been in very close contact with the poorer people, I would say that to-day sickness is becoming more and more dreaded simply because the people cannot afford to look after their loved ones when sickness appears.

I know that many medical men give a great deal of free service, and I think all honour should be given to them in that regard, but there are many people who are not able even to go to the doctor in such a case. You can-

not expect a medical man to give his best service indefinitely without having some financial arrangement made with regard to matters of this kind.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): It is not fair to expect that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, and there are to-day in the western provinces large areas where great numbers of people live in districts in which they cannot obtain medical services. There are volunteer hospitals, some of them operated under missionary societies, which are threatened with being forced to close because of the difficulty of maintaining them during this period of depression. This would mean that large numbers of people would be entirely without medical services.

The question is, however, not merely one of helping the individual man or woman back to health; there is the larger question of general prevention of disease to which the Prime Minister has referred. A few days ago there came into my hands through the mail a pamphlet from the Canadian Social Hygiene Council—other members may have received it—containing statements as to the seriousness of the present situation. Let me give just a few of these statements:

Canadian statistics dealing with sickness indicate that over half of all disabling illness could be prevented!

Again:

Of the population of Canada, 30 per cent are adult males; 30 per cent are adult females.

It is thus estimated that 54,000 adult males are continuously ill. This amount of illness would suggest that in the adult male population alone there are lost each year 16,200,000 working days.

Calculations show that, for every twenty males gainfully employed, there are approximately six females similiarly employed. This would suggest that, in addition, the female population loses 4,800,000 working days per year.

Total loss per year—21,000,000 working days, at least 50 per cent preventable.

Superfluous loss per year—10,500,000 working days.

And again:

It is important to bear in mind that the resultant cost must be reckoned not only in terms of loss of pay to employees, but also in terms of diminished output, disorganization of industry and other economic results.

Let us look at the monetary cost of sickness:

Sickness and premature death cost us $1,311,000,000 annually.

I am giving the figures as they are recorded in this pamphlet. The statement is an astonishing one which we cannot pass over without giving it serious consideration. In regard to the monetary cost of illness the pamphlet has this further to say:

Capital Investment, etc., as a result of sickness,

Total number of	
General public hospital beds in Canada	36,523
Asylum beds	26,862
The sanitarium beds	5,655
Department Pensions and National Health	3,614
Others—maternity, orthopedic, private, isolation, etc.	4,391
Total hospital beds	77,045
Capital investments:	
Hospitals, asylums, sanataria	$ 241,202,000
Total expenditures—yearly:	
Hospitals, asylums, sanataria	51,406,000

These expenditures are merely institutional costs, they do not include private medical, nursing, or similar costs. And in addition, there are, of course, innumerable philanthropic institutions, homes, refuges, etc.

In view of the enormous cost of sickness to-day and in view of the statements that we have been receiving from medical men with regard to the difficulty of maintaining institutions and ministering to the sick, this seems to be a question which ought to receive the attention of this house. I know we can be told, as we have again been told by the Prime Minister that there are constitutional difficulties in connection with this matter—as indeed there are with so many; but in such a serious matter, surely some way can be found of overcoming these constitutional difficulties.

I should like to endorse the suggestion made by a previous speaker that even this year we might have appointed a special committee that would make a study of the question. I know we cannot immediately institute a scheme of the kind proposed, but we can do our part in the house by making inquiries as to what has been done elsewhere, as to the needs here and as to what it is possible for us to do under the circumstances. I could wish that the Prime Minister, instead of throwing cold water on the proposal, had suggested that at least something of this kind be done in order that we might take our share in carrying on the educational work which everyone realizes is necessary. I want to compliment the medical men in the house for passing outside of the narrower confines of their profession and urging that there should be more adequate provision for public health.

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): I would like to say just a few words, Mr. Speaker, in regard to the resolution moved by the hon. member for St.

Boniface (Mr. Howden). The resolution reads:

That, in the opinion of this house, a measure of federal state medicine would be in the best interests of the Canadian people.

I would take it from the reading of that resolution that the hon. member for St. Boniface would not want to go the whole way with regard to national control of medicine; that the wise method would be to begin in a small way and develop the measure he urges to national proportions. I think there are just three positions which we can take in a matter of this kind. First, we could take our municipal health units or organizations which are linked up with our provincial health organizations and find out the possibilities of those health organizations, municipally and provincially, and develop them to their full capacity. I do not believe they are being fully developed at the present time. I believe provincially and municipally more health work could be done all over Canada and could thus be very much improved and expanded. As a matter of fact I was wondering, if such work had been done more thoroughly whether the present demand for national action would have become so pronounced.

The second position we could take would be to have the closest cooperation between the municipal health organizations, the health organizations of each province and the federal department of health—an ideal stand to take.

Where we would not leave the question of health entirely to municipal and provincial organizations and where we would not have the closest cooperation between the provincial and federal departments of health, there is only one other position to take and that is full state control in connection with sickness and health. That question came up before the committee on industrial and international relations in 1929 as a complementary question to the subject of insurance against unemployment. The resolution referred to insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity. In connection with the question of insurance against sickness, this matter was gone into rather thoroughly and the report of that year dealt with it. Evidence was given before the committee by Mr. A. Grant Fleming, M.D., professor of public health and preventive medicine in McGill University, Montreal and also by J. G. Fitzgerald, professor of hygiene and preventive medicine at the university of Toronto. If I remember correctly, the viewpoint taken by both these eminent medical men was that the federal Department of Public Health should give leadership of the finest possible type to the provinces in respect to the building up of an adequate preventive health organization extending right across Canada, and that it would be well to have an interprovincial conference called at an early date at which this question of building up a new organization could be discussed with a view to caring for the health of the nation in a way that perhaps could not otherwise be done.

Mr. MacLAREN: If I may interrupt the hon. gentleman for a moment, I assume he is aware that there is held at Ottawa twice a year a meeting of the health representatives of all the provinces under the auspices of and in conjunction with the Department of National Health. It is held for advisory purposes, just as my hon. friend suggests.

Mr. McINTOSH: I am glad to hear from the hon. Minister of National Health the statement which he has just made. I was aware that such a conference was held from time to time, but I was not aware that it took place semi-annually. That only makes the point that I was trying to bring before the house more pressing than ever, and that is, that when this conference next meets, this question should be fully discussed with a view to bringing about the greatest possible measure of cooperation between the federal Department of Public Health and the health departments of the different provinces.

Mr. MacLAREN: From the inquiries I have made I understand that this question of organized medical service has been discussed by the Dominion Council of Health on several occasions.

Mr. McINTOSH: I am glad to hear that that is so, but a great deal of information is still lacking. May I refer hon. members to part of the evidence which was given before the select standing committee on industrial and international relations by Doctor J. G. Fitzgerald, professor of hygiene and preventive medicine at the university of Toronto. Dealing with Canada, he says:

What is the situation in Canada, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee; what is the volume of sickness and invalidity in this country, either attended or unattended? We have no exact or definite knowledge or information with which to answer this question.

That was the thought I had in mind in suggesting the calling of a conference annually or oftener, in order to secure the fullest possible data with regard to sickness and invalidity in Canada. Doctor Fitzgerald continues:

It is true that certain estimates have been made, based upon the experience in England and Wales, and in the United States, as to the volume of sickness and invalidity, and its cost. But I should like to reiterate that we have no precise and definite information, because no provision is made for the collection of morbidity figures. The volume and kind of sickness occurring in the community at all times in large part goes unreported.

Secondly, what provision have we in this country for dealing with sickness and invalidity? It is impossible to completely answer that. Some of our resources are, of course, well known at the present time, but on the side of curative medicine there are between 575 and 600 hospitals, general and special, in Canada, with between 55,000 and 65,000 beds. There are believed to be about 8,000 physicians actively engaged in the general practice of medicine, and there are perhaps one thousand in addition in other fields, such as research, teaching, public health, hospital administration and in charge of the direction of medical or lay organizations.

The third question is what is the cost of medical care, including hospitalization, dental treatment, nursing, and so on? Here again we can only resort to speculation, to arrive at any idea at all as to its amount.

Then again, the fourth question; what provision for insurance against sickness and invalidity is now available in Canada on a voluntary basis? It is practically impossible to give any satisfactory answer to that question.

So that my own view, in a word, Mr. Chairman, is that a study of the Canadian situation in respect of the need for sickness and invalidity insurance is highly desirable. In my judgment one aspect of this study could be undertaken perhaps by the Canadian Medical Association, and one of the voluntary health promoting agencies, the Canadian Social Hygiene Council, if such a request came from the Department of Pensions and National Health of this country.

Perhaps from this point on, Mr. Chairman, any service I can render to the committee can best be done by endeavouring to answer any questions the committee may wish to ask.

That was the evidence given by Doctor Fitzgerald just two years ago before the committee on industrial and international relations. Hon. gentlemen will note that one of the points which he emphasized was the lack of information with regard to sickness all over Canada and what we are losing by sickness throughout the country.

Another point which he emphasized was the importance of preventive medicine. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and Doctor Fitzgerald made it plain to the committee on that occasion that time after time when an individual knew there was something wrong with him, perhaps something seriously wrong, he did not go to a physician because he had not the money to do so, with the result that eventually his health became undermined, perhaps with fatal results. The nation, in the event of his decease, would lose the economic value of that individual, and remember that this sort of economic loss is continually taking place all across the Dominion.

In closing I would impress upon the Minister of National Health, upon the Prime Minister, and upon the government, the importance of having the fullest possible investigations made as often as possible into the health of the whole population of Canada in order that we may keep the health of our people up to normal, and thereby be enabled successfully to compete with the other nations of the world. I take it that the object of the mover of the resolution was that his proposal should be interpreted as expressing the desirability of our ever being on the alert and exercising all possible vigilance with a view to building up throughout Canada a fine type of healthy citizen ready to meet all emergencies so far as health is concerned. If that be our aim I believe the discussion we have had this afternoon from hon. members on both sides of the house will enable us to strengthen our position in any plan of national health betterment, and that the time taken in considering the resolution will by no means have been in vain.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. J. P. HOWDEN (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I am very greatly pleased with the discussion evoked by the resolution before the house. Most hon. members who have spoken to the motion have been in entire agreement. A number of other hon. members have partly agreed, having stated certain reservations. I think the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) agreed with the spirit of the resolution but saw some obstacles in the way of Canada adopting such a system. During the course of the discussion some points were brought up which I might briefly touch upon.

The hon. member for Battle River (Mr. Spencer) stated that the medical men in this country have a monopoly. I do not believe there is a class of men in this country or in fact in the world, who have been less selfish, who have been more at the disposal of their country, or who have devoted themselves more to the interests and welfare of the people than the men of the medical profession. I am told that Socrates once charged his disciples that whatever they learned of benefit to the human race they should not keep in secret but should spread among their fellows

and give to the world at large. I believe, sir, that that is the spirit which has actuated the endeavour of the medical world since the time of Socrates.

The hon. member for Battle River said also that the care of the health of the average individual was limited to the length of his purse. In some instances unfortunately that is true, but for the most part it is not true It has been my experience that any medical man who learned that his patient, though in need of certain treatment, was financially unable to procure it, usually saw to it that the treatment was given. In many cases the medical men themselves have had to pay for such treatments. The various health boards throughout the country at the present time supply the costly sera, vaccines and other medical aids which have been mentioned in the course of the debate. I think in most parts of Canada a medical man finding a case of diphtheria or any case requiring more or less costly treatment could forthwith obtain assistance from the local board of health. If in the nature of things it is possible, the board of health will collect payment for such treatment, but if not the charge will be made on the municipality, city or province affected.

The resolution I submitted to the house to-day was prompted by two main considerations. First, a great deal of the sickness by which the Canadian people are overtaken is preventable by periodic examination. The life insurance companies of this country and throughout the world have adopted a system by which from time to time the assured submit themselves for preventive examinations. If such a scheme pays an insurance company, surely it would pay this Dominion of Canada at large.

The other consideration involved in the resolution is that medical service is sometimes outside the purse of the so-called middle class. As was stated this afternoon, there is no doubt that for those individuals who wish always to pay for their own medical care there is sometimes great hardship. If a system such as I have mooted to-day could be put into force there need be no trouble of that kind. Undoubtedly people sometimes accept a degree of neglect because they feel that they have not the funds to pay for proper attention. In Europe state medicine is national. Germany adopted it in the early part of the century. France adopted it at a later time, and before a person may enter Switzerland he has to pay a poll tax. In that poll tax there is included a premium on the health of the person whereby his health is cared for if he should take ill while in that country. I consider that national health assurance is necessary in order to obtain uniform periodic examinations and to ensure proper treatment where such is needed.

Reference has been made to the excellent work done by compensation boards. Splendid results have been achieved also in connection with industrial insurance. In nearly all these instances, however, only those who are engaged in the industries concerned are insured, and in regard to compensation boards, only accidents and injuries are covered.

The right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) took exception to the resolution on the score that it would immediately involve Canada in adopting the means of bringing this idea into force. I believe that the resolution does not necessarily imply any obligation upon the government immediately to adopt such a scheme, but merely suggests to the government that it would be well for it to take the matter into serious consideration—I repeat, serious consideration—with the idea eventually of evolving a scheme which would give the people of this country the medical attention to which they are entitled.

The right hon. the Prime Minister has suggested that such a measure would be detrimental to the interests of the medical men throughout the land. I believe I can say for the majority of our medical men that they would welcome some such scheme as this. Of their own volition they have taken it up in the various provinces and have declared themselves in favour of it. The only doctors that would be opposed to it, and have to some extent actually shown themselves to be, are perhaps the leading men in the profession, the men who do very little and collect big fees. I do not see why the adoption of such a scheme would change the whole system of medicine. Nor do I see why it would necessarily do away with the supervision and control of the provincial boards. There is room for both provincial and federal boards. The provincial boards would still be enabled to exercise supervision provincially, while the federal authority would look after the whole Dominion.

The right hon. Prime Minister made reference to a common cold. This is a very frequent trouble, particularly during the winter season. He has decried the fact that the medical profession has never isolated the germ that produces a cold.

Mr. BENNETT: I have not decried it at all; I have only pointed out the fact.

Mr. HOWDEN: I stand corrected. I might point out that all the characteristics of a common cold can be produced by the use of several medicines, and by the application of

any substance that will irritate the mucous membrane of the nasal passages. There was even some doubt thrown upon the value of vaccination as a preventive of smallpox.

Mr. BENNETT: Not by me. Surely the hon. gentleman is going too far. I have not interrupted him, but he should certainly give authority for some of his statements. I said there was propaganda carried on in this country against vaccination, and if he reads one of the morning papers published in this city he will find it there every now and then.

Mr. HOWDEN: Very well; but I rather gathered from the way in which the right hon. gentleman discussed the matter that he himself harboured some doubt as to the value of vaccination.

Mr. BENNETT: What nonsense!

Mr. HOWDEN: I do not think there is any doubt in the world as to the value of vaccination. There are a thousand proofs of its efficacy. One of the best proofs I know of is to be found in the countries of Germany and Austria.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, one is at least entitled to fairness in debate. Here is the exact language I used:

> And they will tell you that smallpox, as the hon. member for St. Boniface has said, should be dealt with by vaccination. Yet day after day, in more countries than this, there is being carried on propaganda against vaccination—and very powerful is that propaganda too.

Then I dealt with pneumonia. That is all I said about vaccination.

Mr. HOWDEN: There is no necessity to remind the house that the value of vaccination in the preventive treatment of smallpox is not longer open to question. Throughout the country intelligent people know the value of vaccination. The efficacy of vaccination in preventing smallpox is strikingly illustrated in Germany and Austria; in Germany vaccination is compulsory, in Austria it is optional; smallpox is virtually unknown in Germany, while in the neighbouring country the disease is rife.

I believe that the federal authorities should supervise the health of the people. It is not a difficult undertaking. When the income tax was put in force the government very readily secured a record of those who came within the provisions of the legislation. The Prime Minister also took exception to the old age pension scheme because it was optional on the part of the provinces to cooperate with the federal authorities in making the scheme operative; in other words, he objected that it was not Dominion-wide. But let us consider, sir, that unless a scheme of health insurance were adopted federally it would be useless. To have health insurance adopted by one province and not by its neighbour would be like having two adjoining fields, one dirty and the other clean. If you have one province in which the health of the people is under proper supervision, and no such supervision obtains in the neighbouring province, the health measures in force in the former will go for nothing.

I do not wish for a moment to suggest that this is a political issue. Still I cannot forget that during the years I sat to your right, Mr. Speaker, I gathered from his speeches that the then leader of the opposition, the present right hon. Prime Minister, was in favour of practically all the reforms and social proposals that came before the house. Now apparently he finds his hands to some extent tied.

Mr. BENNETT: Again I must protest, Mr. Speaker. Why should the hon. gentleman persist in making statements that are incorrect? There is no necessity for him to do so, it does not advance his case. What I said last year with respect to health units I not only repeated this afternoon, but I also referred to the provision in the current estimates of the Department of National Health. These cheap references to what did not take place, made in the expectation that they will not be denied, should cease. The hon. gentleman has some responsibility to this house, a responsibility which he should fairly discharge by not misstating what other members may have said.

Mr. HOWDEN: I was speaking from memory.

Mr. BENNETT: I know—an odd thing, is it not?

Mr. HOWDEN: My memory is not so defective as all that. If I remember rightly the Prime Minister did support all social and reform proposals that came before the house when he acted as leader of the official opposition. Now, I believe that hon. members can well afford to give this proposal their serious consideration. I am not blind to the suggestion that the resolution should be withdrawn. Well, if it is withdrawn it is thrown in the waste paper basket and consigned to oblivion. If the resolution is voted on it can die no worse than an honourable death, and, sir, I prefer that it should meet that fate.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Howden) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Beaubien, Blair, Boucher, Brasset, Brown, Campbell, Cardin, Casgrain, Chevrier, Dubois, Euler, Factor, Fafard, Gardiner, Girouard, Hanbury, Hanson (Skeena), Heaps, Howden, Irvine, King, Mackenzie, Lucas, Luchkovich, MacInnis, MacLean, McKenzie (Assiniboia), McMillan (Huron South), Motherwell, Pouliot, Reid, Rhéaume, Robitaille, St-Père, Sanderson, Seguin, Speakman, Spencer, Totzke, Veniot, Weir (Macdonald), Woodsworth.—41.

NAYS

Messrs:

Anderson (Halton), Arsenault, Arthurs, Barber, Barrette, Beaubier, Bell (St. Antoine), Bell (St. John-Albert), Bennett, Bowen, Bowman, Boyes, Bury, Cahan, Cantley, Cormier, Cowan (Long Lake), Denis, Dickie, Duguay, Duranleau, Fortin, Fraser (Cariboo), Gershaw, Gobeil, Gordon, Hackett, Hanson (York-Sunbury), Hay, Jones, Laurin, LaVergne, Lawson, Loucks, Macdonald (Kings), MacLaren, MacNicol, McGillis, McLure, Manion, Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon), Mullins, Murphy, Myers, Perley (Qu'Appelle), Porteous, Price, Quinn, Ryerson, Sauvé, Senn, Shaver, Simpson (Simcoe North), Simpson (Algoma West), Smith (Victoria-Carleton), Spankie, Spence, Stanley, Stevens, Stewart (Leeds), Stewart (Lethbridge), Stitt (Nelson), Sullivan, Sutherland, Swanston, Thompson (Simcoe East), Thompson (Lanark), Turnbull, Weese, White (Mount Royal).—70.

Some hon. MEMBERS (rising simultaneously): Mr. Speaker, I was paired with—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No pairs.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I understand that pairs do not count.

Mr. MacLAREN: We were informed that there were no pairs in this division.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is right.

Mr. MacLAREN: Had I any idea that there would be pairs I should not have voted, as I have a permanent pair with the hon. member for Rimouski (Sir Eugene Fiset).

Mr. SPEAKER: Pairs are not recognized in this division.

(Owing to the absence of an official list and the impossibility of recording several statements of pairs simultaneously announced, the stated pairs are not recorded.)

BURIAL OF EX-SERVICE MEN

PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE ALLEGED PRACTICE OF CALLING FOR TENDERS

Mr. A. E. ROSS (Kingston City) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the practice of calling for tenders for burial of deceased ex-service men shall be discontinued forthwith as the practice is an indignity to ex-service men and a discredit to the honour of our country.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I think it will require but very few words to secure the sanction of the house or of any government to this resolution. It is quite true that the expenditure of public money is carried on by the tender system, but in this case I think it must be admitted that a number of abuses have arisen and it is time that the practice should be discontinued in relation to the burial of deceased ex-service men.

Let me note what the abuses are. When the tender is asked for from the undertakers there is always a reservation made that the undertaker may be a friend of the deceased, but difficulties have arisen in many cases in this regard. I know that in hospitals notices have been posted that the body must be handed over to the official undertaker. In addition to this, another very serious abuse has arisen which is an indignity to the returned man and to his relatives.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Mr. Speaker, I desire very much to hear what the hon. member has to say, but I cannot do so because of the conversation being carried on in the chamber.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would ask the hon. members kindly to desist from conversing within the chamber. There is nothing to prevent their leaving the chamber should they desire to do so.

Mr. ROSS: Another serious abuse has arisen through the carrying on in certain communities of a price war by the undertakers. In my own town, and in several others, the result is that tenders have been accepted for as low as $40. I ask hon. members how a funeral can be properly conducted at a cost of only $40, when an undertaker is required to furnish:

Casket to be black cloth covered, silk lined, and to have engraved plate and six handles: or casket to be surface oak, to have engraved plate and six handles then to be metallic. (Also crucifix if required.)
Outside case to be furnished.
Body to be embalmed.
Shroud to be furnished by contractor. (When necessary.)
Hearse to be furnished by contractor.

No undertaker can conduct a decent funeral for $40 and provide all these items.

The system is very unfair. In one place the price is $100, in another it is $40, in other places it may be $50 or $60, which is most unfair to the relatives of the returned men, who should be all treated alike. Whatever price is awarded to one man's relatives should be awarded to those of another man. I grant that in exceptional cases in the large centres funerals may be more expensive, but outside of one or two of the larger places the price should be practically the same.

These are a few of the abuses which have arisen. All our talk about the glory due to the returned men and the justice we were going to mete out to them is highly inconsistent with the revolting practice of trying to get the lowest price for the decent burial of a returned ex-service man whose death has probably been hastened by his overseas service. I cannot see how this house or any government can but agree and declare that from this day on the revolting practice of asking for tenders for the burial of ex-service men shall be discontinued.

Mr. F. G. SANDERSON (South Perth): Mr. Speaker, it is not very often that I can agree entirely with the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Ross) but I want to say that I agree with everything he has said from the commencement to the end of his remarks.

Mr. ARTHUR DENIS (St. Denis) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to state that I am entirely opposed to this resolution. Undertakers should not be more favoured than rural mail carriers. The latter are governed by contracts and stipulations similar to those which govern undertakers in the burial of veterans pensioned by the State. I think, that should this resolution be adopted, it would open the door to abuses. For this reason I am strongly opposed to it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): In what provinces is this practice being indulged in? So far as I know it is not followed in British Columbia.

Mr. ROSS: It does not prevail universally, but tenders are being called for in different parts of the country and that practice I wish stopped.

Mr. MERCIER (St. Henri): Has the hon. member any figures as to the cost of giving a decent burial to a soldier?

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member who has moved the resolution will no doubt close the debate, and at that time he can give further information.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): When I read this resolution as it appeared on the order paper, I felt heartily in sympathy with it. It seemed to me that the practice of calling for tenders had nothing to justify it, but I must confess that I should like to have heard the hon. member offer the alternative so that we might see what the alternative involved. This is only a suggestion on my part, as I have not given very much consideration to the question, but this privilege—for one might call it a privilege—that is given to the undertaker might very well become a matter of patronage. That is one of the questions we would have to consider, so that before we are called upon to vote on the matter I should like the hon. member for Kingston City to state what the alternative is. Some of us are not very familiar with the matter, and we would like information with regard to it.

Mr. E. R. E. CHEVRIER (Ottawa): I desire to express my most hearty appreciation of the way in which the hon. member has brought this resolution before the house. The matter is one of great importance. So far as I am concerned I am heartily in accord with the sentiments expressed by the mover of the resolution and I hope the house will see its way clear to approve it.

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): I hope this is one resolution that will carry unanimously without a vote. It is a

surprise to me to know that this practice is being followed, and I heartily endorse every word uttered by the mover of the resolution. I did not hear whether the hon. member made an alternative suggestion or not, but I know under the workmen's compensation acts generally throughout Canada the dependents of a workman who is killed are allowed from $100 to $150 to bury the deceased man. So I suggest that if this resolution is carried, the government leave it to the relatives of the deceased to undertake the funeral expenses, the government to foot the bill up to a certain amount.

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): I was pleased that the hon. member for Kingston City (Mr. Ross) brought before the house this proposed resolution, the essence of which is to have the practice of calling for tenders for burial of deceased ex-service men discontinued forthwith. It is an indignity to ex-service men and a discredit to the honour of our country.

In speaking to the resolution I wish to say only a word or two. I am satisfied that in supporting the hon. member in his resolution I am taking a stand that is in harmony with the sentiments of ex-service men not only in my riding, not only in Saskatchewan and indeed in western Canada, but throughout the Dominion as a whole. I would like to see the resolution carried unanimously without a vote, and also the Department of Pensions and National Health take steps to ensure that this practice be discontinued forthwith.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): One would think from some of the observations that have been made, notably by an ex-minister, that since the advent to power of the present administration, something new had been done with respect to the burial of deceased ex-service men.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. BENNETT: I have listened enough to know exactly what was meant. Do not for a single moment, Mr. Speaker, think I am not entirely wise to these proceedings, and most of the members of the house are in the same position. What I said was that the practice that prevails to-day is a practice that has prevailed for some eight years. The Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) will state the facts, indicating what has been done and what is being done. Everything that was in existence when he succeeded to the administration of the department has been continued. But there was not any such thing as tenders in the sense in which that term is used; there never has been in this country under any government and I do not suppose there ever will be. All that was done was to ask undertakers for their fees for performing a burial service and then to select from those whose names were given the one who would perform the last sad offices for the dead. That is the story. Whether or not that constitutes tenders is for the house to say. In my judgment it does not. I do not think it can be said in any sense to be tenders and I would not have called it such.

The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) put a question that has been agitating my mind as I listened here this evening. How are you going to do this? Select one person, and say he is to perform the service and let him fix his own price, or how otherwise is it to be done? This of course is a sort of thing that one desires as much as possible to refrain from discussing; it is not the kind of question that should be discussed in parliament. The administration that has been carried on, is as I have said, continued and what concerns me at the moment is whether or not we can properly describe this practice as calling for tenders. I cannot think that is the proper description. If it is a matter of tenders, it should be discontinued. If, on the other hand, it is merely inviting people to indicate what is to be charged in different communties for the carrying out of the last sad offices for the dead, the situation is entirely different.

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I regret very much, Mr. Speaker, that the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), inadvertently I am sure, injected into this debate a note that was somewhat unfortunate. I think the suggestion that was made by one of the members to my right is the only one which will meet the wishes of the hon. member for Kingston City (Mr. Ross), namely that there should be a uniform amount agreed upon consistent with the decency and dignity of these sad occasions. The amount could be determined by the ministry of pensions, and there should be no question at all of rival prices between rival undertakers. I appreciate to the fullest degree the motives that animated the hon. member for Kingston City in bringing forward this resolution. What he has in mind is that there should be no dickering or bargaining in regard to this last solemn ceremony in which Canada pays her homage to deceased returned men who served her overseas. I am sure the house is unanimous in its wishes in that respect, and I regret the note that has been injected into

the debate by the Prime Minister. I think the solution is this: The Department of Pensions and those who are directing the magnificently conducted Last Post fund in Canada should agree—I will not say upon a uniform price, but upon the amount necessary to the carrying out this last ceremony in a dignified and befitting manner. Once this amount is agreed upon and due dignity is paid to the dead and due deference to the living, there should be no bargaining, no dickering and no rivalry.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has referred to the practice that was adopted by the previous administration. If I am not mistaken the hon. member who has introduced the resolution (Mr. Ross) brought up the same subject at the last session of the last parliament, and speaking from where my right hon. friend is speaking to-night, I said at that time that the government was making a contribution to the Last Post fund, and that if that contribution was not sufficient for those administering the Last Post fund to discharge their duty in all particulars in a manner that was befitting, the government would undertake to see that the necessary amount was provided. That assurance I think met with the general acceptance of all parties in the house, and I assume it is what my hon. friend would wish to have at the present time. It certainly should permit of what is most befitting.

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): I think, Mr. Speaker, that there is a lack of information on this subject. I should like to tell the house what is the custom in Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and the United States, these being the only countries as to which I have information. The mode of conducting funerals in those countries being very similar to our own, such evidence will not be out of order.

I want to avoid giving many details in connection with this matter, because I do not think the house would wish to have them. But let me say that in Great Britain the undertakers are invited to submit figures for funerals, and they are not to exceed £7. 10s. which is about $37. In New Zealand the undertakers are asked in a similar way to submit their figures, the amount not to exceed £13, or about $64. In the United States the undertakers are asked to submit figures, the amount not to exceed $100. In Australia there is a difference, there being a fixed rate of £15.

[Mr. I. A. Mackenzie.]

My hon. friend from Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) has suggested a fixed and uniform figure. That seems easy, but suppose the expenses in different parts of the country vary.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Who cares in a matter of that kind?

Mr. MacLAREN: The friends care.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): No.

Mr. MacLAREN: The cost also will depend upon local conditions. I should like to say this very clearly and very distinctly, that action is not taken on the grounds of economy They are not restricted to any special sum I have mentioned three countries where a maximum amount is stipulated, but there is no restriction in Canada as to the amount that may be charged. I ask the house to bear that in mind. In reference to the amount, from the information that I have received from the department, it appears that the lowest amount is $71 odd, and the largest amount $195; so there is a considerable disparity.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Is the minister quoting from departmental records when he gives that figure of $71?

Mr. MacLAREN: I am quoting from the memorandum prepared for me in the department.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I am afraid that figure is incorrect.

Mr. MacLAREN: The maximum is $195. There is a very considerable difference in the cost of graves in the different cemeteries throughout the country. Some are expensive, and some are without cost. There is also a considerable variation in the requirements regarding tombstones, which in certain cemeteries must conform with the regulations governing that particular cemetery.

I would like to emphasize this, that in none of the countries that I have mentioned, and so far as I know in no country of the world, are returned men buried in a more seemly and befitting manner than they are in Canada. I say that in defence of my department, which has been conducting these burials for eight or ten years; the records show that there have been extraordinarily few criticisms and objections. They show, on the contrary, satisfaction and expressions of gratitude to the department for the very reverent way in which our men have been buried. It does not make the slightest difference to the department how the matter is done provided it is done with decorum and respect. That is the policy of the department and of the government.

I object to this word "tenders" in this connection. It does not feature in the matter so far as I know. There is no haggling, to use the word of my hon. friend, and I wish the house distinctly to understand that there is no limit regarding the expense. It is not necessary to accept the lowest offer. Our one requisite is a proper, worthy funeral, and there is no reason why we should not have it. The government does not stint us in the amount. All we ask is a reasonable figure, or what they voluntarily say a funeral must cost. The department is prepared to adopt whatever course in the opinion of this house and the country will show the greatest deference and respect to our deceased ex-service men and their relatives. I wish to say, Mr. Speaker, and I say it definitely, with confidence and with readiness, that I do not wish this house to have the impression that the department has been niggardly or has fallen short in its performance of this important function. It has not. I have looked over the records and have seen and gone through medical reports from Sydney to Vancouver, and with the few exceptions and criticisms which are always received and are of a very unimportant character, I have heard no objection. The impression of my hon. friend from Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) was that he had never heard of any objections.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I accept the word of the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Ross) as being accurate.

Mr. MacLAREN: No one has come to me and made any objection, written or verbal, —not one. This resolution gave the first intimation to me that there was any dissatisfaction. I have asked in the department whether any objections have been offered, I am told that there have been none. I say for my friend who immediately preceded me in the department, and his predecessor, that there is no record of complaint. I dare say the department would be prepared to make a change if a better method could be shown. I point out this fact to the house because I do not for one moment want the friends of our departed men to consider that any indignity has been shown them, or that any discredit has been cast upon this country regarding the last rites of our returned men. Knowing the care with which officials in the department deal with with these matters I am not conscious of such an indignity. I make that statement emphatically and frankly. It may be that an explanation of the proceedings does not give a fair impression of what actually happens. I would like to add that the department and all the officials connected with it are most willing that any hon. member of the house should come at any time and discuss matters of this nature, make any suggestions thought desirable and at the same time perhaps hear some of the difficulties or objections familiar to those actively engaged in the department.

Finally I would say that the departmental officials who have this matter in hand are better able to carry out funeral arrangements than individual persons or friends who would have to make their own arrangements. Hon. members are aware that friends of the men may prefer one undertaker to another. There is no rule within the department requiring that any certain person shall attend to the funeral. Great freedom is allowed in the choice of undertaker, in fact the friends of the deceased are allowed to have such undertaker as they wish.

There is one thing to which we may point with pride and satisfaction. All our returned men whose deaths have occurred in our institutions as a result of overseas disabilities are provided with either granite or marble headstones. May I say that if hon. members were to search diligently I do not think they would find a record of any country at the present time which carries out this particular duty as fully and with as much regard to dignity and fitness as Canada does.

Mr. SANDERSON: May I ask the minister a question? I cannot learn from the remarks he has made whether or not he is in favour of the resolution proposed by the hon. member for Kingston.

Mr. MANION: Everybody is.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a proper question to ask the hon. minister until he has finished his speech.

Mr. SANDERSON: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. SPEAKER: As to whether or not the minister is in favour of the resolution is a matter entirely for him to decide. He may vote upon it one way or the other.

Mr. SANDERSON: With all due deference to the ruling of Your Honour, surely the Minister of Pensions and National Health should give at least some lead to the house in questions of this character.

Mr. ARTHURS: I rise to a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: The minister has given a fair exposition of his views on the subject. The hon. member surely can interpret it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Mr. Speaker, as a matter of indulgence—

Mr. ARTHURS: Mr. Speaker, I submit both these gentlemen are out of order, having already spoken in the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Vancouver Centre undertook to direct a question to the minister while he was speaking.

Mr. MacLAREN: I think the hon. member intended to put a question.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I realize I am out of order, but I should like to present my question. I agree with the remarks of the minister in regard to the officials of the department; I think they are very sincere and that they are doing everything in their power in this regard. I do however have a very great belief in the—

An hon. MEMBER: Question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. member put the question he intended to ask of the minister?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The minister said that it was the practice of the department to ask for figures as to cost of burial. Would it be too much to ask him to explain how this is done?

Mr. MacLAREN: I cannot give any further information on that point. I can only say that they asked undertakers for figures, and that is all I know about it. I never have seen anything in the nature of tenders.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): That is what I wanted to clear up.

Mr. C. G. POWER (Quebec South): I confess I would have risen to speak to this subject with much less reluctance had it not been for the observations of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). I think under the circumstances his observations were entirely uncalled for. However I believe there is some misapprehension in the minds of hon. members, as there is in mine, with respect to this matter. As I understand it, and I speak subject to correction, pensioners who die or persons awarded a pension on account of the death of pensioners are entitled to the sum of $75 or $100. I think the correct sum is $100.

Mr. MacLAREN: I do not understand the hon. member. He says that they are entitled to so and so.

Mr. POWER: They receive at the discretion of the Board of Pension Commissioners $100 when the pensioner dies.

Mr. BENNETT: That is another thing.

[Mr. I. A. Mackenzie.]

Mr. POWER: In order that the burial and funeral expenses of the pensioner may be paid.

Mr. MacLAREN: No.

Mr. POWER: In enumerating the different classes of people who receive burial moneys from the government I endeavour to make a distinction, because as I have already pointed out there is misapprehension and misconception in the minds of some hon. members. Pensioners, or the relatives of pensioners who died, are entitled under the Pension Act of Canada to $100 for burial and funeral expenses of such pensioner. That is one thing. Then there is an institution known as the Last Post fund, which looks after the burial expenses of soldiers who die without leaving any relatives. The Canadian government makes a substantial contribution amounting to about $30,000 or $35,000 annually to this Last Post fund. Thirdly, there are the persons who I assume are to be covered by this resolution—

Mr. BENNETT: Who die in the institutions.

Mr. POWER: Yes, namely those who die in institutions under the control of the Department of Soldiers Civil Re-establishment. Objection is taken by the hon. member for Kingston to the practice of what he refers to as "calling for tenders"—bargaining with respect to the funeral expenses of these men. I am not prepared to make the fine distinction which the right hon. Prime Minister has made as to whether this practice can be termed calling for tenders. I see no distinction between calling for prices in this matter and calling for tenders in any other matter. I think we have come generally to apply the term "calling for tenders" to the practice of asking from different persons prices for the performance of any service. Whether it be called by that or by any other term, unless it can be clearly shown to me that some other method to be substituted will be any better, I am prepared to support the stand of the minister that we had better continue to carry on the present method. The hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Ross) seems to attach great importance to what he characterized as a peculiar circumstance that an undertaker was prepared to do this work for the sum of $40. Well, provided the undertaker does the work well, I do not care if he gets only $40. I am not here taking my stand on behalf of the undertakers of Canada. As a class I do not know of any body that has exploited the public more than have the undertakers.

Mr. BENNETT: Not the public.

Mr. POWER: Yes, the public.

Mr. BENNETT: The executors.

Mr. POWER: I have no objection to the undertaker receiving only $40. During the deliberations of the pensions committee on various occasions representations were made to us that the sum allotted for pensioners' funerals was not sufficient. There was a strong agitation that the amount should be raised by fifty or a hundred dollars. We found on investigation that that agitation was largely started by the undertakers, not by the soldiers. If the department sees to it that its rules and regulations, or its specifications—if I may use that term in this instance—are fully carried out, whether the work be done for $40, $50 or $100, it should make no difference to the relatives, who after all are the people most concerned, provided the funeral is conducted with seemliness and decorum, as has been stated by the minister. In my humble opinion, if the departmental officials see that this is done—and I believe they do; I have never heard anything to the contrary, and the practice seems to have been carried on for eight or ten years—I say if the departmental officials see to it that the funeral is conducted with proper dignity, proper decorum, I see no better way than to ask for tenders from the persons carrying on that line of business in the locality where the death occurs. To fix a stated price would not make the situation any better. In the first place, it would bring about some sort of political patronage—although I have my own opinion of the persons who would endeavour to play party politics in a question of this kind; but it certainly would be a temptation. Are we sure that things would not be carried on any better by some undertaker who had no competition to meet, but was simply handed a specified sum for carrying out the work? I agree with the hon. minister when he says that there is no limit to the amount. We do not, as they do in other countries, say to the undertaker who is to perform this last sad service for a man who has given up his life for his country, "You cannot charge more than £7: 10s." We say: "You are to give him a decent, proper funeral." The rules and regulations for the funeral are laid down, the specifications are furnished, and we say to the undertaker: "You are to charge a fair and reasonable price." If in competition with another undertaker the price charged is a little lower than that usually charged to the public, I think we are not any worse off; I think we shall probably find that we get better service.

Mr. CAHAN: For my information, will the hon. gentleman kindly answer this question? Do not the administrators of the Last Post fund look after the burial of soldiers who die in the institutions of the city of Montreal, for instance?

Mr. POWER: I am subject to correction, but I do not think so. There is a distinction to be made between "institutions." I was speaking of departmental institutions, that is institutions under the control of the Department of Pensions and National Health. My hon. friend has in mind, I think, institutions such as the Royal Victoria hospital.

Mr. CAHAN: And the general hospital.

Mr. POWER: Under those circumstances the department is not in control of the man at the time he dies, and therefore the Last Post fund looks after the funeral.

Mr. CAHAN: That is very satisfactory, is it not?

Mr. POWER: So far as I know it is very satisfactory. But the question under discussion refers to men dying in hospitals under the control of the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Mr. A. E. ROSS (Kingston City): Mr. Speaker, I agree with those hon. members who say that there is a misunderstanding. The Last Post fund has no reference whatever to the subject-matter of this resolution. That fund provides for the burial of ex-service men who die in poverty, and whose bodies but for the provision of that fund would be turned over to schools of anatomy and other institutions. The amount so provided is just nominal. My resolution refers to ex-service men who have a war disability and who die while under treatment in institutions under the control of the Department of Pensions and National Health. As to whether this is calling for tenders or not, I can only refer hon. members to the regular departmental form which is sent out to various undertakers throughout the country.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): What is the number of it?

Mr. ROSS (Kingston): P. R. 5210. When I introduced this resolution I had no idea of partisanship. It has been the practice of previous governments, both Union and Liberal, to send out this form, and it has continued under this government. What does the form say, Mr. Speaker? It says:

Tender for furnishing funerals of ex-soldiers and sailors for period of one year.

I objected that this form set up a system of competition, with the result that there were established in various places such low rates that the proper requirements could not possibly be met. And the result, whether hon. members have heard of it or not, is that many complaints have been referred to me to the effect that whereas in one place the relatives of ex-service men were being granted the sum of $40 to assist in paying for the funeral of a deceased, in another place they were receiving $80. That is unfair. I appeal to the wisdom and the judgment of every hon. member in this house: I do not consider that fair treatment. We are setting up competition. The undertaker who received this order submitted a tender of $65. That was not accepted. I know for a fact that the amount accepted by the department was $40, and that was due to what I call local competition.

I do not want to introduce patronage into this question, but I do say that if you elminate tendering and competition you can establish a fair price, and any undertaker who is a friend of the relatives of the deceased should have the privilege of burying that deceased. Under this system I know that that has been objected to in certain places. This, I think, is due to a misinterpretation of the regulations. I believe, however, that in all cases the undertaker who is a friend of the relatives of the deceased should be the person to bury that deceased ex-service man. And that should be the practice, without partisanship and without patronage. There should be a fixed price. Someone has asked, "Why not make the renumeration $100?" I care not what it is, so long as you provide a suitable casket and a proper funeral. But I submit, notwithstanding anything that has been said, that no undertaker can provide a decent funeral for a deceased soldier for forty dollars.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member wish to have the question put?

Mr. ROSS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: Shall the resolution carry?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Motion agreed to.

RIVIERE-DU-LOUP HARBOUR

PROPOSED WORKS TO FACILITATE TRANSPORT OF COAL BY WATER

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata) moved:

Whereas the city of Rivière-du-Loup is the most important centre in the eastern part of the province of Quebec;

[Mr. Ross.]

Whereas the harbour of said city is free from ice in winter, and navigation is possible at all times of the year;

Whereas the said city is a divisional point of the National railways and the terminus of the Témiscouata railway, which links the said city to the province of New Brunswick, and to that part of the National railways known in the past as the Transcontinental;

Whereas the National railways are still in possession of the branch line of Rivière-du-Loup station to the Rivière-du-Loup wharf;

Whereas the transport by water of coal from Nova Scotia to Rivière-du-Loup would be much more economical and would permit of its distribution at a lower cost in eastern Quebec, in the northern part of New Brunswick and the state of Maine;

He said: No doubt the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) will regard it as leaving a pleasant taste in the mouth if I quote part of a speech which he delivered in Inverness on July 8, 1930. The right hon. gentleman said:

At the Winnipeg convention of 1927, the Conservative party had pledged itself to a fuel policy and the policy of "Canadian goods through Canadian ports." Both these pledges, he declared, would be carried out by his party.

Later on the Gazette reports him as having said on February 13:

It does seem ridiculous that a country with a population of only ten million is unable to meet all its fuel demands from the very large sources of its own coal mines, from Vancouver island to Cape Breton, said Premier R. B. Bennett, replying this morning to the large deputation from Nova Scotia, headed by Premier Gordon Harrington of that province, which made a number of requests of the federal government for the improvement of the steel and coal industries of the maritime provinces.

And later on:

Premier Bennett stressed the point, in relation to the request of Nova Scotia for further federal aid in reduced freight rates on coal, that the Dominion treasury was now burdened with obligations arising out of monetary recompense to the railways for hauling freight at an unremunerative rate from and to the maritimes. Dr. Manion stated that the treasury would be obliged to pay the sum of $9,200,000 to the railways on account of the Maritime Freight Rates Act for the last year, as the sum due the railways for carrying goods at the 20 per cent reduction provided in that legislation. The Prime Minister hinted that the treasury and particularly the taxpayers were in no mood to consider any further obligation in that direction.

To be fair to the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) may I add that there was a letter from himself to his colleague the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren) which was published in the press on February 18, to the effect that the rate reduction alone was $3,263,000, the

balance being a deficit of another character. The matter is of such great importance that my hon. friend the member for Inverness (Mr. Macdougall) said not long ago, on the 20th of this month:

I wish to say frankly and fearlessly to my right hon. leader and his associates in the cabinet that if, when that budget is brought down, there is nothing in it for steel and coal, I certainly, on account of the promises I have given to the miners in Nova Scotia, will not be able to vote for the budget unless it makes some provision for the steel and coal industries in my province.

