

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Fourth Session — Tenth Legislature 5th Day

Wednesday, February 5, 1947.

The Assembly met at 3:00 o'clock p.m.
On the Orders of the Day.

ADJOURNED DEBATES

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

The Assembly resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion by Mr. J. Gibson (Morse) for an Address-in-Reply.

Hon. T. C. Douglas (Premier): — Mr. Speaker, before I proceed with the remarks I have to make on the motion, I should like on a question of privilege, to draw attention to a statement which appears in this morning's Leader-Post, reporting some of my remarks of yesterday and stating that I gave a figure of \$9.5 million spent, covering the National Film Board, the Wartime Information Board and Parliament Hill Broadcasts.

I can understand an error like that can be quite easily made, but I want to make it perfectly clear that in the figures which I read — I have them here for three years, 1943, 1944 and 1945 — these figures covered three agencies of the Federal Government. I pointed out that there were many other agencies, but the three I was quoting were: The Canadian Travel Bureau Service, Wartime Information Board — later the Public Information Board — and the National Film Board. The totals for these three agencies were: 1943 — \$3,457,744; 1944 — \$3,138,311; and 1945 — \$4,512, 272, making some \$9.5 million during the last three years. These did not refer to the Parliament Hill Broadcasts, which, of course, are not provided by the Federal Government. In my reference to the Parliament Hill Broadcast, I was merely pointing out that here was a broadcast which, in my opinion at least, was very favorable to the Federal Government. I pointed out that had we been sponsoring a broadcast like that it would probably have been interpreted as propaganda. My criticism was not of having Parliament Hill Broadcasts nor of the National Film Board — both of which have done an excellent job, but pointing out rather that when the Federal Government or any of its friends draw attention to what they have done or attempted to do, we do not classify it at once as propaganda. Our friends across the way, however, when any agency of the Saskatchewan Government seeks to draw the attention of the public to what we are doing or trying to do, immediately label it propaganda.

When the House adjourned, last night, I was endeavoring to reply to some of the criticism made by the Leader of the Opposition with regard to the present administration. I was pointing out that many of the charges of dictatorship which he has been levelling at the Government and which have been levelled by his supporters and heelers all across the province, are not particularly new. They levelled the same charges at the Anderson administration when the Liberals were sitting in Opposition; they levelled the same charges at the Bennett administration with the Liberal Party was in Opposition at Ottawa. Whenever the Liberal Party is in Opposition, all the rest of the people are dictators; but when they get into Government it is a very different story indeed. I was seeking to point out, also, that the real danger in a country like Canada and in a Province like

February 5, 1947

Saskatchewan, is not the danger of dictatorship on the part of a government, which must come to the Legislature for its appropriations, which must be elected by the people, which must go to the polls in the event of by-elections and which at the end of its term must go to the public and receive endorsement or be removed from office. Any government in a democratic country like ours, always mindful of the fact that it must return for re-election, is not likely to become dictatorial. The real danger of dictatorship in Canada comes from those silent dictators, who stand behind governments all too often and, who, by control of the Press and of other media of propaganda, by the control of great corporations and great industrial concerns, are able to exercise tremendous power over the lives and often the thinking of millions of our fellow citizens, and that, Mr. Speaker, is the real danger of dictatorship in this country.

The CCF came to power in this province for that very reason: because the people of Saskatchewan were convinced that we had a dictatorship, not in the Legislature, not in the Executive Council, but in the mortgage companies, in the person of certain vested and financial interests who were able to control government policy and who were able to control the destiny and the lives of many thousands of our citizens.

Now, it is not my intention, this afternoon, to spend a lot of time dealing with the statements which have been made by my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition. The statements which he made, yesterday, are the same statements or the same kind of negative statements, which have been made by Liberal speakers and by the Liberal press for the past two and a half years. One would think that when a record has been played as often and as ceaselessly, as this record has been played, the needle would be beginning to wear a little dull. There has been nothing new in this criticism. It is the same kind of thing that they trot out on every occasion and, therefore, I do not propose to spend a lot of time answering that kind of criticism.

We have a program which I want to expound; we have a policy which we have been following and we have proposals, which we want to make for the future; and I think that the people of Saskatchewan and the Members of this House would be much more interested in a constructive approach to these public questions than in merely going on the defensive and answering these oft-repeated negative criticisms.

However, there were two things about which I think something should be said. The first is that anyone who listened to the Leader of the Opposition speaking here for some two hours, must have been struck with the fact that he really could not get his teeth into any real criticism. After going over the Speech from the Throne very carefully, he could find nothing with which he differed; the very best he could do was to suggest that some of the statements in the Speech from the Throne might be misunderstood, or that some slightly different interpretation might be taken from them than was intended. Well, if that is all my friend has to say in the matter of criticizing the Speech from the Throne, I, for one, am more than satisfied. But in criticizing, he did raise a matter which gives me a good deal of concern. He referred to some fictitious or ghostly

February 5, 1947

person who left Rosetown, or some such place, and journeyed down to Regina and as a result of his visit a government policy was changed or the decisions of a certain board or tribunal were altered. Now, that is a very serious charge to make. My hon. friend was very careful not to make the charge until he was off the radio. It may be that people in parts of the province who would have heard the charge, might know just how fantastic it is.

Mr. Patterson: — Mr. Speaker, I think I must ask the Hon. Premier to withdraw that inference; I was paying no attention to the radio at all. I delivered my speech in accordance with the way I had my notes arranged and it just happened that the radio was cut off — I understand, I was not aware of it — just about half-way through my reference to that particular matter.