There is a despatch of the Canadian Press, dated October 3, 1930, to the effect that the government has decided to extend until March 31, 1932, transportation at the special rate of $3 a ton in winter and $2.10 in summer time of the coal of Nova Scotia to the markets of Quebec and Ontario.

The matter has been discussed before the Board of Commissioners, who had it under consideration in October. The rates on coal are pretty high. For example, from Sydney, Nova Scotia, to Edmundston, New Brunswick, it is $2.50 per net ton; from Pictou, Nova Scotia, to Edmundston, it is $3.10; from Sydney, Nova Scotia, to Riviere du Loup, Quebec, it is $2.90; from Pictou to Riviere du Loup, $3.60. With respect to the last, under orders in council P.C. 539 and P.C. 2256, the rate will be $3 per ton until April 16, 1931. This appears in a letter I have received from the secretary of the Board of Railway Commissioners, and I understand that the reduction has been extended for some time. Now, the rate for the transportation of coal by water is entirely different. The water haul per ton on coal from Cape Breton and Nova Scotia costs at the present time around 90 cents per ton.

The county council of Temiscouata are in entire accord with the contents of this resolution. Some twenty years ago plans and surveys were made by the Department of Public Works of Canada for the development of the harbour of Riviere du Loup. This city is located about 120 miles east of Quebec on the south shore of the St. Lawrence river and would provide an ideal distributing point for coal. At the present time it is a divisional point of the Atlantic and central regions of the Canadian National Railways, as well as the terminus of the railway which runs from Riviere du Loup to Edmundston and Connor, New Brunswick, on the Maine boundary.

On January 12, 1926, Mr. J. H. Mailloux, alderman of Rivière du Loup, wrote me that the Canadian National Railways had posted a notice to the effect that the railway was prepared to sell the site of the branch line from Rivière du Loup station to Rivière du Loup point. He asked me to take this matter up with the railway company in an endeavour to induce them to retain possession of this line. With the permission of the house, I will have this letter put on Hansard. It is as follows:

Mr. J. Frs. Pouliot, M.P.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Pouliot,—

I have just seen in the post office here a notice posted by the Canadian National Railways, advertising for sale by tender, either by parcel or en bloc, the old Intercolonial branch line right of way which extends to La Pointe de la Rivière-du-Loup. A blue print attached to said notice indicates the route used in the past, with the names of owners whose lands were encroached upon by this branch line. This blue print bears the following description which may help you to locate it, at the Department of Railways and Canals: Wuth Plan 8098 Cor. File 3-2-347.

I believe that it is in the interest of our city and district, in general, that the government should not sell this land for which it will receive very little, because no one except the interested farmers will give it a thought. I therefore contend that the government should keep this land such as it is, the cost of the upkeep should be very little, if anything, and later should our town expand and the port be utilized, we shall need a branch line to carry wood, coal, etc., which will pass through our port. Should the government dispose of this narrow strip of land, everything will have to be done over again later in order to reestablish these means of communication with the wharf.

I therefore trust, Mr. Pouliot, that you will take the necessary steps to insure that this proposed sale will remain in abeyance for the present, and as previously stated, should this right of way be needed later, the cost will be lessened since only the sleepers and rail, so to speak, will have to be laid.

Thanking you in anticipation, I remain,

Yours truly,

J. H. Maillaux,
Manager.
St. Lawrence Furniture Co.

I received another letter under the same date from the mayor of Rivière du Loup to the same effect. He enclosed a copy of the notice, and with the permission of the house I will put the letter and the notice on Hansard. They are as follows:

Dear Sir,—

Enclosed please find copies of notices posted in public buildings here as well as in the city of Quebec. The government or the railway commission intend to sell the strip of land on the main road leading to the wharf of La Pointe de la R. du L. over which, in the past, ran the branch line of La Pointe.

My attention was called to this matter by a number of citizens. We are of the opinion

that it would be preferable that this property remained in the hands of the government, first because such sale would bring in very little; then, if later on, one never knows, the question of developing a sea port here came up, the government would be in possession of the necessary land to construct the railway; while, if the land is sold, that might be brought up as an objection and perhaps as a real obstacle in realizing this scheme.

I believe that your views on this question agree with ours, it would therefore be in the interests of the town and county that you take up this matter, and, if possible, with the assistance of the proper authorities, prevent the sale of this land. I think that this letter represents the views of the entire population here, should it be of any help, you may make free use of it to foster the interests of our locality.

Believe me,

Yours truly,

C. M. E. Dubé,

Mayor.

The notice follows:

Sealed tenders will be received up to noon, Atlantic time, of Thursday, January 28, 1926, at the office of the chief engineer, Atlantic region, Canadian National Railways, Moncton, N.B., for the purchase en bloc of that portion of the old Intercolonial railway right of way known as the Rivière du Loup Wharf branch.

Sealed tenders will also be received on the same date at the said office of the chief engineer, Atlantic region, Canadian National Railways, Moncton, N.B., separately for each parcel of land included in the above right of way.

Plans of the said right of way can be seen at the office of the Canadian National Railways ticket agent at Rivière du Loup, at the post office of the town of Fraserville, and at the ticket office of the Canadian National Railways in Quebec City.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Terms: Cash. Conveyance in the form of letters patent will issue from His Majesty the King.

Sgd. W. U. Appleton,

General Manager.

Atlantic Region, C.N.R.

Then on January 23, 1926, I received a letter from the president of the chamber of commerce of the city of Riviere du Loup. This letter was to the same effect; it asked that I discuss this matter with the Canadian National Railways in an endeavour to induce them to retain possession of that branch line. A resolution was enclosed and with the permission of the house I will put this letter and resolution on Hansard. The letter follows:

Dear Sir,—

Please find attached copy of a resolution of the Chamber of Commerce of Rivière-du-Loup opposing the sale of land located at the Pointe and requesting the railway management to retain possession of that property.

The resolution was transmitted to Sir Henry Thornton, and this Chamber in opposing this sale, relies on your support in regard to which you must already have received protests from the council.

Yours truly,

The Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of Rivière-du-Loup,

Horace Cimon.

This is the resolution:

Whereas the sea port of Rivière-du-Loup has never received from the government the development which its importance and economic situation should command;

Whereas this Chamber of Commerce has, on numerous occasions, earnestly requested the government to carry out this development;

Whereas the reports of engineers in the Public Works Department have justified the requests of this chamber;

Whereas to give effect to said reports, plans were prepared to give the port of Rivière-du-Loup the necessary development, and that in 1914 tenders were on the eve of being asked to carry out the proposed development;

Whereas the changed economic conditions brought on by the European war postponed indefinitely the carrying out of said work, but that this chamber intends to renew its requests to have the work executed the moment that conditions warrant its doing so again;

Whereas one of the essential factors of this development was the then existing branch line of the state railways and known as the Pointe branch line;

Whereas the management of the state railways, although having had the rails of said branch line removed a few years ago, nevertheless remained owner of the land of said branch line;

Whereas the said management now call for tenders for the purchase of said strip of land;

Whereas the sale of said land would hurt the future development of the port of Rivière-du-Loup, and would therefore be detrimental to the interests of the town of Rivière-du-Loup and the economic development of that part of the country;

That this Chamber of Commerce therefore pray the management of the state railways not to offer the land of said branch line of la Pointe for sale by tender but to retain possession of it, and this in the interest not only of the town of Rivière-du-Loup and surrounding districts but also in the interest of Canada as a whole.

I wrote to Right Hon. George P. Graham, the then Minister of Railways and under date of January 18, 1926, I received the following:

Dear Mr. Pouliot:

I have your letter of a few days ago, stating you have been advised by an alderman of Rivière du Loup, that notices have been placed in the post office there, offering for sale, by tender, the land of the branch line of the Canadian National Railways from Rivière du Loup wharf to Rivière du Loup station.

Personally, I am not familiar with this proposition and the only thing I can do is to refer your letter to the president of the board of management, Canadian National Railways, Montreal, who is conversant with the facts, and in a very much better position to deal with same than I. I shall no doubt hear from him before very long.

Yours sincerely,

Geo. P. Graham.

Under date of March 3, 1926, I received the following from Sir Henry Thornton:

Dear Mr. Pouliot:

With further reference to your letter of January 22nd.

I beg to advise you that the right of way for the branch line to which you have referred will not be sold, but will remain in the hands of the company. I trust this position will meet with your approval.

Yours sincerely,

H. W. Thornton.

Some time afterwards the Quebec & St. Lawrence Navigation Company began to operate a service between Rivière du Loup and northern points, and I think it was in 1927 that I met Sir Henry Thornton and asked him if that branch line was to be rebuilt. I received the following letter in reply under date of April 23, 1927:

Dear Mr. Pouliot,—

After you left my office this morning, the idea occurred to me that it would be preferable that I should have more details as to the traffic which would accrue to Rivière-du-Loup by the inauguration of this new service boat, and more particularly as regards the localities it will call at.

In a general way, I know what it is proposed to do, however I should like detailed information which will give me an idea of the probable traffic.

Is there any one who could furnish me with such information or would you prefer that our agent at Rivière-du-Loup should call on you to obtain it.

Sincerely yours,

H. W. Thornton.

The Quebec & St. Lawrence Navigation Company was carrying more passengers than freight and was operating only a summer service. Due to this fact, and to the fact also that the passengers went to the wharf in motor cars or buses, this matter did not receive the attention of Sir Henry Thornton for some time.

So much is being said about the importance of granting cheap rates for coal shipments that I desire to lay some facts before the house in regard to the convenience of Rivière du Loup as an all-year harbour. The tide is very strong at the point and the ice is carried away by the strong current and does not accumulate at any time to offer an impediment to navigation. The steamship Mahone, which received a subsidy from the Department of Trade and Commerce some years ago, has successfully proved the fact that navigation is possible all the year round at Rivière du Loup. That port is bound to become a very popular winter port because other steamships like the steamship Gaspesia have stopped also at Rivière du Loup during the winter time.

Mr. LAVERGNE: There are stations at Rivière du Loup, are there not?

Mr. POULIOT: Yes, but the boats do not stop there; I am speaking now of navigation, or to say in French: Je vois que mon ami veut me monter un bateau. My hon. friend is much deeper than is the water at the station, but, as my hon. friend says, we are O.K. I have tried to explain this matter so clearly that I will gain the support of the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. LaVergne).

The following statement will show the tonnage which could be handled at this port:

50,000 tons Nova Scotia coal for Fraser pulp mill, Edmundston, N.B.
15,000 tons Nova Scotia coal for Fraser paper mill, Madawaska, Me. via Edmundston, N.B.
10,000 tons Nova Scotia coal for Temiscouata Railway Company at Rivière du Loup, Quebec and Edmundston, N.B.
5,000 tons Nova Scotia coal and coke Rivière du Loup, Quebec, domestic use alone.
75,000 to 120,000 tons for Canadian National Railways at Rivière du Loup, Que.
155,000 tons Nova Scotia coal and 5,000 tons Sulphur from Port Sabine, Texas for Edmundston, N.B.

The house would like to know how much it would cost to take the coal from the wharf at Riviere du Loup to the station. It would not be any more than 25 cents a ton, and a reasonable rate for the Témiscouata railway to charge to carry the coal from Riviere du Loup to Edmundston, New Brunswick, or Madawaska, Maine, would be one dollar a ton. This makes a great difference in comparison with the present freight rates, which I gave a moment ago. The house will note also that there are things one cannot understand in these freight rates. For instance, from Sydney to Edmundston the present freight rate is $2.50 a ton, and from Sydney to Riviere du Loup the rate is $2.90, or 40 cents more. From Pictou, which is nearer than Sydney, the rate to Edmundston is $3.10 and to Riviere du Loup, $3.60. It is most extraordinary that it costs more to bring coal from a nearer point than from a further point. But if we take it for granted that it will cost about 90 cents a ton to bring the coal by water from either Sydney or Pictou to Riviere du Loup and 25 cents more to haul it from the wharf to the station at Riviere du Loup, this will mean $1.15 instead of $2.90 to bring it from Sydney, or a saving of $1.75, and $1.15 instead of $3.60 to bring it from Pictou, or a saving of $2.45. Thus to haul the coal by water from Pictou to Riviere du Loup and then by rail from the wharf to the station at Riviere du Loup will cost less than one-third of the present freight rate. If that rate of $1 a ton be accepted by the railway and the Board of Railway Com-

missioners, there will be a saving of 60 cents from Sydney to Edmundston and of $1.20 from Pictou to Edmundston. That would be a great saving on the price of the coal, because the cost of transportation is included in the price of the material. It would mean a great saving for the companies who distribute the coal, and it would also be an economy for the Canadian National; for the able lawyers of the Canadian National who have appeared before the Board of Railway Commissioners have stated again and again that the Canadian National are losing money all the time in carrying coal. Finally, it would be a great economy for the federal treasury, on account of the fact that if that coal can be hauled at such a rate, the government will have nothing to pay, in virtue of the Maritime Freight Rates Act, to indemnify the company in that respect. Therefore it will be a saving for the people concerned, for the railway, and for the Dominion government, to try out that scheme.

The matter has been discussed several times before the chamber of commerce of Riviere du Loup, and not only is it a matter of importance in connection with the transportation of coal, but I have in my hand a letter from Imperial Oil Limited showing that it is a matter of interest to them also. This letter reads:

March 6, 1931.

Mr. Jean-François Pouliot, C.R., M.P.,
Rivière-du-Loup, P.Q.

Dear Sir:—

Further re your letter of February 17 in connection with the resolution which you intend submitting to the House of Commons early next session, in reference to the developing of the harbour at Rivière-du-Loup, would say that in the absence of Mr. McKean, we have submitted your request to our general sales department, and are now in receipt of a letter from them, stating that they certainly would be interested in the development of any points by which a freight saving could be made.

It would have to be understood that in order to be of any service to us, it would be necessary for the Canadian National Railways to build and maintain, all year round, a line between their present station and the wharf.

Trusting that you will be successful in securing the passing of this resolution, and thanking you for calling our attention to same, we are,

Yours very truly,
Imperial Oil Limited,
R. G. Plaw,
Assistant Manager.

The Fraser Company, Limited, which operates mills in different places in Temiscouata county and also mills at Edumundston, New Brunswick, and Madawaska, Maine, might ship 20,000 to 30,000 tons of paper to Chicago on lake boats at Riviere du Loup via the Temiscouata railway and ex-Madawaska, Maine, from Edumundston. That paper is at present carried by the Boston, Bangor and Aroostook railway, which, as everyone knows, is a United States railway.

In conclusion, may I stress the fact that something should be done for small centres. I agree with the expenditures that are made in the big cities like Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, and so on, but the small centres should not be forgotten, because, if they are, people will migrate from them to the big cities and the unemployment situation will be worse than ever.

I informed the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) that I would amend the resolution that is now before the house. In these times of economy it would be pretty hard to ask the government to decide forthwith to construct those harbour facilities at Riviere du Loup for the unloading of coal; but as the plans were made some years ago I would ask the government kindly to see to it that experts are appointed to make a survey of the whole matter and as soon as possible to report accordingly to the government in order that we may know whether the people will receive any advantage from that scheme, whether it will be of benefit to the community, and whether it will mean a saving for the people of Canada without hurting anyone. Therefore I would ask leave to amend the resolution to read as follows:

Whereas the city of Rivière-du-Loup is the most important centre in the eastern part of the province of Quebec;

Whereas the harbour of said city is free from ice in winter, and navigation is possible at all times of the year;

Whereas the said city is a divisional point of the National railways and the terminus of the Témiscouata railway, which links the said city to the province of New Brunswick, and to that part of the National railways known in the past as the Transcontinental;

Whereas the national railways are still in possession of the branch line of Rivière-du-Loup station to the Rivière-du-Loup wharf;

Whereas the transport by water of coal from Nova Scotia to Rivière-du-Loup would be much more economical and would permit of its distribution at a lower cost in eastern Quebec, in the northern part of New Brunswick and the state of Maine;

Therefore be it resolved—that in the opinion of this house, the government should appoint experts to study the matter from every angle and report to the government as soon as possible.

The words that are changed are those last ones:

The government should appoint experts to study the matter from every angle and report to the government as soon as possible.

If the government accept this resolution, may I ask that the experts appointed be men of repute, perfectly independent of the

Canadian National Railway and of all other organizations, so that the government will be well posted on the matter.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has the hon. member the consent of the house to amend his resolution? It must have unanimous consent. Apparently there is no objection.

Mr. POULIOT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DURANLEAU: The hon. member has not told the house what are the actual facilities in the harbour of Riviere du Loup.

Mr. POULIOT: I shall be glad to answer that question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has the right to reply in closing the discussion on his resolution, but he cannot answer questions. Should he do so, his remarks would be considered as his reply, and would close the debate.

Mr. DURANLEAU: I wanted to put a question to the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, before he concluded his remarks.

Mr. POULIOT: I shall be glad to answer if I have permission.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. member may speak twice on the question. His time is up, and he has the right only to reply in closing the debate.

Mr. POULIOT: I submit that I did not speak for forty minutes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then I was wrong as to that. Even so the hon. member may not speak twice. After he has taken his seat he can rise only to reply.

Mr. POULIOT: I shall be glad to give my hon. friend the information afterwards.

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): I desire to say only a few words on the proposed resolution of my hon. friend from Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot). First let me say that no government is better disposed than the present one to aid navigation and to facilitate the development of any of our ports. The port of Rivière du Loup, I understand, has had a decent wharf for years, and though the hon. gentleman was a member of this house for a certain number of years he never asked, if I am well informed, for any improvements to that harbour. I do not want to question his sincerity, but it is, to say the least, surprising that nothing was done in that direction when his party was in power, for the hon. member was, and still is, a very influential member of his party. I am sure he shares my views on that. It is therefore surprising that if he asked for something for the harbour at Riviere du Loup when his party was in power, nothing was done, and that to-day, now that we are in power, he is so deeply impressed with the importance of this question. How is it that nothing was done when his party was in power? Surely with his influence and with the help of his friend the premier of Quebec, his great friend, as we know, having a summer residence in the near vicinity, he could have obtained something from his party for the harbour of Riviere du Loup. Surely, Mr. Speaker, if the Liberal governments which have been in power in this country for almost the last ten years have done absolutely nothing at the request of my hon. friend from Temiscouata, it must have been because they thought the time was not opportune or that there was no emergency as to the development sought by my hon. friend.

This government, as I have already said, is willing to encourage the development of any of our ports. We believe that our maritime trade is closely connected with the development and progress of Canada. But the question of developing the port of Riviere-du-Loup is a rather difficult one. The hon. gentleman himself does not seem to be sure as to the advisability of doing certain works in that harbour. First, he proposed in the resolution which is now on the order paper that work should be immediately begun to facilitate the unloading of coal. Later on my hon. friend comes with an amendment asking that a body of experts be appointed to study every angle of that question. So he does not seem to be very sure about the matter himself.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that the question of developing the port of Riviere-du-Loup should be studied, not by a board of experts, but by this government. Surely the former government studied the question, and evidently it came to the conclusion that no improvements should be made to that harbour. But now that the hon. gentleman has brought this question before the house and drawn it to the attention of the government it will be the duty of the government to study the question of developing the harbour of Riviere-du-Loup. We do not need to appoint a board of experts to study the question. It is our duty to study it. Later on, if we come to the conclusion that the matter is so important that this government is not in a position to solve it, then we will see that a body of experts is appointed. For the time being, I do not see the necessity of such a course, and I hope that my hon. friend, hav-

ing brought the matter to the attention of the government, will now be satisfied to withdraw his motion.

Mr. JEAN-FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Témiscouata): First of all let me give the information asked for by the Minister of Marine (Mr.Duranleau). There is a wharf at Riviere-du-Loup, running from east to west, between the mouth of the Riviere-du-Loup and the St. Lawrence river. It is quite a long wharf, extending for half to three quarters of a mile. At the head of the wharf there is a depth of from twelve to fourteen feet of water at low tide. This wharf is quite sufficient for passenger navigation, but the depth of water would be absolutely insufficient for the coal tramp steamers which draw more water.

This matter was studied a long time ago by the Department of Public Works, and I have here large development plans which I shall be glad to show to the minister even before he comes to Riviere-du-Loup, in order to give him some idea of the improvements that are to be carried on there.

Mr. DURANLEAU: Would the hon. member please tell the house how long ago the wharf which is now there was built?

Mr. POULIOT: It was built a long time ago by Baby Les Quais, before my hon. friend and myself were born. May I tell my hon. friend that when I was elected it was really falling into ruin. I had money spent on it every year in order to put it into good shape, and at one time a contract to repair the wharf was given to a firm of south shore contractors. There was a very dangerous hole in it, and it had to be repaired before the winter season set in. As the contractor was not working I interviewed the then Minister of Public Works and explained to him the whole situation. In turn he notified the contractor to proceed with the work, but his notification was not complied with. I succeeded in having that work done by day labour, and I may say to my hon. friend that it was done very successfully and to the satisfaction of the department. The people who performed the work by day labour did not use the whole amount of the appropriation set aside for the work and they were complimented by the department. That occurred either in 1926 or 1927. Each year quite a substantial item has been voted for the wharf at Riviere du Loup, and the work has been done by day labour to the full satisfaction of the Department of Public Works. The officers of the department were so much satisfied with the work done by the people I had procured that last year when an item of about $22,000 was voted for that wharf it was stipulated that the work was to be done by day labour by the same men who had given such good service, and not by contract. That is the reason this particular work, involving such a large sum of money, has been done by day labour.

But what happened? As soon as this government took office they chased these men away and replaced them by a foreman who was a thief. I notified the hon. the Minister of Public Works accordingly and he told me to substantiate my charge against the foreman and he would be prosecuted. I congratulated the minister on his readiness to act, but answered him, "I do not want the death of the sinner; I want his conversion." I consider it a matter of responsibility to recommend men who are worthy of recommendation. The point is however that those men were chased away. I said to them, "You may say you have voted for the Conservative candidate, if you wish, and keep your job; I do not mind." They were too proud to do that however. They preferred to leave their jobs and to be replaced by men who loafed. The whole amount of money was not spent, and I notice there is a revote this year. I have not the complete information, but I know that the foreman has paid—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I must ask the hon. member to return to a discussion of his resolution.

Mr. POULIOT: Surely. I am merely giving some information concerning the work being done at Rivière du Loup. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine wanted to know what the Liberal party had done when it was in power, and I have attempted to tell him what was done then and what is being done now. I believe such information would be a matter of public interest. It is my intention merely to give some information to the house as to what is going on. When there is good work to be undertaken nothing is done, and when something is done it is done wrongly. That is why I take this opportunity of offering some humble suggestions to the government in order that they may improve the situation, if improvement is possible.

As a matter of fact Rivière du Loup is a natural harbour open throughout the year, and coal can be unloaded very cheaply. The use of this harbour means a saving in money to the Canadian National Railways, the big corporations and the Dominion treasury. My hon. friend the Minister of Marine was surprised that I had not made my request when the Liberal party was in power. My answer is a very simple one indeed. Wharves and public buildings had been so widely abandoned during the time the Tories were in power that

it took me all my time to have them put into decent shape before beginning any new work. Like everyone who is newly elected I wanted first to do some spring cleaning by putting into order everything in my constituency. After that I wanted to try for some new improvements, such as the Rivière du Loup station and a new post office at Trois-Pistoles. Nothing is being done in connection with either of them, however.

I am very proud of my county and my constituency, and I want to replace the building which has been condemned by the board of health, and have some improvements made. I have given this government every possible chance. I do not wish to have them do this or that in a hurry, but it is well that they should think about these matters. I want to give the Minister of Marine plenty of time to think about it so that he may consult experts. If the whole matter was to be discussed from a constitutional point of view I would accept the decision of the minister, who in connection with matters of that kind is an expert. He is a very distinguished lawyer, and I sincerely hope he will be unanimously elected batonnier of the bar of Quebec. It is well known that the hon. minister is a very able lawyer. In this case, however, the expert must necessarily be a civil engineer, and I ask my hon. friend if he will be kind enough to ask an engineer to make an independent and impartial report about the building of a new wharf, about 1,650 feet from south to north, on the St. Lawrence river, and have some dredging done in order that coal tramp steamers may unload their coal. May I say, Mr. Speaker, that I should be very glad if my hon. friend the minister would accept my suggestion, but unfortunately I cannot accept his—I cannot withdraw the resolution.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Pouliot) which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Bertrand,
Boucher,
Brasset,
Butcher,
Casgrain,
Cayley,
Chevrier,
Denis,
Desrochers,
Dubois,
Dumaine,
Fafard,
Hall,
Hanson (Skeena),
Howden,
King, Mackenzie,
Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre),
McMillan (Huron South),
Neill,
Parent,
Pouliot,
Rhéaume,
St-Père,
Sanderson,
Spencer,
Taylor,
Veniot.—27.

NAYS

Messrs:

Anderson (Halton),
Arsenault,
Arthurs,
Barber,
Barrette,
Beaubier,
Belec,
Bell (St. John-Albert),
Bennett,
Bowman,
Boyes,
Bury,
Cahan,
Campbell,
Cormier,
Cowan (Long Lake),
Dickie,
Duguay,
Duranleau,
Fraser (Cariboo),
Gobeil,
Gordon,
Hackett,
Hay,
Irvine,
Jones,
Kennedy (Peace River),
Laflèche,
Larue,
Laurin,
Lawson,
Loucks,
Macdonald (Kings),
MacMillan (Saskatoon),
MacNicol,
McGillis,
McLure,
Manion,
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),
Morand,
Mullins,
Murphy,
Myers,
Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Plunkett,
Porteous,
Price,
Robinson,
Rogers,
Ryerson,
Sauvé,
Senn,
Shaver,
Simpson (Simcoe North),
Simpson (Algoma West),
Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Smoke,
Spankie,
Spence,
Stanley,
Stewart (Leeds),
Stewart (Lethbridge),
Stinson,
Stitt (Nelson),
Sutherland,
Swanston,
Tétrault,
Thompson (Lanark),
Tummon,
Weese,
White (Mount Royal),
Willis.—72.

Mr. McINTOSH: I was paired with the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Kennedy). Had I voted I would have voted for the resolution.

Mr. MacLAREN: I was paired with the hon. member for Rimouski (Sir Eugène Fiset). Had I voted I would have voted against the motion.

Mr. BOULANGER (Translation): I was paired with the hon. member for Dorchester (Mr. Gagnon). Had I voted I would have voted for the resolution.

Mr. MERCIER (Laurier-Outremont) (Translation): I was paired with the hon. member for South Toronto (Mr. Geary). Had I voted I would have voted for the resolution.

(Owing to the absence of an official list and the impossibility of recording several statements of pairs simultaneously announced, the list of stated pairs is incomplete.)

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): Will the Minister of Public Works say whether the

papers asked for some time ago will be produced before we reach in supply the items relating to the improvement of harbours and rivers in the province of New Brunswick?

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): I can only say that all the returns that have been ordered are prepared and are, I think, in the hands of the Secretary of State. They will be brought down any day.

INTERNATIONAL LOAD LINE CONVENTION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I wish to ask the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) two questions. First, is it the intention of the administration to introduce, during the present session of parliament, legislation implementing the findings of the International Load Line Convention held in London in May, 1930? Secondly, as a supplementary question, if this is the intention, will the minister give consideration to the suggestions received from the shipping interests of British Columbia in regard to certain exemptions in the sheltered waters adjacent to the coast of that province?

Hon. ALFRED DURANLEAU (Minister of Marine): We are at present preparing a bill to put into effect the findings of the International Load Line Convention, and we hope that we shall be able to introduce the bill during the present session.

As to the second question, although I have not studied the very lengthy report that has been submitted, involving as it does a good many technical questions, I may say that I see nothing in the report concerning exemptions in the case of sheltered waters. I do not know whether by our legislation we can alter the findings of that convention. However, the matter is under consideration at the present time and if it is possible to exempt sheltered waters we shall probably do so.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Thank you.

ROYAL GRAIN COMMISSION

PRINTING OF REPORT OF SIR JOSIAH STAMP

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): I believe there will be a great demand for copies of the Stamp report, when it is issued, and I trust we shall have an assurance that there will be a considerable number of copies provided for distribution.

[Mr. Veniot.]

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): The hon. gentleman is aware that the report has not been received,—

Mr. BROWN: I know that.

Mr. BENNETT: —but there will be as little delay as possible in presenting it when it is available. I shall bear in mind what the hon. member has said. The house will determine the number of copies to be printed when the report is laid on the table.

RADIO LICENCES

On the orders of the ddy:

Mr. W. H. TAYLOR (Norfolk-Elgin): I wish to ask the Minister of Marine a question. Is the information correct that persons permitted to issue radio licences under his department must have a recommendation from the government member or the government candidate?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I must remind hon. members that questions asked on the orders of the day should concern urgent matters only. The hon. member is asking a question which he should put on the order paper.

Mr. TAYLOR: This is an urgent matter. I have had several requests from people in my riding—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member should put the question on the order paper; it is not of a character to be asked on the orders of the day. Questions, to warrant being asked at this time, should concern matters of urgency.

REPRESENTATION ACT AMENDMENT

REPRESENTATION FOR ELECTORS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT OF PATRICIA

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River) moved the second reading of Bill No. 2, to amend the Representation Act.

He said: We have gone through the order paper so quickly to-day, Mr. Speaker, that I am hardly prepared for this. The purpose of the amendment is stated clearly in the explanatory note, which reads:

> The purpose of this amendment is to provide representation for electors resident in the district of Patricia north of the electoral district of Kenora-Rainy River.

This bill was introduced at the last regular session of 1930 and was opposed by the opposition of that time for the reason, I believe, that they did not have proper infor-

mation. For the benefit of the house, I may say that the electors north of Kenora located in this district were denied the vote in 1925 and again in 1926, and the bill introduced at the last regular session of 1930, just prior to the federal election, was for the purpose of giving votes to the miners, labourers and others residing north of Kenora. I am asking this house to follow what was done by the government of Ontario. Prior to the provincial elections in 1929 the provincial government changed their representation act in order to take in this territory. At the last federal redistribution the territory was cut off on the south bank of the English river, but since that time mining developments have opened up in the Red Lake district, the Woman River district and at Pine Falls. With these mines and with the development of waterpower some 500 to 600 electors were disfranchised during the last federal elections. I am sure when the Prime Minister opposed this measure when it was last before the house he was not fully aware of the fact that there would be between 500 and 600 people disfranchised in this country. Unfortunately I had to be absent from the house when the bill was up for its second reading and I was not in position to give the required information.

I believe the Prime Minister was misinformed in the position he took when the matter was last before the house. These people were not permitted to vote during the last campaign because of a ruling given by the chief electoral officer. It is unfair and unjust to deprive citizens of this part of the country especially—if I am permitted to specialize—those hard-working pioneers who are creating new wealth in northern Ontario or in other parts of the country of the privilege of casting their ballots, and I ask that this bill be given its second reading.

On motion of Mr. Cahan the debate was adjourned.

ARMISTICE DAY ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR CELEBRATION OF ARMISTICE DAY ON NOVEMBER 11

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni) moved the second reading of Bill No. 8, to amend the Armistice Day Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is a very short and simple bill. It provides that two sections of the Armistice Day Act, passed in 1921, shall be repealed and the bill of which I am now moving the second reading substituted therefor.

This bill provides that the celebration of Armistice Day shall be held on November 11 of each year and on no other day, whereas the previous act provided that it should be held on the Monday of the week in which November 11 fell. The bill says nothing about Thanksgiving day, so the procedure in that regard will revert to what it was prior to 1921. It will be at the option of the government to proclaim when Thanksgiving day shall be celebrated, not necessarily in November but perhaps in October.

The old act has been the law for ten years, and one would have supposed that what opposition there might have been to it originally would have died out, but on the contrary it has been increasing year after year. The reason why this opposition did not come to a head sooner is, I believe, that a great many soldiers did not know that that was the law. Many of them simply went ahead and celebrated Armistice day on November 11 regardless of what day was fixed by law. They are beginning to find out what is the law and there is a general feeling throughout the country that Armistice day should be celebrated on November 11 and on no other day. The only people who object to this proposal are commercial travellers who desire to be able to come home on a Friday or Saturday night and have a holiday on Monday. Perhaps there are a few others who would like to go to their homes and have a holiday on Monday, but I would point out that this day was never intended to be a public holiday in the sense of bank holidays and so on; it was intended as a remembrance day for the soldiers, and they are entitled to have it on that day. We never hear of any proposals to have Christmas day, New Year's day or the 1st of July held on the Monday of the week in which those particular days fall.

This matter is solely and entirely the concern of the returned men and we as a governing body ought to respect their wishes. It has nothing to do with what other people want, and the soldiers should surely have the right to decide.

I have no desire to take up the time of the house, but I have stacks of supporting resolutions and letters from every part of the country. I have a communication from the Dominion executive council of the Canadian Legion, and they refer also to a resolution passed at the Dominion convention held last November. I have received resolutions adopted by a large number of bodies, one from Mrs. Barnard who represents one thousand women of the British Columbia Women's provincial command. There are others from various bodies in the west and elsewhere, some representing five hundred and more

returned men. In no single instance have I received objection from any soldier, let alone any representative body of soldiers.

I would repeat that this has nothing at all to do with and will not interfere with Thanksgiving day. Thanksgiving day can be celebrated on any day which the government sees fit to name, but the soldiers are asking that Armistice day be celebrated only on November 11. When it is observed on some other day they find difficulty in getting away from their occupation or business to carry on their own celebration on November 11. They regard this day not as a holiday but as a day of sacred remembrance.

I do not believe there will be any objection to this bill from any section of the country, and I trust it will receive the support of the house.

Mr. C. H. DICKIE (Nanaimo): Mr. Speaker, I am thoroughly in accord with the remarks of the introducer of this bill, with one slight exception to which I will refer a little later. I find that it is almost the unanimous wish of the returned men and their families in British Columbia, and I presume it is the same throughout the rest of Canada, that this change be made. Thanksgiving day has always been associated in our minds with the harvest festival, which originated when the pilgrim fathers garnered their first crop in 1641. The soldiers are perfectly right in asking for this change, and I agree with the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) that their wishes should be respected.

I received a communication from the Dominion headquarters of the Canadian Legion, one clause of which reads as follows:

> Be it therefore resolved—that we request that the parliament of Canada be requested and do hereby respectfully request it to enact legislation whereby in place of the present Thanksgiving day, November 11 in every year shall be set aside as a national holiday to be known as Remembrance day.

Those of us who gather each year before the cenotaphs throughout the country know that the thoughts associated with Thanksgiving day are forgotten. The sad memories usually connected with Armistice day take away from the joyousness which should prevail on Thanksgiving day. It is the wish of the soldier bodies that this day be known as Remembrance day, and I think we should acquiesce in their wishes.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Barber):

> That the word "Armistice" in the last line be struck out and the word "Remembrance" substituted therefor.

[Mr. Neill.]

Mr. NEILL: I rise to a point of order. It is not customary on the second reading to amend the details of a bill. I suggest that the hon. member wait until we go into committee. I have no objection to the proposal.

Mr. SPEAKER: The amendment as suggested is not in order at this stage. The motion is for the second reading of the bill. The amendment as such would have to be proposed as an amendment to the bill when it is under consideration in committee.

Mr. ARTHURS: In view of the fact that this is not a political question, that it has aroused a great deal of feeling throughout Canada, and that there are differences of opinion on the subject, I would move that the debate be now adjourned.

Mr. NEILL: Looks like a stall! On the motion to adjourn the debate I would point out—

Mr. BENNETT: This motion is not debatable.

The house divided on the motion (Mr. Arthurs) which was agreed to on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Arthurs,	Morand,
Barber,	Mullins,
Baribeau,	Murphy,
Barrette,	Myers,
Beaubier,	Perley (Qu'Appelle),
Belec,	Pettit,
Bell (St. John-Albert),	Plunkett,
Bennett,	Porteous,
Beynon,	Price,
Bowman,	Quinn,
Boyes,	Robinson,
Bury,	Sauvé,
Cahan,	Senn,
Cantley,	Shaver,
Cormier,	Simpson (Simcoe North),
Cowan (Long Lake),	Simpson (Algoma West),
Dickie,	Smith (Victoria-Carleton),
Dorion,	Smoke,
Duguay,	Spankie,
Duranleau,	Spence,
Fraser (Cariboo),	Stanley,
Geary,	Stewart (Leeds),
Gobeil,	Stewart (Lethbridge),
Gordon,	Stinson,
Hackett,	Stitt (Nelson),
Hay,	Stitt (Selkirk),
Larue,	Sutherland,
Laurin,	Swanston,
LaVergne,	Tétrault,
Loucks,	Thompson (Simcoe East),
Macdonald (Kings),	Thompson (Lanark),
Macdougall,	Tummon,
MacMillan (Saskatoon),	Weese,
MacNicol,	White (Mount Royal),
McDade,	Willis.—74.
McGillis,	
McLure,	
Manion,	
Moore (Chateauguay-Huntingdon),	

NAYS

Messrs:

Beaubien,	King, Mackenzie,
Bertrand,	Lucas,
Bouchard,	Luchkovich,
Boucher,	MacInnis,
Bourassa,	Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre),
Brasset,	McIntosh,
Brown,	McMillan (Huron South),
Butcher,	McPhee,
Cardin,	Mercier (Laurier-Outremont),
Casgrain,	Neill,
Cayley,	Parent,
Chevrier,	Reid,
Coote,	Rhéaume,
Denis,	Rinfret,
Deslauriers,	Robitaille,
Desrochers,	St-Père,
Dubois,	Sanderson,
Dumaine,	Speakman,
Fontaine,	Spencer,
Gardiner,	Stewart (Edmonton West),
Garland (Bow River),	Totzke,
Gershaw,	Veniot,
Hall,	Verville,
Hanson (Skeena),	Woodsworth.—52.
Heaps,	
Howden,	
Irvine,	
Kennedy (Peace River),	

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Tuesday, April 28, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT DECLARING RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO REFRAIN FROM VOTING

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle): Last Thursday I gave notice that I would propose to-day that the standing orders of the house be amended by inserting the following:

9(a). Upon a division a member is not obliged to vote.

In moving this amendment I do not propose anything new. I simply desire to clarify the situation and to enable the house and yourself, sir, as guardian of the rules of this house, to avoid a repetition of the little embroilment of last week. That, however, I regard, as a matter of fact, only as an incident. What I wish to make clear is that there never has been and that there is not at the present time any standing order or set rule governing the manner in which members must vote or refrain from voting. What has been quoted in this house or outside the house as Rule 68 is not and never has been a rule; it is one of the footnotes which Mr. Beauchesne has incorporated as comments upon the very rule which I propose to discuss to-day—that is, standing order No. 9. And even at that, Mr. Beauchesne's footnote, No. 68, which my good friend from Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) mistook for a rule of the house, is but the reproduction of a paragraph of Bourinot's fourth edition, at page 381, as any man familiar with Mr. Beauchene's book, or with the rules of the house, can easily find out; because there, after paragraph 68, you have "B-381." Besides, that paragraph in Bourinot's fourth edition of 1916, which was edited by a predecessor of our able clerk, Doctor Flint, is also a verbatim reproduction of the same words used by Sir John Bourinot in the first edition of his book in 1884, at page 389. Now, that comment of Sir John Bourinot, reproduced as it has been from time to time, was absolutely true and accurate as applied to the practices of the British and Canadian houses in 1884. I do not think I shall have any trouble in demonstrating that it is no longer applicable to the rules of this house as they were revised in 1927.

Now to give a short history of our standing orders. The first set of rules or standing orders of this house were adopted on December 20, 1867, as may be found in the Journals of the House of Commons for the year 1867-68, at pages 115 to 125. Neither in these standing orders, any more than in any other standing orders following, nor in the present standing orders, was there any disposition regarding the right of members either to vote or not to vote. But there was a general governing clause, adopted as standing order No. 116, which stated:

In all unprovided cases the Rules, Usages and Forms of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland shall be followed.

That is what I call the governing rule of all our standing orders, from that day until the present time. As it was in 1867, that general clause did not make any mention as to date with regard to the usages pursued in the House of Commons in England; they were to apply from time to time. The first time that the matter was brought up in the house—at least the first time, and I think it is sufficient, that I have discovered—was in 1879, when the house voted, if I remember rightly, on the famous legislation concerning the Canadian Pacific Railway. An hon. member having voted, his vote was challenged by one of the ministers of the crown, Mr. Caron, because he had paired; upon which the Prime Minister, Sir John Macdonald, leader of the house, stood up and stated, in contradiction of his own colleague, that—

Every member in the house, if called upon, was compelled to vote, and even if a gentleman got up and stated that he had paired, the house could compel him to vote, because, if he had paired, he must leave the house before the vote was taken. This was English practice.

If the rule stood now as it was then, it would mean that every time a vote is taken, members getting up and declaring that they have not voted because they are paired, break the same rule, or rather what has been mentioned as such, but which as a matter of fact is not a rule but only a practice. Let us see, however. Upon this opinion of Sir John Macdonald, implicitly endorsed by the whole house, Sir John Bourinot based the comment which I have quoted and which Mr. Beauchesne has reproduced in his paragraph, No. 68, misquoted as a rule of this house. The only rule was the practice as defined by Sir John Macdonald in 1879, then in force in England as here; because it must be noted that Sir John Macdonald invoked it as applying to this house inasmuch as it was the English practice.

In 1906, however, the British House of Commons revised its standing orders and adopted the following rule:

No. 29. A member may vote in a division although he did not hear the question put.

And paragraph 2:

A member is not obliged to vote.

—which are the exact words that I have put in the motion I now propose to the house. Now, did this apply to Canada? No. And why not? Because in 1906, the same year, in the month of March, the House of Commons of Canada had revised its rules and in substitution for the governing rule 116 of 1867 it had introduced a new governing clause. It is called "General Rule No. 1." This, I claim, is the most important of the standing orders because it governs the whole. It reads:

In all cases not provided for hereinafter—That is, by the standing orders.

—or by sessional or other orders, the rules, usages and forms of proceeding of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in force on the first day of July 1867, shall be followed.

As Doctor Flint quotes in his posterior edition of Bourinot's work, the effect of this was to prevent the application to the House of Commons of Canada of the new standing order adopted in England in December 1906. So that when, in 1922, Mr. Beauchesne issued the first edition of his comments, he was perfectly justified in inserting this footnote. It was then under No. 69, now under No. 68. This paragraph says that an hon. member is obliged to vote. That was copied, I repeat, from Sir John Bourinot. Then paragraph 70-69 of the second edition (1927)—reads as follows:

Under ancient custom, refusal to vote was considered a serious parliamentary offence, but the practice was changed in 1906 by the British house adopting a standing order whereby a member is not obliged to vote. That standing order does not apply to the Canadian Commons. The practice has not been changed in Canada where every member who has heard the question put is bound to vote..

This is the second paragraph referred to by the hon. member for Charlevoix (Mr. Casgrain) as being another rule of the house. The hon. member was apparently under the misapprehension that Mr. Beauchesne is the parliament of Canada and that his comments are to be taken as rules of this house, just as a lawyer in consulting with a client might confuse the opinion of a commentator with the text of a statute or of a judgment delivered by the court. I do not think my hon. friend would act in that way in his capacity as a lawyer.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Not all the time.

Mr. BOURASSA: My hon. friend did not do it intentionally. I am sure that most hon. members of this house are apt to make such mistakes once in a while; and may I say for the benefit of the hon. lady member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail) that many members of the press gallery seemed to be under the same misapprehension. Neither Sir John Bourinot nor Mr. Beauchesne is the parliament of Canada, nor should a private opinion expressed by even such eminent parliamentary jurists as Sir John Bourinot or Mr. Beauchesne prevail over the expressed will of parliament.

I think I can demonstrate quite easily that in 1927 this house changed its attitude with regard to this very question and adopted a new rule which put into effect the practice which for many years, even previous to 1906, had been in force in Great Britain. In 1927, as every hon. member knows, our rules were revised. Heaven knows—my hon. friend beside me (Mr. Neill) will support me in this—they were not revised with the idea of giving more freedom to independent members of this house. However, the committee which revised our rules did not think it necessary to impose upon hon. members the obligation of voting if conscientiously they did not feel like voting. What did they do? They introduced a new governing rule. While the House of Commons had, in 1906, declared that such practices, customs and usages of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom would apply here only as prior to 1867, under the

rules adopted by this house in 1927 we reverted to the principle of 1867, and in fact made it much clearer. The general rule governing all such cases now is standing order No. 1, which reads as follows:

In all cases not provided for hereinafter or by sessional or other orders, the usages and customs of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as in force at the time shall be followed so far as they may be applicable to this house.

The principle of applying only those rules in force in 1867 was deleted. So that from 1927 on, we have it stated in so many words in our standing orders, which are the laws governing the proceedings in this house, that the forms and practices now in force in England are in force here to govern all cases not provided for by our own standing orders. Under this new governing rule, which was a revolution, whether right or wrong, the then Speaker, Hon. Mr. Lemieux, decided twice during the session of 1928—the first session following the adoption of these rules—that a member although present in the house was not obliged to vote.