Mr. Douglas: — Mr. Speaker, if my friend asks me to withdraw that inference, I should be very glad to do so. I simply want to say that it was, to me, rather strange that he should have made this statement at a time when he was off the radio. But I am not going to impute any motive; I simply want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Leader of the Opposition yesterday made a definite charge. He said that a man came down from Rosetown to Regina and, of course, he did not see any Minister; he did not see any Deputy Minister; he did not, probably, come to the Buildings, but he came down to Regina, paid a visit here then went back to his home town and suddenly the allocation of land to veterans in that particular area was altered in certain respects.

When I asked my hon. friend if he would substantiate his charge by giving the name of this ghostly individual, he refused to give the name. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know if my friend is seeing ghosts or whether this fictitious individual exists only in the minds of the Liberal advisers at Liberal headquarters, or whether this is one of the idle rumors that my friend has picked up on the street. But I want to say to him that as an old parliamentarian, he knows better than to come into this House and make as serious a charge as that without being prepared to place evidence before this Legislative Assembly. I want to tell him that the day when people could come down and influence government policy and get concessions for themselves, ended on the 10th of July, 1944.

I do not mind criticism, Mr. Speaker, but I do object to having the honesty and integrity of any member of this Government or those who work with them, called in question. About all that a public man has is his reputation. When I leave this scene I do not expect to leave my children very much of this world's goods. I would like to leave them this, however, that wherever they go they can hold up their heads and say, "As long as my father was in public life he never betrayed a trust and that where principles were concerned, he would hew to the line and let the chips fall where they may."

If there has been any influence brought to bear on any member of the Government or any Member of this House, we should know. If any Member of this House has used his position to get concessions for his friends, that Member ought to resign. Has any member of the Government been guilty of such a thing, I want his resignation. Has any Deputy Minister been responsible, then I want his resignation. But I want it on a basis of substantiated

February 5, 1947

facts. Now, I am making my friend an offer. If what he has said is not just idle rumor, I invite him to make a charge in this House, to name dates and places and to place his seat at the disposal of this House. If he is prepared to do that I am prepared to appoint a Committee of this House in which we will place every Member of the official Opposition, if they so desire and let the Committee of the House investigate, call witnesses, question them under oath or, if my friend has no confidence in a Committee of the House I am quite prepared to see a Royal Commission appointed and let them investigate this charge. The one thing we are not going to have is people making loose and irresponsible statements while they are not prepared to support them. My hon. friends can make that kind of statement in the hustings; no one can stop them. If they are going to make those statements here, however, let them make them as charges and let them be thoroughly investigated. The time has come, Mr. Speaker, in this province when the Liberal Party has either got to put up or shut up.

The second thing I would like to draw attention to, Mr. Speaker, is that not only did the speech of the hon. gentleman, yesterday, deal almost entirely with details of word and phrase in the Speech from the Throne, but it was entirely negative. For two hours we listened to nothing but a story of what naughty boys there were in the CCF Government. Now, I think an hour of that would be understandable, followed by an hour devoted to telling us what the Liberal Party would do if they were elected to office; but we did not hear what the Liberal policy was.

Mr. Feeley: — They haven't got one.

Mr. Douglas: — Someone says, "They haven't got one," but that is not correct, Mr. Speaker. They had a convention last summer and at that convention they approved a platform. Of course, they did not really need to pass that platform. I have in my hand here the platform they passed at their last convention in 1931 and they could have used this platform. It is perfectly new. It has never been used. It is just as good as the day they passed it. They did not need a new one, but they thought they had better have a new one: "We've got a new leader; better get a new platform." Of course 50 per cent of that platform is made up by saying how terrible the CCF Government is and the other 50 per cent says in how many instances they are prepared to go to Ottawa to ask Ottawa to do the things that Ottawa had been refusing to do during the last 11 years. Now, I had expected, having here on my desk this nice new Liberal platform passed in Saskatoon this past summer, that we would have had an exposition of the new program, but the Opposition Leader in this House spoke for two hours, yesterday, and never once mentioned the new Liberal platform. Of course, I can understand why: his party has always looked upon a political platform in the same way that people look on a railway platform — as something to get in on and get away from as quickly as you can. He forgot all about the '31 platform when he was elected to office. He is prepared to forget about this one even before there is any chance of being elected to office because political platforms do not matter. They hope that they can win public support simply by carrying on a constant program of negative and destructive criticism.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that people will be very much impressed by merely a negative approach to these questions.

February 5, 1947

That is why I propose to spend no more time dealing with these statements made by my hon. friend. I propose rather to turn to the economic picture in this province, to what the Government has done and what the Government proposes to do in the time that is still allotted to us before we go to the people to receive their decision at the polls.

The first thing I want to discuss is the overall economic picture as it affects the Province of Saskatchewan. I have noticed a number of speeches which Mr. Tucker has made in various parts of the province — and I may say how sorry I am that Mr. Tucker is not here so that I might direct these remarks to him — but it is certainly not my fault, nor the Government's fault, that he is not here. Mr. Tucker, as reported in the Leader-Post of November 26, 1946, said there had been a decline in the first year of the CCF administration in metallic minerals, coal, clay and clay products, saw-timber, railway ties, fuel wood, fish and furs. "In Saskatchewan's main industry, agriculture, production was down in dairy products and in hogs."

Now, the Member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Howell) the other day expressed some surprise that Mr. Tucker should, when speaking in Saskatoon, have so decried conditions in Meadow Lake, because the Member for Meadow Lake thought conditions in his constituency were fairly good, but I can tell him that the Leader of the Liberal Party in this province does not hesitate at all about decrying and demeaning conditions in his own province, even though it may give his province a black eye in other parts of Canada, if he thinks to gain some political advantage thereby. As a matter of fact, one of the strangest things I have found is that when the Provincial Treasurer and myself went down to New York, last year, for the purpose of refunding some of the provincial debt at a lower rate of interest, we were confronted with a copy of Barron's Weekly, a financial paper put out in the city of New York and in it was an article by a gentleman who wrote for the Regina Leader-Post. Here was an article which would have been laughed at had it been printed in Saskatchewan, an article which stated that this foolish Government had so little sense that it was helping to finance a horse processing plant, when everybody knows that nobody eats horsemeat here in Canada or in the United States. To these gentlemen in New York that seems a very plausible argument and they said: "Now, what are you doing? What are you wasting your money like this for?" When we explained the situation, explained the surplus of horses, explained the position the ranchers were in, explained that there were orders from countries in Europe and from UNRRA that would take horsemeat for many years to come, of course, they saw the picture in an entirely different light. What I want to draw to the attention of the House is this: the Liberal Party headed by Mr. Tucker, has never hesitated either to demean or decry their own province in the eyes of the rest of the world, if they thought it would bring them some political advantage.

The position Mr. Tucker takes is that production is declining in Saskatchewan and, therefore, the Provincial Government is to blame. That is not a logical position. I am not going to say that when production goes up the Provincial Government should get the credit and that when production goes down the Provincial Government should accept the responsibility. There are too many factors involved in production: there is weather, for example; we have no control over freight rates, over marketing, over trade agreements, over tariffs, over foreign exchange. These are all factors which are not controlled

February 5, 1947

by the Provincial Government and yet which can vitally affect production. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to ask that the Saskatchewan Government get credit, certainly not all the credit, for any increase in production, but looking at it in Mr. Tucker's own logic — and I think it is false logic — but taking it on his own terms if we are going to be blamed when production goes down then we ought to get credit when production goes up.

Let us look at the overall economic picture of this province in the light of Mr. Tucker's statement, which I just read. If we take the volume of business, as indicated by the cheques which passed through the bank — which is generally taken as a fairly good criterion, 80 per cent of our business being transacted by cheque — we find that in the 12-month period ending June, 1945, as compared with the previous year, there was a 6 per cent increase in business on the Prairies, that there was a 9 per cent increase in the Dominion of Canada and in the Province of Saskatchewan there was a 15 per cent increase. If we take the 12-month period ending June, 1946, we find while business in the entire prairie region had dropped, Saskatchewan, was still 10 per cent above June, 1944. Or, if we take as a criterion, the number of able-bodied persons employed in occupations other than agriculture, we find that in June, 1946 — two years after this Government came into office — in the Dominion of Canada there had been a fall in employment of 6 per cent, that there had been an increase on the Prairies of 6 per cent and that there had been an increase in Saskatchewan of 8 per cent. While the average for Canada went down some 6 per cent, the average for Saskatchewan had gone up 8 per cent. If we take the latest available figures, which are November, 1946, compared to November, 1944, we find that employment in Canada went down in those two years 1 per cent; there was during the same time an increase in the Prairies generally of 10 per cent and an increase in Saskatchewan of 13 per cent. If we take the hog production in the field of agriculture — and agriculture we all know constitutes 80 per cent of our provincial income — and if we compare that last year in which the Liberal Party was in office with the two years that the present Government has been in office, this is what we find:

June ending, 1943 — \$254,000,000; June ending 1944 — \$426,000,000 — not giving the odd hundred thousand, just giving the round figures — or an increase of 68 per cent over the previous year. In 1945 — \$496,000,000, an increase of 95 per cent, and in 1946 — \$364,000,000, an increase of 43 per cent. If we take land values — which are often considered as a fair criterion of prosperity, we find that the average value of land per acre in the Province of Saskatchewan, in 1941, was \$14; in 1942, \$15; in 1943, \$15; in 1944, \$17; in 1945, \$18; and this last year, 1946, \$19. Worked out in index figures it means that a piece of land which, in 1941, was worth \$73.68 would in 1946 be worth \$100.

Now turn to the production of minerals. In the first 12 months ending April 1945, immediately after the War when less minerals were being used for the manufacture of war materials and there was a decline of 12 per cent, but in the 12 months ending April, 1946, there was an increase of 2 per cent over the previous. In coal production, the 12 months ending June, 1945, showed a 19 per cent increase and in the 12 months ending June, 1946, there was a 1 per cent drop but production still continued above the June, 1944, figure. I have the figures here in my

February 5, 1947

hand if anyone is interested. In clay production, the 12 months ending April, 1945, showed a decrease; but in the 12 months ending April, 1946, production was actually doubled — and again I have the amounts; and the decrease in 1945 was 31 per cent, but in the last year, the increase was 95 per cent over the 12-month period ending April, 1944. Now take the production of natural gas. The first year this Government was in office there was an increase of 7 per cent; the second year an increase of 36 per cent, and again I have here the number of million cubic feet for each of the years 1944, 1945 and 1946. Now we come to crude oil. We have been told that crude oil has decreased. As a matter of fact before this Government came to power there was no production of crude oil in this province other than some 331 barrels which had been produced on an experimental basis. In 1946, there was produced in the Province of Saskatchewan, 57,000 barrels of crude oil, making a total since this Government came into office of 100,000 barrels of crude oil that have been produced. Now as I say, to be perfectly fair, Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to claim the credit for the Government of Saskatchewan because of these increases. There are too many factors which the Provincial Government cannot control; but when the Leader of the Liberal Party goes on the hustings and into the Press and tells people that this province is going to the dogs, well, according to the figures I have just quoted, the dogs are going to have a long time to wait. This province is not only a long way from 'blue ruin,' but this province has made very substantial economic progress under the leadership of this administration.