The first occasion occurred on March 27, 1928, to be found at page 1755 of the debates of that year. Curiously enough, the challenge was issued by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), so he has good reason to know the rule which was applied at that time. The hon. member raised the point that the then Minister of Immigration, Mr. Forke, had not voted, and then followed a very picturesque and I think very true comment by the hon. member for Lincoln (Mr. Chaplin), as follows:

The minister is not the only one who did not understand what he was voting for.

I think that is one of the best comments on parliamentary government ever made. Mr. Speaker Lemieux spoke thus:

The rule is that members who are present when a motion is read must vote if they are in the house whilst the division is being taken. But when an hon. member declares that he does not know what the amendment is about, he is excused from voting. That is the practice followed in the British House of Commons.

Unfortunately, the Speaker, who had given his decision on the spur of the moment, did not quote the authorities. However, on May 26 of the same year another occasion arose on which the then Minister of Finance, Mr. Robb, challenged the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy) for abstaining from voting. The decision of the Speaker, which appears on page 3420 of the debates of that year, was as follows:

Generally, under the practice of the house, an hon. member who has heard the question put must vote. However, lately, since 1906, I know, in the British parliament this time-honoured practice has been ignored; I have seen a standing order—

The one which I read a moment ago—

—to the effect that when a member does not feel justified in voting he need not do so. I decided this point some weeks ago, when the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Forke) was in the same position; he declared that because of conscientious reasons he did not think it wise to vote on the question.

The cause of the confusion which arose last week reduces itself to this: In publishing his book in 1927 our excellent clerk did not delete those so-called rules Nos. 68 and 69. They were not really rules, they were opinions previously expressed by Sir John Bourinot and Mr. Beauchesne. At the time they were expressed, they were quite proper but had no further application after the change of the governing rule made in 1927. In justice to our clerk, whom I consider to be one of the best parliamentary authorities, not only in Canada but in the British Empire, it must be said that this book was published a few weeks after the close of the session. He himself in his preface points out the fact that because of the changes adopted during the previous session he added some two hundred footnotes to the present edition, and struck out other footnotes which had no further application. His mistake would probably have been made by nine out of ten, if not by forty-nine out of fifty men. The clerk had to follow, and he did so with much industry and legal insight, the full effect of this new governing clause No. 1 upon all the standing orders and practices of this house. It would have taken months fully to realize what the effect of this new rule would be on the various practices and customs theretofore undefined either in the rules of our house or in those of the British house. So I repeat and I think I could end by saying that what I am moving to-day is in order to dispel a misapprehension, to put into concrete form what has been since 1927 the unwritten rule of the house and assented to by jurisprudence from the chair the year after the rules were revised.

But before I take my seat I want to go a little further, and I hope the house will acquit me of a desire simply to give a little satisfaction to my amour propre. What I want to demonstrate in my closing words is that this rule, as now written and applied in England—and it was applied in practice several years before it was enacted in their standing orders—is in strict conformity with

the evolution of parliamentary government that has taken place both in England and here, not to speak of other countries. I quite realize that for the many years during which the House of Commons was divided into two strictly regulated parties, the shepherds of those two flocks, for instance my good friends the hon. member for Charlevoix-Saguenay (Mr. Casgrain) and the hon. member for West Algoma (Mr. Simpson), were mostly concerned with bringing in all the stranded ewes and making them vote in accordance with the party whip or order. But whether they like the situation or not, in England as here, with the extension of the suffrage not only to the various classes of men but to women as well, the point has been reached that the two party system is no longer satisfactory to a growing number of men and women either in Great Britain or in Canada. I find it quite legitimate on the part of the old party leaders, their followers and their press men, to deprecate that growth, but still it is there; and so long as there are fractions of the Canadian community, as in England, who send to parliament men who are not bound to follow the dictates of the two old parties, not only must those men be allowed freedom to express their opinions in concrete motions as they present them in contradistinction to the motions presented by the government or the official opposition; but in addition we must acknowledge to those men elected by the free electorate of Canada, the same liberty of not voting for any motion presented by a Conservative or by a Liberal if they find in that motion something to which they agree and something with which they disagree. Is that not reasonable?

Mr. LAPOINTE: If this be the rule as it exists now, what is the necessity of enacting this new rule as would be done by the hon. member's motion?

Mr. BOURASSA: This is simply to clarify the matter. First of all it was evident last week that many hon. members were misinformed as to the situation. I am quite sure and I am prepared to say that every one of them was in perfect good faith. Under what circumstances are laws or regulations passed in the British house? In such matters I always rely upon British practice because, after all, the practice of parliamentary government is essentially British, and whether we agree or disagree with many things in British policy, we must agree that the British parliament, as a parliament, remains the example. Why did they adopt that rule in England? Because the point had been reached when first the Irish party, then the Labour party, and then the Independent Labour party, had cropped up; and very often they were not permitted to express their views otherwise than by abstention from voting. Very wisely here as in England we have stuck to the rule that we should not have numerous amendments. But suppose even we changed that so as to give to my friends to my left, the Progressives—and even they are now nearly divided into two groups—or my friends of the Labour group, or myself or my good neighbour, the right to express our views in subamendments. After those subamendments have been disposed of we are obliged to vote either for or against the amendment, or the motion, or to abstain from voting. I do not want to refer to a past debate, but as a matter of illustration I may say that I stated quite clearly that the amendment of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) suited me in one respect but not in another. By voting against it I would have been forced to deny something in which I believed and by voting for it I would have been forced to approve something I did not approve. It is evident it was under the weight of such considerations that the change was made in England and I ask the house to make the same change here simply to clarify the question.

May I appeal to both the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition for whom—and they know this although we may differ on many occasions,—I have the greatest respect? I appeal especially to the Prime Minister whose marvellous erudition in matters of law and of parliamentary government has many times given me wonder. He is undoubtedly one of the greatest legal minds in this country. I am quite sure he is sincerely very much concerned with the preservation of the best traditions of British government. May I remind him of this? When the change was made in England it was proposed by Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman, not an upsetter of things, I believe, one of the most respected of British statesmen in the last century. Around him sat as ministers of the crown such men as Sir Edward Grey, James Bryce—I call them as they were then styled, mere commoners but men of great value—Mr. Haldane, who later on became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Asquith. On the other side the opposition was led in the house by Mr. Arthur Balfour, surrounded by such men as the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, his son Austen, Lord Robert Cecil, and that veteran, not so well known perhaps outside of England but so much re-

spected in England, Sir Edward Clarke, who died just a few days ago, one of the shining lights and one of the most respected men in the British parliament as well as before the British courts. All those men sat there, and whilst many other proposals which were enacted then by a majority were discussed, this disposition which I ask the Canadian House of Commons to adopt for the same obvious reason that it was adopted in England, was not only adopted unanimously but not challenged by anybody. Do hon. members think if that change had been considered as an attempt to break with the best traditions of the House of Commons, as a danger to the working of parliamentary institutions, there would not have been found amongst those that I have named a single man to protest? But no, it passed unanimously.

The other portion of the rule, the one which exempts members from hearing the question, was challenged and, indeed, rather amusingly. The Conservative member who challenged the other part of the rule and said that the members should listen to the question, gave at the same time the evidence that that rule also had been disregarded for a good while in England, especially since the adoption of the new system of registering the vote by going through the lobbies. He said that time and again, he had heard members rushing into a lobby and asking friends of theirs; "What is all this about?"—"Blowed if I know!" Thus you had two informed members of the House of Commons pushing themselves into the lobby and coming out from the lobby into the House without knowing what they were voting for. For that reason it is better to discriminate, and here I give to the hon. member for Quebec East, the former Minister of Justice, (Mr. Lapointe), my reason for proposing this change. If we left it as it is, the whole of standing order 29 and the practice founded in England upon it, would apply to us. It would exempt members of the house from listening to a question. I do not believe in that, first for the reason that was given by Mr. Rutherford in England, but mainly because our mode of voting is not that which prevails in England. I claim, sir, that I am precisely within the spirit of British institutions when I say, as was stated time and time again by Sir John A. Macdonald and others, that all those rules and practices of the British parliament which are applicable to us we should endeavour to preserve, and those that are not applicable we should not. Therefore, I think that we should discard the first part of standing order 29 as adopted in England because not yet having resorted to the lobby system of voting it seems to me only decent, were it only for the edification of the public, that a member should be in his seat when the question is put. I think that that is a conclusive reason why we should adopt that part of standing order 29 of the English house which concerns the liberty of members not to vote, but not the other part which allows them to vote without knowing upon what they are voting. Therefore, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), the motion standing in my name as it is recorded in the Votes and Proceedings.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): I think, Mr. Speaker, that I voice the views of all the members of this house when I express our gratitude to the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) for the toil to which he has gone in bringing to the attention of the members the history of this rule. He has done it dispassionately, and I think with precision.

May I venture, however, to remind him that the reason why we in Canada are authorized to make such rules as we might desire for the government of our own house, provided that they did not exceed the power exercised in the making of rules by the House of Commons of Great Britain is to be found in the fact that when the British North America Act was originally passed it contained in section eighteen a clause which provided as follows:

> The privileges, immunities, and powers to be held, enjoyed, and exercised by the Senate and by the House of Commons, and by the members therof respectively, shall be such as are from time to time defined by act of the parliament of Canada, but so that the same shall never exceed those at the passing of this act held, enjoyed, and exercised by the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and by the members thereof.

That, in a very vital moment in our history, was found to stand in the way of the exercise of certain necessary powers, so in 1875, on the 19th of July, the imperial parliament amended the British North America Act by substituting a new section reading as follows:

> The privileges, immunities, and powers to be held, enjoyed, and exercised by the Senate and by the House of Commons, and by the members thereof respectively, shall be such as are from time to time defined by act of the parliament of Canada, but so that any act of the parliament of Canada defining such privileges, immunities, and powers shall not confer any privileges, immunities, or powers exceeding those at the passing of such act held, enjoyed, and exercised by the Commons House of Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and by the members thereof.

As the hon. member for Labelle has very properly pointed out, there was a rule in

England until recent years compelling members to vote. That rule was abrogated in 1906 under the circumstances to which the hon. gentleman has referred, and to which I shall presently make some reference. The original rule was based on the assumption that every member of the House of Commons should, if he were in his place, vote upon any given question that was submitted by the Speaker for the consideration of the house. Two factors influenced the commons in changing that rule, one was the confusion with respect to voting. The hon. gentleman has referred to that. As is well known, in England to vote a member leaves the chamber and goes into either the government or the opposition lobby. The tellers are appointed by the Speaker for the division. When several parties other than the two old parties, as the hon. gentleman has said, began to exercise authority there was first of all provision made, not by law, but by custom, for abstention from voting, and the reason that the rule was amended was because it was so wholly disregarded. That was the real reason. In other words, the confusion in voting and the difficulties in voting, by reason of there being but the two lobbies, had brought about a situation that made it incumbent that the rules should be changed in the manner indicated.

In my opinion this is a matter which every member of the house should consider from the point of view of the best interests of the house. In my opinion every member of the house, if he is in the chamber, should record his view on every question submitted to the house by the Speaker. As I was thinking of this matter this morning I remembered the words of Burke:

> I certainly have very warm wishes for the place of my birth, but the sphere of my duties is my true country.

Those of you who recall that celebrated speech of his to the electors of Bristol will recognize that he put perhaps as fairly as it has ever been put the position of a member of parliament. The duty of a member of parliament is not only to his own constituency; it is to every part of this broad Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Once we have conceded the right of any member to withdraw from the chamber, then I think by the very nature of our proceedings and the method we adopt in voting, he must vote if he is in his place. I say that for two reasons: First, because his sitting in this chamber when the question is put involves much confusion if he does not vote. You have that here in this chamber yourself, Mr. Speaker, and it is known to all of us. Secondly, I conceive that there rests upon every member who thinks it worth while to sit in the chamber the duty to express to this country what his views are with respect to the questions so submitted to him. Does not that seem to be reasonable? In a vast country such as this where we have but 245 members, with questions which affect the well-being of every part of the body politic constantly being submitted for our consideration, and having by an extension of our rules given the right to a third group to move a subamendment when going into supply, thereby securing great freedom for every individual in the expression of his opinion—is it not incumbent upon every one of us elected not only to represent a particular constituency, but to deal with problems that affect the well-being of Canada as a whole, to express his opinion in the only method known to the law in which he can express it in this house, namely, by rising in his place and recording his opinion? While pairs are not recognized by parliamentary practice and procedure, the custom or convention has grown up whereby the view of a member paired is recorded upon the journals of the house. I cannot therefore do other than in a very few words indicate that I believe it is the bounden duty of every hon. member of the Canadian House of Commons, in view of the problems with which we have to deal, to be ready and willing if he sits in this house to express an opinion. If peradventure there be those who believe that it is undesirable for particular reasons at a given moment not to express an opinion, I see no reason why an hon. member might not withdraw from the house. I very distinctly recall an occasion in which I did. I felt that for the moment I was not in accord with the view held by my friends, and another hon. gentleman and myself retired from the chamber rather than vote. I was sitting in the seat now occupied by the former Minister of Marine (Mr. Cardin). In England it requires only seven or eight minutes to record a division, and in the English House of Commons there are about six hundred members. Those hon. members who have watched the clock realize how long it takes in this house. The provision for calling in the members in the Canadian House of Commons is somewhat different from the custom in England. In our house Mr. Speaker says, "Call in the members," and during the interval which elapses between the time the bell rings to call in the members and the Speaker rises to put the question there is a period given for hon. members to finally determine whether or not they will go into the lobby and not vote or be in the house and vote. I consider that interval to afford

opportunity to each hon. member to consider how he will vote—such an opportunity is not afforded in the same way in England. As Burke said in one of his addresses the English do not believe that customs which violate the law should long continue and the law is repealed. And so the custom by which the law was disregarded with respect to voting in England was crystallized by the repeal of the provisions which called upon members to vote.

We are a new country, with fresh problems, large obligations and responsibilities, and I do not believe there is in this house a single member who desires to escape his obligations or be relieved of his responsibilities. His obligations are to Canada. His responsibilities are to the country as a whole and in the discharge of those obligations and responsibilities I believe it is in the best interests of this Dominion that every member of this house should, when the proper moment comes, rise in his place and express his opinion upon every question submitted from the chair. If he does not wish to do that he should withdraw from the chamber and thereby preserve his independence of mind and freedom of choice hereafter. That is my conviction in the matter.

Holding these views as strongly as I do I now move an amendment to the motion made by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) seconded by Mr. Stevens as follows:

> That the motion be amended by striking out the word "not" therein before the word "obliged."—

so that hereafter, whatever doubt may have been entertained in the past, it will be removed and all hon. members in this house will be obliged to vote when the question is put from the chair.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bennett moves in amendment, seconded by Mr. Stevens that the motion be amended by striking out the word "not" therein before the word "obliged." The original motion reads:

> That the standing orders of this house be amended by inserting the following as 9(a).
> Upon a division a member is not obliged to vote.

The effect of the amendment is to strike out from the motion the word "not". The motion would then read that the member is obliged to vote. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: On a point of order, I would like to ask whether the amendment as put is in order? Is it not a negative of the original motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: My ruling is that the amendment is in order. The original motion is for an amendment of the rules, and the amendment is also for an amendment of the rules, but in a different way. I therefore hold that the amendment is in order.

Hon. CHARLES MARCIL (Bonaventure): I am not quite pleased with the way the Prime Minister has explained the situation, or his contention that every hon. member who is present in the house must vote. Those who are paired cannot vote.

Mr. BENNETT: I excepted them.

Mr. MARCIL: There is no record kept of pairs, except in Hansard, and Hansard is not official. It is not an official record of the proceedings of this house. Therefore if this new rule passed a member who is paired would have to leave the house because he is paired and cannot vote. He is prevented from voting because he is paired. Pairs however are not recognized by the chair and are not mentioned in the journals of the house. I would like to know what the Prime Minister means.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Quebec East): There is no doubt that my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) is correct in his interpretation of the situation as it exists. So much is clear. From the words of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister there is no doubt a mistake has been made, and now it is proposed to correct that mistake by enacting a new rule. So far as I am concerned, although I believe it is desirable that hon. members should vote on every question submitted to them, I do not think it fair to correct that situation by enacting a rule in this way to-day. Usually rules of the house when changed or amended are so changed and amended by a special committee. There is a Speaker's committee where the whole situation may be considered and studied, and I am free to say that if I were a member of such a committee I would perhaps support the views of my right hon. friend the Prime Minister. Certainly however I will not vote for his amendment in order to correct the mistake which was made the other day.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): In view of the discussion which has taken place, I have not very much to say more particularly with regard to the statements which have been made by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). In so far as former rules are concerned he has covered the situation very clearly. The Prime Minister has moved an amendment however which is of some importance, and which probably will mean a great deal to hon. members of this house. I think the suggestion made by

the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe), the former Minister of Justice, that this matter be referred to a special committee of the house, is a fair one. However I am not very hopeful that this will be done, because I believe the Prime Minister has made up his mind that he is going to have his way on this occasion.

Mr. BENNETT: Rather unfair, but still—

Mr. McINTOSH: What is wrong with that?

Mr. GARDINER: Both the motion and the amendment arose out of an occurrence of last Tuesday night when the amendment to the motion in regard to the reply to the speech from the throne was being voted upon. At that time certain hon. members in this corner of the house did not vote either for or against the amendment. So far as we were concerned, we felt that we were within our rights, more particularly having in mind the rulings of the former Speaker.

Let me point out clearly to the house that the amendment to the address in reply to the speech from the throne was purely a party amendment. That is my judgment of it. The time of this house is given to playing party politics more than to the real business of the country. In view of the proposed amendment by the Prime Minister apparently such practice is going to continue unceasingly. I wish the people of Canada could sit in this house sometimes—

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. GARDINER: —and listen to the debate and note the waste of time through the two political parties jockeying for political advantage; if the people knew what went on in this chamber I am satisfied they would make a change pretty quickly.

The rules of the house up to the present have been designed practically for the playing of the old two-party system. As far as we are concerned we object to this. Personally, and I think I can speak for my colleagues as well, if any question comes before the house that merits the attention of members, and consequently is a question upon which they would vote, you will always find, Mr. Speaker, that we will vote. But when questions are brought forward as a matter of party tactics, we will not take notice of them and we will not vote on them. If this amendment is adopted and we are forced to leave the house while a division is being taken, then we will leave the house as a protest against this kind of procedure.

An hon. MEMBER: And stay out.

[Mr. Gardiner.]

Mr. GARDINER: I am not afraid to stay out for a few minutes. Now, sir, let me come back to last Tuesday night's performance. I propose to deal with that now in view of the amendment which the Prime Minister has introduced. The vote had been taken and was being counted. The hon. member for West Algoma (Mr. Simpson) rose in his seat and stated:

> The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) have not voted.

Mr. NEILL: Which was not correct.

Mr. GARDINER: Then Your Honour said:

> My understanding of the rule is that hon. members may refrain from voting if they see fit.

That was your ruling, Mr. Speaker. Of that there is no question, for it is in Hansard, and in my judgment undoubtedly it is a correct ruling, in that you were following the precedent laid down by the former Speaker. Furthermore, the explanation which the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has given this afternoon with regard to these rules has in my view confirmed the correctness of Your Honour's first judgment. But what happened? Protests were made; for instance, the chief whip of the Conservative party (Mr. Simpson, Algoma), and the chief whip of the Liberal party (Mr. Casgrain), probably being very much exercised over party discipline and feeling that it was necessary for them to say something on the question, called Your Honour's attention to a supposed rule, No. 68. Evidently these gentlemen did not know that that was not a rule at all. At the present time we have only two rules dealing with voting. They are as follows:

> 8. When members have been called in, preparatory to a division, no further debate is to be permitted.
> 9. Upon a division, the Yeas and Nays shall not be entered upon the minutes, unless demanded by five members.

I challenge any member to point to any other rule or standing order with regard to voting. These two, I repeat, are the only rules dealing with the question whether a member must vote or not. But my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has given a very good description of how under the former practice prior to 1927 every member who was in his seat and heard the question read had to cast his vote on whatever motion was before the house. The chief whips of the two old parties again called your attention to the fact that certain members in this

corner had not voted. Then the Prime Minister entered into the discussion, and I may be permitted to quote him briefly:

> Mr. Bennett: Perhaps nothing more serious has arisen since I have been in parliament. The authority of the chair is challenged, is defied openly by members of this house. The house must then do what the rules require. You will name, Mr. Speaker, the members thus in contempt.

Just imagine the Prime Minister of this country making such a statement based on an insufficient knowledge of the rules! Why Your Honour changed your mind I do not know. Probably it was because of the pressure of the Prime Minister and other members.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. GARDINER: I will withdraw the word "pressure" and substitute "suggestion." Probably it was because of the suggestion by the Prime Minister and several other members that you changed your decision. But, Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate you that you did make a right decision in the first place. If you had only followed out your first thought in the matter you would have continued to be all right.

I am going to oppose the amendment. I think it is detrimental to the best interests of the members of this house. Let me remind the house of this important point, that the day may come when certain members who are now opposed to our stand may find themselves in the same position as we were in a few days ago. Let them think of the future; that is very important for them to remember. There is no reason why we should permit the privileges of private members to be further curtailed simply for party purposes. We should see to it that instead of the private member's privileges being curtailed or destroyed, those privileges should be enlarged, because to-day the private member is a nonentity in this house.

Mr. MANION: Might I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. GARDINER: Yes.

Mr. MANION: What is the party purpose that would be served when we are all put on the same basis?

Mr. GARDINER: It is for the purpose of disciplining party members. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am opposed to the amendment. As to the motion, I do not think it is really necessary, the rule appears to me to be plain, but if the motion is carried it will so clarify the rule that all members will have a better understanding of it.

Mr. R. B. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of taking part in this discussion had it not been for the remarks of the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil), who is a very old and experienced member of this house, who for a period of years was the first commoner, and for whose judgments and opinions I have a very high respect. With the principle involved in the amendment moved by the Prime Minister, I am in hearty accord. And I feel that all thinking members, if they dissociate themselves from certain events which occurred in this house last week, on calm reflection will agree that every man sent to the House of Commons, representing as he does not only his constituents, but the people of Canada as a whole, should have an opinion and be prepared to stand behind his opinion by his vote on every vital question that comes before the house. For that reason I intend to vote for the amendment, but I hope the Prime Minister will pause for a moment and give heed to the suggestion—it was merely a suggestion as I understand it—made by the hon. member for Bonaventure. We have a system of pairs that has been in force for many years. This system is a great convenience to all gentlemen in this house. I for one feel that I could not carry on my parliamentary duties unless I had a permanent pair for each and every session. Members who have interests outside the house are often called away at a moment's notice to fulfil other duties of an imperative nature. I suggest to the Prime Minister that he give consideration to the proposal made by my hon. friend from Bonaventure, so that a member who has a registered pair may still sit in his place and not vote, and yet have his name appear in Hansard as having been present. I understand from my reading that in England a member of parliament is judged very largely by his constituents, not by the number of speeches he makes in the House of Commons, but by the number of times he is present and records his vote. I commend this to some of those gentlemen who talk so much in this house; let them remember that actions speak louder than words. I again suggest to the Prime Minister that he give heed to the proposal of the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) in order that some way may be found whereby those members who are paired and are present will not have to walk out of the house.

Mr. WILLIAM IRVINE (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday night last I was very definite and outspoken in refusing to declare my vote at your request, and I presume I appeared to the members of this house as

setting at naught the rules of parliament. I want merely to say now that at that time I knew what is now known by the entire house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. IRVINE: Yes. We have had occasion to study the rule and we have studied it; and we knew perfectly well that the rule became obsolete in Great Britain in 1906. We knew that we were following the British practice in respect of that rule, and we knew also that we had the ruling of a previous Speaker on the matter. So that I knew when I made that declaration that I was observing the rules of the house and was the only man who was keeping them. The hon. gentlemen whom the Sergeant at Arms should have tapped on the shoulder were the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the two whips; for the Speaker had given his ruling before they spoke and they disregarded it, trying to press upon us an old and obsolete rule which had been discarded in England and ruled against by a Speaker of this house. I am glad, therefore, of the opportunity of making my position clear, and I trust that members of the press gallery, who knew as little about the rules as some hon. members of the house did, will take note of this and see that we are apologized to in the press.

With regard to the amendment, it is now seeking the authority which this house lacked on Tuesday night. That is the meaning of the amendment, and I take it, therefore, as an excellent apology to this corner. And as regards pairs, I hope that this rule, if it passes, will abolish the practice of having pairs. In that event, hon. gentlemen will be in a worse position than we are when we are compelled to walk out of the chamber.

Hon. W. D. EULER (North Waterloo): It seems to me that the house is attaching more importance to this question than it deserves, because whether the main motion or the amendment carries, the result is practically the same. If I believed with my right hon. friend the Prime Minister that the institutions of British government and parliamentary practice were in serious danger unless the amendment carried, I should be disposed to vote with him. But surely that cannot be the case when, as is well known, and as has been stated here, in the British parliament members are not compelled to vote. And no one claims that parliamentary or representative institutions are endangered thereby.

But I have three chief reasons for being opposed to the amendment proposed by the Prime Minister. In the first place, I do not believe very much in compulsion except where it is necessary in the public interest. Secondly, I conceive that it is quite possible that a member may conscientiously refrain from voting, not having so crystallized his opinion on a question as to warrant his voting one way or the other. And in the third place —and this is as important as the other two reasons, if not more so—if the amendment carries and hon. members are compelled to vote in the event of their remaining in the chamber, it is quite easy for them to evade the question after all by simply absenting themselves from the chamber. After all, why should it be necessary for a member to leave the chamber in order to avoid being compelled to vote?

Mr. LAVERGNE: May I ask the hon. member a question for information? Suppose a member does not leave the chamber: If his vote is not recorded, how are we to know the difference between those who are absent from the chamber and those who have not voted, being present, because they lacked courage or conviction?

Mr. EULER: The argument has been advanced that a man should be compelled to vote if he stays in the chamber. But if he leaves the chamber you do not know what his views are on the question. Let me say that his constituents will know what position he takes on certain questions; and the mere fact that he is in the chamber and declines to vote makes his attitude more conspicuous than possibly it would be if he left the chamber.

Mr. LAVERGNE: But under the rules his views would not be recorded.

Mr. EULER: My hon. friend knows very well that, with the press gallery in full operation, and with his friends listening to and observing him, his constituents through the press will soon know that such a member declined to vote. My right hon. friend has also stated that he is in favour of the amendment for the reason that, if members remain in the chamber and do not vote, it leads to confusion. I cannot see the point of that argument. If there is any confusion whatever it must be because of some difficulty in the taking of the vote by the assistant clerk. But any difficulty that he might have in that regard is certainly also present in the case of those who abstain from voting because they are paired. We do not recognize pairs, and I cannot see that there could be any possible confusion, so far as taking the vote is concerned, if certain members were absolved altogether from voting.

Mr. LAVERGNE: I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend—

Mr. EULER: I shall be through in a moment and then the hon. gentleman can make his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. member who has the floor consents, he may not be interrupted.

Mr. LAVERGNE: If my hon. friend does not consent, I will sit down.

Mr. EULER: I have given the reasons for my attitude. I am opposed in principle to the idea of compelling members to vote; I think they should be free. My mind is open, however. I do not think that the matter need necessarily be decided here, nor do I see any reason why we should not adopt the practice that has been frequently followed in similar cases. I am going to propose a subamendment, and if it does not carry I shall certainly have to oppose the amendment moved by the Prime Minister. My proposal is that the matter be referred to a committee for report to the house. If that proposal is not adopted, I shall have to vote against the amendment and in support of the motion made by the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). My motion is:

That all the words after "that" in the amendment be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"all the words after 'that' in the main motion be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

a committee of the house be appointed to act with Mr. Speaker for the purpose of considering the question of amending the standing orders of the house by adding the following:

'9a. Upon a division, a member is not obliged to vote.'"

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): I will vote against the subamendment. The issue is a clear one, and if the house cannot settle a simple question like that we had better go home. Although I was seconder of the motion proposed by my deskmate (Mr. Bourassa) I did not intend to speak upon it until there was an amendment, for the reason that my hon. friend covered the ground so thoroughly and clearly that it was not possible to say anything without repeating his arguments. But since the amendment has been moved, I should like to say a few words. The amendment compels members to vote, and the Prime Minister put forward some arguments in support of that proposal. He drew a comparison with the British House of Commons, where they vote by going into lobbies; and if I followed him rightly he said that when more than two parties arose it led to confusion because the members of the third or fourth party objected to going into one or other of the lobbies. The same condition exists here. While we do not go into a lobby, we are asked to vote yes or no, which is exactly the same proposition. I do not see any strength in that argument. Then again he told us that of late years the rules had been changed in this house and it was now possible to move an amendment and subamendment to going into supply, and upon one or two other occasions, and that, he said, afforded a full opportunity for the expression of views by the groups opposite.

I would point out to the house that there are now at least five groups on this side and the possibility of their being allowed to move one subamendment does not give them an opportunity of expressing their views. They may be peculiar views, but nevertheless they are the views of the group and there is just as much reason to allow five groups to express their views as there is to allow two or three.

On the question of pairs the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) read out of the records of the house where Sir John A. Macdonald, in dealing with this very point, said that in spite of pairs hon. members would be compelled to vote. Sir John said that the rules read that wherever an hon. member had got into the house inadvertently he would be compelled to break faith with the man with whom he was paired. Here is the situation which now exists. An hon. member on this side pairs with an hon. member opposite; he is obliging the hon. member, and when it comes to a vote, under present conditions, he stays in his place. He does not vote, but after the vote has been taken he rises in his place and says: I was paired with the hon. member for so-and-so, if I had voted I would have voted in such a way, and that remark is recorded in Hansard. That serves a double purpose, it reveals to his constituents the fact that he was in the house and paying attention to his duties on that occasion, and reveals what his intention in the matter was. That safeguards him and allows him to be courteous to his opponent.

If this rule is introduced the member who is paired will have to absent himself and there will be no record that he was even in Ottawa on the day of the vote. I have known worse things to happen in the heat of party politics than for someone to get up and say: "Why the hon. gentleman was not even in the house when the vote was taken", quite regardless of the fact that that apparent absence was only an act of courtesy to an hon.

member opposite. It would lead to the doing away with pairs and to confusion and injustice in connection therewith.

I have always voted when I was in the house, and so far as I know, I intend always to do so. I recall the remarks of some great man, I forget now who he was, who said to his opponent: "I bitterly oppose your sentiments but I will fight to the death for the right for you to utter them". That is the view I take in this matter. Whether or not I approve of abstaining from voting, I am prepared to fight to any reasonable extent in support of the views of those who wish either to vote or to abstain from voting. As the hon. member for Labelle said the other evening, the privileges of one are the privileges of all.

There is too great a disposition in this house, and there always has been ever since I have been in it, to curtail the privileges and rights of the individual private member. To-day it is almost impossible for a private member to introduce a bill and get it carried through to completion; it is possible by the very simplest intrigue to prevent its passage. Another good illustration occurred a few years ago when we agreed to cut down the time of speaking to forty minutes. During the debate on the address I have been grimly amused in observing that almost every hon. member who got up and deplored the fact that he had only forty minutes in which to speak, voted on that occasion for the passage of that rule, while I and a few other hon. members opposed it.

Why not let us follow the practice followed in Great Britain? The Prime Minister says that the other practice had been followed for three hundred years before they changed it and that we are a young country. Because we are a young country there is no reason why we should move three hundred years behind Great Britain. Why not take advantage of Great Britain's experience which has led her to change her rules after trying them out for three hundred years? Is that not a very good argument in support of the assertion that there was wisdom in their action and that we should be well advised to take a similar step? Why should not we follow in her footsteps?

Therefore, while I have no wish or intention to abstain from voting in the house, I will vote in support of those who wish so to abstain.

Mr. ARMAND LAVERGNE (Montmagny): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great attention to the hon. member who has just spoken (M. Neill), but although we have been waiting for an expression from the other side as to the reason why an hon. member present in the house should abstain from voting, I must say that I have not heard that reason expressed. We are allowed a motion, an amendment and very often a subamendment and I should think there would be opportunity afforded to hon. members whose conscience may be rather delicate to make a fair choice. I understand there may be cases where an hon. member cannot find a choice suits him either in the motion, the amendment or the subamendment, and that is why I put the question: Why should an hon. member who stays in the house abstain from voting? Another hon. member may be absent from force of circumstances, and should this motion carry the votes and proceedings would place the hon. member who abstained from voting either because his conscience had not been enlightened sufficiently or from lack of conviction or courage, upon the same footing as the hon. member who had been forced to absent himself. Unless we change our whole procès verbal, the hon. member who is in the house and who abstains from voting because he has found no motion to his choice will be absolutely in the same position as the hon. member who is forced to be absent but who would have had the courage to vote had he not been prevented from attending in the chamber. I have tried to find a reason for supporting the motion of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), but I have been unable to do so. When an hon. member is present in the house and does not desire to vote, there is only one thing to do; instead of sitting in his place, he should step out.

Mr. EULER: Why should he?

Mr. LAVERGNE: If he remains in the chamber and is not challenged, he is in the same position as though he had stepped out.

Mr. EULER: Then why go out?

Mr. LAVERGNE: The hon. member who is absent by force of circumstances and who would have voted had he been present would be placed upon a footing of equality with the hon. member who has not the conviction or courage to vote.

Mr. EULER: Should an hon. member not desiring to vote step out of the chamber, is he not in the same position as the hon. member who is unavoidably absent but who would have voted had he been here?

Mr. LAVERGNE: Unless we change our rules, especially in our proces verbal, it will mean nothing when an hon. member remains in the chamber and abstains from voting. We

will have to change our rules of procedure so that the hon. member who remains in the chamber and abstains from voting will be registered as having abstained from voting, either because of conscience or other reasons. Otherwise it will mean nothing at all, as he would be on the same footing as the hon. member forced to be absent from the chamber.

Mr. EULER: My hon. friend wants to propose another subamendment.

Mr. LAVERGNE: No, I am satisfied with the present rule and my hon. friend can rest assured that as long as I am in the house I will have the courage to vote.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, having in mind what he had to say, I am rather surprised that the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) found it necessary to introduce any motion. He made his position quite clear, and I believe he convinced the house that he is in the right in the position he takes with respect to the present rule being as he describes it. He has, however, introduced a motion, an amendment has been proposed to it, and an amendment to the amendment has also been proposed. We are now in the position that with respect to these several motions we have either to rise and make clear where we stand, or refrain from voting by abstaining, as apparently that is now permissible, in which latter event no one in the country will know just where we stand on this all important question. Inasmuch as I believe in members of the house indicating to the country where they stand on all questions that come before the house, I do not propose to avoid voting on any of these motions, but I wish to state where I stand in regard to the subamendment which is before the house and, if need be, later on with respect to the amendment and the main motion.

I would ask whether this is not the right moment to consider following to the full, the British practice and custom. As nearly as I can make out from the discussion which we have had this afternoon, such embarrassment as has arisen in different quarters of the house has arisen from the fact that in one particular we follow the British practice and in another we do not. The British practice is to record the votes by members leaving the chamber and passing to the right or to the left of the Speaker. Their votes are recorded by tellers. Only those votes are recorded which refer to the names of hon. members who have passed the chair. If any hon. member does not wish to vote, he may remain in the house. That is what my hon. friends in the far corner wish to do, I understand, on many questions; they wish to stay in the house and refrain from voting. I would suggest that the amendment to the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Euler), proposing the reference of the whole matter to a committee of the house, be supported by the house, having in view a consideration at this time as to whether we should not adopt the British practice with respect to the recording of votes. I believe if that step were taken, it would solve the difficulties of practically all parties or groups in the house. Those who believe in members indicating to the country where they stand, will, if the British practice is followed, have their position known by passing to the right or to the left of the Speaker. Those who wish to refrain from voting, and at the same time remain in the house, will be able to abstain and to remain.

There is one other reason why I suggest that that course should be followed now and it is in reference to the subject of pairs which has been raised by the hon. member for Bonaventure (Mr. Marcil) and spoken to by the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Hanson). The directing of the attention of His Honour the Speaker to hon. members who have not voted has to be taken before the announcement of the vote is made. Obviously it is impossible for one, looking on, to read in the mind of an hon. member whether he has abstained from voting because he is paired or because he does not wish to vote. If hereafter an effort is to be made to find out which of the two reasons has actuated hon. members who may have refrained from voting, there will be endless confusion. If the practice is followed whereby members pass to the right or to the left of the Speaker, then, with respect to pairs, all that would be necessary that pairs might be recorded would be for the whips to hand a list of the pairs to the tellers and have them subsequently recorded in the proceedings. That would indicate how every member who was paired had intended to vote. It would meet what the hon. member for York-Sunbury has in mind, of making sure that pairs are recorded while at the same time preserving to hon. members an honourable obligation between them to abstain, in certain circumstances, from voting.

A further point I would make is this: the time that is taken up in the house in calling and recording names is considerable. There is a great waste of time in recording votes by calling individual names and causing members to rise in their places, while the names are being recorded and then subsequently

counting up the totals. I believe we would save the time of the house—and surely we need to save all the time we can—by adopting this speedier method of simply walking into the lobbies, having the vote thus recorded, and allowing the journals of the house to indicate what action the different members have taken. It is for that reason that I would strongly urge hon. members to support the amendment to the amendment. If the amendment to the amendment went the length of a general revision of the rules of the house, I would object to it. I do not think it is necessary at this time to open up the rules generally, but the concrete motion that is before the house might well be referred to a committee in language sufficiently broad to permit of its consideration in relation to the larger proposal.

Before taking my seat, may I say that I resent very strongly the imputation of the leader of the group in the far corner, the so-called Independent group, that amendments moved by one or other of the old parties in the house are moved for reasons of party politics, pure and simple. I will remind my hon. friend that long before there were any third parties or independent groups in the house, the custom in parliament was for members of a political party to express their views in the form of motions and amendments to motions. This was and is the one and only method where a vote is to be recorded. It ill becomes my hon. friend to impute a motive of that kind to any hon. member or to any political party. May I just say to him, and to those who take that view, that the fact that they do impute such a motive to others makes me feel very strongly that something of the kind is in their own minds? If there ever was a playing of party politics with respect to public questions, it will be found in relation to more than one of the subamendments which have been moved by the so-called independent groups in the house.

Mr. PETER McGIBBON (Muskoka-Ontario): This question affects not only the rights of members of parliament, which are not greatly jeopardized, but the rights of the electors of the country. The people have a right to know the views of every member of parliament on every question that comes before the house. All these subterfuges are simply methods to enable the members of the house to shirk their duties. Look at the array of talent in the press gallery. What are they there for? They are there to enlighten the people of Canada as to the views of the respective members on every question that comes before the house. I for one do not wish to shirk that responsibility. It is up to every hon. member to record his vote on every question that comes before us.

I am very much in sympathy with the amendment moved by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), with the exception that some provision should be made for pairs. But I think sometimes we forget the great past, the grave responsibilities that have come down to this house. When we study the history of parliamentary government, what does it mean? If we go back hundreds of years, what did they fight for? First it was for parliamentary government; second, for the supremacy of the House of Commons, and, third, that the House of Commons should represent the people. How are the people who send us here to know whether we represent the people of this great Dominion or not if provision is made for every hon. member to shirk the recording of his opinion upon any question that comes before the house? There are at least three ways now open to a member: one is to record his vote; a second is to pair with another member, and the third is to absent himself from the house. Every member knows that to-day a man who shirks his vote in the house has to bear the disgrace of that before his electors. They look upon it as an act of cowardice. This is only opening another door whereby a member may shirk his duty. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the amendment of the Prime Minister should carry, so that every member of the house who is present when a vote is taken shall have to stand up and record his vote.

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): I had no intention of taking part in this debate, but the hon. member for Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. McGibbon) has made a statement which should not pass unchallenged. He says that any member who does not vote is showing cowardice. I should like to remind him that his own leader a short time ago said very frankly that last year he deliberately walked out of the chamber to avoid taking part in a vote. If there was a little more thinking behind some of the talking that is done in this house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. COOTE: —we should not have so much confusion, and that applies to some of the things that were said by hon. members opposite last Tuesday night.

The Prime Minister in moving his amendment made some reference to the confusion that is caused in the house by members not voting. I would like to point out that last Tuesday night, when this confusion is said

to have taken place, you were called upon, Mr. Speaker, at one time to get up and remonstrate with some members of the house because of their disorderly conduct. They were causing so much confusion that you remonstrated and said that after the vote was over you would send some of the pages out to play marbles with those members in the lobby. Your remarks were addressed to members who had voted, not to the members in this corner of the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask hon. members to observe the rules that we have now and to keep silence in the chamber when a member is speaking.

Mr. COOTE: There is one other matter to which I wish to refer. I was under the impression, as were other hon. members, that a year ago both the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition were rather in favour of changing the method of taking the vote in this house, so I think the Prime Minister would be very well advised to accept the subamendment and allow this matter to go to a committee to see if we cannot get a better method of taking the vote. It may be that the committee would recommend the method used in the British house. I do not know whether that method is the best or not, but I certainly think that all sides of the house are agreed that we need a new method, and I would suggest to the Prime Minister that he take that into consideration before he makes up his mind to press his own amendment.

Mr. BENNETT: The subamendment is predicated, I submit, upon an entirely erroneous impression of the situation. The right hon. leader of the opposition has suggested that he was left in some doubt as to why the hon. member for Labelle moved his motion. I confess that I have had doubts as to the wisdom of it because it has precipitated this question into the house, and it must now be decided. The question to be decided is: Shall members vote or not, when they are in the house?

There is a singular misunderstanding on the part of a great many members as to what the obligation of a member is. I wonder how many have read standing order 5. It reads:

> Every member is bound to attend the service of the house, unless leave of absence has been given him by the house.

That is the rule.

Mr. VALLANCE: What about the Prime Minister?

Mr. BENNETT: Exactly; he is bound to be in his place at the opening of the house.

Mr. LAPOINTE: It does not say the opening.

Mr. BENNETT: Wait till I give you the rest of it. Paragraph 53 of Beauchesne's Rules and Forms comments on that standing order as follows:

> A member of the British house was expelled, in 1715, for refusing to attend the service of the house.

Paragraph 54 says:

> In case of unavoidable absence it was for several years usual, in the Canadian House of Commons, to have the reasons explained to the house and leave then given to the member to absent himself from his duties.

There is the standing order, and I fancy that is the reason why most of us try to be here at prayers.

Having had this question precipitated into the house, may I make this further observation with respect to what was said by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner). My statement the other evening and that of the leader of the opposition was based upon the defiance of the rules of the house by certain members of the house. It was not a statement as to the wisdom of the rule. The Speaker having decided as he did, it was perfectly obvious that for any member to defy his ruling was not the proper method under our institutions of dealing with the matter. If hon. members had desired to appeal from his ruling, an appeal could have been taken. But certainly it could not be done by defiance. I did say what I believed then and still believe, that nothing is better calculated to drag the whole institution of parliament into disrepute than to have members speak of it in just that way. That was my objection, and that of others who followed me, and I am sure that it is the reason why the hon. member for Labelle referred to this whole matter in the way he did. He said that that was but an incident; but what is larger than the incident is the principle involved.

The subamendment does not afford an opportunity to discuss the method of voting. Let the hon. member for Macleod have no misunderstanding as to that. By the subamendment a committee is asked to deal with a very simple question. For once I am wholly in accord with the hon. member for Comox-

Alberni (Mr. Neill) when he said, "I feel capable of dealing with this matter without asking a committee to deal with it for me." The whole question is this: Shall we be obliged to vote or not? I have given at some length the reasons that induced me to believe that we should. If the members of the house think that we should not, it will be found I think that to refer this to a committee is merely to invite a few gentlemen to meet together and discuss among themselves how you or I should determine for himself a question that is personal to himself.

Mr. EULER: Would it be competent so to enlarge the subamendment as to make it possible for the committee to canvass other methods of taking the vote?