I should like now, Mr. Speaker, to say something about the whole question of industrial development. Everyone, of course, is familiar with the argument, which most of us have heard here in this province for a quarter of a century, that what Saskatchewan needs and what the Prairies need, is more industry. Unfortunately, as Mark Twain said about the weather: "Everybody has talked about it, but nobody has done anything about it." This Government was elected because we believed that something could be done about it and we have devoted a good deal of our time and a good deal of thought and energy to the question of industrial development for our province, because, when we came into office the figures showed that less than 2 per cent of the people employed in this province were employed in industrial enterprise and that less than 5 per cent of our provincial income came from industrial production. Therefore, there was a tremendous need for industrial development in the province insofar as that was economically and technically feasible.

We recognized that there are three kinds of economic development: that sponsored by the Government itself, whether it is provincial, federal, or municipal; that which is sponsored by groups of people forming themselves into co-operatives and, finally, industry which is financed by individuals on a free enterprise basis in the hope of getting some financial return for the money which they invested. These three have a place. I propose to deal with them one by one.

First of all there is the government-owned and government-sponsored industry. We believe, as a government and as a party, that there are fields in which development controlled by the people through their elected representatives is better than leaving industry in the hands of a small group of capitalists having profit as their only motive and incentive. Now, the Leader of the Opposition said, yesterday: "But there is no

February 5, 1947

control by the people,” that “these industries that have been started by the Government of Saskatchewan, with the exception of the insurance company, were not started by Acts of the Legislature.”

May I point out to you, Mr. Speaker, first of all that we are not the only Government which has government-owned and operated industries. The Government at Ottawa, during the War, had well over a hundred Crown companies. We are told now by Mr. Howe that there are 13 firms and Crown companies which are set up. The Government of Great Britain, under a Conservative administration and now more so under a Labour administration, are setting up Crown companies and the procedure which they follow is identical with the procedure which we are following here and which we propose to follow. It is wrong to say that there is no control. The money which is voted to set up these enterprises must be voted by this Legislature. The Act provides that 15 days after this House meets, the financial statements and the reports of the industries must be laid on the table; a Crown Corporations Committee is set up and that Committee is empowered to send for documents and for witnesses and to question them under oath and to make a thorough investigation into the financial position and the financial structure of these Crown companies. Members here have every control that they have anywhere else where Crown companies are managed by a government.

The Leader of the Opposition, yesterday, said something about the fact that when the Government goes into business people should have the right to sue it and obtain redress. As I pointed out to him, across the floor of the House, in the Crown Corporations Act it is stated that when the Government is in business any of these Crown companies has the right both to sue and to be sued. That right is there. My friend is talking about giving the people a right which they have had now for over two years.

We believe there is a place for government in industry and particularly is there a place in a province like this, where private enterprise has failed lamentably of its own volition to develop the necessary industries for our province.

I was very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to find that we had a convert in this regard. I noticed a speech which was made by the Right Hon. J. G. Gardiner, at Vancouver, January 13, 1947. This is what Mr. Gardiner is reported to have said:

Developments from Vancouver to Winnipeg had to come and if the industrialists will not do it, the people will take over and see that it is done.

Well, this is one convert we have waited for for a long time, but it was worth waiting, Mr. Speaker, and here he is at last. Mr. Gardiner said that often in the past, large industries bought up smaller localized industries and closed them up to provide selling fields for their own products, instead of opening up and developing new territory and new enterprise.

Mr. Gardiner is quite right. We have all seen evidence of that. Then Mr. Gardiner says there is no use talking of private enterprise operating industry if it continues to carry on as it has in the past. He said, bluntly, that we need some sensible people in industry.

February 5, 1947

Now I know, of course, that when he said that he had in mind the Saskatchewan Government and I am very glad that, after seeing the Saskatchewan Government in industry for two and a half years, Mr. Gardiner is now going up and down the length and breadth of the land acting as a spokesman and a champion of what we are seeking to do here in his home province.

Now the kind of industry into which a Provincial Government should go can be divided into four kinds, that is: First, there are those industries for the processing and marketing of primary products. We already have, in this province, set up by the people themselves, their Wheat Pool and Livestock Pool and the Daily Pool, for the purpose of marketing their own products. We have simply carried that type of business one step further by the setting-up of the Timber Board and the Fish Board, the Fur Marketing Service and the processing of sodium sulphate. We are simply making it possible for the producer to help to process, or to market, his own primary product and to remove, insofar as it is possible, some of the intermediaries who have taken out a good bit of the cream when it was passing through their hands.

I noticed in one of his speeches that Mr. Tucker said: "Why is everybody leaving the province? Even the fur-bearing animals are leaving Saskatchewan." Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that the only people who are leaving Saskatchewan are those who are trying to skin the non-fur-bearing animals.

Now there is a good reason for going into industries that market and process primary products, because we all know that when you leave the processing of primary products entirely to private enterprise, there are two dangers: first, that they will not follow proper conservation methods. As the Reconstruction Council set up by my hon. friends said in their report, at the rate at which it is being wantonly destroyed, we have left only ten years' timber in Saskatchewan. There is that great danger on the one hand. The other danger is that which Mr. Gardiner refers to: that certain corporations will deliberately prevent the development of our natural resources because of economic interests which they have elsewhere. That is the picture all across Canada, Mr. Speaker. We have not developed industry in Canada for the benefit of the people, nor have we developed natural resources where they are to be found. We need only one illustration: all over the world, coal is the basis of industrial development and industry moves to the coal; but not in Canada. In Canada, for years, the Federal Government has paid a subsidy to bring coal from Western Canada and coal from the Maritimes to the two Central provinces in order that industry might continue to be centralized in those two provinces and Western Canada and the Maritimes continue to remain undeveloped and exploited as they have been for the last half a century. So this Government believes that there is a place for government development of industry that will process and market our primary products.

Then there is also a place for the Government in public utilities which are to provide public service. We have them in the Federal Government, which operates the Canadian national Railways, the TCA, the CBC and so on; and we have had them in this province, where for years the Government has owned and operated the telephone system and the Power Commission — except that it is to be noted that the present Government has greatly expanded the Power Commission. We have now purchased three private companies — there is only one private company left in

February 5, 1947

the province — and the three private companies which have been purchased are being welded into a uniform provincial electric power system.

While I am talking about the Power Commission, may I just refer to a statement made by my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, yesterday. He took exception to the statement in the Speech from the Throne which says that this last year was the first year in which the Power Commission had shown a profit and he went back and quoted the fact that there had been, in some previous years, operation profits. Now I do not need to draw this to the attention of my hon. friend. He was a Provincial Treasurer as well as Premier for a good many years and he knows the financial position of the Power Commission as well as anybody in this House. I do not know what his reason was; but the facts are these — and every Member I am sure knows them — there have been operating profits from the Commission, for instance, in the year 1943 there was an operating profit of \$22,000 but there was an accumulated deficit of \$263,000 which wiped out the profit. In 1944, there was an operating profit of \$32,000 but an accumulated deficit of \$231,000. In 1945, there was an operating profit of \$156,000 but there was an accumulated deficit of \$74,000 and this last year there was an operating profit of \$414,000 which, subtracting the accumulated deficit of \$74,000 from the previous year, left for the first time the clear net profit of \$339,000 for the Power Commission.

So I say that the question of the Government going into the ownership of public utilities to serve the general public is not new. It has been established in Telephones and in the Power Commission, although as I say, we have extended very greatly the Power Commission. What the present Government has done is to extend that principle; to extend it to transportation by having now a Government Bus Transportation system operating on the highways; by having a provincially-owned insurance company carrying on insurance in every field except life insurance; by having a government-owned printing plant and by having a Reconstruction Corporation for the purpose of buying surplus war material and making that material available to the government or to municipalities or to any other public bodies that require it. I should point out, however, that the printing plant operates to serve the Government's own needs and is not endangering any commercial enterprise.

The third class of government business is the production of consumer's goods. I remember well — as I am sure most Members will — how we were told, two years ago, that it was impossible to produce wool in Saskatchewan; that we had not the right kind of wool, that there was not the right kind of water. But we are producing woollen goods. They said we could not produce leather, could not tan Saskatchewan leather, that it was not the right kind and that we could not make shoes; we are making shoes and making good shoes.

In this field we developed the woollen mill, the shoe factory, the tannery, the brick and ceramics products, all of which enable us to convert our primary commodities, such as the calf hides and cow hides, the wool from our sheep and the clay from our land and produce commodities which can be sold either to our own people or to markets anywhere in Canada or in the world.

In the final class of government business is that kind of business which is set up purely to provide some social service

February 5, 1947

and I refer here to two kinds, the two which we have set up: the first is the Housing Corporation. Now the Housing Corporation was never set up with the idea of making any money. As a matter of fact, it has not made any money; it has probably lost some money, because it was set up to take over surplus buildings at airports and army buildings and convert them into apartments mainly for returning veterans. In the case of the buildings at Saskatoon, where the veterans going to university are housed, we have a deficit for the very simple reason that we are providing not only homes but meals for veterans who have a very limited allowance and unless they got that assistance from the Provincial Government there are many who would not be able to go to the university at all. As the Member for Meadow Lake pointed out the other day, we set up the Government Fish Filleting plants, again, not with the idea of making money but because an industry was threatened. It was a matter of either establishing these plants or of obeying the Federal Government's regulations to close all "B" lakes. If we closed all these "B" lakes — and there were all too many of them — there would be no whitefish caught in those lakes, they could not be marketed and the fishermen would be without a means of livelihood. The only alternative was to set up fish filleting plants that would enable us to fillet those fish, to take out those that were infected with parasites in order to be able to say to those who bought our fish that these fish had been individually examined, that we can vouch for them and that they are Grade A fish. In that way we were able to salvage something out of a very serious commercial situation. We have spent some money in doing that job, purely as a social service and we make no apology. We think it is better to put some money into helping returned veterans and put some money into salvaging what might have become a bankrupt industry, than to put people on relief and spend money for which we would get nothing back.