Mr. BENNETT: It certainly would be competent to enlarge the subamendment so as to involve many things that it does not now involve. At least half a dozen members of this house have studied the different methods of voting. I recall a conversation that I had with the right hon. leader of the opposition after having watched the British House of Commons divide. I am free to say that I took considerable time one afternoon when we were waiting on a committee at Westminster to ascertain just how the voting did take place in the British House of Commons. The vote is over in seven or eight minutes, as we all know. Our lobbies seem to me to be reasonably well adapted to that purpose. But there is nothing that a committee can do with respect to it. It is well known how the voting is done in the British house. The Speaker names the tellers, the ayes go to the right and the nays to the left, and the tellers report back. I saw the changes which have been made in recent years because of difficulties in counting. The whole matter was carried on simply and effectively. I did think that we might try it here as an experiment, but I am not convinced that it would be a successful experiment at the moment. I am bound to say that I do not think that anything a committee can do can be more than has already been stated in this house so many times. If it is the opinion of the house that the method of taking the vote should be changed, I for one should be very glad to afford the opportunity for members to decide whether or not the present method should be abolished and a different method should be used, but for the moment the question is: Shall a member who is in the chamber vote or not, and upon that issue I propose, as far as it goes, to vote.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. LAPOINTE: May I remark that in my experience during the twenty-seven years I have been in the house the rules have never been changed or altered except—

Mr. BENNETT: By a committee.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Yes, through a committee especially appointed for that purpose, with the one exception of the occasion when closure was introduced. As my hon. friend knows there was an emergency at the time to require that special procedure. Why not in this instance proceed as we have always done and follow the practice which has always been followed by the house? Surely there is no emergency in the present instance. We might very well observe the tradition that the rules of the house should not be changed except after consideration by a committee. My learned and hon. friend must realize that in the present instance there is nothing at issue with the exception of one particular question. If it were other than that, if it were a question of setting out a new rule, the circumstances would be different. Since, however, the question has been raised in the house by an hon. member, we are bound to deal with it.

Mr. DONNELLY: Will the Prime Minister please answer a question? Under the rule suggested by the Prime Minister how will pairs be affected?

Mr. BENNETT: I am bound to say I have not looked into the matter, but I assume the situation in regard to pairs will stand as it is. They are unofficial, having no official standing in the house.

Mr. C. G. POWER (Quebec South): The answer of the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) at least gives me an excuse for speaking to this matter. I am inclined to agree with him that the subamendment of the hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Euler) is rather too restrictive in its nature. As it is worded the proposed committee can decide only yes or no on the main motion of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa). However the amendment of my right hon. friend the leader of the house would seem to exclude the practice of pairing. The amendment to my mind is quite fair in that it says that every hon. member in the house must vote. This is a new regulation being introduced into the rules which govern the conduct of this house. It will be in vain that we refer to the age old custom of pairing which has been followed. Mr. Speaker will say to us, and I think quite properly, that we

have passed a new rule which precludes us from taking advantage of that custom. There is the broad question as to whether or not hon. members in the house shall vote. On that particular point I am in substantial and hearty agreement with the Prime Minister. It seems to me however if there is one occasion when a member might freely absent himself from the house and not vote it is when he is faced with three alternative proposals such as those we have before us to-day. Not one of them satisfies me, and I think many hon. members are in a similar position. May I suggest that if the Prime Minister would for a few minutes discuss the matter with the hon. member for North Waterloo it might be possible to evolve a subamendment which would refer to a committee on rules the question of the method of voting.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. POWER: The Prime Minister says "no". Very well, but I think there should be consideration of the matter of drafting an amendment to our rule which would meet the views of the Prime Minister and those of the vast majority of hon. members in the house who wish every member to vote but who wish also to retain the privilege of pairing which we have enjoyed in the past.

Mr. BENNETT: With the consent of the house I should like to add one word further. I suggest that the house permit one of the hon. gentlemen to my right to move the adjournment of this debate, and instead of having a committee we could talk this matter over and see if some provision of a satisfactory nature cannot be made.

Mr. STEVENS: I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle): Before the debate is adjourned I desire to say a few words, in the spirit in which I introduced the motion. First I thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) for the absolute vindication he has given of my attitude. There cannot be any better evidence that hon. members in this corner of the house were observing the rules as they have been interpreted by yourself and your predecessors, sir, than the amendment of the Prime Minister to-day providing that, in the future, we must not do what the other day was pointed to as constituting a violation of the rules. The action of the Prime Minister answers the objection of my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) and that of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) that I was wrong in introducing my motion. If the rules of the house were and are as outlined in my proposal, then it follows that hon. members in this corner of the house were right the other day when they refused to vote, and that Mr. Speaker was right when he sustained them in their attitude. However, I shall not insist upon that.

There are one or two points to which I wish to refer before the debate is closed, because evidently it will be closed for this year. I introduced the motion in the first place because it was the only way of rectifying the wrong impression which has been created by the press of nearly all parties all over the country that a certain number of hon. members in this house, with whom I was counted, gave an awful example of rebellion against the rules of the house and the decision of Mr. Speaker. By choosing the only means at my disposal to have the house settle the question the press may now be informed, and I hope will inform the public, that those hon. gentlemen and the hon. lady who refused the other day to vote acted strictly in accordance with the rules of the house and the jurisprudence established by two speakers of the House of Commons. After all, the honour of all members in this house is dear to them, and it is their right to have such honour vindicated. I think every member, whatever his party differences may be, has no desire to have any of his fellow members, regardless of party, bandied all over the country as unruly persons and fit to be expelled from the house. And why? Because, forsooth, they observed the rules of the house.

Next I should like to refer to the question of pairs. In the event of the amendment moved by the leader of the government carrying there could be no doubt left that any hon. member sitting in this house would either have to vote, regardless of the fact that he was paired, or step out of the house. How are we going to lay down the rule which the leader of the government says—mind you, I am not entirely opposed to his views—would oblige every hon. member sitting in the house to vote? Are we to impose that rule upon men who, rightly or wrongly, but in the fulness of their conviction and their conscience, believe that they cannot or must not vote? Are we going to apply the rule to them and not apply it to hon. members who, for their own personal convenience or to suit their business interests or professional callings, make arrangement through the whips to exempt themselves from

that duty which, according to the Prime Minister, is the bounden duty of every member of parliament? If the rule applies to members of parliament who do not seek refuge behind the practice of pairing in order to attend to their private affairs in preference to their public duties, then is the rule to remain inapplicable in cases of pairs?

Various hon. members whose names I will not give, because I wish to keep this debate on a friendly basis, have insinuated that hon. members who remained in the house and did not vote lacked courage. It may be that at times such action would amount to lack of courage. Also it may be a lack of courage when some hon. members vote against their personal convictions, because their party has voted that way. We are all subject to such weaknesses. Let no party or no hon. member of any party in this house pose as a Pharisee. We are all human and subject to mistakes. I confess I am subject to them in a retail and wholesale way. I beg however of the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition not to pose as the sole caretakers of the virtues of parliament; they also make their mistakes. My friends to the left, from my point of view, make their mistakes. From the point of view of all, I make mistakes, I admit. But I repeat, whether we belong to one party or the other, we are all here because we have been elected by the people of Canada to vote or not to vote according to our conscience and our convictions.

The Prime Minister has repeated the well-known argument that the right of any member to move a subamendment offers him ample freedom. I say no. I repeat, and I insist upon it, that once the subamendment has been disposed of, you must vote for or against what is before you, the unamended motion or amendment. If that contains things of which you approve and things of which you disapprove, I ask again: How then can you justify the iron rule which you desire to impose upon the inherent right of a member of parliament, to vote for something of which he disapproves, if the motion necessarily contains something against his conscience or his convictions? With regard to the right of the electors to see whether we vote or not, that is a matter to be arranged between each member of parliament and his electors when he appeals to the final judgment of the people. But so long as we remain in this house, until the next time the people pass judgment upon the government, upon the opposition, upon the second opposition and upon the free-for-alls or the independent members, so long as we are here, I claim there should be one rule or none. So far as I am concerned, I prefer the rule proposed by the Prime Minister to no rule at all. If it is to be the rule, very well, I am prepared to accept it. I will vote against it; but suppose it is adopted, I think it better to have it rather than to be in the absurd position in which we found ourselves when members were threatened with expulsion from the house because they chose to exercise a right which on all sides is now acknowledged to be incontestable. I claim that this should not happen again, therefore I would rather have the amendment moved by the Prime Minister than no rule at all. But may I respectfully tell the right hon. Prime Minister that in moving that amendment he is resorting to another part of himself which is not the result of his study of British law, or of British practice, which is not the result of his British spirit; but that in this as in some other instances he is letting himself follow his autocratic instinct and his stand for an iron rule instead of the broad interpretation which has been followed for over thirty years in the British house and which has been followed in this house from 1927 until 1931.

Just one further word. The Prime Minister has quoted rule 5, which makes it an obligation on all members to attend to all sittings of the house. That is quite true. It is an old rule and was in effect all along previous to 1867. Any student of the old records could find therein that at any session of parliament no member could absent himself without having the leave of the house, and that leave was recorded in the journals. Are the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition prepared every day to draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the absence of their various followers, whether they are paired or not? That rule does not acknowledge pairs. If that rule applies, no member has the right to go to Montreal or to Toronto to plead a case; nor, although paired with the member for Muskoka-Ontario or for some other constituency, can a member stay in his seat mum and for the time being suspend his functions as a member in order to enable another gentleman to go to Montreal or to Toronto to attend to his private business. If that is to be the rule, then let it be applied to all; let it be applied to pleading lawyers, let it be applied to bankers, let it be applied to merchants, let it be applied to members for near constituencies while our colleagues from the

far distant western and eastern provinces have to stay here, Sundays included. That is my sole answer, and I think it ought to be sufficient.

I thank the house, Mr. Speaker, for the manner in which it has received my humble suggestion. I do not think the time spent on this debate has been lost, because it has shown the necessity of clarifying a situation which in the future, as last week, could have given birth to disagreeable incidents. As far as that is concerned, I thank again the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition for their timely suggestion. I hope it will materialize sooner than other pious intentions that have been expressed many times to have a complete revision of the manner in which votes are recorded in this house; and also dealing with the question of pairs, not from the viewpoint of individual convenience, but from the viewpoint of public trust and interest, which has been so eloquently pointed out this afternoon by the leader of the house.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) was out of order in speaking to a motion to adjourn the debate. I was choked off last night under similar circumstances, and I hope that in the future Your Honour will accord me as much latitude as you have just allowed my hon. friend.

Mr. PAUL MERCIER (St. Henri): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) had moved the adjournment of the debate. I humbly suggest that having already seconded the amendment of the Prime Minister, he cannot now move the motion for adjournment.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion before the house is the amendment to the amendment.

Some hon. MEMBERS: There is a motion to adjourn the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard no motion to adjourn the debate.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Yes.

Mr. CAHAN: If there is no such motion, I now move, Mr. Speaker, seconded by Mr. Black (Halifax), that the debate be adjourned.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR SUPERVISION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the international convention for the supervision of international trade in arms and ammunition, with declaration regarding the territory Ifni, dated Geneva, June 17, 1925.

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

REPORTED STATEMENTS OF MINISTER OF LABOUR AS TO PROBABLE CONDITIONS NEXT WINTER

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the acting Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) which of two reports that appear in the press to-day from the Canadian Press is correct, if either. One is dated Hamilton, Ontario, April 27. The other, Montreal, of the same date. I am quoting from the report as it appears in the Ottawa Citizen:

> Sees Unemployment Problem Diminishing
> Senator Gideon Robertson Speaks at Hamilton
>
> Hamilton, Ont., April 27.—"In Canada the unemployment problem is diminishing," declared Senator Gideon Robertson, federal minister of labour, addressing the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce at its annual meeting here to-night.
>
> "We have experienced the most distressing winter in many years, but we emerge into the sunlight of hope at the beginning of another season, and it is within the realm of reason to say that, before the snow falls again, our worries will have largely disappeared," he declared.

In the same paper there is a despatch from Montreal:

> Thinks Relief Plan To Be Repeated By Government Next Winter
>
> Montreal, April 27.—A conversation he had with Senator Gideon Robertson, Dominion Minister of Labour, led him to believe the Dominion authorities would repeat for next winter their unemployment relief, Alderman W. H. Biggar, leader of the Montreal city council, stated to-day.
>
> By this he meant that the Dominion government would again vote twenty million dollars for relief work, the provinces paying twenty millions and municipalities 40 millions.

I wish my hon. friend would advise the house as to which of these reports, if either, is correct.

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): Of course, it is obvious that it is not within my knowledge as to whether or not the Minister of Labour was correctly reported. But if I understand correctly the coordinated efforts that are being put forward by all agencies, both governmental and industrial, and by every other force in this country at the present time, then I am sure that the Minister of Labour was not far out when he said he could look forward—I am stating it in substance—with a great deal of hope to relief, in a large measure at least, from the difficulties in which we are now placed before the coming of next winter. With respect to the alleged interview in Montreal, I have no information concerning it. But if events do not materialize as we hope they will, then this government, I am sure, will take whatever steps are necessary to see that there will be no undue suffering among the people of this country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What my hon. friend says hardly answers my question. I wish he would ask the Minister of Labour whether he made such representations in Hamilton or Montreal, and advise the house definitely after he has had an opportunity of communicating with his colleague.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. L. BEAUBIEN (Provencher): Before the orders of the day are called may I ask the Prime Minister a question which is of very great importance to the province of Manitoba. In a press despatch which appears in the Citizen of April 28, I find this:

Government unlikely pay 95 per cent this year.

Under this heading I wish to read a short article:

Winnipeg, Manitoba, April 27.—Likelihood that the Dominion government will not undertake this year to pay 95 per cent of old age pensions, an election campaign promise of Premier R. B. Bennett, was expressed here to-day by Hon. D. L. McLeod, municipal commissioner for Manitoba, in making public a telegram received from the Dominion Prime Minister.

In reply to a wire from Premier John Bracken of Manitoba, Mr. Bennett advised the provincial government to make provisions for paying old age pensions this year on the same basis as it has in the past. There remained a possibility, the wire intimated, that the Dominion government would have the legislation necessary for transfer of the pensions burden passed at the present session of parliament.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

The question I wish to ask is this: In view of the fact that the province of Manitoba, in its budget, has made no provisions to pay old age pensions this year, will the Prime Minister tell us whether he intends to introduce old age pensions legislation and pay 95 per cent, as I understand it was promised the three western provinces during the conference last fall.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): (1) No such promise was made. (2) This government is not responsible for the conduct of the business of the government of Manitoba.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Was this wire sent—

Mr. BENNETT: That is all I propose to say.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Thank you.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Do I understand my right hon. friend to say that no promises were made?

Mr. BENNETT: I said, no such promise.

Mr. LAPOINTE: No such promises were made.

Mr. BENNETT: No; no such promise was made.

INQUIRY FOR RETURNS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. P. J. VENIOT (Gloucester): I again direct the attention of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart) to the fact that the papers I have asked for have not yet been tabled. We are going to take up the estimates and no doubt to-day, or at the next sitting of the committee, we shall reach harbours and rivers in the province of New Brunswick. I do not wish to delay the estimates at all, but I desire to have these papers that I have asked for, and to which I am entitled, before we get to that stage.

Hon. H. A. STEWART (Minister of Public Works): I assure the hon. member for Gloucester that he will have ample opportunity when the estimates of the Public Works department are under consideration, to discuss all matters in connection with harbours and rivers in the province of New Brunswick. The return has been prepared and has been forwarded to the Secretary of State, and will be down before we reach that item.

Mr. VENIOT: I wish to say that while that may be satisfactory to a certain extent,

if they are not down I shall have to press for them. I will not say I shall adopt the method of obstruction, but I want the information before we go on.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): I assure my hon. friend that he will have every opportunity, and we will leave one or two items open if necessary to enable him to discuss anything he thinks proper with respect to his province.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES COMPENSATION

APPLICATION OF PROVINCIAL COMPENSATION ACTS TO ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals) moved the third reading of Bill No. 37, to amend the Government Employees Compensation Act.

Motion agreed to, and bill read the third time and passed.

CUSTOMS ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State) (for the Minister of National Revenue, Mr. Ryckman), moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to amend the Customs Act in respect to discounts or deductions to be allowed in estimating the value for duty; to provide for power to examine witnesses on oath, and to pay their reasonable travelling expenses; and for the imposition of penalties and prevention of smuggling operations.

He said: The bill which will be introduced upon the passage of this resolution deals with departmental amendments for the purpose of carrying out efficiently the terms of the present Customs Act. The resolution in its first two lines would seem to signify some serious amendment in respect of deductions to be allowed in estimating the value of duty, but in fact it simply deals with a difficulty which has arisen in the preparation of invoices submitted by importers which have been prepared by merchants and salesmen in foreign countries. A difficulty has arisen in the department and a slight change is requested.

Mr. EULER: Would the hon. minister tell the house just what sections of the act are to be amended?

Mr. CAHAN: The section of the act which is to be amended is section 3 of chapter 2 of the statutes of 1930, second session. That section will be amended by the insertion of the words "and deducted" in a certain part of the section, which will make it more clear and facilitate the administration of the act. The amendment does not deal with any principle or policy, but with a difficulty which has arisen in its administration by the department.

The other amendments suggested are almost exclusively amendments which were previously suggested during the regime of the former Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Euler). The hon. gentleman had a bill drawn up by the department dealing with certain difficulties which had arisen, but owing to the time which elapsed before the prorogation of parliament, I am informed by the departmental officers that no opportunity was afforded for its introduction. The present minister has adopted it almost word for word, with the addition of one or two suggestions. One suggestion is that certain affidavits may now be taken by trade commissioners abroad as well as by other persons authorized to administer oaths in affidavits for use in this country.

Another amendment which my hon. friend had prepared provides that the assistant commissioner of customs may exercise certain powers of the minister as well as of the commissioner of customs. Owing to a vast increase in the business of the department during recent years, of which no one is better informed than is my hon. friend, it has been deemed wise that in certain matters the assistant commissioner of customs may act when the commissioner of customs is otherwise engaged.

Another suggestion deals with inquiries to be held by officers of the department. That suggestion is new to this parliament, but I understand it was previously made by the hon. gentleman in connection with the draft bill of 1930.

I am sure I could explain these matters to better advantage after the bill is introduced. As I understand it, no question of principle or policy is involved, the amendments being suggestions were made by departmental officers and had, in large measure, been accepted by the former Minister of National Revenue. They have been accepted almost word for word by the present minister for whom, owing to his temporary absence on account of illness, I am acting to-day.

Mr. EULER: Has the bill been printed?

Mr. CAHAN: The bill has been printed and is ready to be introduced. I have a draft copy before me.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James): Mr. Speaker, before this resolution carries I would like to draw the attention of the

house to the peculiar method of procedure with which we are faced. I expressed the other day in a most courteous way my regret that a bill introduced by the government did not contain the usual explanatory note to enable hon. members on this side of the house to realize the meaning of the changes suggested.

Mr. CAHAN: I will tell my hon. friend that I learned my lesson the other day when the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) pointed out to me a rule which I had not observed. That rule has been observed in connection with the proposed bill.

Mr. RINFRET: I surmise that that was the result of our remark. There is another matter of procedure to which I would refer. I think it is most unusual for an hon. minister to introduce a resolution from a department other than his own.

Mr. CAHAN: May I suggest to the hon. member that I am now the Acting Minister of National Revenue and I am authorized to introduce this bill.

Mr. RINFRET: Then I withdraw that part of my remarks. I am glad to see that the worth of the Secretary of State is recognized and that he is now given work outside of the rather narrow borders of his department.

Mr. CAHAN: I can assure my hon. friend that I have found sufficient to do in the State department.

Mr. RINFRET: I will admit that that point has no bearing on this particular instance, but we should not allow any minister other than the official or acting minister of a department to introduce in this house any matter affecting that department, even though it be to facilitate progress.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the hon. acting Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Cahan) in the course of his remarks seemed to leave the impression that the bill to be introduced was a bill which he found in the Department of National Revenue at the time the present government came into office. The public, which understands very little about these matters, might assume from the minister's statement, that this measure was one which had come before the previous administration. If it was still in the department I think that would be prima facie evidence that if it had been before the cabinet for consideration it had been rejected by the previous administration.

[Mr. Rinfret.]

When the bill is before us we will be better able to indicate whether or not we on this side of the house will be in favour of its provisions. There are many bills prepared by departmental officials which do not meet with the approval of the ministry of the day. Whether or not that was a bill of that character we will only be able to ascertain when it is before the house.

I wish it to be quite clear that the hon. minister should not seek to leave the impression and I do not think he would wittingly do so, that the measure he is introducing is one which was favourably considered by the previous administration.

Hon. W. D. EULER (North Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my memory is not as good as it might be or as I would wish it to be, and in the absence of the bill itself I am unable to say whether or not it is of the nature indicated by my hon. friend. However, I will take his word for it. I have a more or less faint recollection that a bill was prepared to which I had given my own consent or approval but which, according to my recollection, had never been considered by the preceding government. I think, also, as the acting minister says, the bill in itself is rather an innocuous one. It deals very largely with the administration of the department itself and no great departure from any existing principle is taken in it. I have of course to wait until the bill comes down to see its exact terms.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Cahan thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 39 to amend the Customs Act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SUPPLY—AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

AMENDMENT TO MOTION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of supply.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention before you leave the chair to bring to the notice of the house a question that we deem to be of prime importance, namely the position of agriculture in this country. I may say that before I sit down I shall move an amendment to the motion to go into supply.

If any apology were necessary for bringing this question to the attention of the house at this time, it would be found in the speech made a few days ago by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett). But no such apology is necessary; indeed that speech, in which he sought to give to the people of Canada the impression that there were no serious conditions existing in relation to agriculture, has made it incumbent upon us to bring this matter to the attention of the house. Members who are in touch with agricultural conditions not only on the prairies but throughout Canada, members who really know what the position of the farmer is, heard with amazement the statement made by the Prime Minister, and I can well believe that that speech caused not only amazement but consternation among his supporters in the house and outside of it. If I correctly estimate the way in which that speech has been received by the people of the country, I can say that they view it, not only with amazement and consternation, but with the utmost indignation. It is true that we heard similar statements made by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull), the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. MacMillan), the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan), and hon. members from other parts of the west, but we did not attach a great deal of importance to the statements made by those hon. gentlemen. When, however, the Prime Minister of Canada, from his place in the house, makes an effort to show that there are no serious conditions confronting agriculture; that agriculture is not in a precarious state, and when he undertakes to show that whatever may be wrong is entirely the fault of the farmer himself for having indulged too freely in speculation, then it is time for us to take notice.

But when we see the evidence upon which the Prime Minister bases his conclusions, we see how hopelessly he has failed to appreciate the true condition of agriculture. The Prime Minister pointed to the fact that in years past the west has produced immense crops. That is true, and it is still capable of producing immense crops. We have a fertile soil; we have with here and there, it is true, a few exceptions, favourable weather conditions. We have an industrious population. We have men and women who for fifty years past have borne the burden and the heat of the day; they have produced immense crops, and we can produce them again. The Prime Minister, if I read correctly an account of a statement he made some time during last winter, intimated that he could not understand why with all these favourable conditions there were among the farmers no reserves upon which they could fall back. I think the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) the other day clearly demonstrated why it was that there were no reserves. It is true that we have produced an immense amount of wealth, but far too small a proportion of that wealth has remained on the farm. The conditions have always been that too large a proportion of the wealth that we produce has been absorbed in its passage from the producer to the consumer. While it may be that those conditions are worse to-day than they have ever been before, nevertheless it is only the emphasis of a condition that has always prevailed. Therefore to point to the great wealth that has been produced on the prairie provinces during past years is not dealing with the situation at all.

The Prime Minister also referred to the fact that $300,000,000 were invested in automobiles and tractors. If he meant that as a further proof of the great prosperity of the west, I simply say that he has failed to take into consideration the fact that a very large proportion of that money has not yet been paid and that the farmers are still in debt for those vehicles. If he referred to that as proving that the farmers have been improvident; that they have invested where they should not have invested; that they have bought automobiles and tractors which they had no right to buy, let me say again to the Prime Minister that the privilege of using automobiles is not to be confined to the people who live in the great cities. If any class of people in the world is entitled to the use of automobiles, it is the farmer who lives out in the prairies. I might further point out that the very fact that we have spent such large sums of money on automobiles is a proof that the farmer is a good buyer and a good spender. Upon his ability to buy and spend depends the automobile industry and the living of the men who are making automobiles in this country. With regard to tractors, it is still an open question in the minds of many, and perhaps it has not yet been definitely decided whether the tractor can be used economically on the farm. Undoubtedly under certain conditions it can be. When oats were selling at 75 and 80 cents a bushel it did seem possible to save on oats and buy gasoline. But when oats are selling at 10 and 11 cents and barley at 15 cents a bushel, and gasoline still remains at the old high price, with tractors at their present high prices, and with the price likely to be still further increased if the policies of hon. gentlemen opposite prevail, it may well be questioned whether the tractor can be used economically.

The Prime Minister also referred to the fact, if it be a fact—I presume it is; I shall not dispute it—that large numbers of farmers still have money in the bank. It would surely be a deplorable condition if after all these years there were no farmers with some money in the bank; but let me say that those reserves are being very rapidly depleted. Certainly nothing has been added to the bank accounts of the farmers during the last year or two. So the fact that there are still some of them with money in the bank means nothing at all. Even the farmers who do have a small current account in a bank are not necessarily solvent. It is the practice of men who wish to do business in a business-like way to carry on their business through a bank. But money in a bank by no means proves that agriculture is solvent.

Does the Prime Minister see no significance in certain other facts? Does he see no significance in the fact that the banks have ceased to lend money to farmers? I know that that statement will be disputed, as it has been disputed by the banks; but is absolutely true that the banks will not lend money to farmers on the prospects of next year's crop. I went into a bank, not in my own town but in a neighboring town, and as I had some former acquaintance with the bank manager I had a half hour's conversation with him. I said to him, "I am not wanting to borrow any money, but I want to know if you are lending money to farmers." "Well," he said, "it depends upon circumstances. If a farmer can show good security or that he will be able to repay the loan within a little time, we will consider a loan; but if it is on the prospect of next year's crop, no." That, Mr. Speaker, is the condition which I believe is general throughout Canada. So we need not take very seriously the statements of bank managers that they are lending money to farmers. They may say so, but it is with the mental reservation that they will lend only what the farmer is entitled to. It is quite possible that neither the Prime Minister himself—nor you, Mr. Speaker, nor any of us would lend money to a man who had no prospects of repaying it. That may be good business, I am not saying that it is not; but the fact remains as it is—the banks are not lending money to farmers, and it goes to prove the statement that agriculture is practically insolvent.

Does the Prime Minister also see no significance in the fact that a limited moratorium is now in existence in each of the three prairie provinces? Surely there is some significance in that fact. Does he see no significance in the fact that the Manitoba Debts Adjustment Act came into force only a few days ago? All these things indicate that the conditions are not as the Prime Minister described them to be. Conditions are infinitely more serious than the Prime Minister seems to think they are. Do not these facts which I have cited prove that agriculture is practically insolvent?

It is, I believe, absolutely true that the present depression has wiped out all the equity that many farmers had in their homes. It is no small thing, Mr. Speaker, for a farmer to lose the equity in his home. Remember that a farm is not merely a place of business. It is far more than that. It is the farmer's home around which many sentiments and associations have gathered for, it may be, fifty years or more, and when a farmer through force of circumstances loses the equity in his home that means infinitely more to him than it does for a business man to have to change his place of business or even to have to move from one house in the city to another. Those are the conditions that confront the farmer in this country to-day, and they are conditions that cannot be minimized.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to refer to the opinions of others who are in touch with the actual conditions. The press of the west has certainly taken notice of what the Prime Minister said. I am going to quote a few extracts:

> W. J. Ward of Dauphin, president of the United Farmers of Manitoba, Wednesday, spoke briefly of the statement made in the House of Commons Tuesday by Premier Bennett to the effect that the prairie provinces were not suffering undue hard times.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Bennett did not say that at all. That is the other side of it.

Mr. BROWN: The quotation may not be strictly accurate.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. BROWN: That is immaterial for the Prime Minister certainly gave the impression to this house and to the country that in his judgment agriculture was not passing through very serious times.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, no.

Mr. BROWN: Perhaps we do not understand the English language. Perhaps we do not interpret hon. gentlemen opposite correctly, but certainly that was the impression given to the house and the country.

Mr. MATTHEWS: By whom?

Mr. BROWN: By the Prime Minister.

Mr. MATTHEWS: Oh, no.

Mr. BROWN: Mr. Ward goes on to say:

I have been a resident of the province for more than a third of a century, and have been in the closest touch especially with rural Manitoba for that entire period. For the past three or four months I have been engaged in making a tour of the province, holding meetings and discussing current conditions with the most representative farmers, merchants and others, one of my objects being to ascertain present conditions and the outlook for the future.

For Saskatchewan and Alberta I am unable to speak from personal knowledge, but so far as the province of Manitoba is concerned, I am quite able to say that Mr. Bennett does not know what he is talking about, and has not the slightest conception of the circumstances which exist here. I visited one of the rural areas of Manitoba Tuesday, not one of the worst, but one that in former years was considered among the best.

In that district I was told by the leaders, who know local conditions accurately, that in one area ten miles square, there was but one solvent farmer left, and the country merchant is naturally, along with the farmer, in a poor position too.

I am thinking of wiring Mr. Bennett to-day, and congratulating him, so far as the west is concerned, on writing his own obituary notice. What he has said indicates a total and complete failure to appreciate a situation worse by far than was ever experienced, even in the hard early days.

Mr. BENNETT: I hope the hon. member knows something of Mr. Ward's agricultural history.

Mr. BROWN: I have no doubt hon. gentlemen will make speeches which will seek entirely to explain away the speeches they have previously made. There is not the slightest doubt about it. However the words of the right hon. gentleman are on Hansard, and any reasonable man will give to them the interpretation I am now giving to them.

Mr. BENNETT: Will the hon. member permit a question? Does he consider Mr. Ward an agricultural authority?

Mr. VALLANCE: He is president of a farmer's society.

Mr. BROWN: The question is asked to throw reflection upon one who was an hon. member of this house.

Mr. BENNETT: I simply have asked: As an agriculturist does the hon. member consider Mr. Ward to be an authority on agriculture?

Mr. BROWN: I will answer in my own way, please.

Mr. BENNETT: Surely.

Mr. BROWN: We are not now on the orders of the day and I am going to answer the question as I wish. The question asked by the right hon. the Prime Minister is one which seeks to throw a reflection upon a gentleman who was an esteemed member of this house and who for five years was my room mate. I consider that Mr. Ward is a man thoroughly acquainted with agriculture in a way in which many hon. members opposite are not.

Mr. VALLANCE: Including the Prime Minister.

Mr. BROWN: Yes, because Mr. Ward made his way as a working man. It is no discredit to him to say that he climbed with his working clothes on to the position he holds to-day.

Mr. MANION: And so did the Prime Minister.

Mr. BROWN: And Mr. Ward is a farmer. He has been directly in contact with farmers of the province of Manitoba. Carrying out the duties of the office to which he was elected he made trips throughout the province of Manitoba and I consider he is just as able correctly to estimate the condition of things among the farmers in Manitoba as any hon. member opposite. In fact I have no hesitation in saying that he is better able to do it than nine-tenths of the hon. members opposite, and when I choose that figure I am allowing a large proportion?

I have before me another extract from a Canadian Press despatch from the city of Saskatoon. It is as follows:

Need of clothing relief on thousands of farms in Saskatchewan is stressed by the United Farmers of Canada in a reply to the statement of Premier R. B. Bennett that the west is not suffering from depression.

Mr. BENNETT: He did not say that, either.

Mr. BROWN: No, he did not say it was not; we know—

Mr. BENNETT: No, he did not say the west was not suffering from depression; on the contrary he said it was.

Mr. BROWN: I do not say the Prime Minister said the west was not suffering from depression, but what we are saying is that he minimized that depression.

An hon. MEMBER: Read it from Hansard.

Mr. BROWN: Very well.

It ill becomes—

Oh, but we are not allowed to read from a former debate. If I might be allowed, Mr.

Speaker, to violate the rules of parliament by reading from a former debate, I will do so. I did put the book back on the desk because I knew that in reading the extract I would be proceeding contrary to the rules of the house. However, if I may be allowed by hon. members opposite I will read from Hansard as follows:

It ill becomes hon. gentlemen here, who know of an isolated case here and another there, to draw a general conclusion in respect to conditions in western Canada. I can say that in western Canada there are tens of thousands of farmers who have deposits of money in the banks. It is true that there has been great hardship encounterd by many farmers, for two reasons. The first reason is because of crop failure, and the second reason is because of low prices for the crops they did produce. The hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) himself lost his crop . . . .

That particular section is not the right one—

Mr. MANION: The hon. member has chosen the wrong page.

An hon. MEMBER: Be careful.

Mr. VALLANCE: Order.

Mr. BROWN: I do not purpose to be howled down in that way. I am going to repeat the statement that if the Prime Minister did not say there was no depression in western Canada he unduly minimized it.

An hon. MEMBER: He did not say it.

Mr. BROWN: To continue with the extract from the Canadian Press despatch from Saskatoon:

During the past winter, says U.F.C. statement, clothing has been sent out by the red cross to 2,600 families; by the United Farmers of Canada to 670 families, and by the Wheat Pool to 350 families.

In addition the U.F.C. has on file applications for relief from over 100 families. Relief operations, it is pointed out, have also been carried on by the press of the province, the Salvation army, the Canadian Legion, the churches, the Jewish community and by other organizations.

"Since last fall about 500 members of the U.F.C. have appealed to the legal adviser of the association for assistance in their financial difficulties. Retail stores and business organizations in Saskatoon are experiencing the greatest difficulty in carrying on business and are making drastic reductions in staffs."

"These are facts," says the statement, "and facts will not give place to statements even though made by prime ministers."

In reply to Mr. Bennett's remark that tens of thousands of farmers have substantial bank accounts, it is pointed out that farmers are losing money on every bushel of wheat they grow and in these circumstances the bank balances are not likely to last very long. Many of the bank balances, it is urged, are from sources other than agriculture.

[Mr. Brown.]

"Mr. Bennett states," says the U.F.C., "that $300,000,000 are invested in automobiles and tractors, and that this bespeaks the solvency and economic well-being of the people of the west. Even farmers must have some means of getting about the country and must have some means of carrying on work," continued the statement.

"Has Mr. Bennett considered how much time would be lost in the summer time if farmers were to depend on the antiquated buggy? Has he considered that if they did not possess tractors they would at least have to keep large teams of horses to do the necessary work? And, by the way, economists have not yet been able to advise us which method is the most economical. Again, it would be pertinent to ask why Mr. Bennett omitted to state how many millions of dollars are owing on these automobiles and tractors. Farmers may have been, in many cases, injudicious in incurring the expense associated with these machines, but we have got to deal with conditions as they exist."

I think it would have been more to the point—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not wish to interrupt the hon. member but I must remind him that it is against rule 306 to read in debate extracts from newpapers on the remarks of any other hon. member in the house.

Mr. BROWN: That is an interpretation of the rule which I do not think has been followed.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The rule is very plain.

Mr. BROWN: It has not been followed before in this house.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: I have never heard it followed.

Mr. BROWN: It may have been ruled upon by you, sir.

Mr. GARDINER: Will Mr. Speaker quote the rule?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule 306.

Mr. GARDINER: But that is not a rule.

Mr. RINFRET: Is it a rule or a comment?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been held by previous Speakers, my hon. friend knows that.

Mr. RINFRET: If my hon. friend from Lisgar will allow me, I should like to point out to Mr. Speaker—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the hon. member rise to a point of order?

Mr. RINFRET: Yes. Paragraph 306 is not a rule of the house. It is a case similar to that cited this afternoon—merely a comment by Mr. Beauchesne on some standing orders.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But the hon. gentleman should know that those comments are based on decisions of Speakers in the past and have the force of rules.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, no.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is my decision.

Mr. BENNETT: This rule has been often enforced.

Mr. RINFRET: My experience is just to the contrary. Former Speakers have always allowed the reading of newspaper extracts.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But the comment in Beauchesne is very clear on the point, and that is my decision. If the hon. member is not satisfied with it, he can appeal to the house.

Mr. BROWN: Well, I have read the extract.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Ever since I came into this house in 1925 the Speaker has allowed members to read extracts from newspapers. That latitude has been allowed to members on both sides of the house. You are the first individual who has occupied—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order, order.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron): —the chair who has ever taken advantage of the rule in the way in which you have on this occasion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman knows the rule, and he ought to know that that has been the decision in the past. The reason for the decision is very clear, that no outside influence should be brought to bear on members. Members are here to express their own opinions. I can only refer the house to former decisions, and repeat that that is my ruling.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Surely, Mr. Speaker, in the course of an address a member has the right to quote the papers of the country in support of his arguments. It has always been allowed. I recall, Mr. Speaker, that you gave a similar ruling last session, but on a subsequent occasion the Prime Minister intervened and you reversed your ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I did not reverse it; I permitted the extract to be read with the unanimous consent of the house. I did not want to be discourteous and I let the hon. gentleman read his extract. All hon. members know the reason for the ruling, namely that this house may be free and independent of outside opinion. That is my ruling, but if the house decides against me, I shall have to abide by its decision.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order: The former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) is correct in pointing out that on one occasion I thought the rule which as Deputy Speaker Your Honour was enforcing was being too narrowly interpreted. But in this particular case Your Honour has directed attention to the fact that the member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) has been reading from a newspaper commenting upon a speech made in this house in a previous debate upon which the house had recorded its opinion. That is, there was a division on the address; the speech was made on the address; the matter was thus disposed of. There is a rule against the reading of newspaper comment under such circumstances. If every time the opinion of the house as recorded and reviewed in the newspapers and the attitude taken by various members reflected upon, those reviews are to be read into Hansard, where will we get to? If that is done page after page of Hansard will be filled with extracts from newspapers. Undoubtedly during the currency of a debate frequently arguments have been enforced by newspaper extracts with respect to figures and matters of that kind; but when the debate is ended, if the comments of newspapers reflecting on the conduct of members in the debate were to be quoted, there would be no end to our discussions and Hansard would be filled up with newspaper extracts. That is my view of the rule, apart from the pressure which the hon. member for Lisgar would thus zealously endeavour to exercise against me.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

REPRESENTATION ACT AMENDMENT

REPRESENTATION FOR ELECTORS RESIDENT IN THE DISTRICT OF PATRICIA

The house resumed, from Monday, April 27, the debate on the motion of Mr. Heenan for the second reading of Bill No. 2, to amend the Representation Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is the house ready for the question?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Before the question is put I should say it is very unusual to introduce a representation bill during the middle of a parliamentary term. The census will be taken this year and redistribution follows, and no good purpose could be served unless there were a possibility of a by-election—and the present excellent condition of health of the hon. gentleman would seem to ensure against that. I do not think the bill ought to be accepted at this time. It has never been the rule to introduce a bill of this kind at this stage, and there is more reason why it should not be introduced now than at any other time, for re-distribution is made by a committee and not by the house. The considerations that influence the hon. gentleman in introducing the bill are considerations that should influence him in desiring to drop it, for it would, from what he has said, disturb the balance of population with respect to other constituencies in the country. The government could hardly accept the bill and I trust it will be dropped.

Mr. VENIOT: Mr. Speaker, I would move that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Veniot moves, seconded by Mr. Brown, that the debate be adjourned. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the motion?

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

ARMISTICE DAY ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE FOR CELEBRATION OF ARMISTICE DAY ON NOVEMBER 11

The house resumed, from Monday, April 27, the debate on the motion of Mr. Neill for the second reading of Bill No. 8, to amend the Armistice Day Act.

Mr. G. R. GEARY (South Toronto): The mover of this bill has been good enough to speak to me about it on different occasions, and largely, I think, one is disposed to agree with the general idea of it. However, the bill as I read it leaves the question of Thanksgiving day pretty much as it is, and incorporates with that a day called Armistice day. The objection I have to the proposal is that the celebration or remembrance of Armistice day, if it occurs on a public holiday, is likely to lose its full significance.

Mr. NEILL: I am sure the hon. member does not wish to be unfair. It does not say a public holiday; it says legal holiday.

Mr. GEARY: The bill reads:

Shall be a legal holiday, and shall be kept and observed as such under the name of Armistice day.

[Mr. Speaker.]

If that does not mean a public holiday, I am not sure that I know what it means or what the advantage is in declaring it a holiday at all. I am quite in accord with the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) that November 11th should be devoted primarily or exclusively, so far as the celebration goes, to a commemoration of those men who lost their lives in the war. The 11th of November is an appropriate day for that purpose. Thus far we have celebrated Armistice day on November 11 throughout the country. I cannot speak of other parts of Canada than my own home, but there, at eleven o'clock on the morning of November 11, we have a service which is attended by thousands upon thousands of people. Not only is that service attended by these thousands of people, all apparently devout, all very lovingly commemorating the men who lost their lives in the war, but at eleven o'clock, as if by common consent, throughout the whole city, in transportation activities, in industrial enterprises, in the shops, on the street, in the courts, everywhere, all activities cease for the short space of two minutes. Men go about their business afterwards but they do not lose the refreshment of memory which they have derived from that one simple act. If this day, through being made a holiday, degenerate into something that has not as its foremost and practically exclusive function this perpetuation of the memories of these men, I think we should be losing all that is sweet, all that is fine in the observances of the occasion.

Mr. NEILL: But it has always been a legal holiday since 1921.

Mr. GEARY: I am not objecting to that, and the hon. member must not think I am trying to argue with him at all. My hon. friend seems disposed to make this a matter of dispute; it is not that by any manner of means. If the hon. gentleman can convince the house that this is the proper way to observe the day, well and good; I make no opposition to it. I seek only to impress upon the house what views I have of my own. I claim no special right to take part in this discussion: I do not think it is the right of one who has served any more than it is the right of anyone else. But this I do know. Perhaps some of us who have served have, more than others, just a little bit of personal recollection, a memory, whatever you may call it, that makes us feel very sincerely anxious that the day shall be observed in the proper way.

You are going to have, apparently, two holidays in the same season of the year; Thanks-

giving day is not disposed of. My fear is that this day of Armistice, this day of remembrance, as the legion has called it, will come to be just such another day as Thanksgiving is with us now. Thanksgiving day has lost its original significance, and I am not so optimistic as to suppose that, as the years and decades pass, there is going to be the same special interest in the celebration of Armistice day, or Remembrance day made into a legal holiday as there is at this moment.

Now that my hon. friend has had the opportunity of bringing this matter up again, I should have liked to have him let it lie in abeyance for a short time until all hon. members have had an opportunity of making up their minds as to whether or not we would be doing the best thing in connection with this celebration by passing this bill. I say again, with the danger of being accused of repetition: the appreciation of what Armistice day means may disappear as the years go by and be lost, submerged and drowned in the idea of a mere public holiday. That, at all costs, I do not want to see happen, and I believe we would be encouraging that very thing by entering on a hasty disposal of this bill. Let us allow it to stand for a time. Autumn is far away and there will be time to discuss the matter in the house during this session.

I am quite sure that the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, as well as the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw), who took such an interest in the matter last year, are desirous of reaching the end I desire to reach, and that which I think it is the desire of the people of this country should be reached in connection with this proposal. The legion has written to me and I have letters from different people, some expressing one view and some another. This proposal does not altogether meet the views of the legion executive and I have written to them asking for their considered views in connection with the phase which I have presented to the house.

It is the farthest thing from my mind, and I believe it is the farthest thing from the mind of any hon. member in this house, to have this matter dealt with at arm's length. It is our idea to hold in some way a celebration which will be truly the celebration it is intended to be, one that will enable the men, women and children of this country to take from their busy lives some time in which to give a loving thought to the men we lost.

Hon. FERNAND RINFRET (St. James): Mr. Speaker, this matter, being one of the fixing of holidays, comes under the Department of the Secretary of State, and I may say that in my capacity as such during past years I received considerable correspondence concerning the matter. There are two questions involved in this bill, as have been involved in similar motions which have been placed before the house at other times. One is as to whether Armistice day should be celebrated on November 11 or on the Monday of the week in which that day happens to fall, and the other is as to whether or not we should celebrate Thanksgiving day on the same day as Armistice day. Basing my opinion on the correspondence to which I have just alluded, I may say that it is my recollection and experience that the general desire of public opinion is, in the first place, to dissociate Thanksgiving day from Armistice day and, in the second place, although I have not the authority of the hon. member for South Toronto (Mr. Geary) to speak for the veterans—

Mr. GEARY: I have no official authority to speak for anyone.

Mr. RINFRET: Then I will say "connection" or any other word that will suit my hon. friend. I meant to be complimentary to him when I said that.

Mr. GEARY: I understand that.

Mr. RINFRET: Judging from the letters received from veterans, I should think that they would rather celebrate Armistice day on November 11, on the actual anniversary of the armistice. The reason for its being fixed on the Monday of the week in which November 11 falls was not because of the armistice, but rather to meet a situation existing in connection with Thanksgiving day. A number of representations had been received from trade and commercial institutions in favour of having Thanksgiving day celebrated on a Monday in order to give three days in which tradesmen and others could enjoy that holiday.

My reason for supporting this bill, not only as a private member but with the added experience derived from my connection with these matters, is that both difficulties may be overcome. If hon. members will read the explanatory note on the bill as printed they will find that the purpose is to repeal two sections of the act. The bill will repeal the section under which Armistice day was always celebrated on a Monday, and in that respect I think it will meet the demands of the veteran and of those most closely interested in that particular anniversary. It does away also with another section whereby the government was asked to fix Thanksgiving day on the same day as Armistice day. I think the bill meets both purposes very well, and I would commend it very strongly to the support of the house. Should this bill pass,

Armistice day will be celebrated on November 11 and the government may fix Thanksgiving day on any other day it thinks proper, perhaps in October so as to permit a certain lapse of time between the two holidays.

The hon. member who preceded me thought that this bill might be left over for further consideration, but it is the experience of every hon. member that when public bills are not dealt with as they come before the house they are likely to be forgotten and left over for the rest of the session. This is not a new question; it was raised some two or three years ago by my hon. friend in the form of a motion, and I think every hon. member understands fully what is involved.

I repeat, as emphatically as I can, that inasmuch as we are desirous of meeting public opinion, expressed as it is by a volume of correspondence, the proper thing to do would be to adopt this bill which would permit of Armistice day being celebrated on November 11, and to allow the government to fix Thanksgiving day on whatever date it chooses.

Mr. F. W. GERSHAW (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, on two previous occasions I have had the pleasure of speaking on a bill similar to this one, and I just wish to add a few words to what has already been said. A general desire has been expressed by hon. members who have spoken to have Armistice day fittingly observed; the only difference of opinion seems to be as to the exact procedure of the celebration. No one desires to see Armistice day degenerate into an ordinary public holiday, stripped of all its sad memories. Yet we must realize that almost twelve years have passed since the armistice was signed, and that a considerable number of those who took part will not have very many years more to live. Much can be done to educate school children and the younger and rising generation regarding the serious lessons of the war if Armistice day is suitably celebrated every year on the 11th of November, with the idea not of glorifying war, but rather of pointing out the sad, serious, sacred side of the war. I believe Armistice day should be observed at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, because it will then have that special significance which we wish it always to have.

Mr. J. L. BOWMAN (Dauphin): May I say a word in favour of this bill? The views I wish to express are very ably set forth in a memorial which I received within the last day or two from the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. This communication, which is addressed to myself as a member of the house, was sent to me under date of April 24, 1931. It is as follows:

Re Observation Of Armistice Day

At a recent meeting of the Dominion executive council of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League held in Ottawa, I was directed to invite your kind attention to the following resolution which was unanimously passed by the Dominion convention of the Canadian Legion, held at Regina, Saskatchewan in November, 1929, and reaffirmed at the meeting above referred to:—

"Whereas November the eleventh is the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities in the great war and is a day sacred to all ex-service men and women and which should be sacred to the people of Canada.

And whereas the day now set apart for the observance of this anniversary does not generally coincide with the actual day.

And whereas by reason of this, the observance of this anniversary loses much of its significance, and its sacred character is thereby much impaired.

Be it therefore resolved that we request that the parliament of Canada be requested and we do hereby respectfully request it, to enact legislation whereby in place of the present Thanksgiving day, November the eleventh in every year shall be set aside as a national holiday to be known as Remembrance day."

I also wish to bring to the attention of the house a resolution passed by the returned men at Dauphin, Manitoba, under date of November 11, 1929. The resolution reads:

Whereas this gathering of returned men of Dauphin and district is of the opinion that the day which marked the end of hostilities in the great war should be fittingly and thankfully observed by all of the citizens of Canada in perpetuity.

And whereas we believe that the maintaining of Armistice day as a day of national import would be of inestimable value in the furtherance of ideals of peace among the nations.

And whereas in our opinion the identity of Armistice day as being the eleventh day of November is in grave danger of being lost by reason of the extent in which Armistice day has been and is being confused with Thanksgiving day in the minds of the people of Canada.

Now therefore this gathering of returned soldiers, sailors and airmen of Dauphin district, met together for the purpose of observing Armistice day, hereby records its conviction that in order that the significance of Armistice day may ever be preserved, November eleventh in each year should be set aside as a national day of observance and as a public holiday, and further that Thanksgiving day should not be permitted in any way to detract from the memories and ideals which Armistice day should inspire in Canadians.

In accordance with the sentiments so ably and clearly set forth in these two resolutions, I have much pleasure in supporting the bill which has been introduced by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill).

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): This bill, if it were adopted, would have the effect of making Armistice day a fixed day, the 11th of November in each year. It would be a day of observance, apart altogether from any day celebrating or commemorating any other occasion. There is in my judgment no necessity of its interfering in the slightest degree with the celebration of Thanksgiving. Coming as it does in November, it will allow ample time in October for Thanksgiving, if fixed in that month, thus avoiding the difficulties that might arise from two of these public holidays occurring within a short period of time, and more especially avoiding what I think would be an unfortunate feature, namely, that of both being celebrated on the same day. These commemorative occasions are distinct and different, and it would be unfortunate longer to try to couple the two together. Therefore I favour the passing of the bill.

What is of importance is not one's personal views, but how the proposed measure will be regarded in the country. One can judge only from personal observation, from meeting people and from general information. My view is that it will be most acceptable; that it will meet with the approval of a very large number of people. I believe its adoption will be a source of gratification and comfort to the returned men, their families, their dependents and their descendants. I therefore support the object of this bill and strongly favour its passage.

Hon. IAN MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I certainly desire to congratulate the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren), who is doubtless speaking for the government—

Mr. MacLAREN: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver):—in supporting the request which has long been made by the organized veterans of Canada.

Mr. MacLAREN: I was speaking personally.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): The hon. member's support is equally welcome in either case. I certainly desire to congratulate the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) upon facing eventually the triumphant consummation of his very consistent and persistent efforts to have the request of the organized veterans of Canada granted.

I suggest that apart altogether from the present and vital issue which confronts the house in regard to the matter now before us, we have in Canada far too many public holidays, and it might be well for the administration to consider doing away with some of them. In my opinion—and I believe I am in the judgment of the house—far greater than even the birthday of our beloved sovereign, His Majesty the King; far greater than the twenty-fourth of May, which is Empire day, should be the solemn commemoration in Canada of the eleventh day of November in each year, when all the people of this Dominion, all the people throughout the British Empire, and all the people of all the allies, are at eleven o'clock in the morning hushed in one great moment of solemn remembrance of our glorious dead.

I am in hearty accord with those hon. members who have already given their support to the bill introduced by my good friend the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill).

Mr. PETER McGIBBON (Muskoka-Ontario): Once again, Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my approval of this proposal. On a number of occasions during the last ten years I have expressed the opinion that Armistice day and Thanksgiving day should be kept entirely separate and distinct, as they serve altogether different purposes. It does seem to me that as the years go by this country is apt to forget altogether too quickly the sacrifices made by those who had the honour and the privilege of serving overseas during the great war from 1914 to 1918. If for no other reason than that this measure is largely desired by the returned men of this country, I think that the house, in deference to them and to their request, should pass this bill. The great events of those memorable days are fading too quickly into history. We sometimes forget that England journeyed to the battlefield for one of its unknown warriors and buried him in that great sepulchre of kings and princes in the old land. Similarly the United States buried one of their unknown warriors at the national cemetery at Arlington. Italy has not been behind. From the maritime Alps they have taken an unknown warrior, and his last resting place is now by the side of that great hero and liberator of their country.

It is now some twelve years since the close of the war, and I think the question should be settled now, once and for all. The stirring deeds of those trying years are surely worth our setting aside at least one day in three hundred and sixty-five upon which to commemorate the achievements and the sacrifices not only of our own brave soldiers, but of those of our allies. It is the least we can do, and I urge upon the house that this question be settled now an in keeping with the wishes of the returned men, regardless of the feelings of the rest of the people of this country.

Mr. J. E. LAWSON (West York): To my mind it is unfortunate that the proposed bill of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) attempts to make a dual change in the law as it now stands. If I correctly interpret the purport of the legislation contemplated by the bill, section 2 of the act which it is proposed to repeal originally provided that the Monday of the week in which November 11 fell should be observed as Armistice day, and section 3 provided for the celebration of Thanksgiving day on the same day as Armistice day. By this proposed amendment you change not only the holding of both celebrations on the one day, that of remembrance and that of thanksgiving, but in addition you adopt the principle that the day of remembrance shall be the calendar day, the 11th of November, instead of the Monday of the week in which that day falls.

Like many hon. members of this house I have received a copy of the circular containing the resolution passed by the executive of the Dominion command of the Canadian Legion. There are many legion branches and many returned soldiers in the riding which I represent, and although it may be said that the returned men are unanimous with respect to the desirability of the observance of Armistice day as a day of remembrance separate and distinct from Thanksgiving day, there does not appear to be unanimity of opinion as to whether or not Armistice day should be observed on the Monday of the week in which the 11th of November falls or on the calendar day, the 11th of November. I would therefore suggest, if I may, to my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni that he allow the bill to stand for a short time until we have had an opportunity of determining just what the majority of the returned men desire.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): There is no doubt about it.

Mr. LAWSON: My hon. friend feels sure there is no doubt about it. I only wish I were in that fortunate position, but judging from the communications I have received I must confess there is a great deal of doubt on that one point—whether the observance should be on the 11th of November or on the Monday of the week in which November 11 falls.

Mr. NEILL: I challenge the hon. member to produce a resolution or report from any one recognized body of soldiers saying that they want the day of remembrance to be on the Monday. They want it on November the 11th.

[Mr. McGibbon.]

Mr. LAWSON: I wonder if my hon. friend from Comox-Alberni has yet grasped the significance of the statement which I have been trying to make.

Mr. NEILL: No, because there is nothing in it.

Mr. LAWSON: There is no question that the returned men are unanimously in favour of a separate day of remembrance. That much is clear, but I say to my hon. friend that there are returned men who are members of the legion in the riding which I represent—it so happens that I am myself a member of that body—who have a preference for Monday rather than the 11th of November. If I am not mistaken, Armistice day itself, November 11, 1918, fell on a Monday, consequently it has sentimental associations, if you will. Monday is given a preference in the minds of a great many. If my hon. friend will read the circular which has been forwarded to the members by the Dominion executive of the Canadian Legion, I think he will agree with me that it is not clearly set out in that resolution whether the legion is desirous as a body of having the day of remembrance on the 11th of November, or whether in the main the object of the resolution is to separate the two celebrations we are now discussing. I suggest therefore, that the hon. member for Comox-Alberni allow the bill to stand until it is next reached on the order paper.

Mr. W. D. COWAN (Long Lake): I am afraid I cannot agree with the hon. member who has just taken his seat (Mr. Lawson) in his desire to have action on the proposal of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) delayed. It has been my experience that when matters of this sort are delayed they do not further develop. So far as I am concerned I stand pledged to my comrades in the city of Regina and the province of Saskatchewan to support the eleventh of November as Armistice day, and no other day. In that part of the country the day of the week has never once entered into our discussions. Both in the local branch and in the provincial command we have taken the view that the eleventh is the eleventh, and the ninth cannot be made into the eleventh. In my locality the people interested want the eleventh and will not be satisfied with anything else.

I wish to make one or two statements in regard to the resolution passed by the Dominion command when they met in Regina. As president of the local branch it was my duty to welcome to Regina the Dominion branch. The meeting in Regina constituted the largest convention in Canada of its kind. We passed

that resolution in favour of the eleventh and never for one moment thought of any other day. I do not know what the wording is, because I have not read it, but I do remember that the eleventh of November was the day asked for by the Dominion command, a body which represents between 80,000 and 100,000 people in Canada. I suggest that we should settle this matter now, get through with it, get it out of the way and turn our minds to other business. Let us make the eleventh of November Armistice day. The members of the legion will never be content with the present arrangement. Annually the question comes up, "Why celebrate this day? It is not our day". On November 11th they visit our cenotaph and a celebration is held there and then. No matter what happens the eleventh is the day on which we hold the celebration, and the day on which we will continue to hold it.

Mr. R. K. SMITH (Cumberland): I wish to express my approval of the principle of this bill. I do hope however that when we reach the committee stage the suggestion made by the hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr Dickie) and the recommendation of the executive of the legion respecting the change of the name from Armistice day to Remembrance day will be kept in mind. In my humble judgment, in order to have this day fittingly observed there should be some statutory enactments with respect to it similar to those under the Lord's Day Act. In recent years this holiday has been one not of commemoration but of celebration, and in my judgment we all should frown upon the practice which has been followed in that respect. Armistice day is the one day in the year which should be observed and commemorated more than any other. I do hope that the comments which have been made during the discussion of this bill will be kept in mind so that when it reaches the committee stage suggestions may be offered whereby the day may be fittingly observed and provision made for its proper commemoration in the future.

Mr. B. M. STITT (Nelson): I wish to place myself on record as heartily endorsing this bill. I think the legislation is long overdue. I agree in every detail with the sentiments expressed by the hon. member for Long Lake (Mr. Cowan). The commemoration of Armistice day should be held on November 11th, not the ninth, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth or any other day. It was on the eleventh of November that the Armistice was signed, and I am satisfied as a returned soldier and a member of the legion that the returned soldiers throughout Canada want the commemoration to be held on November 11th, whether it be called Remembrance day or otherwise. That is the day which should be celebrated; that is the day the returned soldiers want to celebrate, and I am pleased to support a bill which will make such commemoration possible. I congratulate the hon. member who introduced the bill.

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): At this stage I shall not delay the house because it is more important to have the bill passed than to make speeches.

The feeling of the house has been generous, and I have only one comment to make. One hon. member suggested that it would be desirable to delay, to let the matter lie a little longer.

> Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.

This matter has been before the country and before the house for years, and there is no need for further postponement. For six weeks the bill has been before the house, and if hon. members cannot grasp the meaning of a bill of only three sentences in that time they should be able to do so.

The same hon. member said that he did not speak for the soldiers; I think I can say in all good faith that I can. Here is one of the many communications I received.

> Britannia branch Canadian Legion, Victoria with nearly five hundred members strongly supports your efforts to have Armistice day observed November eleventh and no other. Wish you every success in your endeavours to have an objective of Canadian Legion of British Empire Service League for many years attained at this session.

I hope Mr. Speaker, that the vote will be unanimous and will show that, regardless of party or sect or any other consideration, we in this house are united to grant to the soldiers this measure of consideration. They have asked for it and I think after all they are entitled to get it.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On section 1.

Mr. DICKIE: In deference to the wishes of the headquarters of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League I wish to introduce an amendment. I think it has been thoroughly conceded by the house that Armistice day should be separate from Thanksgiving day. To my mind it is a day not of

joy or cheerfulness, but of sacred memory on the part of those who lost relatives or friends, as well as those to whom such losses did not come in the late war. It is a sacred day, and I thoroughly agree with the recommendation of the Dominion headquarters with respect to a change of the name. When we gather round the war memorials throughout the country we are all thankful for the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities, but still the prevalent feeling is not with respect to Armistice day at all, it is a feeling of sadness for those who fell in the war, and in my opinion the Dominion headquarters of the Canadian Legion are well advised in advocating that this day be called Remembrance day. I have had many letters from men of the legion in the west suggesting the same thing. I am simply taking this course out of deference to the wishes of that great body of men. And surely if there is any true index to the views of what is best for the returned men of Canada, that index is to be found in the Canadian legion of the empire. They represent the soldiers themselves; this is a soldiers' bill pure and simple; so why should we not accede to the wishes of that great body and call the day Remembrance day? Remembrance day sounds very well, and implies all that we wish to remember and perpetuate. We know it commemorates the cessation of hostilities, but, as I say, the word "armistice" will be forgotten when the sad memories associated with the day still live among those who on that day foregather in sacred remembrance of those who gave of their best for this empire of ours.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Barber):

That the word "Armistice" in the last line be struck out and the word "Remembrance" be substituted therefor.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE INCREASED PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION

Mr. SAMUEL GOBEIL (Compton) moved the second reading of Bill No. 16, to amend the Dairy Industry Act.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.

Mr. SAMUEL GOBEIL (Compton) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, as hon. members may have noticed this bill aims at increasing the penalties against butter adulterators. I suppose that there has always existed people who have made it a practice to transgress the laws enacted by their country, and the dairy industry has not escaped this practice. For the information of hon. members of the house who might inquire why I introduced this amendment, I shall state that this adulteration of dairy products and more particularly butter, has greatly increased within the last years. I admit that it has more or less been carried on; however, within the last two years, especially, adulteration has been practised on a large scale. Last autumn I met a butter and cheese merchant who informed me that this adulteration had greatly hurt the butter industry of Quebec and that even a number of manufacturers in our large cities were found guilty of such a practice and had been fined; that directors of such organizations had stated that they would willingly pay a fine of $200 per week, if allowed to carry on this adulteration. The latter has been so openly and extensively resorted to—

Mr. PAUL MERCIER (St. Henri) (Translation): May I ask the hon. member a question? How is this adulteration, which is being spoken of for the last few minutes, practised? I should very much like to know how butter can be adulterated?

Mr. GOBEIL (Translation): In answer to the hon. member for St. Henri, may I read the act which I wish to have amended. As I have not the French version of this bill, I shall necessarily read it in English. I am sorry not to be able to quote this clause in French.

Section 5 reads as follows:

No person shall—

(a) manufacture, import into Canada, or offer, sell or have in his possession for sale, any oleomargarine, margarine, butterine, or other substitute for butter, manufactured wholly or in part from any fat other than that of milk or cream;—

Mr. SPEAKER: The hour for private and public bills having passed, the house will resume consideration of government orders.

SUPPLY—AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

AMENDMENT TO MOTION OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Bennett for committee of supply.

Mr. J. L. BROWN (Lisgar): When the house rose at six o'clock, Mr. Speaker, a point

of order had been raised as to the propriety of my reading certain newspaper extracts. The hon. gentleman then in the chair (Mr. LaVergne) ruled that the reading of these extracts was not in order. While it is not my purpose at the present time to appeal from that ruling,—I would not seek to put Your Honour in the position which that would involve,—I think the time has come when we should have a clear and definite understanding as to just what may and may not be read in the course of a debate such as this. I have been pointing out, and have used the extracts to point out, that the country at large had put the same interpretation upon the speech of the right hon. Prime Minister as I have. I used them to show also that the conditions of agriculture which we on this side of the house have been depicting were the conditions which prevailed, according to those whose opinions I was quoting at that time. I have no more newspaper extracts to read at the moment, but I do wish to cite another opinion that came to me in regard to this matter. I may say it came to me in the course of a letter I received some weeks ago, the writer of which said something to this effect:

Even in this most favoured district—

He was speaking of one of the best districts of Manitoba.

—we have many families that would have starved this winter were it not for neighbours giving them food. One family close to town lived on nothing but potatoes for a month. and—

My correspondent adds:

—this man voted for Bennett to blast a market for his grain.

Complaints have been made from the other side of the house that we on this side are unfair in holding the government responsible entirely for the present condition. That objection, of course, would come with much better grace had not hon. gentlemen opposite, during the last session of parliament and throughout the campaign, insisted upon placing all the blame for Canada's position upon the former administration. I would not hold that the present government is responsible for the whole of the depression that exists to-day. Indeed, I believe there is a limit to the power for evil even of this government. It is not my intention, Mr. Speaker, to discuss at any great length the fiscal policy of the present government in its effect either upon our own conditions or upon the conditions abroad, either as regards the cost of production or as regards the effect which that policy has upon export markets. That possibly may be done by certain members before we get through. I do wish to say, however, that I am profoundly convinced that the fiscal policy of the present government, if not responsible for all the evils from which we suffer, has certainly done much to aggravate the conditions that prevailed last fall.

I wish now to refer to another extract by way of laying a foundation for some further remarks which I shall make. I have here an extract from the Canadian Annual Review of 1929-30, page 99. I think I shall be perfectly in order in reading it.

At Woodstock, New Brunswick, he (Mr. Bennett) disputed Mr. Mackenzie King's claim that he had reduced taxation and stated that the reduction had only taken away part of a previous increase made by the same administration. He again emphasized his determination to protect Canadian agriculture and said that he would regard it as a great responsibility if elected "to see that the collective weight and power of the Dominion is placed behind agriculture."

I wish to call attention particularly to that last statement:

To see that the collective weight and power of the Dominion is placed behind agriculture.

That is a big promise, and up to the present we have not seen any indication of its being fulfilled. We have had, it is true, what is called a new agricultural policy issued by the present Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir). It appeared in MacLean's Magazine and is, I believe, in the literature which is furnished in the library of the Department of Agriculture over in the west block. So that to that extent it is authoritative. To that extent it represents what is spoken of here as the collective weight and power of the Dominion being placed behind agriculture.

Let us consider them in order. First, we have a national marketing board. What that means we do not know. Then we have lower costs of production obtained by increased yield per acre. That is very good; it is the old idea of making two blades of grass grow where one formerly grew. That policy is as old as agriculture; it is not at all new, and takes no consideration whatever of marketing.

We have been told that the Minister of Agriculture is a very fine type of man, and those of us who have not had the privilege of a previous acquaintance with him have not yet had an opportunity of forming an opinion for ourselves. The sooner we get that opportunity the better we shall be pleased. Now let me say to the Minister of Agriculture that while it is very good to make two blades grow where one grew before, that in itself is not sufficient to reduce the cost of production. We must go further than that. We must not

only reduce the cost of production by increased production, but we must reduce the actual expenses which the farmer has to incur in the cultivation of the land. And although it is contended that there is no difference in policy between the party opposite and the party on this side, I have no hesitation in saying that the one thing in the policy of the last administration that appealed to me was the consistent emphasis they laid upon reduction in duties, and consequently in the prices of the implements that are used in the primary industries of the country. I would commend that to the Minister of Agriculture as something that would go much further than what he proposes here in reducing the cost of production.

Thirdly, we have the proposal of sowing the land to crops best suited. That is absolutely sound, of course; but if anyone can see anything new in it I should like to know what it is. It, also, is as old as agriculture.

Next is research work to discover a fertilizer required for different soils. Very good as far as it goes, but it does not meet the emergency. Then we have the proposal of an immediate survey with respect to seed grain, seed vegetables and fodder crops. That, too, is commendable. Then the creation of bull clubs, the revival of an old policy to which we take no objection. Also the immediate improvement in the quality of swine. No one can take any objection to that, but we would not think of putting it forward as a startling innovation. Next is the eradication of disease among poultry—very good too; and research work on feeds. Well, this is exactly the work that is being done at the present time. It has been going on without any let-up; the agricultural colleges and the experimental farms are doing it and will continue to do it, no matter what government is in power. For that reason, therefore, it is not worth emphasizing. Then we have a proposal for eliminating parasites. I think one might commend to the house the observation made by the hon. member for Southeast Grey (Miss Macphail). Then we have the transformation of experimental farms into local educational centres, which, of course, they have always been. Next is a request for cooperation on the part of the provincial governments in the carrying out of the policy. I do not take serious exception to any of these things—no person can; but the idea of stating that the collective weight and power of the Dominion is being placed behind agriculture is a pure farce. What would be thought of a doctor who would prescribe a bread and milk poultice for a broken leg? There are one or two things to which I intend to refer that might be considered to be of a more constructive nature.

Unfortunately the house has been given a certain impression, not from anything said here but from what has been published in the press. The following sentence indicates that certain members on this side of the house have been giving serious consideration to a certain phase of this question: It reads:

> From Ottawa comes the news that the office of agricultural representative in Great Britain is to be abandoned, or rather that expenditure on it is to be reduced to $2,500, and the agricultural representative, W. A. Wilson, B.S.A. is to be superannuated with a small retiring allowance.

I think it was the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Reid) who asked a question along these lines the other day. We thought we would receive an answer, but evidently the Prime Minister gave an intimation to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should not answer it. We are not at the present moment perfectly informed as to what the policy of the department is in that connection and we can only go on the supposition that the newspaper report is correct. I desire to protest against any economy in that particular direction. Those who are acquainted with and have taken any account of what Mr. Wilson has done overseas must admit that that work was a good work; he performed it efficiently and brought Canadian products to the notice of the British people in a way never before accomplished through the advice which he gave with regard to the grading and the raising of the quality of our products. He has been of untold service to the cause of agriculture, and in my judgment this is not the time to dispense with that kind of service. Indeed, if the ideals of the Minister of Agriculture are to be realized and the quality of our products is to be increased, there is need more than ever for a man such as Mr. Wilson to keep these matters persistently before the people of Great Britain.

There is another question which is very seriously concerning the minds of our people at the present time, that of internal freight rates. If the cause of agriculture would be helped it seems to me some consideration must be given before long to this question. I know it is not the general policy of this house definitely to establish freight rates, although an exception was made to that general rule when it dealt with the Crowsnest pass rates. I do not desire to advocate rates that are not profitable to the railway companies, although I do not believe there was any foundation to the claims made on previous occasions by the railway companies that they

were carrying grain at a loss under the rates provided for export. I do not think that claim can be sustained, because the railway companies are not carrying grain at a loss under the rates provided for in the Crowsnest pass agreement. It has been made abundantly clear that the chief cause of the present unsatisfactory position of railway finances is the smaller amount of grain which has been moving during the last few years. In urging that the internal freight rates be reduced we are not advocating that grain should be carried at a loss. A principle has been laid down, I believe, in regard to freight rates based upon what the traffic will bear. I do not intend to interpret that as meaning all the traffic will bear, but I believe it is the accepted principle to charge what the traffic will bear. That means that there are certain classes of freight which from their very nature must be carried at a cheap rate. Otherwise they will simply remain where they are and people will have to do without them because the freight rates charged will not permit them to be moved. We are now faced with a condition under which some of our commodities will not move freely. I refer particularly to the rates on grain to the Pacific coast and to the maritime provinces. The situation is this: the people of British Columbia who want to use the grain from the prairie provinces cannot purchase it at a price they can afford to pay, because of the high freight rates prevailing; the same is true with regard to the maritime provinces. Much emphasis has been laid, and properly so, upon the question of eastern Canada using the feed grains of the west. This is a question to which consideration must be given and a revision of these rates should be made in order to make it possible to carry that grain to eastern Canada and put it in the hands of the feeders in that part of the country. That would be of benefit not only to the producers of western Canada, but also to the consumers in British Columbia and the maritime provinces, and I do not believe any loss would result to the railway companies.

Since I have spoken for some time I will not attempt to deal with the question of wheat markets. I will leave that phase of the matter to the hon. members who will undoubtedly follow me in this debate.

There is another problem which to me seems to be of prime importance, and one to which the government should give consideration; I refer to the question of our meat products. The statement has been made again and again that western Canada—I am speaking now only for the west, but the same probably would apply to the east—is capable of producing immense quantities of beef and pork. There is simply no limit to the amount of pork which could be produced were marketing conditions more satisfactory. I say this advisedly; there is no limit to the amount of pork that could be produced. We have the land, we have the climate, we have the grain; we have everything necessary to produce bacon of the best type in unlimited quantities. But what happens? The very moment more than the regular supply appears upon the market, down goes the price. I once had the privilege of going through the Harris abattoir plant in Toronto and I saw the character of work which was being carried on there. One of the gentlemen in charge of that institution told me that they had a plant in Winnipeg which was idle at the time because they were unable to get sufficient live hogs. I told him what was the trouble, namely that the farmers had no encouragement to enter into production of hogs, because, as soon as a little extra supply came on the market, down went the price at which the farmers had to sell them, even less than the cost of raising them. If I may be excused for giving a personal experience, I think it was about four or five years ago I started in the spring with fifty young pigs. I would have been better off, as I found out at the close of the season, if in the spring I had knocked every one of them on the head. That is absolutely true. Of course it has to be taken into account that at that time barley was fetching a good price, and we do not want to feed pigs simply for the sake of the company; we want to raise stock so that no matter what the relative prices of pork and grain may be, we shall receive at least something for our work.

Mr. BENNETT: When was it that this happened?

Mr. BROWN: I am speaking of something that happened four or five years ago, when I said that we were often compelled to raise live stock at a loss. Such an experience discourages one from repeating it the following year. I am quite well aware that taking one year with another, farmers may some years have to carry on with a little less profit than others, but at the present time and under present conditions we are bearing the whole burden. As I said in a former speech in the house this year, just about two weeks before we came east, the price of hogs on the Winnipeg market went down to 5¼ cents a pound one day just because the packers were sitting in their offices and would not come out to buy hogs. It is true that in a week or two the price went back to about 7 cents a pound,

but the condition of things is simply that the farmers have no encouragement to continue the raising of hogs. We are told by those who go to the old country that there is a tremendous market there for our bacon. I believe that is true. I know we have to compete with Danish bacon.

Mr. BENNETT: Danish bacon was sold in Canada this year.

Mr. BROWN: I believe the Danish people are so favourably situated that they can continue to supply the British market. As I was speaking one day with a former Minister of Immigration, Senator Forke, he told me that he had been in communication with the manager of a packing plant in Denmark, and the packer informed him they did not fear Canadian competition in Great Britain; they had what they called a green cure which could be sent to Britain and the British people could finish the processing to suit themselves. That is, of course, an advantage that they have, but none the less I believe it is possible for us to furnish Britain with bacon of a fine grade at a price that will be profitable to the producer if we can just correct the situation that to-day seems to exist between the producer and the consumer.

Mr. BENNETT: Our bacon commands a premium in England.

Mr. BROWN: I have no doubt of that, because it is good bacon. But there is the situation that confronts us, and it is worthy of the consideration of any government. A year ago at a meeting of live stock men, held I think under the auspices of the then Minister of Agriculture, this problem was considered and the suggestion made that the government build abattoirs, one east and one west, make experiments along that line, and see what could be done. Nothing of course was done in that direction. I believe the sum of $25,000 was granted to make such an investigation, and some attention might be given by the government to that question, which to my mind is the most important live stock question that confronts us to-day—how to get over that piece of rocky ground, if I may so describe it, between the producer in Canada and the consumer in Great Britain.

I think it would not be becoming to me to occupy the attention of the house any longer. I have placed before hon. members some of the considerations that have appealed to me. Returning again, however, to the attitude of the Prime Minister towards this question—he seems to feel that we have not been correctly representing him in this matter—

[Mr. Brown.]

I do not know whether I would be privileged to read this one sentence:

> If hon. members will take the trouble to investigate they will find that wherever men have had regard for economic laws and have kept free from speculation and wild dreams of sudden wealth, they are happy and contented and have provided a good livelihood for themselves and their families.

Then follows a statement of the amount of money that has been spent on cars in the various provinces, and the amounts that have been received by the different provinces by way of gasoline taxes. The Prime Minister made those statements either with a purpose or with no purpose, one or the other. If he made them with no purpose—well, I do not need to make any comment upon them. If he made them with a purpose, there can have been only one, and that must of necessity have been to show that statements made on this side of the house in regard to agricultural conditions in the west were not accurate. So I just want to emphasize again the statement I have made that the speech delivered by the Prime Minister is, whether deliberately or otherwise, an entire misrepresentation of conditions as they actually exist on the farms of the west to-day.

Mr. BENNETT: Will the hon. member point to a single statement in what I said the other day that is inaccurate?

Mr. BROWN: I do not say the statement is inaccurate. It is not an inaccurate statement to say that western Canada has raised so many billion dollars of wealth out of the ground in a given number of years. I do not know the figures, but it may be accurate to say that an amount of $300,000,000 was invested in automobiles. It may be accurate to say that there are some farmers who have money in the bank. My objection is not to the statements he made, but to the inferences he drew from those statements.

Mr. YOUNG: What about the statement that no person who had not speculated or bought on instalments had suffered?

Mr. BENNETT: That statement was not made.

Mr. BROWN: I move, seconded by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. McKenzie):

> That all the words after the word "that" to the end of the question be left out and the following words be inserted instead thereof:
>
> 1. The house regrets that the administration has failed to implement its definite promises with respect to agriculture and to this moment it has failed to announce any agriculture policy to this house.

2. That the policies of the present administration operate to restrict, rather than to expand Canadian trade.

3. That without the development of international trade Canadian agriculture will become increasingly paralyzed.

And further, in the opinion of the house, any policy with respect to agriculture should include emergency measures to meet the present agricultural crisis and adequate provision for the processing of meats and the marketing of live stock, wheat, dairy and of all other agricultural products.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Minister of Finance): In order that there may be ample opportunity for attack, I think it is desirable that the government should make a statement at once. The hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) has moved an amendment. That amendment deals with everything with which agriculture has to do, from grain to chickens, and with every phase of these agricultural products from growth to consumption.

The amendment regrets that the government in the few months it has been in power has not taken measures to meet the views of the mover. If that amendment reflects the opinion of hon. gentlemen opposite, may I point out to them that there is not much satisfaction to be derived from listening to the speech of the hon. member for Lisgar, because early in his observations he said that the conditions about which he complained have always prevailed. It is an odd thing that he should discover in the few months during which this government has been in power something which he knew had existed for nine years and about which he had said nothing during all that time. If he knew that these conditions had always prevailed, why did he not tell the house something about them before? Why did he not tell the house before about the fifty pigs which he should have knocked on the head and did not? Those things were in the days of the other government. He said that he did not find it satisfactory to raise pigs for company. Why did he not tell us before that he had discovered that? Why did he wait until to-night? I am surprised that he reveals all these things only to-night, after all the years that have gone by during which he made no complaint.

My statement in the house the other day, about which complaint has been made, can be summarized in a single word, the word used by the hon. member for Lisgar with respect to Mr. Ward. Mr. Ward, I understand from the hon. gentleman, had a good mind to telegraph me that in making that statement I was writing my own obituary. Yes, Mr. Speaker, these gentlemen are much more concerned with that than they are with the condition of the farmer. They are much more concerned about exploitation than they are about the progress of the farmers and about remedies for the present conditions. That I say to them without any question. All you have to do to see it is to read the record. I ask any hon. gentleman opposite to point to a single statement I made the other day which is not supported by the record.

Why did I make that statement? Because for weeks these hon. gentlemen opposite had been trying to hold up western Canada as a country in which courage had given way to despair; had been leading the people of eastern Canada and of other parts of the world to believe that western Canada was bankrupt and insolvent, that the men of that country had no longer the courage and persistence and perseverance of old. These calamity-howlers have been going to and fro in the country—

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Last July.

Mr. BENNETT: —forgetting that Canada is the same country and the same people that it has been since 1867 and before, with the same courage and enterprise, the same desire and hope and determination to make this a country of homes.

I say that whoever administers the government of the country at this time, whoever administers the national finances, has a great and difficult task; and whoever goes about Canada crying that the farmers cannot receive credit has no right to make it appear that they are not worth credit. That is what is being done. Men are going to and fro crying against what? Against the country, against the position of the farmers. They say that the country is bankrupt, and that the banks will not give the farmers credit. Who is it that says the farmers are unfit for credit and that the country is bankrupt and insolvent? Day after day and week after week hon. gentlemen opposite have been saying it; they complain that the farmers cannot get credit, although for weeks they have been telling us that the farmers are insolvent. I ask how much credit you would expect a banker to give you if all your neighbours went to him and said: "This man is insolvent; he is unworthy of credit; you should not give him credit, because he is broke." Yet these same gentlemen opposite complain because the farmers cannot get credit on what they say is a creditless foundation. That is the story.

The hon. member for Lisgar said that a banker whom he saw was not prepared to give credit. Why? He would not give credit, he said, on account of a crop that was not grown. And the hon. gentleman says that

because the farmers are broke, insolvent, bankrupt, they cannot grow a crop. Then he complains because the farmers cannot get credit on that. That is the amusing part of it.

This country is inhabited, as I said the other day, by the same people who lived in it before—

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Last July.

Mr. BENNETT: —this world depression came. The difficulty is that hon. gentlemen opposite are always smarting under their defeat. It is July with them always. All the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) says, apparently, is the one word, July—July—July. That is all he keeps on crying. He has not recovered from it yet.

The hon. member for Lisgar says that the farming population is practically insolvent. He says further that the depression has wiped out all the equity of the farmer.

Mr. VALLANCE: You know it too.

Mr. BENNETT: If I had the pontifical manner of the hon. gentleman I might know it, but there is no evidence of it at the moment. The hon. member for Lisgar, I repeat, says that the equity of the farmer is wiped out. That is a rather serious statement to come from a western farmer. Is it any wonder that you cannot expect the banks to give credit when a representative of the farmers says that their equity is all wiped out?

Mr. VALLANCE: They do not give credit when the farmers say so.

Mr. BENNETT: I know this, that one of the largest banks in Canada has increased its agricultural credits by 16 per cent in the last twelve months, and what is more, during the last six months the banks have been giving credit to all those on the prairies who have been able to show that they had the least hope of the future; but certainly they were not giving credit where the people were doing just what the hon. member for Lisgar has been doing here this afternoon. I ask any hon. member of this house, whoever he may be: Would you ask any banker to lend the savings of the people of Canada on such security as was mentioned this afternoon by the hon. member for Lisgar? Would you do it? Is there one of you who would? Could you do it and be true to your trust? Is it not about time—

Mr. BROWN: We are not blaming them for that. We are simply complaining that the right hon. member is not drawing the proper inference from that fact.

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. member was not drawing any inference at all. He was endeavouring to point out to this country that in the midst of a great depression it is poor business to magnify your losses and minimize your courage and determination. I shall say more; no greater harm could be done to Canada than to adopt the course being pursued with respect to these very things. When we were in opposition and merely suggested that the matter should be looked into, it was considered pessimism. Now when the actuality is here, to say that you should meet it with courage is the truth. That is what hon. gentlemen say.

Supposing for a moment that the house look at the situation fairly. I am sorry the hon. member for Lisgar did not bring this matter up when the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) was here.

Mr. BROWN: We never know when the hon. member will be here.

Mr. BENNETT: He is confined to his bed by illness, and I very much regret he is unable to be here. However, he has a practical knowledge of agriculture. Following his return from the war he went upon the land and made a success of his operations. He had no more capital than that possessed by many gentlemen about whom the hon. member for Lisgar talked this afternoon. Why is it that he had some measure of success?

Mr. FACTOR: Nine years of prosperity brought about by the former administration.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, on that point I will of course take the opinion of the hon. member for Lisgar, who says he is a practical farmer, as against that of a lawyer from Toronto. The hon. member for Lisgar states that conditions during the last few years have been so bad that the farmer never had a chance. He was going to hit the pigs on the head rather than keep them.

I just put this to you—it is one instance, but the country is filled with such instances. The other day I mentioned what I believed to be one of the evils which has in part brought about the conditions which prevail. Shortly after I made that statement, Mr. Priestly, the vice-president of the United Farmers of Alberta, appearing before the Stamp commission in the city of Calgary, used these words:

> While on occasions farmers had been borne to the crest of prosperity on the wave of the system—

Speculation.

> —they found on looking back that they had spent more time in the "trough of poverty"

than in the joy of prosperity. Dirt farmers now believed that "paper wheat" had too much influence on the price of the real wheat.

Dealing with the money side of the question, Mr. Priestly quoted the results of his survey which showed the losses in excess of one hundred million dollars.

An hon. MEMBER: By whom?

Mr. BENNETT: The farmers. The extract from the newspaper continues:

Individual losses, he declared, were all the way from a few hundred dollars to $168,000.

"In some instances it was shown that farmers lost everything—land, crop and equipment," said Mr. Priestly. "Local bankers have stated that in many instances losses in their communities have ranged above $100,000. An estimate of the losses in the district tributary to one of our best southern Alberta towns exceeds a million and a quarter dollars. In one section of railway less than 90 miles, the losses in a very sparsely settled district amounted to $300,000."

All lost by speculation. That is stated by the vice-president of the United Farmers of Alberta. There is his story. Does it support what I said the other day, or does it not?

An hon. MEMBER: Yes, it does.

Mr. BENNETT: There is the position taken in evidence given publicly before the Stamp commisison in the city of Calgary on Saturday, April 18 last. They are not my words; I leave them for the consideration of the house. It may be that one pronounces one's obituary in directing attention to these evils. It would be far better, it seems to me, for hon. gentlemen to confine their efforts to really constructive concern about how the difficulty is to be overcome than to shut their eyes and refuse to see the facts.

The Minister of Agriculture has some very well-defined ideas with respect to that industry.

An hon. MEMBER: We have not heard them yet.

Mr. BENNETT: He has not yet presented them to the house.

An hon. MEMBER: And the season will soon be over.

Mr. BENNETT: He will, in due course. By his estimates he has indicated how he purposes to give effect to some of his proposals. What struck me as passing strange was that the hon. member for Lisgar should complain that someone in England was no longer to be continued in his position, although the estimates for agriculture contain a much larger sum than had been used heretofore for the very purposes he mentioned. Did he look at the estimates himself? Did he see what the provisions are for agriculture? Did he compare them with last year or the year before? Did he see evidences of the very earnest desire of the minister to put into effect the policy he advocates?

The hon. member complains of the price of bacon. I recall that once I was a director of a large packing house in this country, and I recall also the fact that Canadian bacon commanded a premium in Great Britain. Bacon prepared in Calgary in the factory of P. Burns and Company commanded a premium; at one time it was as high as £5. I have seen farmers grow hogs and wax rich on them; then I have seen the price go down, and instead of that steadiness of purpose which usually governs, there arose an atmosphere of speculation which lent its influence to all walks of life. There was speculation in town lots and real estate, in oil stocks and mining claims, in farming, in everything. The very atmosphere breathed it. The farmers said, "We cannot make money fast enough." That idea was abroad throughout the country, and we are reaping the result of it. I did point out that I believed it would bring about the result it has brought about. I said that in this house in 1928; I firmly believed it then, and I know it now. Does the hon. member suggest how from one season to another we are to overcome the difference in the price of hogs. Great enterprises in this country have continued during the last twelve months and have not made one per cent on millions and millions of dollars. Does he realize that in the last few months the lot of other men has been as bad as the lot of the farmer? Let us consider the price of newsprint. A few months ago it was one of our largest exports; look at it to-day. We are still sending out the tonnage, but what is the price? Great American economists state that the price is fifty per cent less than the economic value of the newsprint itself. Take asbestos; take pulp, if you like, aside from the newsprint itself. Take any of our commodities. Look at the great business concerns. Look at our railroad operations. Read what you see in your papers concerning railway earnings. These are things calculated to arouse in the minds of thoughtful Canadians not the desire to make it more difficult for those who have to toil and pay taxes, but rather to help them in an earnest endeavour to improve conditions. But what have we from hon. gentlemen opposite? Nothing but the Jeremiah wail of despair. No hope, no courage, no zeal for the future.

I am not going to deal further with agriculture, but one thing more I desire to say. In Woodstock, New Brunswick, I said:

> The collective weight of the resources of this country would be put behind agriculture.

I ask hon. members to name any government which has saved a situation by deliberate effort as this one has in view of the condition of the wheat market. What would the price of wheat have been in this country had it not been for the action of the government?

An hon. MEMBER: What has it done?

Mr. BENNETT: Ask any thoughtful man about that.

An hon. MEMBER: Tell us what you did.

Mr. BENNETT: I tried to indicate the other day that I think it is very much better that these things should speak for themselves. We put the collective credit of this country behind the wheat market.

Mr. VALLANCE: It was security only to the banks which you gave, not to the wheat pool at all, or to the farmer. The help was given to the banks.

An hon. MEMBER: It was the banks you saved.

Mr. BENNETT: I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, and through you to the Canadian people, to judge whether anything could better illustrate the line of thought indulged in by some hon. members than the two observations to which we have just listened.

An hon. MEMBER: God help the farmer anyway.

Mr. BENNETT: Could anything be better calculated to bring—shall I say?—despair on the part of those farmers who are struggling with adversity than this counsel of desperation to which we have been listening? The banks have money belonging to their depositors, and they owe it to them. The banks have no right to lend that money upon security which will hazard the deposit. The banks have lent the money to the farmers, to the pool—which was a voluntary organization created by the farmers themselves and not by the country. The banks were called upon to do one of two things; support that market by continuing to advance money; or stop doing so and let wheat drop 40 cents.

Mr. YOUNG: Would wheat have dropped 40 cents if you had not taken the action you did?

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot say. I can only say that that is the judgment of those well able to express an opinion on the subject.

Mr. YOUNG: That is 40 cents more than it actually did drop.

Mr. BENNETT: No, it would have dropped to 40 cents a bushel.

Mr. VALLANCE: It went to 41 cents to the grower at the shipping point.

Mr. BENNETT: I am not talking of that, I am talking of the market price. Let us go one step further. We did that. The pool controlled over 50 per cent of the wheat of this country, and the support given to the pool wheat protected and supported the non-pool wheat. That was well known by everybody. At a given day on the Winnipeg exchange it is a fact, known to those who take the trouble to investigate, that but for the action taken by the government the bottom would have entirely dropped out of the market.

Now, 50 cents wheat is no new thing in Canada. Have any hon. gentleman read the life of Sir William Van Horne? Do you recall the days of 50-cent wheat as reported by his biographer?

Mr. BROWN: I recall it.

Mr. BENNETT: Then my friend from Lisgar has had experience of what 50 cent wheat means.

Mr. BROWN: Overalls were 75 cents then; to-day they are $3.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so; everyone knows perfectly well that the prices of commodities generally have not fallen as rapidly as the prices of agricultural products. That is a fact in every part of the world. Let me go a step further. Some hon. members say we talk about what we did for the farmers. We did not talk about it, we just simply did it; that is all. And what about their seed grain? I was appalled by statements made the other day in this house because I have letters thanking us for what we did in this regard.

Mr. DONNELLY: Has any government ever refused to give seed grain to the farmers?