These then are the different tracks upon which government industrial development has come. Now, in giving to the House the picture of our industrial development program, there are one or two things which I want to say quite frankly. I am not going to try to give this House a sense of false optimism. Starting new industry by a government or by anyone else means facing up to some very serious problems. We had a number of problems. We faced the problems of having to train practically all of our employees. There are few, if any, people in Saskatchewan who had made blankets, or who had made shoes or were familiar with making pottery. We had to bring a small group in, in some cases only two or three, who then proceeded to train our own workers. In the shoe factory, there were mostly returned men. We found that in the early stages, the amount of leather spoiled would be considerable, that the rate of production was very slow, but I do want to say it is to the everlasting credit of the type of citizens we have in these prairies, that in a remarkably short time they brought the rate of production up to the place where it compared very favorably with factories in other parts of Canada. But we had to face that problem and we had to go through that experience. We had to train the technical staff, had to train management because we lack trained staff at the outset. We started work on these industries at a time when it was very difficult to obtain equipment and when there was the greatest shortage of machinery. Some equipment had to be brought from a considerable distance; some required a great deal of waiting. My friend, yesterday, said: "Where is the pulp mill?" If my friend can tell us where to find the equipment for a pulp mill, at a reasonable price, we would soon be interested in a pulp

February 5, 1947

mill; but you just can't send to Eaton's Mail Order house and order one pulp mill. That kind of equipment is very difficult to get. We have been fighting against shortages not only of equipment but shortages of supplies.

Before dealing with the overall financial picture, I want to remind you of one other thing: that very few private businesses in the first two or three years of their operation expect immediately to go into the making of large profits. Many of them expect to run for two or three years and not make any profits at all; and when we give the House a financial picture, I am asking the House to keep one or two things in mind: to keep in mind, for instance, that at the end of our fiscal year, last March, many of the companies that I shall list had been set up and had considerable investments, but had not yet turned a wheel, or if they had begun to operate, had not yet sold their goods.

Last March, for instance, we had spent some money in the acquiring of buses, but the buses did not begin to operate on the highways until June. At the present time we have spent considerable money on the sodium sulphate plant in draining, in brine and in preparing reservoirs; but it will be, probably, nearly a year before that brine will be ready for market. The Timber Board buys quantities of timber but that timber has to be piled, it has to be sun dried and it will probably be a year later before revenue starts to come back in. I am not saying these things to make any apology in talking about Government industry. I am saying these things because I am asking the House to take a realistic and a frank view.

Mr. G. H. Danielson (Arm River): — Letting us down easy?

Mr. Douglas: — No, my friend, there is no one less uneasy than I. The only person who need be uneasy is the kind of person like my hon. friend, who sat two and one-half years ago and said it couldn't be done and is now confronted with the fact that it has been done.

Now I want to submit to the House, Mr. Speaker, with your permission, the report on the operation of the 13 industries and commercial enterprises set up by this administration and of the Saskatchewan Power Commission whose activities have been greatly extended since this Government took office, because as I pointed out before, the three private companies which have been bought, of course, had to be purchased out of government funds and are part of the whole industrial picture. The figures which I am going to give include the general operation of the Insurance Office, but do not include the Automobile Accident Insurance operation, as the surplus in this fund is considered to be ear-marked for use in automobile accident insurance only. For the year ending March 31, 1946 — and as I pointed out that is the period when a good many of these industries had been started but were not yet operating, or had not yet sold any of their products — the total operating profits for all of these, summed up in round figures, was \$374,000 before setting up reserves for depreciation of plant and equipment. During the six-month period, April 1 to September 30, 1946, these same enterprises showed operating profits of \$497,500 or nearly half a million dollars, before setting aside reserve for depreciation.

The 13 enterprises started wholly by the present administration are: the wool products, the shoe factory, the tannery,

February 5, 1947

clay products, box factory, Timber Board, Fish Board, Fur Marketing Service, Transportation Company, Reconstruction Corporation, Housing Corporation, Printing Company and the Insurance Office. Taking only these 13 and excluding the Power Commission, up to March 31, 1946, when most of these had been operating only a few months and in some cases not at all, they showed an operating profit of \$19,500 before setting aside reserves for depreciation. During the six-month period, April 1 to September 30, 1946, the same 13 enterprises showed an operating profit of \$282,000 before depreciation. Now it is very difficult to estimate depreciation accurately and it is generally taken at a highly arbitrary figure. In some of our industries where used machinery had to be purchased, the cost of operation and repair is high, but the actual depreciation in value is very low. In fact, in some cases, where many new parts had to be added, the equipment is more valuable now than it was before operation began. Nevertheless, on the books of these enterprises, we are generally charging the full rate of depreciation allowed private companies by the Income Tax Division of the Federal Government. On this basis, the depreciation in all these industries, including the Power Commission, for the year ending March 31, 1946, was \$146,000 leaving a net profit after depreciation of \$228,000. On the same basis the depreciation for the six-month period, April 1 to September 30, 1946, comes to nearly \$168,000 leaving a net profit after depreciation of \$329,500.

Turning, again, to the 13 companies started wholly by this administration, excluding the Power Commission, the depreciation on the basis explained above for the period ending March 31..

Mr. Procter: — Would you be good enough to give us the breakdown of those figures between the different companies?

Mr. Douglas: — I'll come to that in a moment, if I may finish the statement I was making.

Mr. Procter: — I am sorry, I thought you had reached a point where you could stop.

Mr. Douglas: — Returning again to the 13 enterprises started wholly by this administration and excluding the Power Commission, the depreciation on the basis explained above for the period which ended March 31, comes to nearly \$20,000, leaving a net loss of only about \$500. During the six-month period, April 1 to September 30, 1946, the depreciation on the 13 companies, not including the Power Commission, comes to \$92,000, leaving a net profit for the half-year after depreciation of \$190,000. This, Mr. Speaker, represents a return of nearly 13 per cent per annum on the monies advanced by the Provincial Treasurer for setting up these enterprises.