Mr. BENNETT: I suppose the hon. gentleman would blame them if they did not, and find fault with them if they did.

Mr. DONNELLY: This government did no more than any other government in that regard.

Mr. BENNETT: This government was under no obligation because, as the hon. gentleman said, we had no crown lands. In January

last, not waiting until the crop was to be put in, we got ready to do this work, but for reasons that must appeal to anyone the government does not want to advertise Canada by going around talking about the distribution of seed grain.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: The provinces and the municipalities had to take the responsibility for it.

Mr. BENNETT: But it does not add to the greatness of our country to advertise what we do in that regard. You compel me now to do it. We supported the farmer with seed grain to an extent and in a manner that has not been done since confederation.

Mr. DONNELLY: You took a first lien on his land.

Mr. BENNETT: We did no such thing.

Mr. DONNELLY: The municipalities are taking it.

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot help that; we have nothing to do with the municipalities. We took those steps because we believed they were in the national interest.

Now, may I say one word about freight rates? Since I first went to western Canada, over thirty-five years ago, it has always been something to talk about. Go and look at the condition of the railways to-day, or last year, or the year before. Canada has a 20 per cent lower freight rate than any other country in the world over the same sort of territory. In the great republic to the south their rates on an average are 20 per cent higher than ours.

An hon. MEMBER: Domestic or export?

Mr. BENNETT: I am talking of export.

An hon. MEMBER: We are talking of domestic.

Mr. BENNETT: That, I fancy, is fairly well-known to everyone here. The Crowsnest pass rates were established by contract and perpetuated by legislation. May I say to my friends from the west: Do you realize how difficult you are making it for the west by the attitude that some of you continue to take? Do you realize, in your denunciation of what some of you call "St. James Street," and some of you call "the banks," and others of you call "the moneyed interests," that it is upon them we have to rely largely for our taxes? To the extent that incomes are increased, income taxes are increased; and to the extent that companies earn money, 8½ or 10 per cent, increased revenue is produced. You cry aloud for the spending of money, and then complain that the people earn it that they may pay taxes. Is it not time that you took stock of some of these things? What good on earth can any member accomplish by pursuing the course that my hon. friend has pursued to-night, and that some other hon. gentlemen are pursuing here, crying aloud, calling upon high heaven in denunciation of wealth, money and means, and then in the same breath crying aloud to tax it. I met a delegation the other day, as some of you know, and their proposal was to get money for unemployment insurance on a non-contributory basis by a steeply graded income tax. Where is the income coming from? Where there is no income there is no tax.

Sir, is it not time that a House of Commons of such high intelligence as this should be thinking in terms not of our sorrows, but of our causes for gladness; not of our weaknesses, but of our strength; not that we are caught in a great world depression, but that we have the courage and the enterprise and the skill to get out of it? Is it not time to do that? I say this because I believe in Canada, because I am carrying—as most of you know—a very considerable responsibility with respect to the financial burden of this country. And I say he is no friend of Canada who endeavours to decry it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Why did not my hon. friend think of all this last year?

Mr. BENNETT: He said the very same things last year.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: In no speech I made anywhere in Canada last year did I fail to speak of the greatness of my country, and of my faith and belief in her destiny. I defy any member to lay his hand upon a single speech in which I did not refer to the future of this country in terms of faith and of earnest and honest belief. I believe, sir, as I have said on several occasions, that failure by my hon. friends opposite to take elementary precautions for the future of Canada is partly responsible for the position we now occupy. I know what at that time other men did in their business. I know what I myself was doing, I know the advice I gave; and I know that common discretion should at least have induced men to see what was on the horizon.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): May I ask my right hon. friend this question: Did he not say from every platform that if he were put in a position of responsibility he would cure all these difficulties at once?

Mr. BENNETT: And I say that, given my health and strength and a term of office, I will. What is more, I will not be going around crying about what somebody else did against my country because I am displaced by someone else. The time has come, it seems to me, for very plain speaking. You either believe in Canada or you do not. You either believe in the future of this country or you do not. You either believe that the same people who wrought miracles in the past are capable of doing great things in the future, or you do not so believe. You either believe that this is a potentially rich country or you do not. And if you believe these things, and have faith and courage enough, you will not do what people in the olden days described as crying "stinking fish." I speak with some feeling about this. And why should I not? Why should not any man, who loves his country and belives in it, speak with feeling when he hears this sort of thing—attempts day after day to blacken the character of his country and to lessen its resources, making it more difficult to govern it and maintain its growth. A gentleman returning from London the other day said to me, among other things, "At all hazards, maintain the high credit of Canada." What have hon. gentlemen done during five weeks to help in that direction? What have they done to-night in that regard?

An hon. MEMBER: Told the truth, that is all.

Mr. BENNETT: Well, that would be such a surprise. But, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. BEAUBIEN: It might be strange, but still we told it.

Mr. BENNETT: Agriculture, Mr. Speaker, is the basic industry of this country, and upon every platform in Canada I have so stated. I have made that statement east and west. I had not one policy for the east and another for the west. I had no story to tell in the west, such as I could repeat to this house, as was told in days gone by by my hon. friends opposite. We have said the same thing in every part of the country. And now that we have been entrusted with responsibility we propose to go steadily forward with what we promised to do. There will be no turning back so long as we are here, but there will be a steady forward march; and when the time comes and this great depression lifts, it will be found that we at least have done our duty by every class and every citizen in Canada. But you will not do this by trying to minimize the greatness of your country, the richness of its resources, and the high character and persistence of its people.

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

Mr. ROBERT McKENZIE (Assiniboia): After listening to this second lecture from the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) we members from the west, who have spent the greater part of our lives there and are closely connected with agriculture, are more than ever convinced that the right hon. gentleman knows little or nothing of actual conditions as they exist in the western provinces. We wonder why he did not express some of these high sentiments which he has uttered to-night during his lecture—

Mr. BENNETT: So he did.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): We did not hear them.

Mr. BENNETT: You weren't there.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I read a few of the right hon. gentleman's speeches and there was nothing of that nature in them. If the condition of the country is as he states, why is it necessary for this government to send so much money out there in guarantees and assistance of one kind and another? I say, as one who knows—and I was in the west a few weeks ago—that conditions are gradually becoming worse instead of better in that country, and I will prove that assertion from some other expressions besides my own opinion.

The Prime Minister made the statement that one bank in particular had loaned more money this year than last year. I have no doubt that if the banks are lending a little money here and there to farmers—and it is little they lend—they can very well lend more this year than they did last year; because I venture to say that in many instances 100 per cent of the money loaned last year has to be renewed this year, and that will be counted as a fresh loan.

The Prime Minister has lectured us, complaining that we are ruining the credit of the country. Mr. Speaker, our one desire is to see the west prosperous. We all have interests in the west, not so much it is true as the Prime Minister; but all that we have in the world is out in that western country, and it would not be wisdom for us to decry western Canada. We are not decrying the country. All we are trying to do is to have the Prime Minister change the attitude he has adopted since coming into power. We want him to abandon some of his high tariff proposals, because high tariffs in this country can have but one effect so far as our producers are concerned, and that is the most detrimental effect possible.

As a seconder of the resolution moved by the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown), I

wish to say something about the conditions that actually exist in the part of the country from which I come. I was home for the Easter holidays and I found nothing but the most distressing conditions in that country. The farmers hardly know which way to turn. If the banks are not loaning money it is not because of any expressions of ours in this house; it is because the banks know, from the statement which the farmer himself gives, whether or not he is entitled to credit. And the great bulk of our farmers to-day are not in a financial position, their holdings are not of sufficient value, to warrant the banks lending them money. I have no right to speak for the banks, but I would direct the attention of the Prime Minister to utterances of his own Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) in Montreal and Toronto, with regard to the banks, and then he will know whether or not it is we who are decrying the condition of the country.

Just a week ago to-day the Prime Minister gave us his first lecture, wherein he made some statements to which I desire to take exception. He said that the members on this side of the house were making exaggerated statements. After visiting the province of Saskatchewan recently I can say, and say truthfully, that it would be difficult indeed to exaggerate the conditions that exist in some parts of that country, particularly in the southwestern part of our province. Just imagine: the farmers can sell their barley for only one or two cents per bushel more than it costs them for threshing. How, then, can you expect anything else than depression among them? The price of wheat is the lowest in years, and everything else accordingly. The right hon. gentleman has said that we from the west take an isolated case here and there and represent it as a general condition. That statement proves to us that the Prime Minister does not know the actual conditions. It is quite evident from that statement that he does not know the conditions. If he wishes to know what the actual conditions are, let him write to ten or twelve secretaries of municipalities in widely scattered parts of the province and ask them for an unprejudiced opinion as to the actual conditions as they exist in those municipalties. I venture to say it would not be a very optimistic statement he would receive in reply.

The right hon. gentleman mentioned the $2,000,000,000, of new wealth which had been created in western Canada during the last three years. I do not doubt that statement, but I do object, as I have on previous occasions, to so little of that remaining with the primary producers. What we object to to-day is that the effect of the policies of this government has made it harder for the farmers to retain any substantial part of the new wealth they have created. The price of everything the farmer has to buy has been pegged, and we are faced with the refusal of the Prime Minister to peg the price of wheat or of other farm products. Whether or not it is a good policy to peg the price of wheat I will not say, but I do say that if it is a good policy to peg the price of everything the farmer has to buy, it certainly is good business to peg the price of what the farmer has to sell. If it is good in one way, it must be good in the other, and, therefore, I am in favour of pegging the price of wheat under present circumstances.

The Prime Minister spoke of the tens of thousands of farmers in western Canada who had bank accounts. If that was true a year ago, six months or even three months ago, those bank accounts are diminishing very rapidly, and I doubt if he could find to-day anything approximating the number he spoke of as having bank accounts. He said there were people who would try to make it appear that western Canada was bankrupt. That is not our idea; we want to lay the facts before the house and before the people and endeavour to get this government to realize the actual conditions existing and to change its policies accordingly. He said that we should not mention these things, that we are decrying the country and injuring its credit. He said a friend of his had written to him and wanted him to stop the hon. members from decrying the country because, forsooth, that friend of his had some agreements of sale which he wanted to dispose of.

Mr. BENNETT: Not a friend of mine, a friend of the gentleman who wrote the letter.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): He evidently wanted to sell some agreements of sale.

Mr. BENNETT: He had purchased some.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): Why should we be worrying about these financial institutions selling their agreements of sale when the farmers find it impossible to sell their products?

Mr. BENNETT: I cannot permit the hon. gentleman to make a misstatement. I said an individual had written to another who had some agreements for sale. No mention was made of financial institutions.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I understood the hon. gentleman to say it was a letter he had received.

Mr. BENNETT: So it was; why be so inaccurate about these things?

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I would like to quote a few expressions of opinion by others than members of parliament, who have expressed their views with regard to the actual conditions existing in western Canada. I have here an address delivered in Winnipeg on December 9, by Premier Bracken of Manitoba, in which he stated:

> Times in Canada are worse than they would otherwise have been, because of the extreme nature of the Bennett policies.

Then with regard to the tariff, he said:

> All past tariffs, initiated by federal governments have tended to restrict international trade. In this respect Mr. Bennett's plan is more extreme than any of the policies of the past few years. It is an axiom that when a tariff is put on goods it increases the price to consumers. It is equally true that a tariff which restricts trade works to the disadvantage of the farmer, who is dependent, as western Canada now is, upon foreign nations for a market.

That to my mind is the crux of the whole situation. We are endeavouring to make the government realize that what western Canada needs more than any other single thing is markets for its products. We cannot get those markets by restrictive trade measures and tariff increases. We cannot sell to other countries unless we are willing to buy from them, and that is one thing, more than any other, that we want to impress upon this government.

I have here what appears to be a memorandum got out by the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan section, in December last and sent to the right hon. the Prime Minister. This memorandum is signed by G. H. Williams, president of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section Limited, who states that he is the head of an organization having over 30,000 direct members. I will quote one or two clauses just to show what his opinion is as the head of that organization. He says:

> The conditions of the farmers of the west are nothing short of deplorable, and these conditions, unless rectified, sir, are bound to be reflected first by corresponding distress among urban dwellers of these prairies, and latterly, in the city dwellers of eastern Canada.
>
> There is an erroneous impression that portions of the province are in a fairly safe and secure position because they have had very few crop failures in past years. This, sir, is wrong.

Then he continues:

> These are the conditions, sir, and you and your supporters pledged themselves to give equalization of opportunity to the people of Canada, and—"farmers are people."

[Mr. McKenzie.]

> In an endeavour to protect the manufacturing interests of Canada, you have imposed certain tariffs. These tariffs, rather than lowering the prices of the goods the farmer has to purchase, have in some instances caused a raise in price. Now the government of Canada has some responsibility to its primary industry—agriculture.

Hon. members opposite, especially those coming from city constituencies, have endeavoured to show that there has been no increase in the price of agricultural implements since the increase in the tariff. Whether or not that is true I am not prepared to say, as I have not gone into the matter, but when I was home during the Easter vacation an implement dealer told me that while there had been no increase in the price of agricultural implements there had been an increase in the price of certain repair parts. That statement is borne out by a letter which appeared in the Farmers' Sun of Toronto, of April 23. This letter is signed by Mr. Harold Currie of Strathroy, and would seem to demonstrate that the same applies to Ontario. It reads in part:

> Last week the writer got a practical demonstration of Mr. Bennett's "humbug" when he went to the machinery agent to get some needed cultivator repairs. The teeth that were last year 90 cents are now one dollar; the bill hook for the binder, last year $1.50, is this year $1.65. The increase in price applies only to the parts for which there is the greatest demand.

During the special session the right hon. the Prime Minister told us that he had received guarantees from the manufacturers that there would be no increase in the price of their product to the farmers. It will make very little difference to the farmers of the west whether or not the prices of implements are raised this year, but it will make a very material difference if an increase is made in the price of repairs and repair parts. If the price of repair parts has increased 10 per cent that will affect the farmer; it is those repair parts that he needs this year, because he will not be buying new machinery. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister will look into that question and see whether or not the manufacturing concerns are increasing the price of the repair parts that the farmers are most likely to need.

With regard to conditions in the west, the other day, just the day after the people of my constituency had an opportunity of reading the lecture that was delivered to us by the Prime Minister a week ago to-day, I received this telegram from the overseer of one of the important villages of my constituency. He states:

> Less than 20 per cent of the farmers of this district have paid their last year's indebted-

ness to the banks or business houses. Depression acute all over your constituency. Very evident that Premier Bennett knows nothing of conditions in prairie provinces.

I have another expression of opinion voiced by the secretary of the Home Mission Board of the United Church of Canada, speaking in Toronto in January last. This clipping which is from the Toronto Star of January 13, 1931, reads:

> Claiming that in Saskatchewan alone more than 150,000 families were in acute distress with little food, no fodder and no fuel, Doctor R. B. Cochran, general secretary of the Home Missions Board of the United Church, addressed the meeting of the ministers and laymen at the Metropolitan church to-day.
>
> Dr. Cochran returned recently from a visit to Regina where he attended a conference of the western leaders of the church to deal with this problem.

That is an unbiased opinion. He is not saying this, as the Prime Minister would have the people believe we are saying what we are, for political purposes. This gentleman, the general secretary of the Home Missions Board of the United Church, had no political axe to grind. He was telling the facts as he saw them when he was out in that western country, and conditions to-day are no better than they were last December. Just as an evidence of what the situation really is, let us take the March report of the Department of National Revenue, as follows:

Recapitulation

	Month of March		
	1930	1931	Decrease
Merchandise entered for consumption..	$112,991,460	$75,347,854	$37,643,606
Merchandise, domestic, exported..	89,595,317	55,048,197	34,547,120

That does not look as though the country were prosperous, as though there were tens of thousands of our farmers in the west with bank accounts. If they had bank accounts they would be buying. The fact that imports have fallen to the extent they have is evidence that the people are not able to buy.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps the goods are being manufactured at home.

Mr. McKENZIE (Assiniboia): I believe the Prime Minister himself and one or two other hon. gentlemen opposite have drawn attention to the fact that this year we have sold a great deal more wheat than we did last year. The wheat exports in the month of February of 1930 and 1931 were as follows:

	Bushels
1930..	6,732,826
1931..	10,296,608

Thus it is true that in the month of February of this year we exported something over 3,500,000 bushels more than we did a year ago, but this year the wheat sold at 58 cents a bushel, whereas in 1930 it sold at $1.29 a bushel. I would like to know when hon. members expect we are going to sell wheat if we cannot sell it at about 20 cents a bushel below the cost of production. It is now below the cost of production, and yet our hon. friends opposite gloat over the fact that we are selling a few bushels more this year than we did last year when wheat was worth fully double the present price.

Last year, although we exported 3,500,000 bushels less, we received $2,500,000 more than we did the previous year. Should we keep these things quiet? Is there no connection between the figures I have quoted showing that although selling three and half million bushels more we are receiving $2,500,000 less, and the fact that our farmers are in the position in which they find themselves to-day?

There is no gainsaying the fact that the government is not making the best endeavour it can to relieve agricultural distress. If the Prime Minister would give us some favourable indication of things becoming better, he would be better employed than in lecturing us when we try to present conditions as they actually exist to our certain knowledge. I have much pleasure in seconding the amendment.

Mr. H. A. MULLINS (Marquette): I have listened very attentively to the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) and the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. McKenzie), and I cannot understand them. In a time of depression they need a little more iron in their blood. The trouble with them is that they have pernicious anaemia. They are doing more harm to western Canada than ever was done to it in all the time I have lived in that part of the country. All I can call them is "calamity howlers". They are preying on the weaknesses of those who are suffering on account of lack of proper farming in western Canada and depressed prices. I want to read a clipping to show the hon. member for Assiniboia, who has just taken his seat, that there is not very much wrong in the constituency of Marquette, which is one of the most outstanding agricutural constituencies in

western Canada and takes second place to none. There cannot be much wrong with it. This is a clipping from the Minnedosa Tribune, under date of March 2:

> Who says times are hard and money scarce? Up at the little town of Shoal Lake,—

The Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) knows where it is, because he and I had the pleasure of addressing a meeting there.

> —no less than $500 has been spent already for 1931 auto licences, as against about $40 this time last year. The amount spent in Minnedosa so far for 1931 auto licences, if you knew it, would cause you to laugh at the preacher of hard times.

That is what the Minnedosa Tribune says. Let me read this clipping from the Shoal Lake Star under date of March 26, 1931:

> Payments going out by way of cream cheques have averaged around $2,500 per week, a large percentage of which has gone to the farmers of this district, the balance to outside points.

If hon. members continue to preach "blue ruin," and "hard times," they will have me feeling that I am going with them. I heard of a professor at Oxford who carried out a psychological experiment on a certain individual. About fifteen persons were to meet this man and each one was to tell him how badly he looked. This they did, and they kept it up continually until the man actually began to feel that he was ill. My hon. friends opposite will continue to cry "blue ruin" until they will have me feeling that way. I cannot stand it any longer. They are doing it for political purposes. I belong to the same organization that my hon. friend from Lisgar and my hon. friend from Assiniboia belong to—the United Farmers.

Mr. BROWN: Never a very active member, though.

Mr. MULLINS: I was a very active member. I have sat in the organization with you. You remember quite well that in Calgary I took exception to things that you did in those organizations. You have played politics to the limit. You cannot play them any longer. You cannot work on the weakness of western people. You are political agitators.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member must address the Chair.

Mr. MULLINS: I will admit, Mr. Speaker, that I was annoyed at the blue ruin talk that has been going on. Hon. gentlemen opposite are trying to work up political material for their associate, Mr. Ward, so that he can go round the country and talk secession and mild revolution and things of that sort. I do not wonder at the Prime Minister giving them a dressing down, for they deserve every word of it; all he said to them was absolutely true. The hon. member for Assiniboia probably lives in a district where the men buy canned milk, where they go to the general store and buy their butter. They are not farmers. They are mostly all soil robbers, Mr. Speaker; they are causing all the trouble in western Canada.

I shall not take up any more time now; I shall defer my remarks until the budget comes before the house, when these gentlemen will probably hear more from me on the possibilities of our great west.

Mr. MARTIAL RHEAUME (St. Johns-Iberville) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, as I represent a riding which is partly agricultural, I wish to take this opportunity to express my views on this subject. Since the election of July last, on every occasion that ministers or hon. members on the right addressed political banquets, they always stated that the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) had not failed in his task. The only pledge carried out, up to date, is that of the emergency session; yet the ministers contend that they have fulfilled all their pledges.

The right hon. Prime Minister, during the elections of 1930, travelled over the whole country telling the farmers:

> Agriculturists, you believe in low tariff, you have been taught to applaud free trade, when did free trade fight for you? I will make protection fight for you.

Protection began in September last. I wonder how much farmers have benefited from this protection, with an increase in duties of 200 to 250 per cent on farming implements. Did this increase help the workmen? No, it favoured the manufacturers and capitalists.

The hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé), in his speech, on March 26 last, stated that the Prime Minister had negotiated treaties favourable to farmers. This statement amazed me greatly—and I am not the only one among the Quebec members which it did amaze. When in the legislature, at Quebec, the hon. Postmaster General always championed the interests of the farming class, however, in his speech the other day no reference was made to farmers. He has done nothing to help them, up to this day. Like the other Conservative members of Quebec who represent agricultural ridings, he took his cue from the Prime Minister who specially favours the capitalist and manufacturer.

The hon. member for South Battleford (Mr. Vallance), on March 19 last—almost forty days ago—inquired from the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir) whether he

had a policy to announce. The hon. minister answered that he had nothing definite so far. The minister's answer, sir, was not of a nature to encourage the farming class.

The hon. member for Lake St. John (Mr. Duguay) who spoke on April 13, stated that he was ready to make suggestions but that circumstances prevented him doing so because he expected the hon. Minister of Agriculture would bring down measures which would be very helpful to the farmers. In the meantime, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is conspicuous by his absence.

Assisting the farmers is an excellent way to relieve unemployment, because many of them crowd the cities when they can no more find their livelihood on the farm. After nine months of Conservative administration the government has not yet announced a program to assist agriculture, notwithstanding all the fine pledges given by Conservative speakers who, in Quebec, insisted that they would especially help the farming class and city labour.

The workman is willing to pay a reasonable price for farm products, for when the farmer has money he is able to purchase the manufacturer's goods. The worker's motto is "live and let live". The Conservative candidates travelled throughout Quebec, especially in the eastern townships, promising that if the Conservatives assumed office, butter imports would be prohibited. I wonder how the hon. members for Brome-Missisquoi (Mr. Pickel), for Stanstead (Mr. Hackett) and Compton (Mr. Gobeil), could to-day face their electors, after having promised that butter imports to this country would be prohibited? Under the Liberal regime Australia paid a duty of 1·70 cent per pound. Since the advent of the Conservative administration this duty was decreased to 1 cent, and the butter imports from Australia have been 836,000 pounds more than in 1930. I wonder whether those are the pledges or guarantees given to the electorate by the hon. members on the right.

According to the report brought down by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens), there were 6,000,000 pounds of butter imported into Canada from August 1, 1930, to March 1, 1931. As to New Zealand butter, it served its purpose in fooling the farmers, especially those of Quebec, it was stated that not a pound would enter Canada after the Conservatives assumed office, yet I find that more than 5,000,000 pounds were imported into Canada since August 1, 1930. In 1930 we imported 408,000 pounds of butter from Australia, while in 1931, 1,244,000 pounds were imported. With these figures staring them in the face I wonder whether the hon. members on the right are fulfilling their pledges towards the electorate. It is but fair that the farmer should know what interest the government takes in his welfare.

In an answer given by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce to a question put by the hon. member for Megantic (Mr. Roberge), the following figures were given: butter imports to Canada in November, 1930, 117,600 pounds, while in March, 1931, it was 862,904, that is seven times more than in November, 1930. Well, sir, confronted with such facts, what are we to think of the Conservative members of Quebec who pledged themselves to protect the interests of the farmers

I fail to see what the government has done for the farmers; I fail to see what it has accomplished on behalf of the worker. However, I realize that the increases in the tariff, enacted at the emergency session, aimed at favouring the manufacturer and capitalist instead of relieving unemployment and assisting the workman and farmer.

Hon. J. L. RALSTON (Shelburne-Yarmouth): I wish, Mr. Speaker, to take a minute or two in this debate. I am one of those who believe that it is not everybody who is in a position either to give advice to or to lecture the farmer.

Mr. BENNETT: It was not the farmer, it was hon. members.

Mr. RALSTON: I do not profess to have any intimate knowledge of farming conditions, but I do rise to point out to the house and to my right hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) that we have heard from his lips to-night a very different story from what we heard less than a year ago. I do not know that I have ever heard a more vehement lecture to hon. members in this house than was delivered to-night by my right hon. friend concerning the matter of talking blue ruin and running down the credit of the country. I rise simply in order that he and the people may not forget some of the statements made by him within the last year with regard to the country whose credit he now desires to be upheld, concerning existing conditions as he described them throughout the country. These

statements to which I shall refer were made at a time when he was not averse to running down the country or crying blue ruin, and at a time when on every platform he seemed to have one desire at least, and that was to let not only this country but the world at large know exactly how badly off we were.

I shall quote to the house some of the expression used by my right hon. friend during the election campaign with regard to conditions in this country, and then let us see if this is the same gentleman who to-night has condemned everybody who has attempted to tell the truth with regard to conditions as they exist in Canada to-day. Speaking at Toronto he said:

> To-day we have unemployment on a scale never before known.

Speaking at Inverness he said:

> Canada's national resources are being depleted.

Again speaking at Toronto he said:

> Canadian industries are dying.

Speaking of trade generally, he said:

> Thus Canada is becoming more and more a dependent, and less and less independent economically. . . .

Mr. BENNETT: That is true.

Mr. RALSTON: The Ottawa Citizen carried the statement from him that "industry was languishing." Speaking at Regina, he said:

> Now we have unemployment, people walking our streets, men and women hungry,—we have all these things in this great rich country.

Speaking of the then Prime Minister he said:

> How ever blind he may be to your future, and deaf to your present needs, surely he cannot stop his ears with smug complacence and self esteem to the cry that carries across the nation, the cry of the destitute and hungry, the cry of mothers and fathers and little children who call to us as Christians and as Canadians to heal their pain.

And he spoke of "this time of national distress."

Mr. BENNETT: And we voted the $20,000,000.

Mr. RALSTON: Those are statements made at that time by my right hon. friend in regard to conditions in this country. Speaking of the west, as reported in a speech at Winnipeg:

> After stressing the economic ills of western Canada, showing that the prairies could not sell "wheat, foodstuffs, cattle and dairy products" . . . .

[Mr. Ralston.]

I ask hon. members if there could be any statements which would be less likely to obtain credit for the farmers than a statement of that kind made on a platform by the hon. gentleman who to-night condemned anybody who attempts to say that the farmer is not at the present time in a prosperous condition. Speaking at Sydney he said:

> Now my fellow Canadians are out of a job, children hungry, mothers hungry, men willing to work but unable to get work . . . .

Those are pictures which were painted last July by my right hon. friend. While it may be good politics for him to rise in his place at this time and lecture hon. gentlemen for having dared to come here and state conditions as they exist, I do not believe it adds anything to the debate, or that the country will be at all misled by the attitude which he takes.

He endeavours to salve his conscience, if I may use that term without disrespect, by saying that he has faith in this country. I want to state to him that he has not a monopoly on faith. All of us believe in the future of Canada, but we believe that its highest development in the future can best be attained by knowing all the conditions which require attention at any particular period and by endeavouring to remedy those conditions. Particularly I would call upon my right hon. friend, who was so lavish in his promises, to bring out his remedy and have the changes brought about. To-night my right hon. friend, amid loud cheers and applause from his followers, said that given health and strength and a term of office he would bring this country through its difficulties. May I say to my right hon. friend that there is always a time when a note falls due, and he already has had nine months in which to fulfil his promises. Considering the conditions which have been pointed out and which are said to exist in this country one would not be led to think that so far he had been very successful in his efforts; and one can be excused if he has considerable doubt as to whether the term of office for which he asks will be very fruitful of results. He is no doubt entitled to a reasonable time to bring about changes, but he must remember that the promises he made when he painted these conditions were promises for immediate action, and there was no suggestion that we would have to await the turn of a cycle of depression and for economic readjustment; the change was going to be made out of the air and in some way entirely unknown to those who were not "in the secret" when he

sat on this side of the house he refused to disclose to this house and country what his policy was. He said, "I am like the great statesmen in England; when I am called in, then I will prescribe." He has been called in, and for nine months he has had the opportunity of prescribing. We know how this country really stands at the present time, and I do not think that so far he can look with a great deal of pride upon the patient he has been attending.

To-night, referring to the statements made by my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Brown) the Prime Minister said "What good on earth can come from such statements as these?" Those words might well have been used at a time when he was travelling throughout the length and breadth of this land. The answer he would probably have made in private would have been, "At least it may do this; it may assist me and my party to get into power." They had that effect, and he is in power. He has the opportunity and the responsibility. I say to him that hon. members on this side of the house, and I think on the other side, notwithstanding the scolding, will continue to present to him conditions as they exist in various constituencies so that he may apply the remedies which he says he has. It is to be hoped that they will not continue to be met with lectures or with the suggestion he makes that a man who presents difficulties is not true to his country. Loyalty to our country is in all of us. Faith in our country and in its resources is in all of us. At the same time we cannot make that faith known and effective, and cannot make our country grow unless we have before us the true state of conditions. There is no use of my right hon. friend figuratively putting his head in the sand and refusing to see conditions as they are. He knows what they are as well as anybody else, and my right hon. friend may as well make up his mind to it that he will be held to his pledges, to remedy those conditions in order that the new era of which he talked and the promises he made may materialize.

As I say, I do not propose, nor do I feel qualified, to make any extended contribution to the debate in regard to agricultural conditions. But with all deference to my right hon. friend I submit that he himself made no contribution in this particular; rather he attempted to draw a red herring across the trail by blaming hon. gentlemen on this side for referring to the conditions existing in their several constituencies. I rose, Mr. Speaker, only for the purpose of reminding my right hon. friend of the attitude he took not very long ago, and of assuring him that we will continue to present the situation as it really is, regardless of whether he approves or disapproves of that course.

Mr. L. E. PARENT (Terrebonne) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I have been listening very attentively to this discussion on agriculture. I noticed that the speeches bore mostly on conditions existing in the west, such as the sale price of wheat and the financial difficulties of many western farmers. The west is not the only place where there are farmers and where farming suffers from present conditions. I have the privilege of representing a riding where there are a large number of farmers as well as industrialists, manufacturers and merchants, and it is on their behalf that I wish to point out to the house what the farming community of Terrebonne thinks of the present agricultural situation. The farmers of my riding suffer like all farmers in this country from the failure to sell their products and the greatly decreased prices offered for them.

The present government, on many occasions during the last elections made pledges as regards this situation. Many pledges, but nothing has been done so far. I shall quote, among many, the pledges made by the hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) as reported by the Ottawa Journal on July 2, 1930:

> I state that I shall regard as my great responsibility if elected on July 28, to see that the collective weight and power of the Dominion of Canada is placed behind agriculture.
> I would be lacking in qualification entitling me to head a government if I failed to do so.

Speaking in Quebec, according to the Ottawa Citizen, on July 14, he stated:

> I do not want place and power over broken promises.

Well, I wonder what the government has done to help agriculture? I have no idea. I am not aware of any measure introduced in the house this session or at the September session, which would improve the farming situation. In the statements made by members of the government, I find nothing relating to agriculture. May I quote certain extracts from a speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) and reported by the newspaper La Presse, on February 23. In this speech delivered before the Conservative Women's Association, of Montreal, the hon. minister spoke quite at length on the pledges made by the right hon. Mr. Bennett, when he took office, and the way in which he had fulfilled those pledges, he then added:

> The pledge to increase the duties on about 200 articles which flood the local market to

the detriment of the manufacturer and Canadian farmer was carried out at the emergency session. What was the result? The factories of Quebec, to mention these only, are undertaking millions of dollars worth of development. A market valued at $32,000,000 is opened to the cotton manufacturers; one of $42,000,000 for woollens and another of $13,000,000 for silk goods.

Is there, sir, in this extract one word to help the farmers? No. The first act of the government was to favour the manufacturers and industrialists. I have no objection to the government favouring to a certain extent important industrial groups, however, I state that agriculture should have preference. Both classes might have been simultaneously favoured by the government. I shall equally quote the words of another minister who seemed to reflect the views of the present government. The speech was made by the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) on March 23, at a meeting of the Conservative Women's Association of Montreal. . . .

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Wednesday, April 29, 1931

The house met at three o'clock.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT DECLARING RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO REFRAIN FROM VOTING

The house resumed from Tuesday, April 28, consideration of the proposed motion of Mr. Bourassa, the amendment thereto of Mr. Bennett and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Euler.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the motion now pending with regard to hon. members voting or not voting on motions before the house, as this matter is subject to a conference now being initiated with a view to arriving at some compromise, I ask the unanimous consent of the house that the motion stand until after such conference is held.

Mr. E. J. GARLAND (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, before the consent of the house is given, may I ask the hon. minister who has just taken his seat (Mr. Cahan) the nature of the conference, and who will be members thereof?

Mr. CAHAN: The conference was suggested near the close of the debate on the motion of the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) and the amendments which were moved thereto. I understand that the conference is to take place between the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), the right hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the Clerk of the House, and is being held with a view to drafting a compromise amendment to be submitted to the house.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I do not think a conference of that nature would fill the bill at all; I am afraid it would be wholly unfair to the hon. members in this corner of the house. This debate originated as a result of certain action which we took and which was completely in accordance with the rules of the house, although utterly misunderstood by both the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition. A motion having been introduced to remedy the rules to cover a mistake made by these hon. gentlemen and to prevent its recurrence, the hon. members responsible for the initiation of the debate are apparently to be left out of the conference. I am sure that after due reflection the hon. minister will see the fairness and justice of taking into consideration the requirements of this group and that at least one of our members should be a representative at that conference.

Mr. CAHAN: I think it would meet with the approval of the house to include the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Gardiner), the leader of the third party.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): And also the mover of the motion (Mr. Bourassa).

Mr. CAHAN: Yes, they both might be added to that committee.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The hon. member for Acadia informs me that with that understanding our group will be satisfied. I thank the Prime Minister for having included the hon. member for Labelle.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, it may further serve to relieve the minds of my hon. friends in the other corner if I tell them that I knew nothing of the proposed conference until this moment. I am pleased to know I am to be invited to participate, and I am very happy to accept.

Mr. JACOBS: May I suggest that the hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Euler) be included also in that conference? I do not know whether the word "Waterloo" signifies anything to the hon. member for Labelle, but I think we ought to have a Waterloo in it.

Mr. CAHAN: I suggest that the conference will be complete if it includes the hon. member for Labelle, as he has very definite views with regard to the nature of the amendment which should be proposed to the house.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the unanimous wish of the house that the motion stand?

Motion stands.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

*WATER POWERS OF NAVIGABLE WATERS

Mr. BERTRAND:

Has the Dominion government come to an understanding with the provinces in connection with their respective rights as to water-powers of navigable waters between the provinces, if so, when?

Mr. BENNETT: If I may answer the question verbally, the answer is, no.

ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURE

Mr MacLEAN:

1. Has an organization been formed to assist agriculture in Canada with an amount of money available for assistance to farms?

2. If so, what amount of money is available for this fund?

3. By whom is the money advanced for this fund?

4. Is this assistance available to all sections and provinces in Canada?

5. If not, why?

6. What amount is to be given to each applicant?

7. How is the fund to be handled and what constitutes a legitimate applicant?

8. Is the fund in operation at the present time?

Mr. BENNETT: This question is rather vague in its terms. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will say exactly what he means, because there are many organizations which assist agriculture in Canada. It is difficult to answer the question as it stands.

Mr. MacLEAN: The question refers to the organization proposed as a means of assisting agriculture in western Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: There are many such organizations.

Mr. MacLEAN: I have in mind the organization referred to by the Prime Minister in his speech in Regina.

Question stands.

BEAUHARNOIS LIGHT, HEAT & POWER COMPANY

Mr. GARDINER:

1. Has the government received any notice to the effect that the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company has applied to the government of the province of Quebec for permission and has been granted the right to divert an additional 30,000 cubic feet of water per second through the Beauharnois canal?

2. Do the plans already filed by the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company and approved by the government, enable the company to divert the above mentioned 30,000 cubic feet of water per second through its canal?

3. If it is necessary for the government to approve of the plans of the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company to allow them to divert this additional 30,000 cubic feet of water per second, is it the intention of the government to approve of such plans without giving the house an opportunity of considering the said application?

4. Does the government approve and concur in the granting by the province of Quebec to the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company of the right to divert the said 30,000 cubic feet of water per second through the Beauharnois canal?

5. In whom is the legal title to this 30,000 cubic feet of water vested?

6. Is the government of the opinion that P.C. No. 442, dated March 8, 1929, is legal and valid in so far as it purports to grant the rights and privileges therein contained to the Beauharnois Light, Heat & Power Company?

Mr. GARDINER: When this question was last called, the Prime Minister took exception to some of the questions involved in it because of the fact that they were legal in character. For that reason he said they could not be answered. With the permission of the house, I would ask that numbers 4, 5 and 6 be dropped and that the others be allowed to stand.

Mr. BENNETT: 4, 5 and 6?

Mr. SPEAKER: Paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of question 6 are withdrawn.

Mr. GARDINER: Yes, dropped.

Mr. SPEAKER: The remainder of question 6 stands.

Mr. BENNETT: I may say that question 3 was the worst of the lot:

Is it the intention of the government to approve of such plans without giving the house an opportunity of considering the said application?

That is a question which is governed by law and one that does not call for an answer. Intentions are not matters of question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question stands.

Mr. BENNETT: No, Mr. Speaker; I submit that number 3 must be stricken out.

Mr. GARDINER: Mr. Speaker, if you will allow the question to stand as submitted by myself, I will reconsider number 3; but I cannot see the argument of the Prime Minister at the moment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 dropped; the remainder of the question stands.

Question as amended stands.

MR. H. G. BOULAY

Sir EUGENE FISET:

1. Is it the intention of the government to implement the following public promises made by its candidate in the county of Rimouski, Mr. H. G. Boulay, if his leader came to power, namely: (a) to reduce the salary of Sir Henry Thornton to $15,000 per annum; (b) to reduce the salaries of all vice-presidents and other high officials of the Canadian National Railways, including general managers of divisions, by 50 per cent; (c) to provide on all dining and buffet cars, pullman parlour cars, first and second class cars, being operated between Ottawa and Montreal, Montreal and Halifax, only employees who speak fluently French and English?

2. Has any request been received by the Minister of Railways and Canals, or by Sir Henry Thornton, or any other high officials of the Canadian National Railways, from Mr. H. G. Boulay, asking that a large portion, if not all, of the sub-staff and railway employees employed on trains operating between Ottawa and Montreal, Montreal and Halifax, be compelled to speak both French and English?

3. If so, what action does the honourable minister or the executive of the Canadian National Railways intend to take?

Mr. MANION: In regard to question number 12, the Prime Minister pointed out some days ago what I think was correct, namely, that this is not a proper question for the order paper; and you yourself, Mr. Speaker, said that the question should be dropped. It is still, however, on the order paper. It is not one that we can answer, nor is it a proper question for the order paper.

Sir EUGENE FISET: I understand that during my absence the minister asked that the question be dropped. In view of his request, and as this is about the best answer I could possibly obtain to my question, I have no objection to the question being dropped.

Question dropped.

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSION—PURCHASE OF BARGE

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver):

1. Did the Vancouver Board of Harbour Commissioners recently purchase a railway barge?

[Mr. Speaker.]

2. If so, was this barge purchased in the United States?

3. Who arranged such purchase?

4. What are the dimensions of this barge?

5. When was this barge originally constructed?

6. What was the purchase price?

7. What was the cost of towing this barge to Vancouver?

8. What was the cost of insurance on the said barge?

9. From whom was the barge acquired?

10. Was the barge acquired from an American corporation or through an agency?

11. In whose name was the barge cleared through the American customs?

12. To whom was the insurance on the barge paid?

Mr. BENNETT: As I have explained, this question can be answered only in the manner indicated yesterday, by sending a letter to the harbour commissioners and presenting their reply to the house. The government has no direct control over the commission in the sense implied by these questions. If the hon. gentleman desires that we should write a letter, sending a copy of the questions and submitting an answer to the house, we will do so.

Mr. POWER: In the meanwhile, if I may suggest it, why not make it an order for return?

Mr. BENNETT: If that is acceptable, it may stand as an order for return.

Question stands as order for return.

WRECKING PLANTS

Mr. PLUNKETT:

1. How much money by way of subsidies has been voted yearly from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, for wrecking plants in the province of British Columbia?

2. How much money by way of subsidies has been voted yearly from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, for wrecking plants in the province of Quebec?

3. What is the tonnage of the ships of the wrecking plant and total amount of investment exclusive of subsidies from federal government for the province of British Columbia?

4. What is the tonnage of the ships of the wrecking plant and total amount of investment exclusive of subsidies from federal government for the province of Quebec?

5. What is the total amount of money lost in wrecks by shipping interests from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, upon which the subsidized wrecking plant of the province of British Columbia was engaged?

6. What is the total amount of money lost in wrecks by shipping interests from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, upon which the subsidized wrecking plant of the province of Quebec was engaged?

Mr. BENNETT: This must stand as an order for return, as I said the other day, in view of the number of questions and the years covered.

Question stands as order for return.

PROVINCIAL LIQUOR COMMISSIONS, CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Mr. DUFF:

1. What was the total amount paid, by way of customs and excise levy, during the fiscal year of 1930-1931, by each of the various provinces of Canada, through their liquor commissions?
2. What was the gallonage upon which said payments were made?
3. Has the total amount payable by each province been received?

Mr. BENNETT: It has not been the custom in times past—certainly not without the consent of the provinces—to disclose the business of the various provinces with departments in relation to the moneys they pay to the Dominion. General information of course is available from the provinces themselves at some time or other. There is no reason why the hon. member should not be able to obtain the information, but as I say it has long been the custom not to make public the affairs of the provinces in the conduct of business with the various departments of the public service.

Mr. DUFF: That applies to individuals and not to the provinces. The province is a public body, and I think the question should be answered.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman is perhaps aware that the matter was the subject of litigation by the province of British Columbia, and the case finally went to the privy council. It is not the province that carried on the business, but the various commissions, and they stand exactly in the same position as individuals. If it is the opinion of the house that the custom should be departed from in the case of provinces or commissions, an effort will be made to get the information; but I am only indicating what the rule has been in days past.

Mr. DUFF: I will drop the question.

Mr. BENNETT: Thank you.

Question dropped.

TORONTO SOLDIERS' ADVISER

Mr. GRAY:

1. Has Mr. A. Conroy, formerly official soldiers' adviser for the district of Toronto, been dismissed from his position in the Department of Pensions and National Health?
2. Is the government aware that Mr. Conroy was employed for over thirteen years by the departments of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment and of Pensions and National Health?
3. Is the department aware that Mr. Conroy himself and two of his sons served in the late war?
4. In view of his war record and services will the government take steps to reinstate this official?

Mr. MacLAREN: The first three queries of this question are in order, but number 4 should be dropped. It is not a proper question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Paragraph 4 of the question is dropped.

Question stands.

CHARLEVOIX-SAGUENAY CENSUS COMMISSIONERS

Mr. CASGRAIN:

1. Who was appointed census commissioner for the electoral division of Charlevoix-Saguenay?
2. By whom was he recommended?
3. What are his age, occupation, and residence?
4. What salary is he paid?
5. What persons were appointed by him as census enumerators in each parish of the said counties?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. Mr. L. A. Bouliane, N.P., of La Malbaie, Que., was appointed for the county of Charlevoix and Mr. Alfred Larouche (Wenceslas) of Grandes Bergeronnes, Que., for the county of Saguenay.

2. Appointed by the Honourable the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

3. Mr. Bouliane, commissioner for Charlevoix, is a notary, 68 years of age, and resides at La Malbaie, Que. Mr. Larouche (Wenceslas) commissioner for Saguenay, is a contractor, about 33 years of age, and resides at Grandes Bergeronnes, Que.

4. Each commissioner allowed an allowance of $600 to cover organization expenses and for viséing of the returns made by the enumerators; checking them and forwarding to Ottawa; verification of enumerators' accounts and the general supervision of the census within the district over which they are appointed as commissioner the following rates are provided:

One cent for each name on the "population" schedule;

Three cents for each "agricultural" schedule;

One cent for each entry on the "animal and animal products, not on farm" schedule;

One cent for each record of blind and deaf persons;

One cent for each record of merchandising and service establishment.

5. Enumerators have not yet been appointed.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—COAL

Mr. SMITH (Cumberland):

1. What quantity of coal was consumed by the Canadian National Railways in Canada in the fiscal year 1930-1931, stating countries of origin and amounts from each; also specify varieties?