If all of the above is fairly considered, it cannot be denied that, during the first year of operation Saskatchewan Government industries have attained a truly remarkable record. We now find that many of our employees have acquired the necessary industrial technique. Our managers and superintendents are proving themselves capable. Supplies of materials and equipment are improving and we have every reason to hope that these industries will continue to operate with equal success in the

February 5, 1947

future.

Now my hon. friend, the Member for Moosomin asked if these can be broken down. These are being broken down and are being collated and will be tabled in the House. As the Hon. Member knows the financial statement for each company and the annual report of each company, will be tabled. I imagine that, under the Act, the above will only have to deal with the period ending March 31, but we will be quite willing to have the statements brought forward to September 30.

Mr. Procter: — Mr. Speaker, the annual report will not be tabled for some days, judging by the rate the others are coming in. Now, the Hon. Premier must have the figures for each company in that total that he has given and it should be an easy matter if he would let us have a copy of the individual profit or deficit on each company.

Mr. Douglas: — Mr. Speaker, as I say, these reports are being prepared and will be tabled just as quickly as possible. If they can be tabled within the next two or three days, I will see that they are tabled; but, as the Hon. Member knows, it is within — I think — ten days under the Act that they must be tabled. I shall see that they are tabled just as quickly as possible in order that my hon. friend may have them.

Mr. Procter: — The only thing I am afraid of, Mr. Speaker, is that this debate will be over by that time.

Mr. Douglas: — My hon. friend will have the whole Session to debate it. He can debate it on the Crown Corporations Act; he can debate it on the Budget; he can debate it on almost anything else that he wants. My hon. friend is certainly privileged to debate it; but he can't debate away 13 per cent return on money invested in the first year of operation of these companies. That will take some debating away.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have said something about the Government in business. Let me say just a word, also, about co-operative development. We believe that there are fields which properly belong in the line of co-operative endeavor and there has been set up a co-ordinating committee of our own Economic Advisory and Planning Board and the co-operatives interested in industrial development. That standing committee works very closely with both groups. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition was asking us: where is the glucose, where is the glycol, where is the industrial alcohol? My friend is in a very difficult position. At one time he is saying, "Why are you going into so many enterprises?" and another time he is saying, "Why aren't you in more enterprises?" He finds himself in a very anomalous position. Yesterday, he was wondering where these different enterprises are and may I say to him that research is proceeding in these various fields. Some of them are definitely a proper field for the co-operatives and the co-operatives, as most Members know, have been carrying on considerable research in the field of chemurgy — that is the field of turning agricultural products into industrial products — and we have worked very closely with the co-operatives in order that we may not duplicate each other's work and in order that each may carry on its work in the field for which it is best suited. We have, of

February 5, 1947

course, been able to assist the co-operatives in some of their work such as the horse processing plant at Swift Current and in the co-operative implements organization which has been set up. Then, too, as Hon. Members know there will be introduced at this Session, The Co-operative Guarantee Act, which is designed to assist co-operative societies by making advances to them for purposes of this sort.

I want to say just a word about private enterprise. We have been told that we have been driving private enterprise out of the province. I do not suppose a speech is ever made by a Liberal speaker in the province anywhere, but that he assures the audience that private enterprise is being driven out. Well, that is not the information one gets from looking at the corporations who have come into Saskatchewan. We find that from July 1, 1944, to January 27, 1947 — that is just a few days ago — there had come into Saskatchewan 335 provincial companies, with a total capitalization of \$34,409,000; that there had come into the province 65 extra provincial companies with a capitalization of over \$70,000; that there has been formed in the province, since we took office, 1,307 partnerships. That does not look as though all the corporations have immediately taken wing under this administration.

Now, as has already been mentioned, a salt plant is to be established in this province by the Prairie Salt Company. My hon. friend, yesterday, wanted to know why the Government did not go into that. Well, the Government did not go into it for a very good and simple reason. You know, Mr. Speaker, the night on which we took office, I got a telegram from a friend of mine and all it said on it was: "If ye canna see the bottom, dinna wade far oot!" Well, only my Scotch friends will probably know exactly what that means, but it is very good advice. In this particular case, we could not see the bottom: that the picture was such — that there were various deposits of salt in other parts of the Prairies, but we would have to have distributive wholesale and retail facilities to dispose of the salts. Here was a field in which private enterprise could properly operate. On the other hand, in the case of sodium sulphate, we have in Saskatchewan a virtual monopoly of the mineral. Ours are probably the only deposits on the North American continent, except for Georgia. The product does not have to be sold through retail and wholesale channels; it can be sold directly to the great industries such as those which refine nickel and those who use it for pulp and paper, so that here we had a virtual monopoly; here we had a ready market to which our product could be sold in quantity and it was, therefore, a very logical field for the Government to enter and develop one of its own natural resources. But wherever there has been a logical field for private enterprise, we have sought to encourage private enterprise and at this Session we will encourage it even further. We propose to introduce legislation to set up an Industrial Development Fund by which money may be advanced to individuals or corporations who want to bring a new kind of business or industry into Saskatchewan that will fit into our provincial economy. There isn't any reason why, with a Fur Marketing Service in the province, we could not make fur coats, that we could not be making gloves and baggage out of our leather. A great many other industries could be added to the small beginning which we have already made and if, by any financial assistance, it is possible to encourage private industry to come in where private industry legitimately may operate, then we are prepared to give that assistance and will do so under this

February 5, 1947

legislation. That is all I propose to say about industrial development.