2. What quantity of coal was consumed by the Canadian National Railways on their lines in the United States during the fiscal year 1930-1931?

Mr. MANION:

1. Fiscal year, April 30, 1930, to March 31, 1931:

Kind of Coal	Country of Origin		
	Canada	United States	Great Britain
	Net Tons	Net Tons	Net Tons
Bituminous	2,433,300	1,937,500	7,900
Anthracite	....	9,900	—
Sub-bituminous	50,400	....	—
Lignite	161,300	....	—

2. 719,600 net tons.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS—HOTEL AT VANCOUVER

Mr. SWANSTON:

When was the construction of the Canadian National Railways hotel at Vancouver authorized, and (a) what is the estimated cost; (b) how much has been expended to date?

Mr. MANION: August 7, 1926. (a) $8,791,912.71; (b) $3,730,224.13.

C.G.S. DRUID

Mr. DUFF:

1. Is the C.G.S. Druid in commission and carrying on work for the Department of Marine?

2. Has the department obtained for this vessel the ordinary certificates covering hull and boiler inspections?

3. If not, why is she allowed to remain in commission?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. Yes.

2. No.

3. The Druid was required for laying buoys before the contemplated boiler repairs could be put in hand. It is expected that the ship will be taken out of commission shortly for boiler repairs. In the meantime she is operating under reduced boiler pressure. She is not considered unsafe.

REPARATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. RINFRET:

1. How many claims are still to be heard by the war claims commissioner?

2. What was the total amount paid, including interest, in the year 1930, according to the Friel report; and in the year 1931, according to the McDougall interim report?

3. What is the total amount of claims still to be examined?

4. When is Commissioner McDougall expected to present his final report?

5. Will the government ask for authorization to pay at once the sums recommended in this final report?

[Mr. Stevens.]

Mr. CAHAN:

1. There are 457 cases yet to be reported on, of which 308 have already been heard, leaving a balance of 149 cases. If, however, jurisdiction is admitted in the claims arising out of the Armenian massacres which were filed in 1920-1, there will be in addition 271 cases yet to be reported upon.

2. Payments made under the Friel report during the year 1930 total, with interest, $23,048.41. Payments made under the McDougall interim report in the year 1931 total, with interest, $555,948.75.

3. Most of the claims filed are for unstated amounts and, therefore, this question is answered by No. 1.

4. The final report is expected to be completed before the end of the present calendar year.

5. It will depend upon whether and to what extent the governor in council approves such report.

DEPARTMENT OF MARINE—DISMISSALS IN BONAVENTURE

Mr. MARCIL:

1. What dismissals were made by the Department of Marine in the county of Bonaventure?

2. What are the names of those who were dismissed, and the reason of their dismissal?

3. Does the government intend to give to those who were dismissed the opportunity of enjoying the benefits of the pension fund?

Mr. DURANLEAU:

1. Two dismissals were made since 28th July, 1930.

2. John W. Billingsley, keeper of the wharf light at New Carlisle, dismissed on the ground of neglect of duty.

Louis Bujold, lightkeeper at Carleton lightstation, dismissed on the ground of political partisanship.

3. They were not contributors under the Civil Service Superannuation Act, 1924, and are not eligible for superannuation.

NOVA SCOTIA PORT PHYSICIANS

Mr. DUFF:

1. How many port physicians in Nova Scotia have been dismissed since August 1, 1930?
2. How many have been appointed since that time and what are their names and addresses?
3. How many have been placed upon the mileage system of payment in lieu of salary and what are their names and addresses?

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. Ten.

2. Eleven:

Dr. Dugald Stewart, Bridgewater, N.S.
Dr. T. R. Ford, Liverpool, N.S.
Dr. D. A. Morrison, Louisburg, N.S.
Dr. R. McK. Saunders, Lunenburg, N.S.
Dr. R. H. Sutherland, Pictou, N.S.
Dr. J. A. MacDonald, St. Peters, N.S.
Dr. S. W. Williamson, Yarmouth, N.S.
Dr. B. A. LeBlanc, Arichat, N.S.
Dr. W. N. Cochran, Mahone Bay, N.S.
Dr. H. E. Kelley, Middleton, N.S.
Dr. C. S. Cavanagh, Port Mulgrave, N.S.

3. None on mileage system. The following have been placed upon a fee system of payment in lieu of salary:

Dr. L. B. Braine, Annapolis Royal, N.S.
Dr. G. W. Brown, Clark's Harbour, N.S.
Dr. E. E. Bissett, Windsor, N.S.
Dr. L. P. Churchill, Shelburne, N.S.
Dr. C. J. Fox, Pubnico, N.S.
Dr. F. L. Hill, Port Greville, N.S.
Dr. F. E. Rice, Sandy Cove, N.S.
Dr. G. K. Smith, Hantsport, N.S.
Dr. A. F. Weir, Freeport, N.S.

ST. JACQUES, QUE., POSTMASTERSHIP

Mr. SEGUIN:

1. Has Mr. Joseph Levesque, postmaster at St. Jacques, Montcalm county, Quebec, been relieved of his duties?
2. If so, for what reasons?
3. Who complained against Mr. Levesque?
4. Who asked for his dismissal?
5. Has the department named an acting postmaster to replace Mr. Levesque?
6. What is the name of the temporary postmaster at St. Jacques, Montcalm county, Quebec?
7. At whose request was this nomination made?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Dismissal authorized but transfer not yet reported.
2. Active political partisanship.
3. Notary J. E. E. Marion.
4. Notary J. E. E. Marion.
5. Yes.
6. Miss E. Marion.
7. Instructions of Postmaster General.

HOUSE OF COMMONS STAFF—RETURNED SOLDIERS

Mr. POWER:

1. What are the names of the returned soldiers employed on the permanent staff of the House of Commons?
2. What are their present occupations?

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. Name—Position

Coghill, H. J., sergeant-at-arms.
Bissonnette, A. E., clerk, grade 3.
Chevassu, J. P. A., parliamentary translator.
Corkett, E. W., assistant postmaster.
de la Durantaye, R., parliamentary translator.
Gabard, M., editor of French debates and chief of French reporting staff.
Girard, R., parliamentary translator.
Howe, J., assistant parliamentary reporter.
Jarvis, H. A., departmental accountant, grade 2.
Lamb, Chas. E., parliamentary translator.
McEvoy, T. L., committee clerk.
Ollivier, P. M., joint law clerk.
Vallières, H., parliamentary translator.
Porteous, R. W., clerk.
Fairnie, Andrew, confidential messenger.
Wheeler, Albert, parliamentary doorkeeper.

2. Answered by No. 1.

THREE THOUSAND FAMILY SCHEME—DEPORTATIONS

Mr. SPENCER:

How many people coming to Canada under the 3,000 family scheme have been deported?

Mr. GORDON: Five hundred and sixty-eight persons including men, women and children.

DISMISSALS OF POSTMASTERS IN BONAVENTURE COUNTY

Mr. MARCIL:

1. How many postmasters were dismissed from their duties in the county of Bonaventure since July 28, 1930?
2. What are their names and where were they located?
3. What are the names and addresses of persons who made complaints against the said postmasters?

4. Were inquiries held before the dismissal of the said postmasters?
5. If so, by whom were the inquiries held?
6. What salaries or fees were paid to the inquiry commissioner in each case?
7. Why were these postmasters dismissed?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. One.

2. Albert Cleary, St. Jules de Maria.

3. Complaints were made concerning the location of the office by Rev. Father J. A. D'Auteuil, Mrs. B. L. Lawliss, Mr. Edson Willett.

4. Yes.

5. District superintendent of postal service, Quebec.

6. No special salary or fees.

7. On account of inconvenient location of the post office.

PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURES IN GASPE

Mr. BRASSET:

1. What are the amounts of money voted by the Department of Public Works during the session of 1930 to be expended in each municipality of the county of Gaspe, including Magdalen islands?

2. What sums were expended from those amounts during the session of 1930, and in what municipalities?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds):

1 and 2. The appropriations voted during the session of 1930 for the electoral district of Gaspe are as follows. (The records of the department do not show the municipality)

Appropriations 1930-31

	Voted	Expended
Anse à Beaufils, breakwater repairs	$ 2,500 00	$ 2,295 92
Anse à Louise, wharf	32,011 45	32,012 45
Anse à Louise, approach to wharf	5,000 00	4,443 00
Anse à Griffon, wharf	38,000 00	37,999 60
Anse à Valleau, extension to jetty	6,000 00	6,004 20
Anse du Cap, wharf repairs	2,500 00	2,503 89
Anse St. Jean, wharf repairs	1,300 00	1,324 64
Barachois de Malbaie, breastwork	2,000 00	2,005 64
Cap aux Os, wharf extension	4,500 00	4,479 49
Chloridormes, wharf	15,000 00	277 41
Douglastown, wharf extension	2,500 00	2,544 85
Etang du Nord, breakwater, wharf to complete	10,000 00	8,318 28
Grande Anse, wharf	34,780 00	34,779 80
Grand Entrée, M.I., pilework extension	4,500 00	4,473 27
Grande Riviere, rebuilding and extending breastwork	2,700 00	2,732 93
Grande Vallee, jetty and breastwork	4,600 00	4,591 20
Grosse Isle (Keating Point), landing pier	1,500 00	1,500 00
Jersey Cove, slipway—repairs and improvements	2,500 00	2,502 89
Mont Louis, wharf extension	10,000 00	277 98
Mont Louis, repairs to wharf and approach	1,500 00	1,457 47
Peninsula, wharf extension	5,000 00	4,936 67
Petit Cap, breakwater	31,000 00	25,429 78
Petite Rivière Est, breakwater repairs	3,000 00	2,862 71
Pointe St. Pierre, breakwater, wharf replacement	5,000 00	4,695 56
Riviere à la Marte, to purchase and repair wharf	6,000 00	6,000 46
Riviere au Renard, wharf extension and repairs	49,500 00	43,873 53
Ste. Adelaide de Pabos, wharf repairs	2,100 00	2,098 82
Ste. Anne des Monts, wharf repairs	35,000 00	12,324 72
Ste. Anne des Monts, river wharf repairs	3,500 00	3,509 35
St. Joachim Tourelle, wharf extension	23,629 24	23,594 96
Magdalen islands, telephone service—general repairs and improvements	5,000 00	5,146 68
	$352,120 69	$290,998 15

PAYMENTS TO DOMINION STEEL AND COAL CORPORATION

Mr. CHEVRIER:

1. What amounts have been paid out by the Dominion government under 20-21 George V, chapter 6, an act to place Canadian coal used in the manufacture of iron or steel on a basis of equality with imported coal?

2. To whom have such payments been made and how much has each payee received?

Mr. STEVENS:

1. In 1930-31, $135,209.23.

2. The total amount stated above was paid to the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation Ltd., of Sydney, Nova Scotia.

ST. ISIDORE, QUE., POSTMISTRESS

Mr. GAGNON:

1. Was Mrs Laura D. Morency appointed as postmistress of St. Isidore, county of Dorchester, by the Civil Service Commission in 1921?

2. Did she lose her position, and why?

3. Were one or several complaints made against her, and if so, by whom?

4. Was an inquiry held, and if not, why?

5. On whose recommendation was her successor appointed?

Mr. SAUVE:

1. Yes.

2. Yes. In March 1927, on account of active political partisanship.

3. and 4. No investigation. Action was taken on statement of member of parliament that to his personal knowledge the postmistress had acted as a political partisan.

5. Hon. Lucien Cannon.

GRANTS TO CANADIAN SOCIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL

Mr. SPENCER:

1. When was the first Dominion grant given to the Canadian Social Hygiene Council?

2. In what years has the grant been given since that date, and what amount in each year respectively?

Mr. MacLAREN:

1. In fiscal year 1919-1920;

2. Fiscal years:

1919-20	$ 5,000
1920-21	10,000
1921-22	10,000
1922-23	15,000
1923-24	15,000
1924-25	12,000
1925-26	15,000
1926-27	15,000
1927-28	10,000
1928-29	20,000
1929-30	20,000
1930-31	20,000

FULL-TIME HEALTH UNITS

Mr. SPENCER:

How many associations, national or local have passed resolutions in favour of full time health units, and notified the Department of Health of their action in this regard?

Mr. MacLAREN: National associations, two.

IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS

Mr. SPENCER:

Referring to order in council P.C. 695, section 1, which reads:—

"A British subject———who has sufficient means to maintain himself until employment is created."

1. What sum of money is supposed to be sufficient?

Referring to section 4 which reads:—

"An agriculturist having sufficient means to farm in Canada."

2. (a) Who is to be the judge as to sufficient means; (b) what is the sum required to farm in Canada?

Mr. SPENCER: Dropped.

QUESTIONS PASSED AS ORDERS FOR RETURNS

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSION—HASTINGS MILL SITE

Mr. REID:

1. Did the Vancouver harbour commissioners enter into an agreement with any engineer, or engineers, in regard to the cost of a new pier on part of the property known as the Hastings mill site?

2. If so, what were the names of the engineers consulted?

3. Was any agreement entered into as to the payment by percentage of estimated cost?

4. What was the total estimate of cost of the principal designs submitted by the said engineers concerned?

5. Have any amounts of money been paid these engineers on this account to March 31, 1931?

6. Have any efforts been made by the Vancouver harbour commissioners to terminate such agreement?

7. Have any attempts been made by the Vancouver harbour commissioners to settle the matter out of court?

8. What is the basis and amount of proposed settlement?

9. Are any of the engineers concerned paid for any other service by the Vancouver harbour commission?

10. If so, what are their names, service rendered, and amounts paid to each up to March 31, 1931?

BRITISH COLUMBIA WRECKING PLANTS

Mr. PLUNKETT:

1. How much money by way of subsidies has been voted yearly from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, for wrecking plants in the province of British Columbia?

2. How much money by way of subsidies has been voted yearly from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, for wrecking plants in the province of Quebec?

3. What is the tonnage of the ships of the wrecking plant and total amount of investment exclusive of subsidies from federal government for the province of British Columbia?

4. What is the tonnage of the ships of the wrecking plant and total amount of investment exclusive of subsidies from federal government for the province of Quebec?

5. What is the total amount of money lost in wrecks by shipping interests from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, upon which the subsidized wrecking plant of the province of British Columbia was engaged?

6. What is the total amount of money lost in wrecks by shipping interests from 1921 to 1930, inclusive, upon which the subsidized wrecking plant of the province of Quebec was engaged?

GOVERNOR GENERAL—HALIFAX DELEGATION

Mr. WOODSWORTH:

What were the principal items and the total cost of the official delegation to Halifax to welcome the Governor General?

PRINCE AND PRINCESS TAKAMATSU

VISIT OF THEIR IMPERIAL HIGHNESSES AS GUESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Before the notices of motions are proceeded with, Mr. Speaker, I think it might be an appropriate moment for me to state to the house that Their Imperial Highnesses the Prince and Princess Takamatsu of Japan will arrive in the city of Ottawa at twelve o'clock noon of Saturday next. They and their staff and suite are the official guests of Canada, my predecessors in office having very properly invited them to be the guests of Canada while they were in this Dominion. They have been making a tour of the world and are now in the province of Quebec. They will reach Montreal this evening, and after remaining there a while they will reach this city on Saturday, the 2nd of May, at twelve o'clock noon. They will remain as our guests, as the members may have seen from the papers, until Wednesday afternoon, when they leave this city.

It now being part of my official duties to discharge to the best of my ability the obligation so properly undertaken by my predecessors, I should like to suggest that as many as possible of the members of this house who may find it convenient be at the station depot on Saturday next at noon to afford a suitable welcome to the brother of the Emperor of Japan and his princess and the party accompanying them, Japan being a great power with which the relations of this country are most friendly and whose minister resides in our midst.

[Mr. Plunkett.]

Mr. SPEAKMAN: Is it twelve o'clock noon city time or standard time?

Mr. BENNETT: Standard time, daylight saving time.

Mr. EULER: Well, that is not standard time.

Mr. BENNETT: Oh yes, it is daylight saving time.

Mr. JACOBS: There is a difference of an hour.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, daylight saving time.

UNOPPOSED MOTIONS FOR PAPERS

MONTREAL HARBOUR BRIDGE

Mr. CARDIN:

For a copy of all contracts, agreements or understandings, between the Montreal harbour commission and the provincial government of the province of Quebec, and the city of Montreal, determining the contribution of the cost of the Montreal harbour bridge of the two last named.

THE WHEAT MARKET—FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River):

For a copy of all correspondence, telegrams, reports, communications and other documents passing between the federal government and the Canadian banks; between the federal government and the Canadian Wheat Producers Limited; between the federal government and any or all of the provincial wheat pools, in regard to assistance, guarantee or support extended by the federal government since September, 1930.

RESIGNATION OF LABOUR GAZETTE CORRESPONDENT AT KENORA

Mr. HEENAN:

For a copy of all correspondence including letters, telegrams and other documents in the possession of the government, in connection with the resignation of the Labour Gazette correspondent at Kenora.

CANADIAN COPYRIGHT ACT

Mr. CHEVRIER:

For a copy of all papers, letters, despatches, telegrams and other documents exchanged since March, 1927, to date, between the British authorities and the Canadian government, relating to the Canadian Copyright Act and the International Convention of Berne for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

PEGGING OF GRAIN PRICES

Mr. MOTHERWELL:

For a copy of twelve approximately typical petitions, resolutions or letters addressed to the Prime Minister, Acting Prime Minister, or the Minister of Agriculture, recommending the pegging of wheat or grain prices, from any farmers' organization, pool selling agency or unit thereof, municipality, board of trade or individual in each of the three prairie provinces since the first of August last, and the replies thereto.

TRACADIE HARBOUR BREAKWATER

Mr. VENIOT:

For a copy of all reports, correspondence and other documents in the possession of the government, in connection with the awarding of a contract for the construction of a breakwater or breakwaters at Tracadie, New Brunswick. Also for a copy of all correspondence, or other documents in connection with the dredging by dredge No. 12, of Tracadie harbour.

TRENT CANAL STAFF

Mr. BOUCHARD:

For a copy of all letters, recommendations, telegrams and communications in respect to the dismissal or retirement of members of the Trent canal staff, since the 31st of October, 1930, and all correspondence, letters and communications passing between the superintendent of the Trent canal, at Peterborough, and the Department of Railways and Canals, at Ottawa, or any of its officials.

ST. JOSEPH D'ALMA PUBLIC BUILDING

Mr. LAPOINTE:

For a copy of all documents, papers, memoranda and letters exchanged between any municipal corporation or other persons, and the Department of Public Works, since August 7, 1930, respecting the public building at St. Joseph d'Alma, Lake St. John county, Quebec, for the construction of which funds were provided in the estimates of 1930-31, and also copy of all tenders received in connection with the construction of the said building, and correspondence relating thereto, and copy of any reports of engineers or architects of the Department of Public Works relating to the said building made to the Minister of Public Works or to department since January 1, 1928.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): An order of the house was passed on the 22nd of April, on the motion of the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), calling for the production of these same documents. It will be found in the votes and proceedings of April 22nd, at page 104. I submit, therefore, that it is not necessary to bring the papers down a second time.

Mr. LAPOINTE: I desire to drop the motion, Mr. Speaker.

Motion dropped.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

PROPOSED FEDERAL SYSTEM OF ASSURANCE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (Winnipeg North) moved:

That, in the opinion of this house, the government should take into consideration the immediate establishment of a federal system of assurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity.

He said: Of all the primary and important problems which come before this house there is not one of greater importance than that of unemployment. During four of the past six regular sessions of parliament it has been my privilege to have introduced a motion dealing with unemployment, sickness and invalidity insurance. On innumerable other occasions during the last six years the same question has been raised both by my colleague from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) and myself. I believe at the present time there is in this house a preponderance of opinion in favour of taking action to deal with unemployment by means of some form of insurance. The labourer who happens to find himself out of work is in no way responsible for being in that position. He is merely a victim of circumstances. However at this juncture I do not wish to deal with the causes which lead to unemployment. I am now dealing with the effects, and further with the duty of this parliament as the supreme governing body in the land to see that where there is involuntary poverty, hardship and suffering action is taken to mitigate if not altogether to eliminate such a condition. I am sure that the humane sentiments of all hon. members irrespective of party, predispose them toward measures for the relief of human suffering. That is a natural instinct and characteristic of us all. I believe also that if human suffering, unemployment and all that the term implies could be eradicated from our existing economic structure hon. gentlemen in this house would be happy in the attempt to bring about such a condition.

We in the Labour group make the claim that within the confines of capitalism unemployment cannot be eradicated. It is not because the industrialist desires unemployment, but because unemployment is an inherent defect of the economic structure. Cycles of so-called prosperity are always followed by periods of depression and in those periods there are wholesale dismissals in our factories, our workshops and our warehouses with the result that vast numbers of men and women all of a sudden are deprived of their livelihood. During recent years the unemployment problem has been considerably aggravated. Statistics prove that the ever increasing use of machinery and the process of speeding up has tended to reduce the labour factor in industry. Therefore it is quite obvious that if the productive element in industry is receiving a lesser return the non-productive element is receiving an ever increasing return. In other words, profit in industry is taking a larger toll whilst wages represent a relatively

diminishing factor. In this category I must include finance, because in this age the two factors of finance and industry are inseparably interlocked and the profits of the former naturally spring from those of the latter. To-day many people are of the opinion that present conditions cannot continue indefinitely.

Our economic structure has become so one-sided that it is on the verge of toppling over. The enormous aggregation of wealth in a few hands resulting from the conditions just referred to has created a problem demanding the immediate attention of this parliament. After all, wealth has not been created by the few but by the many. To allow wealth to be concentrated in the hands of a few to the detriment of the many is a task for parliament and statesmen to remedy. The concentration of wealth has given to some an undreamed of power. I believe the time has arrived when the owners of this wealth should realize that it must be used for the common weal. Instead of wealth being a blessing to mankind in many instances it has become a curse. Therefore if unemployment, sickness and invalidity insurance takes some small toll from those who own or control the wealth, in reality it is only returning a meagre portion to those who have produced it.

No scheme of insurance can be regarded as a remedy for unemployment; it is merely a palliative. In my opinion a far more satisfactory way of dealing with unemployment would be the curtailment of the hours of labour without a corresponding reduction in pay. Naturally this proposition presents so many obstacles in its enactment that as an immediate measure it is not altogether feasible. A few generations ago when the eight hour day was first proposed its advocates were looked upon as dangerous doctrinaires, a characterization which to-day has its counterparts in such terms as "red", "radical", "bolshevik" and so on. The persons who find themselves without employment ought to be the first consideration of parliament. At the present time those who are in that unfortunate position find it more difficult than ever to secure employment. The search for the elusive job is one of the most tragic occurrences in life. Days, weeks, months go by and the individual begins to lose his morale. He sees nothing before him but poverty, and no immediate hope of redress. Probably as a last resort the man may be compelled to apply for public relief. I have known of hundreds of cases where men in utter despair and agony, after a hopeless quest for work, were compelled to apply for relief. Many people do not realize the tremendous strain upon such men. The average man hesitates when for the first time in his life he makes a request to receive public relief. It requires courage for the ordinary person to steel himself for the ordeal. The average worker hates to take anything without giving something in return. After he has steeled himself to apply, with considerable misgiving and trepidation he accepts for the first time. The second time proves to be less difficult than the first. The third is not as difficult as the second and so on. If he continues to make application for relief he might be said to be in receipt of what might properly be termed a dole, which often saps the manhood of many of our finest citizens who themselves are in no way responsible for the unfortunate circumstances in which they happen to find themselves. During the past winter we have been handing our relief in one form or another because we have no other way of taking care of the men and women who find themselves in straitened circumstances on account of being out of work. This at best is a most unsatisfactory way of dealing with an ever-recurring trouble.

I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, as an alternative to this form of dole that we institute a system of insurance against unemployment. It is certainly a far more effective way of dealing with the problem than by handing out relief as we are now doing. Our industrialists generally make provision for replacement, depreciation, and reserve. The fund set aside for replacement and depreciation is to take care of machinery and equipment. The reserve is for the purpose of tiding over the industry in times of industrial depression. But what of the human element in industry? The working man is hired and fired at will, without any regard for his well-being. Usually he is employed at wages which are barely at the subsistence level, and in no way sufficient to allow of his setting aside a reserve for unforeseen expenditures such as medical care, sickness and disability. Under these circumstances it is quite obvious that according to the present ethics of industry capital is looked upon as having a claim prior to the human element—the working men and women. We of the Labour party believe that the human element in industry should have first claim, and that the favoured position now enjoyed by financiers and industrialists should be superseded by a system under which the employees shall be reasonably provided for during the life of themselves and their dependents.

May I point out that the man, who, for instance, invests his money in the bonds of an industrial company is assured of an annual return at a very reasonable rate of interest. Suppose he invests $15,000 in 7 per cent industrial bonds, he receives in return an annual income of $1,050, which is more than the average wage earned by a man engaged in industrial pursuits in this country. Is it unreasonable to suggest that the man so engaged should be as well safeguarded in respect to the annual return on his labour as is the investor on his capital? If I could have my way, I would insist that the owners of industry should regard every employee as being at least as valuable to the industry as the man who invests $15,000 in its bonds, and who, without any effort on his part, abstracts from the industry more than the man who is giving of his best to the industry directly and indirectly to the nation. An illustration in point comes to my mind in the town of Sudbury. At the present time according to the information I have received, thousands of men there are out of work. The main local industry is carried on by the International Nickel Company, a very wealthy corporation, which in past years has made enormous profits. Immediately there is a shrinkage in the demand for their output, and consequently a shrinkage in their profits, the management reduce the working staff and these men are thrown on the street indiscriminately, and no one seems to care what becomes of them. Those men have to walk the streets and have in some way to be maintained by the local authorities, while the profits of the industry which they have helped to build up go to others. During all their years of labour they have been in receipt of but a low wage, a wage which is not sufficient to enable them to save one cent for a rainy day. This condition of affairs in Sudbury is symptomatic of what is happening in many other industrial centres throughout the Dominion, and I submit that these industrial corporations ought to be compelled by law to do their share in looking after the men whom they have discharged, and whom they will have to look to as a reserve force when the present industrial depression ends.

Recently the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) in speaking to a delegation referred to evils of the dole in Great Britain. I took the precaution to look up his remarks in order to make sure that I might not misquote him. I think he certainly was unjust to the people of the old country. As a matter of fact those workers of Great Britain who are the beneficiaries under various schemes of social insurance, are not in receipt of a dole; they are just as much entitled to what they receive as those who take out fire insurance and ultimately receive compensation in the event of their property being destroyed. The effects in Great Britain of the unemployment insurance scheme are not what I believe the Prime Minister had in mind when he spoke to the delegation that he received a couple of weeks ago. Would Great Britain to-day be better off if she did not have any unemployment insurance at all? It has been in operation for about 20 years, and we find that during that time crime has diminished so rapidly that to-day many of her prisons are empty and for sale. Contrast that with the condition prevaling in this country where we leave our unemployed to take care of themselves. Our statistics show an increase of crime, and this year we are going to enlarge our penal institutions to take care of those delinquents who probably if they had been assisted under a federal scheme of unemployment insurance would not to-day be inmates of such institutions.

I would remind the house that in addition to insurance against unemployment I have in mind also the question of provision against sickness and invalidity. In view of the salutary effect of such social legislation in Great Britain, I think we can make no mistake if we follow what has been in effect there for the past twenty years. I realize perhaps as well as any other member the constitutional difficulties which are inherent in a scheme of unemployment insurance. But just as we overcame the question of conflicting federal and provincial jurisdiction in dealing with the problem of old age pensions, so can we overcome it in adopting a system of social insurance. I think if this parliament would give a lead we could obtain the sympathetic cooperation of practically all the provinces, because unemployment is not a provincial, it is not a municipal, it is a federal problem. Unemployment is not due to what is being done municipally or provincially, it is largely the result of policies for which this parliament is more or less responsible. Consequently I am anxious that any scheme of unemployment insurance that we may institute should be federal in scope. To illustrate the difficulty of leaving this question to the provinces, let me take the city of Ottawa. Supposing there was unemployment insurance in force in the province of Quebec, but not in this province, and a man residing in Hull moved to the city of Ottawa, by so doing he would lose the advantage he enjoyed in Quebec

Therefore, I think it must be obvious to every hon. member that any scheme to be effective must be federal in scope.

I also realize how easy it may be for any hon. member to point out the difficulties standing in the way of any scheme of social insurances. It is the easiest thing in the world to criticize adversely, but if there is any hon. member of this house who is opposed to such a scheme of social insurance I hope he will come forward with an alternative to the proposition I am putting before the house this afternoon. Our small Labour group here has been reproved on several occasions because it has been said that usually we have been destructive in our criticism. To a certain extent I may admit that in many of my talks I have been destructive in my criticism of things as they are, but at the same time we have always brought forward some proposals for the attention of this house. I only regret that as yet we have not been able to convert the majority of hon. members to our way of thinking.

To-day we are bringing forward a scheme of insurances which is constructive in its character. We say that in view of conditions as they are, and as they have been for a number of years, it is time the government of the day did something to remedy those conditions, and one way of partially remedying them is to inaugurate a system of unemployment, sickness and invalidity insurance. The government may come along and tell us that at the present time they are going through financial difficulties which make it hard to make ends meet. I realize the difficulty of the government, and I extend to them my sympathy for what it may be worth. However, is it fair that we in parliament should ask the men, women and children who are out of work to bear the whole burden of this depression? I do not think it is. When times are hard we are told that we cannot afford to have a scheme of social insurance, but when times are more normal we are told it is not necessary. So the workers of this country are caught between these two excuses; in good times it is not necessary, and in hard times we cannot afford it. If such a scheme of insurance as I am asking the house to adopt is approved, it will give to men, women and the young children who depend upon them, a certain limited security in life which they do not now possess. It will remove from many that stigma of the dole which they are now compelled to accept, through no fault of their own.

[Mr. Heaps.]

As a parliament we cannot afford to ignore this fact. At the last special session we took out of the federal treasury—or raised by borrowing, I am not sure which—the sum of $20,000,000 for the relief of unemployment throughout the Dominion of Canada. That is a method of dealing with the question of which I do not approve. There is no system about it; it is spasmodic in its efforts and temporary in its benefits, and no doubt next winter we will be compelled to do the same thing. I would far sooner deal with the problem in a definite manner as best we can. To-day we find right across this country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, organizations of men and women who have given study to this problem and who are demanding that these forms of insurance be put into effect by the federal parliament. Labour to-day, irrespective of the part of the country it finds itself in, also is demanding that some form of insurance be enacted by parliament. It is rather remarkable, Mr. Speaker, that of all the nations which have adopted schemes of insurance, not one nation has done away with that legislation; in many cases the original legislation has been enlarged in its scope and benefits. Only a few years ago in England, under the regime of the former prime minister, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, the unemployment insurance scheme was enlarged to a considerable extent until now the number of beneficiaries under some form of insurance in the British Isles is greater than the population of this Dominion.

I should like to point out the difference between this motion and motions which have been made along these lines in previous years. Formerly the motion has been to refer the matter to a committee for investigation, but this time I am not asking for a committee; I am opposed to any further investigation of this question. What I want now is action. A previous committee which investigated this question in 1928 reported to the house in favour of a contributory system of unemployment insurance, and I believe the house unanimously approved that report. To-day my motion asks for the immediate establishment of a federal system of insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity. There is a difference between that which I asked for in previous years and that for which I am asking on the present occasion. If there are those, as I said before, who are opposed to this parliament dealing with this matter in this way, then I am anxious to know what their alternative may be.

We have a great responsibility in this question and we cannot shirk that responsibility,

even if we want to do so. I know we have many other responsibilities in addition. If anyone in this house should stand up in his place and suggest that we should repudiate our national debt or the interest charges thereon, I know there would be protests from every corner of the house. Hon. members would rise in their places and talk about our obligations, our duties and our responsibilities, and they would refer to the honour of this Dominion. I think we have no greater duty and no greater responsibility than taking care of the poor in our midst, and I think as a parliament we should look upon that as our first duty. Although the time which we may devote to this very important question is limited, I hope the government to-day will not disappoint the hundreds of thousands of people who are expecting us to give some attention to this matter.

On former occasions both parties have committed themselves to the principle of unemployment, sickness and invalidity insurance. In a speech delivered by the present Prime Minister during the session of 1928 he came out openly in favour of a scheme of this character, and the leader of the opposition has done the same thing. We have the leaders of both parties in favour of some such scheme, so why should there be such difficulty in our getting together and finding ways and means of doing something this session for those who are at present unemployed, and for men over whom unemployment hangs like a dark cloud. There are hundred of thousands of people out of work to-day, and many more are working on short time. The labour movement of this country is looking to parliament on this occasion in the hope that it will do something at least along the lines of the action taken a few years ago when it passed the Old Age Pensions Act.

I hope the government will stand behind the pledges it has made, the pledges which were incorporated in its platform and the pledges which many of its supporters gave to their constituents, as well as the statements made by the right hon. the Prime Minister when he was leader of the opposition during the session of 1928.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker I do not propose this afternoon to traverse at length the ground covered by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat (Mr. Heaps). I desire only to point out two or three problems which must be dealt with before this question can be determined.

First, there is the question of the respective jurisdiction of the federal parliament and the provincial legislatures, which has to some extent been determined by the law officers of the crown. As has been pointed out by the provincial premiers, there is no reason to doubt that with the joint action of the provinces and the Dominion some satisfactory solution of this problem can be found. It has been suggested that a conference should be called between the provinces and the Dominion for the purpose of discussing this problem and if possible finding a solution. The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) suggested the other day that this matter might have been discussed at the recent Dominion-provincial conference. I can only say that the question could not be dealt with at any such conference in one or two days, or in half a dozen days; there are questions which involve consequences of the most far-reaching effect in every possible way so far as the body politic is concerned. There is not only the setting up of the machinery but there is the question of the ways and means by which that machinery is to be maintained.

At the present time a large number of corporations that have thousands of employees make provision for their future after they have reached a certain age. Provision is made in some cases for invalidity through sickness, and in others for the payment of a small sum while unemployed and still in the service of the company.

This resolution proposes two things, to which I will direct attention. First, it suggests that the government should take into consideration the immediate establishment of a federal system of insurance. I do not think my hon. friend is well advised in leaving the word "immediate" in his motion for the simple and obvious reason that it must be known to him and to every hon. gentleman who has read any book upon the subject or who has given time and consideration to the problems involved that it cannot be dealt with in three weeks, six weeks, one month or several months. So far as that feature is concerned, I would suggest that he delete the word "immediate" from his resolution. I suggest also that after the word "federal" and before the word "system" he add the word "contributory," thus making it a federal contributory system. Then I would suggest that the words "after satisfactory arrangements have been made with the provinces" be added at the end of the resolution. As has been so clearly stated by the hon. gentleman, insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity can never be successful if each province has

a different system or if one province has a system and another has not.

Moreover, it has been said by some of the premiers in days gone by, provinces do not feel competent to carry on and discharge all their constitutional obligations; therefore there must be a combined effort on the part of the provinces and the Dominion in order to attain any success. I do not think I am violating any confidence when I say that in a conversation which I had with a former minister of Great Britain who had this matter in hand, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, he indicated after travelling over Canada that in his opinion a system to be successful must be one representing the combined efforts of the provinces and the Dominion. Whatever else might be said about it, he was clearly of that opinion because of the data which he had in his possession and the information which he had gleaned by travelling over this country and from other sources. When the hon. gentleman talks about setting up immediately a system of insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity I am sure he cannot possibly realize the magnitude of the problem or he would not make that suggestion and seriously expect it to be acted upon.

He must realize the amount of actuarial work which must be done. We are now taking a new census and after that has been completed we believe we will have in our possession sufficient data to enable us to apprehend and appreciate the extent of the obligation we must incur. It will not be a small obligation, it will be measured by millions of dollars, and it involves the question of ensuring beyond peradventure that the system will succeed. When any hon. member of this house uses the word "insurance" he is using a word with a well-defined meaning. An insurance contract is one of indemnity; it is a contract whereby for the payment of a given sum the insurer agrees and covenants that the insured will receive certain sums therein specified. In order to arrive at what premium shall be paid it is necessary to understand the character of the risk. To-day Great Britain is considered the greatest authority upon marine insurance because for centuries the underwriters in that country have been able to appreciate from the experience gained at Lloyds and from other sources the exact character of the risk involved. In every case where insurance is granted there is a risk taken and the contract is to compensate on the basis of the risk involved. Knowledge of the character of the risk as well as of the extent to which compensation is to be paid must be at the very bottom of all insurance.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Unfortunately in the matter of unemployment a great mistake was made in England in appreciating the character of the risk, and I suppose it is known to every hon. member of this house that at this moment the unemployment insurance fund owes the government of Great Britain the enormous sum of nearly one hundred million pounds sterling.

Mr. HEAPS: Were not the general conditions in 1911 different from what they were in 1919?

Mr. BENNETT: That is what I am trying to prove, and I thank my hon. friend for doing it for me. There must be a clear appreciation of the character of the risk involved. What underwriter, for instance, could maintain his solvency if he assumed risks without having any appreciation of the character of the peril which may be encountered and therefore not being in a position to arrive at a premium sufficient under actuarial determinations to meet the risk involved? This house is a thoughtful body dealing with a matter of tremendous magnitude, and the first problem which must be met whenever you use the word "insurance" is that of determining what the premium shall be.

In life insurance the premium is fixed by known standards—age, expectation of life, the value of money over a long period of years; and when you insure a man of twenty-five years of age you know that by the payment of the premium which you accept from him you will be in a position, on the basis of the expectation of life, to meet that risk when it falls in, and to discharge your liability.

There is always a perceptible surplus on the part of life insurance companies because they load their premiums, as it is technically known, for the purpose of enabling them to make sure that the sum derived as premium shall always be equal to the risk involved and taken by the insurer. Take fire insurance. A great many of us I suppose, who have not taken the trouble to look into the matter carefully, think that fire insurance rates are arbitrarily fixed and that, to quote the language of my hon. friend from Lisgar (Mr. Brown), the companies charge all that the traffic will bear. The oldest insurance company in the world, in our world at least, is doing business in Great Britain. I once had the pleasure of visiting that company's head office in London and seeing something of its records, extending now over centuries. They are able, with almost mathematical precision and certainty, to determine the premium that should be charged for the purpose of enabling them adequately to meet the risk involved. That sounds very strange. But you have all classes of risks; you have marine hazards, to which I referred

a moment ago; you have fire risks; you have burglary insurance; you have insurance granted by Lloyds for almost anything in the world—for example, the result of elections, a very hazardous thing upon which to calculate. The great insurance companies, with all their branches, have determined by experience in a broad and general way what premium having regard to human experience, will meet satisfactorily the risk that is involved. As to unemployment insurance, I said a moment ago that in England, they established it in 1911, and later, on its present basis—because there was a consolidation of the statutes under Mr. Chamberlain, as the house will remember, when the whole matter was dealt with afresh—it will be recalled that the weekly premium to be paid by the employee is supplemented by payment on the part of the employer as well as the government.

Unfortunately no provision was made for those great cycles which every country has experienced and which we call periods of depression, with the result that the premium collected was wholly unequal to the burden imposed upon the fund when that cycle made its effect apparent. What is the result? The result is that the fund, being unequal to the demands made upon it, has to be supplemented, not by contributions by the employed or by the employer, but by the third party to the contract, namely, the state. And the fund, being insolvent, either had to discontinue paying the insured or the money had to be provided by the state. And so the fund borrowed from the state. In December last, these borrowings amounted to the enormous sum of 90,000,000 pounds sterling. My information to-day—I give this subject to correction—is that the fund now owes the state over 100,000,000 pounds sterling, and that the deficit amounts to approximately 800,000 pounds per week. I mention the last two figures without being absolutely certain as to their accuracy. That is unemployment.

Now you come to the basis upon which we must fix the premium. What are the factors that must be considered? Here are some of them. First, starting at the top, there is the cost of administration. That divides itself into further questions. Shall there be an administration by the state direct, or shall a commission be set up for purposes of administration? These two problems must be dealt with. That is as to cost of administration. Secondly, what premium shall be paid? That involves, (a) determination of the average employment of those affected, and (b) the amount required per week to meet the weekly claim that must be paid under the policy against unemployment.

These problems have not yet been determined. One is actuarial; it depends upon results which must be carefully collected and collated, which must be fully studied and analyzed, which must be looked into with a care that only an actuary can give. Then, when these figures have been analyzed, it becomes necessary to determine what sum is required in order to ensure, in the light of general experience and expectations providing for cycles of unemployment, the payment of the weekly claim which has to be met.

Need I remind this house that on one occasion an election in one of the great overseas dominions of the British Empire was conducted on the basis of increasing the weekly compensation. That is one of the dangers that must be considered in connection with placing the administration of the system in the hands of government as a political matter. I mention this only as an argument with respect to the form which the administration should take. All hon. members will recall what Prince Bismarck said when he introduced insurance, medical and unemployment, as well as other forms into Germany, as to the reasons therefor, and what the results have been.

Now go a step further. The next matter to consider is this: Who shall be insured? That should come second, but I put the question here: who shall be insured? Is it intended to cover everybody, all those engaged in industry, or only a part of those engaged in industry? Is it to cover agriculture? Is the farmer also to have the right to have insurance against unemployment, or is it to apply only to men engaged in industry, the industrial workers? Is it to cover only certain classes of industrial workers? Take the different risks involved in the character of employment against which you insure. I could give illustrations, but I will not trouble the house to mention more than two. Take seasonal occupations—carpenters, for instance. Do you mean to tell me for a single moment that you could place the same premium for the benefits of unemployment insurance on a carpenter in a cold country, north of the 49th parallel of latitude, as you could against an office man who finds employment the year round? These are some of the problems to be considered.

I reversed the order a moment ago, but take now the question of premium. That must be determined in the light of experience and the application of well-defined actuarial rules; and one of the principal rules with respect to actuarial computations is that

which is roughly referred to as the interest which money will earn; that is to say, what sum can we with certainty say the money will earn—the accumulated funds of the Fund itself. What sum will they earn during a period of years? Life insurance companies used to reserve on a 4 per cent basis; later on it was 3½ per cent and then 3 per cent. And as is well known by this house, many of them reserve on a 2½ per cent basis; because, looking over a long period of years into the distant future, it cannot be said that you can have stability and certainty with respect to a matter like insurance unless you reserve on the lowest possible rate which you believe money will earn over a long term of years. Hence it is that an attack has been made against the annuity system of this country, the 4 per cent basis upon which annuity payments have been predicated. Personally, may I interject here the observation that when Sir Richard Cartwright pressed annuities upon the attention of this country with a skill and power which one would expect from a man who had so wide a knowledge of finance and so complete and thorough a grasp of all that is involved in questions of insurance, whether insurance pure and simple, or annuities, he had in mind a limited annuity. We increased it the maximum, for reasons that were apparent, to $5,000, and the result of increasing the annuity that might be secured has been, of course, to make the 4 per cent rate a somewhat difficult one to maintain. In my private opinion, speaking in no sense as indicating an intention or a view of the matter that may hereafter be taken, some limit upon annuities granted by our annuity branch, to from $1,000 to $1,200, would more nearly meet the view of those who created it. And it is more in keeping with the purposes for which the system was devised. All these are matters that have to be considered in dealing with social insurance.

Then there is another factor which must always enter into the question of unemployment insurance. Mortality at once enters into the question, because, if you are going to provide insurance against unemployment, the next demand that will be made is that there be attached to it some provision for the survivors, the wife and children. I only point out to you what the inevitable result will be. It is inevitable, and it involves a further consideration of the problem of mortality.

Now I come to the question of sickness. Health insurance has grown up on this American continent until it has assumed very great proportions. There is one great company, the largest in the world, which will issue a policy against unemployment, against sickness and invalidity. For a proper premium it will also provide for a pension. That is a modern development of insurance companies. In England, of course, for many years some such provisions have been made by private enterprises. That is a matter, however, that must be considered in the light of two important factors: (a) what has been the average experience with respect to the sickness of the individual insured; (b) group insurance, as it is sometimes called, with respect to industry, and which has now been extended to deal with sickness as well. Group insurance requires no medical examination of the individual, for that would not be possible under the scheme, but rather the grouping of not less than fifty individuals for the purpose of issuing a policy on the whole group, and taking the risk that is incident to it. I wonder if my hon. friend has studied the experience of the companies, brief though it may be, with respect to sickness insurance and various forms of invalidity—that is, invalidity, I take it, arising from accidents during the course of employment, and with which workmens' compensation boards deal in part, which accidents involve the determination of the legal question as to what is "in the course of employment." Happily, however, in most instances these questions are now being dealt with by commissions operating under the provincial governments whereby nice technical, legal questions no longer have any place in the administration of such an act.

Sickness insurance involves the payment of a premium. What shall the premium be in amount? What contribution shall be made by the insured? What contribution shall be made by the employer, and how much by the state itself? Does my hon. friend suggest that this house is now immediately seized of such information as would enable us with the very best ability we have in this Dominion to prepare a measure upon any basis that would commend itself to the judgment of the thinking people of this country.

I shall not deal with invalidity, but there are old age pensions in this country, which are very closely associated and allied with this particular branch of social legislation. I have, I think, sufficiently indicated the thought that must be in the mind of any hon. member who is interested in this matter, and that is that we are here dealing not with something that we can do to-day and undo to-morrow, but with a problem of the first magnitude, the results of the working out of which must be

foreseen for at least half a century hence; for remember that we are but ten millions of people, and that the taxes for civic, provincial and federal purposes are paid by the same people. One of the things that contributes to our solvency is that a large part of the taxes keeps revolving around amongst the people who pay them. That I think is a well-known fact.

Now what are we to do at the moment with respect to this matter? The hon. gentleman is quite right when he says that the time for taking some action has arrived. I can say to him and to this chamber, with great frankness, that at least one member of the government has given a great deal of thought to the matter, and that a very considerable amount of valuable information has been obtained. The Department of Finance is advised that under existing conditions, to make a leap in the dark, to jump into the abyss without having knowledge of what is involved, would spell disaster to the very purpose which the hon. gentleman has in mind and would bring great suffering instead of great relief to those most concerned. I believe that any system involving legislative action should be based upon a consideration of many factors—and they are not political factors; for as hon. gentlemen will have observed, I have endeavoured to eliminate from my mind every political thought in discussing this problem. Those factors can be determined only after the next census is completed because upon a just and true appreciation of them depend the success and the solvency of the fund. There can be no doubt about that.

Then there arises the still larger question, what contribution shall the state make to take up the slack in the fund? I wonder how many hon. gentlemen have been studying the figures in connection with old age pensions in the province of Nova Scotia, for instance, and what those figures indicate. I wonder if hon. gentlemen have studied the surveys which have been made in many of the provinces in connection with those matters. Most of us who have ministerial responsibility realize that you cannot jump in the dark, but that you must have beside you at least sufficient information to warrant your asking the house to act upon any proposals you bring down. The great problem as to the amount which the state should contribute cannot be determined by guesswork. It is a much more serious matter than that. It involves, in my judgment, a study of the figures of the census which is about to be taken, and the application to those figures of the expert knowledge of actuaries. The actuarial department of the insurance branch of the Dominion of Canada is one of the very best in any part of the world. I am very happy to say that the greatest concerns employing actuaries have indicated time and time again that a Canadian-trained actuary is one of the most foremost men in his profession.

Under those circumstances, with a census about to be taken and the necessary figures to become available, with our actuarial force willing and ready to tackle the problem from the angles that I have suggested, does any hon. gentleman think that we would be doing justice to the Dominion of Canada or to ourselves if we now passed a resolution asking the government immediately to do something which it is not equipped to do? I propose, if we are spared as a government and as individuals, that the information we will have before our term of office is ended shall be crystallized into the form of legislative proposals to be submitted to this house. I have never had any illusions as to what is involved; I have none now. I have never had any desire other than that the legislation placed upon the statute book, whether by this government or by some other, shall be legislation based upon knowledge, and not upon mere guesswork.

I do know this, that this country would not be in a position to stand the demands which the fund in England has had to make by borrowings from the exchequer of that country. We are all aware of those demands. I believe this house is a unit in its desire to serve the interests which the hon. gentleman has at heart, but it must not be forgotten that there is a vast number of people in this country who, unfortunately—I repeat it—because of the conditions which have prevailed throughout the world, conditions which it is difficult to ascertain the reasons for, but the results of which are apparent—are getting more and more into the habit of saying: Let the government do it. There is one class in the community which has in the main been free from that attitude of mind, and that is the agricultural class, because there is so little that the government can do for them along such lines, on account of the fact that the agricultural class must toil upon the land and reap the fruits of the labour of their hands under climatic conditions over which man cannot exercise control. Man can and has exercised control in industry. In other branches he has not been able to exercise the same control. I need hardly mention hail insurance, which no longer is guess-work but in which the risk is only fairly understood, because two or three companies have become almost bankrupt during the past few years by reason of not being able sufficiently

to predict the future from experiences of the past.

I suggest therefore that the hon. member will best serve his purpose by dropping the word "immediate" from his motion and adding thereto the word "contributory" and other words which will make the fact clear that whatever is done must be done with the cooperation of the provinces. That involves the answer to the last question I submitted concerning what the contribution of the state should be. In this case the state would be not only the Dominion of Canada but the provinces as well, because some of these matters are, as we have been advised by the law officers of the crown, solely within provincial jurisdiction. I repeat that we have the power to appropriate the money we collect to any useful purpose this parliament may determine. The parliament of Canada may determine what shall be done with the moneys collected from the taxpayers. I repeat now a statement which I made as leader of the opposition—a much less difficult position, as my right hon. friend will agree, than the one I now occupy. This government is anxious and willing to promote in every possible way the advancement of social legislation along the lines suggested. I refer not to non-contributory insurance or to non-contributory social legislation, but to legislation which will encourage the habit of thrift and care on the part of every man who benefits therefrom. Although I have been criticized, I say once more that this country will not produce men of the character it has had until men and women begin to realize that life means responsibilities and that one of those responsibilities is to help themselves. That is the only method by which social legislation can effectively and efficiently be enacted. Of that I feel quite certain. Whatever my reading and inquiries may be worth, I have satisfied myself quite clearly that in whatever we do in this regard we must recognize and realize that insurance involves premiums and premiums should be paid by the joint action alike of the insurer and the insured themselves and with the assistance of the state. In that sense, if the hon. gentleman is prepared to accept the suggestions I make, I say to him on behalf of the administration that, at the earliest possible moment consistent with obtaining information that is essential to make any measure of social insurance worth while, we will use that information for the purpose of preparing and submitting to this house a measure embodying the views I have expressed.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, while the hon. member for North Winnipeg (Mr. Heaps) is considering the suggestions made by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), I should like to make a few observations concerning this motion. The Prime Minister dealt with a great many obstacles and difficulties in the way of adopting a system of unemployment insurance. It is true there are difficulties, but I believe they are such as can be overcome. I thought when the Prime Minister rose to speak his remarks would be very brief. It was my belief that he would say that inasmuch as he had been elected to end unemployment there would be no need for further unemployment insurance.

An hon. MEMBER: Let us do something for labour.

An hon. MEMBER: Politics.

Mr. HEENAN: My hon. friends do not like that.

An hon. MEMBER: Politics.

Mr. GOTT: Senseless.

Mr. HEENAN: I am inclined to accept the word suggested by the hon. member who has just interrupted. I do not know anyone in this house who is more capable of telling what is senseless than is he.

I think the hon. member for North Winnipeg is to be congratulated upon again bringing this matter to the attention of the house. He and his colleagues have been consistent in advocating a permanent system to deal with the unemployment problem. I heartily agree with the resolution before the house. In 1928 the hon. member for North Winnipeg placed a resolution before this house asking the committee on industrial and international relations to investigate this problem, with the result that the provinces were communicated with and asked to express their views on the matter. Again in 1929 we see by the records of the house that the hon. member for North Winnipeg once more asked that the matter be discussed before the industrial and international relations committee. The subject of unemployment insurance was brought before the house and hon. members endorsed the principle. On the last occasion, however, the judgment of the house was that the government of the day should bring the matter before the first Dominion-provincial conference. As hon. members are aware, up to the present time, there has not been an opportunity to do that.

The resolution before the house is not to investigate further but to take immediate action with a view to the establishment of a system of unemployment, sickness and invalidity insurance. As I said, after consideration, the government of that day referred the matter to the provinces. As a result of that reference, combined with the knowledge of the depression throughout the world, four provinces have placed themselves on record to the effect that they are willing to enter into a scheme of unemployment insurance, and have asked the government of Canada to call a conference in that connection.

This afternoon the Prime Minister, dealing very exhaustively with this matter, told of the burdens of the ratepayers in Great Britain to-day. He forgot, however, to point out that unemployment insurance was self-sustaining when it was first instituted in Great Britain. It was not until after the war, when there was a great influx of unemployment who received the benefit of that insurance scheme but had not contributed to it, that the insurance became known as a dole. In that regard Canada would not suffer.

It would be much better if we could get along without unemployment insurance; the workers in Canada will agree to that. If every man in Canada who is able and willing to work could secure employment it would be much better than a system of unemployment insurance. No one I have ever met or heard, however, will deny that we will always have seasonal unemployment in this country. We will have men who work only eight or nine months a year and are idle for the remaining period. Many of these men are not paid high wages, and I contend they have as much right to be protected during their off period as any other class of people. There are those who say that unemployment insurance would be demoralizing in its effects. From my experience I do not see that this would necessarily follow; for instance, our business and professional men do not hesitate to insure against risks to life and property, and as yet I have failed to see that in any way they have become demoralized through collecting compensation under their policies. The maintenance and education of the children of our working people depend upon the wages of the breadwinner, and I see no reason why some system cannot be evolved to protect them in the event of his unemployment, sickness or disability.

Some years ago I remember a gentleman in the Ontario legislature stated:

> For a great many years, Mr. Speaker, society stood aghast at the annual toll in deaths and injuries caused by industrial accidents; it had attempted to decrease these accidents by passing legislation, which was designed to safeguard the wage earner against death and injuries, while employed. Notwithstanding that various kinds of safety devices have been installed in industrial plants, there are still more than half of the industrial accidents which occur annually, for which neither the employer nor the workman can be held responsible or blamed.

In support of unemployment insurance he used these words:

> A great majority of the people of to-day, Mr. Speaker, are standing aghast at the sight of thousands of human beings in destitute circumstances and I feel sure that public opinion will press for some permanent system which will ensure all human beings proper nourishment, shelter and clothing.

I repeat, I believe that some system can be and must be evolved to take care of our unemployed. Unemployment insurance has been recommended in various quarters. Let me refer to the report of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations of 1919, where at page 8 will be found the following:

> Unemployment may arise from other causes than the loss of his job. He may be incapacitated by sickness, invalidity or old age. Very few labourers are able, out of their earnings, to make provision for these contingencies. We recommend to your government—

I ask the house to mark that this is a recommendation by the royal commission.

> We recommend to your government the question of making some provision by a system of state social insurance for those who through no fault of their own are unable to work, whether the inability arises from lack of opportunity, sickness, invalidity or old age. Such insurance would remove the spectre of fear which now haunts the wage earner and make him a more contented and better citizen.

In 1915 the Ontario government appointed a royal commission headed by Sir John Willison, to investigate the question. The report was presented in 1916, and at page 80 I find the following recommendation:

> To meet the conditions referred to, your commissioners are of the opinion that some form of unemployment insurance is desirable, in the interest alike of the working man and the municipality affected.

Then the four provincial governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are already on record as favourable to unemployment insurance, and they recommend a conference with the federal government with a view to putting such a system into operation. Then we have a conference which met in Winnipeg as late as January, 1930, which was attended by representatives

of all the western provinces, and I think of some of the eastern provinces. This conference recommended a system of unemployment insurance.

Mr. LAVERGNE: That is altogether a provincial matter.

Mr. HEENAN: They suggest a conference with the federal authorities. The Trades and Labour Congress has consistently advocated such a scheme for years. It has also been advocated by various national unions of working men. Recently a royal commission has been appointed by the government of Quebec, and having regard to the attitude of that province towards workmen's compensation and its activity in dealing with other social ills, I am satisfied that before very many years Quebec will lead Canada in social legislation.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Their compensation act is not a success.

Mr. HEENAN: Then we have no less a person than the hon. Senator Robertson, the Minister of Labour, in the course of a speech at Haileybury on January 13, 1930, advocating a system of unemployment insurance. We have had other gentlemen taking pretty much the same stand, and I want to say that I, too, have advocated this form of insurance. I advocated it before I was Minister of Labour, I advocated it while I was Minister of Labour, and I am still advocating it to-day. A system of unemployment insurance has also been endorsed by many city and town councils throughout Canada.

To-day there are about twenty-seven schemes of unemployment insurance in existence. Of these about one-half are of a contributory nature while the balance vary in certain particulars to meet the different needs and circumstances.

Those opposed to unemployment insurance point to the British system as a warning and misrepresent its operation. For instance, they point to the fact that there may be 2,000,000 unemployed receiving what is termed the "dole." This is a misleading picture. I had occasion to look into the matter personally one year, and while I found there were 1,000,000 people registered as unemployed, this did not mean that they were all receiving unemployment benefits; as many as 150,000 went off the register each week, and another 150,000 came on. In other words, there was a turnover weekly of 300,000 on and off the list, showing that the receipt of unemployment insurance did not demoralize the recipients and encourage them to remain out of work. Many of these men received from the fund only two or three weeks' benefit. Many others who registered did not receive any benefit whatever, because they had not been on the unemployed register for the required number of days. So to point to the unemployment insurance scheme in Great Britain and call it the dole is not a proper representation of the English system. I am sure that in this country we can devise a scheme which will meet the needs of Canada much better than we are doing at present. As the hon. member for North Winnipeg said, we have a haphazard system, rushing to the governments to seek relief; we have overlapping, and because of that overlapping our large expenditures of money do not bring about the proper results. In my opinion it would be far better if we could evolve a scheme whereby the different parties and the state could contribute towards unemployment insurance so that men, when out of work, would know they were receiving benefits to which they had contributed.

There is another aspect of unemployment insurance for Canada which I should like to bring to the attention of the house. I believe a young country can begin a scheme of that kind with much better results than would be the case in an older country. In Canada we have a large area; our people follow various occupations and, as hon. members know, we have men who are reluctant to go from one part of the country to another. If we could have an insurance scheme whereby every man out of work would be registered and would have to report at certain periods and register as being still out of employment, we might be able to develop a method whereby a great many of these men could be placed in employment. At the present time we have about sixty-six employment offices located all over the country. We could increase the number of offices and find out where there was work for a man of a particular trade or calling who was registered as being out of employment; we could see to it that the man would get the job, and he would know there would be a job waiting for him when he arrived. In that way we could greatly cut down the cost of unemployment insurance.

I do not want to go into this matter at any great length at this time, but with the hon. member for North Winnipeg I believe the time for investigation is at an end. We ought to take some steps now, and take them quickly; we must take some immediate action —and by that I do not mean we must act to-day—to evolve and establish some scheme to take care of the unemployed. The Prime Minister dwells on the fact that we are now collecting data in connection with the census, and the Minister of Labour has mentioned

the same thing. While it is true this will give us more information than we have at present, I have looked into the questions and I am satisfied that the information may be out of date one year from now. Industry has been speeded up to such an extent, and competition all over the world is at such a pitch, that the information we get next year probably will not agree with the information which is obtained this year. So I believe the government, in conformity with the decision of this house, should call a provincial conference immediately with a view to establishing an unemployment insurance scheme at the very earliest date, to take care of the workers of this country.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I thought the former Prime Minister was a past master at showing why things could not be done, but I am afraid he must yield the palm to the present Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) who has undoubtedly shown how impossible it is for the government to do anything at all with regard to the pressing emergency with which we find ourselves faced. The Prime Minister says he has no delusions whatever as to what unemployment insurance involves. Obviously he is thinking of the heavy financial burden entailed, but I would suggest that the Prime Minister has a great many delusions as to what refusal to enact legislation along this line may involve, not only politically but also as it may affect the welfare of large masses of people throughout this country.

I must express our gratitude to the Prime Minister for making certain suggestions, but from our standpoint those suggestions involve the emasculation of the resolution to a point where it would be almost meaningless. Already the Prime Minister and his party are committed to the principle of unemployment insurance; already the opposition is committed to the principle of unemployment insurance; already Canada herself officially, as a signatory of the League of Nations, is committed to the principle of unemployment insurance, but a long time has passed since the Versailles treaty was signed and practically nothing has been done to advance this measure. We are anxious to get something started. We are not proposing, nor do I think the Prime Minister can imagine that we propose, that a scheme should be started to-morrow. The point we had in view in putting in the word "immediate" was that something should be done in the near future, that the promises of the government should be carried out and not indefinitely postponed. I fancy we can take it from the statement of the Prime Minister that no legislative enactment will be brought down until prior to the next election.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Would my hon. friend allow me a question, because I am very much interested? Is it not a fact that under section 92 of the British North America Act subparagraph 13, this is a purely provincial matter, because insurance is a civil contract?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I will come to that point in a moment, and I am glad my hon. friend brought it up. However, on this point with which I am dealing, I say we can only take it that this means an indefinite postponement and that this measure possibly may become a political football at the time of the next election. We are not in any way guaranteed that anything will take place in the near future.

The Prime Minister suggests that we add the word "contributory." We did not add that word simply because we did not want to narrow the scope of our resolution. We did not want to be thought to be dictating in any way the exact form any social insurance scheme should take. Several years ago there was a report presented by a committee of this house dealing with this question, and that report stated very definitely that a measure of this kind should be Dominion-wide in character. The committee suggested that any scheme should be contributory in character and also admitted that according to the legal evidence brought forward, this was not within the competence of the Dominion government. I think perhaps that answers the question raised by the hon. member for Montmagny. While the Prime Minister suggested that there should be a satisfactory arrangement with the provinces, I submit there is not necessarily any reason why a Dominion-wide insurance scheme could not be worked out. If it were non-contributory it could be carried forward. I think the hon. member who has just asked me a question will appreciate that fact, because then it would not be a contract. The scheme, would be on the same basis as the existing old age pensions which are not contributory.

That could be done. I do not want to discuss this question at the moment, but I would point out that we have had legal advice from the very highest authorities on this point, and we are told that the clauses in our constitution which delimit the powers of the Dominion government may be readily construed as admitting the contention that

unemployment insurance is ancillary to the unemployment bureaus we have established and that, as such, it may come within the purview of the Dominion. I am not a lawyer and I do not want to argue the legal point to-day, but I would point out that in our motion we sought to avoid those technical difficulties by laying upon the government the responsibility of introducing in some form a federal unemployment scheme.

We always meet with our old friend the constitution, and we are told that it is impossible to do this, that and the other under the constitution. I hope within a week or two to have a resolution before this house suggesting that we be given the right to alter our constitution, and that, possibly some sort of conference might be called to work out needed amendments. I trust that all who are troubled at the present time with the constitutional question will heartily support a proposal which would clear up these technical difficulties.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Until then we are bound by the present law.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The Prime Minister said that many people were coming to the government asking for this, that and the other thing. I would point out to him that the people who have done the most of that are the Canadian manufacturers. When they found that they could not conduct their business in a profitable manner they came immediately to the government and asked to be helped out to the extent of twenty, thirty, forty or fifty per cent. If there is anyone who has asked for special consideration, it has been the manufacturer. I do not think I need to go into the help given to the transportation companies. It is well known that the railways would never have been built across this country had the government not assisted. Almost everyone can come and expect some help from the government except the labouring people, and more recently the farmer, who has been driven to take that position.

The Prime Minister suggested that there are already certain industries which have voluntary arrangements for meeting the needs of the unemployed. There are very few industries which have that arrangement, but even if there were it would not hinder a general state scheme. A large number of trade unions and other organizations in Great Britain had adopted this provision before the state scheme was undertaken.

Then the right hon. gentleman made the point that we were not possessed of sufficient information to know how such a scheme would work out. I would point out that most of the civilized countries in the world, outside of the United States, have some such scheme. We could go to Great Britain, France, Germany or a great many European countries and obtain the fullest information as to what is involved. The League of Nations has published many volumes representing the most careful investigation on this question. There should be no difficulty for the government to outline a scheme in the very near future.

The Prime Minister adopted his usual practice of reading us a lecture or giving us a treatise on the subject under review. The house is under great obligation to him for the very valuable treatise on insurance and all that insurance involves, but I would point out that the parallels which he draws are not worth very much when we come to practical matters. He said that we must know the risks, and then he told us that the trouble with England had been that she undertook a scheme before she had learned all that was involved. I submit that England could not possibly have known all the economic consequences of the war. If she had waited until she knew that the war was coming and that a great many other things would happen after the war, she would still be without unemployment insurance. It may be true that the actuaries can tell us in connection with life insurance what is the expectation of life and what the risks involved will be, but I do not think that is true in this matter. Economic laws are not nearly as constant or at least as well known as are the laws of public health, when not merely great political movements but great economic movements of to-day have to be considered, I would urge it would be impossible for any government to know all the risks which would be involved and to base a scheme entirely upon pre-knowledge of the risks involved. In fact, I take it that the Prime Minister's statement might be regarded as a sort of reductio ad absurdum. If his argument were carried out to its logical conclusion, it would mean that we would never get any scheme of this kind whatever. The completion of our great enterprises would have never been brought about had we waited until we foresaw all the possible risks. The west would never have been opened up if the pioneers and the railways and settlers had waited until they had foreseen and had provided against all the risks. We do not act that way in ordinary life. In our private affairs we cannot wait until everything is foreseen.

The right hon. gentleman went on to warn us about taxes. I quite appreciate his problem in having to raise the taxes necessary and I know this would be a heavy burden, but at the same time we are told that Canada is fairly prosperous, that the banks have not been doing so badly and that certain enterprises are getting along fairly well. We are told also that there is a good deal of money available for investment, and in reply we simply say this: If it is a choice between the needs of the people and the interests of the big investors of this country, the needs of the people should come first. I think we must adopt that attitude when we consider a proposal of this character.

Mr. YOUNG: In view of the fact that the farmer will have to pay most of this insurance, how does the hon. member propose to compensate the farmer for the adidtional burden which he proposes to place on his back?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not accept the statement that the farmer would have to pay most of it; I do not think that is true.

Mr. YOUNG: A large portion of it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I might remark that the farmer does not pay any income tax, so that he need not be worried a great deal. I think the scheme might be worked out as a charge on the incomes of those people who are most able to pay.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Who will pay the premium for the insurance and who will be the insurer? Is the state going to be the insurer and will the workmen pay the premiums?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: As the hon. member knows very well, we are not going into the details of this scheme to-day. If there is any interest in that particular matter, I might say that the scheme which most of us have had more or less in view is the British scheme. Possibly I might take a few minutes to outline just what that scheme means.

Persons between the ages of 16 and 65 must take out unemployment insurance. There are a number of classes excepted, among which are farm labourers and domestic servants, who can take out insurance if they so desire. The insurable persons are divided into various classes, as follows:

Men between the ages of 21 and 65 pay, in Canadian money, 14 cents per week; the employers pay 16 cents per week and the state pays 15 cents per week.

Men between the ages of 18 and 21 years pay 12 cents per week, the employer 14 cents and the state 13 cents.

Boys under the age of 18 years pay 7 cents per week; the employers 8 cents and the state 7 cents.

Women between the ages of 21 and 65 years pay 12 cents per week, the employer 14 cents and the state 13 cents, and so on with various other groups.

Mr. LAVERGNE: It is state insurance.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The British scheme further provides that whenever the insured person is unemployed he draws a weekly rate of benefits as follows:

Men between the ages of 21 and 65 years, $4.25 per week; women between 21 and 65 years of age, $4.25 per week, and so on with different classes. In addition to this, any insured person who has an adult dependent draws $2.25 per week. Married people receive an additional benefit of 50 cents per week for each wholly dependent child, or one who is mainly supported by the parents. Under the British scheme, in order to come within the period of insurance, the insured person must have paid in not less than 30 weeks' contributions in the two years immediately preceding the date on which he or she applies for the benefits.

We have not gone into these details here because we shall have to work out our scheme in Canada along our own lines. Further, I may as well say frankly that, so far as I can see, it would be impossible immediately to set up a contributory scheme because a large number of unemployed are absolutely unable to pay anything at the present time, and that would make it impossible for a reserve to be built up. That is one reason for our not suggesting an immediately contributory scheme.

Mr. LAVERGNE: It applies as well to a lawyer who has no cases, or to a doctor who has no patients.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The lawyer makes so much money while he is in practice that he has a sufficient reserve laid up. The average wage of our labouring classes is very low.

There is another aspect of this question which I think should perhaps be mentioned in this connection. The Prime Minister has almost entirely overlooked the seriousness of the actual problems that confront the workers to-day. According to his statement, they will have to wait probably four years before this government can do anything for them, except

by way of the dole. That is too serious a contingency to contemplate. I wish to bring before the house the situation existing in my own city as typical more or less of what prevails in a great many places.

I have before me a statement of a survey of unemployment conditions in Winnipeg and in greater Winnipeg. This is signed by H. B. Shaw, chairman of the Winnipeg citizens committee on unemployment; by Ralph Maybank, chairman of the joint unemployment committee of the city of Winnipeg; and by A. MacNamara, assistant deputy minister, administrator of unemployment relief in Manitoba. It is dated April 10, 1931. Mr. H. B. Shaw is a former banker and is chairman of the mayor's committee, as it is known, in Winnipeg. This memorandum gives a statement of applications received for direct relief in the following places: Winnipeg, St. Boniface, Brooklands, Fort Garry, East Kildonan, North Kildonan, West Kildonan, St. James, Transcona, Charleswood, and St. Vital. These municipalities are essentially urban in character. The single men number 8,307, the married men 5,398, the single women 458, the total units 14,163, and the total persons represented, taking families into account, 35,968.

The statement adds:

This shows those who applied for relief. For various reasons, in about half the cases no relief was given. There is no doubt, however, that the men and women applying were badly in need of work.

I am merely giving the headings, but I have in the memorandum the whole situation set out in tabular detail. Next there appears a statement of persons and families given direct relief during March, 1931, in the same municipalities: single men, 3,849; married men, 3,150; single women, 115; total units, 7,114; and total persons including children, 31,799. Further than that, the total unemployed in greater Winnipeg, according to this survey, are: men, 16,394, and women, 2,499, or a total of 18,893. And with families added it amounts to 56,682 persons. This statement goes on to discuss the prospects for the future, the jobs which will be started as soon as weather permits. It reads:

The jobs which are in sight are very few and consist, to a large extent, of government work, and are outlined hereunder.

Then follow several of the schemes which have been proposed by the federal government and concurred in by the provinces and municipalities. In Winnipeg itself and in these municipalities mentioned they will take care of 950 persons. The statement goes on, with regard to conditions in the country and the possibilities of securing employment:

The Winnipeg Citizens Committee on Unemployment, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. B. Shaw, addressed a letter to prominent persons at country points, inquiring as to the possibility of absorbing in agricultural pursuits the surplus labour in Winnipeg. Replies received were very pessimistic, and were generally to the effect that farmers would not be hiring men this season because of the general depression in the agricultural field, that farmers were satisfied that they would be unable to pay the wages of any men employed, and consequently that any crops put in would be put in by the farmer and his family.

These replies from country points are substantiated by the fact that applications to the employment office for farm workers during the last six weeks have totalled less than one-half of what they were last year during the same period, in spite of the fact that there is every prospect of a much earlier spring.

Railways

The vice-presidents of the two railways advise the committee that there will be no increase on their roads of employment during the coming summer, and that during the winter 1931-32 there will be a curtailment, in all probability, the explanation being given that betterments had been pretty well taken care of, and that there would be very little work of this nature going on.

Bush Work

In a normal season there are from eight to ten thousand men taken out of the labour market in Winnipeg by firms operating lumber camps in northern Ontario, eastern Manitoba and northern Manitoba. Last winter there were fewer than eight hundred men employed for this purpose, only part of which number were taken from Winnipeg.

The committee has written a letter to every lumber firm that ordinarily operates in this vicinity, inquiring as to the employment prospects for the winter 1931-32, and the replies received would indicate that fewer men will be employed during the coming winter than were employed during the past winter. In other words, instead of eight or ten thousand men, it may be expected that there will be fewer than eight hundred taken from Winnipeg's surplus labour market.

We are told that there are at the present time 16,394 men, and according to the prospects indicated by this committee, there will be only 1,700 men required. This leaves a balance of about 14,700 not taken care of this spring. What is to be done with this large volume of unemployment? We have been helping men by means of what is rightly called the dole. That is to say, certain amounts have been simply given out by charities and by authorities of various kinds and these amounts have been supplemented by grants from the government. I contend that this is a most haphazard and demoralizing way

of giving relief, and we have placed this motion on the order paper in the hope that the government will substitute for it a better scheme.

I know that the old country scheme has been condemned, but I would like to say this: Several years ago I had the opportunity of travelling for some day with the Empire Parliamentary Association delegation which toured this country. I was very much interested in the unemployment scheme of Great Britain, and inquiries were made privately from these men, and the question was also raised publicly. Every member of that delegation who spoke with regard to the matter said that Great Britain to-day simply could not get along without unemployment insurance. Lord Peel, the head of the delegation, said that he was heartily in favour of it, and Liberal members and Labour members all agreed. In fact, several of the most prominent members of the delegation confessed that had there not been unemployment insurance in Great Britain following the war, Great Britain would have had a revolution on her hands, that it was only their unemployment insurance that had saved Great Britain from the revolution that had taken place on the continent. The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) suggests that the members of the delegation should have been charged with inciting to riot for having made such statements as that.

Yesterday there was considerable discussion in this house of Remembrance day. I did not participate in that debate, but I could not but recall having received a few days ago a letter from one of the returned men. I should like to put a portion of his letter before the house, as it indicates the appalling position in which a great many men in this country find themselves to-day. My correspondent says—I shall quote only the pertinent extracts:

> I was in France and Belgium in the Canadian Expeditionary Force infantry. . . . Born in England 1895. . . . Came to Canada 1906. . . . Thirty-seven years of age. . . . Married. . . . I sleep in a box car to save rent.

He refers to his experience at the front:

> The horror of the flash of steel . . . the baying of maddened men . . . the blood-curdling roars of bayonetted men . . . the hideous faces upon the doomed, cut-off from any back up. . . . the mania to murder and the mania to survive . . . silence which men keep after the bloody slaughter . . . the wading over dead and wounded bodies . . . . the standing up to the waists in cold water in winter . . . . vermin . . . . hunger and thirst . . . . this is the remembrance of one who heard the call in 1914.
>
> It is nothing to the grim struggle of to-day against hunger, unemployment, fear, and police terrors. Organization is smashed ruthlessly by our police . . . . the press poisons the public to cruelty to all distress . . . . the churches ignore the corruption of capitalist society . . . thousands of veterans robbed of their pensions by red tape . . . . wandering . . . . freight cars their bed . . . back doors their existence . . . . employment, just like a vision.
>
> A way must be found to change this old order, because crime will get us yet. We must survive, crooked or otherwise . . . . It is impossible to get a decent living and I am starving . . . . I am ready for arms even at the expense of death; so long as my sacrifice brings to someone else what I died for, I am amply repaid.
>
> I will join the militants . . . . I don't expect a bite without a fight.

One or two gentlemen laugh, but I think most men here will not feel like laughing at that. It comes out of the heart of a man who to-day is simply desperate.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Why not give his name?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I think the house will recognize that the hon. gentleman who interjects that question is so far removed from the spirit in which I have brought this forward that they will pay very little attention to his interruptions.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Is he in favour of an equal distribution of health as well as of wealth? I would support him in that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am not discussing what this man may do. He is desperate, and his is not an isolated case. That is the position in which thousands of men find themselves to-day—returned men, as well as men who stayed in this country and worked along during the war, men who constitute the basis of society to-day. I cannot see how we can ignore the plight in which they find themselves. As my colleague said, we are sometimes accused of not bringing forward constructive suggestions. This suggestion of unemployment insurance to meet the present needs is an eminently constructive suggestion. I do not say that it is going to cure unemployment. I admit that it is only a palliative. I am not sure that we are not almost beyond the stage where we can enact this unemployment insurance, because the situation has become so desperate, but I am pointing out some of the things that might yet possibly save the situation.

I would urge that unemployment is not simply temporary in character. We have had it, as the Prime Minister himself admits, in times past during cycles of depression. I believe that it is inherent in the present economic system. The Prime Minister might not

agree to that, but we all agree that we have had these periods of unemployment throughout the years. This suggestion that we are putting forward is that some method should be adopted so that we would distribute somewhat the hardships and the risks of unemployment, so that the poor, labouring people would not have to bear the whole deadweight of the load.

The workers themselves do not at the present time earn enough to provide for themselves reserves. I have not time to demonstrate that, but it was amply shown in the evidence brought forward before our committee on industrial and international relations when this question was investigated.

Mr. LAVERGNE: They made a lot of money during the war.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Well, a great many others made a great deal more, and to-day it takes almost half the entire revenues of this country to pay the interest on the war bonds, some of them tax-free, which some people were fortunate or unfortunate enough to secure.

I would also point out that the working men are not to blame for these periods of depression. They cannot be expected to find employment for themselves when the whole machinery of the state is unable to do it. I take it that, primarily, industry itself must bear the responsibility for unemployment. It may be that the state as a state should make some contribution. In some countries it has perhaps contributed too much. It may be well that the labour people should contribute something, but about the only good reason for their contributing is that they might have some definite share in the administration. Aside from that, I cannot see any good reason why they should contribute. They are not responsible for depressions. It is industry, the whole chaotic system of to-day, this cut-throat system of competition that leads inevitably to periods of depression, and as long as this economic order exists the individual workman will be periodically thrown out on the streets. It seems to me that we as a state should step in at least to a limited degree to iron out some of the inequalities.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: What does the hon. member propose as a substitute?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not want at the moment to offer any substitute. I have already said that we have the dole to-day. I have in my hand a copy of the Canadian Forum, which has just come to hand, and which contains an article on the case for unemployment insurance by Harry M. Cassidy. He points out that from a careful study of the figures of the Bureau of Statistics it is estimated that probably between 350,000 and 450,000 people are unemployed in Canada at the present time. The extract from the Canadian Forum continues as follows:

> If these estimates are reasonably correct it follows that at no time since December of 1929 have less than 10 per cent of Canada's 2,500,000 wage-earners been out of jobs and that during the present winter the percentage has risen to 20 or more. Last winter the percentage of unemployment was actually higher in Canada than in Great Britain and it is probably about as high this winter, although it was considerably lower during the past summer and autumn.

Then, farther on I find the following:

> For the last ten years our annual average of unemployment from all causes, seasonal, business depression, technological change, market friction, et cetera, has probably been from six to eight per cent of our total working force. In a word, we have had the equivalent of any army of 150,000 workers, a greater number than the Canadian corps ever mustered in France during the war, standing idle during the whole of the post-war decade.

I do not think I need add more to what has been said. It seems to me that my colleague has made an admirable and reasoned statement of the case. We have put our position clearly before the government. I am still hoping that there may be a change of mind and attitude on the part of the government and that they will really face the situation and bring forward definite legislation at an early date.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): The resolution before the house reads as follows:

> That in the opinion of this house, the government should take into consideration the immediate establishment of a federal system of insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity.

It will be observed that the resolution deals primarily with the question of unemployment. True, in previous years in this house similar resolutions have been discussed, but I doubt if ever a resolution came before the house in reference to an existing condition where its applicability was as apparent as in the present instance. The government of the day has recognized a national obligation in the matter of unemployment. When at the last session of parliament we were asked to vote $20,000,000 for unemployment relief we were sanctioning a course of procedure through which the federal parliament recognized its obligation in the matter of unemployment relief. Yesterday I read a statement alleged to have been made by the Minister of Labour

(Mr. Robertson) two days ago in the city of Montreal. In that statement the minister is reported to have said that if necessary the government of the day would again be prepared at the approach of the winter to vote another $20,000,000 for the purpose of unemployment relief.

Mr. MANION: May I say Mr. Speaker that this morning I read an article in the paper containing a contradiction of that statement by the Minister of Labour.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend says that the minister has contradicted the statement and denies that the government will give unemployment relief.

Mr. MANION: He denies he made any such statement.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Of course I shall not stress the point. I was stating that the Prime Minister and the government of the day have recognized a national obligation in the matter of unemployment. I think I am right in that statement and that is the material point. They recognized an obligation at the last session of parliament by asking the house to vote $20,000,000 for unemployment relief. I stated that it appeared the ministry were prepared to take similar steps next winter, but I am now told by the Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Manion) that the statement attributed to the Minister of Labour is denied. However the fact does not alter what is fundamental in the statement I have made namely that this government and this parliament have recognized a national obligation in the matter of unemployment. The essential point now is whether this national obligation may best be recognized as something to be met by relief measures or whether it is an ever-recurring condition which should be met in advance by some system of unemployment insurance. At the moment that is the essence of the point at issue.

In effect the resolution before the house says, that inasmuch as there is certain to be unemployment from time to time throughout the country and inasmuch as the federal government has recognized a national obligation in the matter of unemployment, it is desirable that there should be an immediate federal system to deal with this economic condition. That is my understanding of the resolution.

Mr. BENNETT: But that is not what it says.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Prime Minister has said that that is not what it says. That is my impression of what it signifies and that is what I think it amounts to. The resolution states that the government should take into consideration immediately the establishment of a federal system of insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity. Surely that means that the government should consider the immediate establishment of some system of insurance against unemployment. Frankly, as between meeting the problem of unemployment by relief measures, voting millions of dollars as occasion arises, and meeting it by anticipating unemployment and its consequences through a system of insurance, I favour strongly the system of insurance.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As unemployment is incidental to industry as it is carried on to-day, I believe some system of insurance against unemployment is absolutely necessary and should be provided.

May I say to my right hon. friend that I admired very much the skill with which he made his presentation to the house. Had he been speaking as a director of an insurance company to his board, I could think of nothing more admirable or better calculated to serve the interests of a board of directors concerned primarily with insurance as a financial matter. May I say to him, however, that speaking as the Prime Minister of a country in regard to a great social problem it seemed to me that the right hon. gentleman did not sufficiently take into account the human side of the great problem with which unemployment insurance is concerned, or the nature of industry and some of the present-day problems it presents.

In view of what my right hon. friend said concerning the many considerations that had to be taken into account before public moneys could be voted in connection with any schemes of insurance, I was surprised that he found it so easy when he was making his speeches during the course of the last election campaign to pledge the country to a system of old age pensions to be met in whole by the federal treasury. During the course of the campaign, I was surprised that he was prepared to make the pledge he did as one of the means of meeting an immediate situation. At the time he did not stress the unfortunate use of the word "immediate." He left the impression that whatever was going to be done would be done immediately. I think that is the impression which at the present time is still abroad throughout the country. May I say that the considerations urged this afternoon as matters of such great concern in connection with the matter of unemployment insurance before an immediate scheme can be adopted are no different from the considerations which apply in the case of old age

pensions. In connection with old age pensions he had to consider from where the money was coming, what it would involve in the way of taxation. He had to consider the question of the constitutionality of the federal government taking action in that particular. He has to-day considered the constitutional and financial aspect, but throughout the course of his remarks last year, he found no difficulty whatever in giving an assurance to the public that the present government would take over the whole system of old age pensions and assume all obligations in relation thereto. Well, if he was able to do that with respect to old age pensions, I fail to see why, with equal alacrity, he should not be able to do likewise with respect to unemployment insurance.

May I say to my right hon. friend that I do not think the word "immediate" would carry in the mind of any other hon. gentleman the significance he sought to attribute to it this afternoon. If for a moment I thought it was anticipated that the government should present a bill to the house without due consideration of the many matters that will have to be considered, I would certainly agree with him that anything of the kind would be unwise on the part of the administration. On the other hand, I take it that what is meant is that having regard to the problem of unemployment before us at the moment, a problem that we know is going to recur from time to time, the government should immediately consider how a system of unemployment insurance can be made applicable to help meet such a situation. Perhaps it would have been better had the word "immediate" in the resolution been transposed, and placed before the word "consideration" which would make the resolution read:

> That the government should take into immediate consideration the establishment of a federal system of insurance against unemployment, sickness and invalidity.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Personally I feel that that is what primarily was in the mind of the introducer of the resolution.

Mr. BENNETT: Not in view of his speech, if I may say so to the right hon. gentleman.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then I come to a consideration of the immediate establishment of a system of unemployment insurance. In the first place, unemployment insurance is but one form of social insurance.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think that my right hon. friend will agree that annuities are a form of insurance.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend agrees. Well, we have at the present time a federal system of annuities. I see no reason why the administration should not consider whether some advantage might not be taken of the annuity system already in existence as a federal system so to extend it as to make the moneys paid in as premiums available at times of unemployment, as unemployment insurance to those who make contributions towards it. It might be so extended as to make the system available to its contributors as insurance against sickness or invalidity. There is an opportunity for an immediate step to be taken by the federal government to provide a measure of unemployment insurance. No question of constitutionality can be raised with respect to it. I submit the government might well consider whether the system of providing annuities which now for many years has been administered by the federal government, might not be so extended in its bearing upon social problems, as to make it available to meet other risks that arise from industry.

Mr. BENNETT: May I interrupt the right hon. gentleman?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps he has not been informed of this, but the truth is the annuity fund is not segregated and invested as is the case with an insurance company. I looked into it, and I may say I considered the very matter that the right hon. gentleman has mentioned.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The fact that the fund is not segregated and invested is purely a business phase of the matter which the government would have to take into account. It does not affect the basic principle of the federal government taking immediate action with respect to any form of contributory insurance.

Mr. BENNETT: That is the trouble.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: But that does not in any way preclude the fund being so arranged or organized as to meet these situations as they may arise.

May I draw attention to this? There are two ways in which industry may be viewed.

We may view industry primarily as a means whereby profits are made as the result of investment, in other words as a profit-making enterprise; or industry may be viewed as being in the nature of social service. When one analyses the nature of industry one discovers it to be nothing other than the transformation of natural resources through human effort into services or commodities available for use; in other words, it is a great social service to which capital, labour, management and the community each make a contribution.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: All these four factors are essential in the carrying on of industry. The development of industry that has taken place throughout the years has resulted in an industrial system which is world-wide in its scope, and the problems to which it gives rise are also world-wide. Those who are engaged in industry run certain inevitable risks. Industry, first of all, through the fact that it has assumed its present proportions, is subdivided first by way of employment; and within the individual employments there are further subdivisions of labour, which result in the worker being reduced pretty much in the last analysis to an atom,—an individual whose time and labour in large part, is spent in industry on a particular process or some operation within a particular process very small in itself. With industry developed as it is to-day, it so happens that, through no fault of anyone connected with a particular industry, a particular branch of industry itself may be terminated. World conditions may be such in one country that labour becomes unemployed in another. The failure of the cotton crop in one part of the world may throw out of employment thousands of workers engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods in another part. One might mention endless examples of this kind. That is a condition of unemployment for which no employer can be held responsible; it arises simply because of industry having assumed its present proportions and character. Labour may also find itself displaced through some invention. All industry is subject to the play of discovery and invention, and for the most part discovery and invention enable those who are fortunate enough to possess capital to find means whereby it can be more profitably invested and its rewards thereby increased; but to labour for the most part the play of discovery and invention is in the opposite direction, it tends to throw out of employment large numbers of workers through the substitution of machines for labour.

If that is a true picture of industry, then we must realize that throughout the world to-day and hereafter, as a normal condition, there will always be a large number of men and women who through no fault of their own will find themselves because of new inventions and discoveries unemployed. If I have given a true indication of the problems of industry arising from its world-wide scope, it is equally true that we shall have these recurring periods of prolonged depression whereby again large numbers will for considerable periods be thrown out of employment. Knowing there is bound to be recurring unemployment to a very considerable extent, it does become part of the obligation of the state to meet such a situation with respect to the workers; and the only way in which it can be met is through the alternative of relief to meet unemployment when it comes and no provision has been made in advance, or through insurance against unemployment whereby provision is made in advance for inevitable unemployment. I think it will be generally agreed that of the two methods of the State's coping with unemployment, the insurance method is the preferable.

That being the case, the next question is as to the reason for a federal system of unemployment insurance. Under our constitution, without question, obligations as between employer and employed are primarily the concern of the provinces. Property and civil rights have been assigned to the provinces, and necessarily the provinces as matters stand must deal with questions to which they give rise. But there is a law which applies in industrial relations as it does in other fields, whereby if competing standards differ, the lower standard in the course of time, tends to drive out the higher. That law was first enunciated by Gresham with respect to the precious metals. Gresham pointed out that where two metals were in circulation, the one base and the other pure, the baser metal tended to drive the purer metal out of circulation. That same law, I believe, is applicable to competing standards in industry. Where you have high standards of industry in one province, with lower standards in another province, the lower standards, if permitted to compete with the higher standards, will drive the higher standards out of existence and in time bring industrial standards to the level of the lower.

For that reason it becomes necessary in a country such as ours to devise some means whereby the standards of industry as be-

tween the different provinces may be brought to and kept at the same level. I doubt if that is possible in any other way than by some system of federal cooperation or control. But the problem is more far-reaching than that. What I have said with regard to industries in the different provinces is equally true of industry as between different countries. The League of Nations has recognized that fact as fundamental, and the effort of the League of Nations to-day is directed towards bringing about similar standards in industry among the different countries of the world. We, as a country, are pledged to further to the best of our ability the various obligations of the Labour conventions of the League of Nations, and I hold that this federal parliament has an obligation in this matter to seek to bring about a condition whereby in the first instance the standards in industry as between the different provinces will be at one and the same level.

At six o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.

END OF VOLUME I