I want now to say just a word or two about the two insurance schemes that were set up at the last Session of this Legislature. The first was under The Automobile Accident Insurance Act. I remember, last year, when the legislation was going through the House, the tremendous howl that was induced in the Press and the many complaints that came from some of the insurance companies. I am very much pleased to see now that one of the newspapers — the one in the city of Regina — that did quite a bit of complaining about the Automobile Accident Insurance Plan, last spring, now says that it is a pretty fine piece of legislation if we just won't go any further. It is all right, they say, just don't go any further! But last spring it was no good at all. Well, I think that the people of this province are generally very satisfied with that plan. We can yet make no very accurate estimate of what will be left in that fund at the end of the year. It has been estimated at something around probably \$700,000, maybe more, maybe less, nobody knows how many accidents there will be before the end of March. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition said that that money represents too much in taxes taken out of the people's pockets. Mr. Speaker, it represents money which will continue to provide benefits for the people and had it been taken out of the people's pockets by insurance companies, it would never come back at all in benefits or in any other way to the people of Saskatchewan. Now what this Legislature has to decide is whether or not we should use the surplus, or the balance left in the fund, either to reduce the rates or to enlarge the benefits. Personally, I have an open mind on the subject. Wherever I have gone, I have talked to farmers, to business men, to workers and to professional men and wherever I went I said: "What would you do? What is your opinion?" I found, almost invariably, I think with about one single exception, it was said to me, "By all means let us increase the benefits." That is what we will be recommending to this Legislature.

Then I want to say a word about the other insurance plan which was introduced at the last Session, that is, the Hospital Services Plan. This Hospital Services Plan has entailed a tremendous amount of work and has and will, of course, give us some administrative problems.

I notice that two or three criticisms are being made about the Hospital Services Plan. One is that the hospitals are all crowded and that we are responsible for crowding the hospitals. Now the person who complains about crowding the hospitals is assuming one of two things. The first is there are a lot of people going to the hospital who don't need to go. Well, I don't believe that, because that is a serious reflection on the doctors of this province, as no person can go into a hospital before, who should have been getting to hospital, but who could not afford to pay the bill. Now, if we are going to screen people out of the hospitals, let us screen them on the basis of need rather than on the basis of financial resources and ability to pay.

The other criticism we are getting is that we could do this a lot more cheaply. Mr. Tucker said, why, we could do this for \$3 per head per year! Well, if Mr. Tucker were here I would like to ask him this question: is he suggesting that we are paying the hospitals too much? If we paid a collective \$3 per person

February 5, 1947

per year, we would be paying the hospitals, this year, half of what it cost them to run the hospitals in Saskatchewan last year. My friend had better settle that with the hospitals. If he thinks we are paying the hospitals twice too much.

Mr. Brockelbank: — He'll need one.

Mr. Douglas: — There is no group of people who are more careful about their expenditures, who work harder to make their hospital budgets meet than the hospital boards; if my friend can get the hospitals to take care of all the people who need to be looked after in this province for half the money, well, he will have a great deal of persuading to do as far as the hospital administrators are concerned.

There has been some criticism that the payment is a flat \$5 per person, \$30 maximum per family and that it ought to be graded according to ability to pay. Well I agree with that, of course, that is a legitimate criticism. I said, when I introduced the legislation at the last Session, that this is what the Government would prefer. We would prefer a graduated scheme; but at the Dominion-Provincial Conference, the Federal Government set down as its policy, that if they were ever going to come into a national health insurance scheme, any province that wanted to participate in that scheme would have to do two things, first, register every person 16 years of age and over, and secondly, collect a flat amount per person. It was because we wanted to fit our scheme into a possible national health insurance scheme that we passed the legislation that we did. If the Federal Government finally comes to the conclusion that it will never come into a health scheme, then, of course, I shall ask this Legislature for permission to change the basis of payment. Then the..

Mr. Danielson: — Will the hospital grant of 50 cents a day be paid?

Mr. Douglas: — The hospital grant of 50 cents per person per day will not be paid to the hospitals; the hospitals will get their full payment through the hospital scheme, but the 50 cents per patient per day, which amounts to something over half a million dollars, will be put in as a subsidy into the hospital fund by the Provincial Treasury. I am coming to that very point.

Another criticism was the criticism of Mr. Paul Prince, Past President of the Liberal Association, who says, "Why, this hospital scheme is just a scheme for raising money!" Well, as a Scotsman, I certainly would not recommend it as a scheme for raising money. The total possible receipts, the maximum possible receipts would be \$3,800,000 and we estimate the cost this year will be in the neighborhood of \$6,000,000. So if any person wants to go into making money I would not suggest that they start a hospitalization scheme. I can imagine no better way to lose one or two million dollars per year.

I would say this: my friends talk about crowding hospitals. As far as I know this is the only Government in Canada which has contributed any money at all to the construction of hospitals. This Legislature voted last year \$200,000 and the year before \$150,000, making a total of \$350,000 which has been spent in the last two years in the construction of hospitals and we will be

February 5, 1947

asking this Legislature for another grant this year.

When we took office, the number of hospital beds in this province was 3.9 per thousand of the population. Today, there are 5 beds per thousand — an increase of 26 per cent. By the end of this year, on the basis of the grants we have already authorized, it will be 6.3 beds per thousand, which will be an increase since we took office of over 50 per cent in the number of hospital beds. So, if my hon. friends say that beds are scarce now, I would point out that beds are 25 per cent more plentiful than they were when they were in office. The only reason that the hospitals are crowded is because, for the first time, people who are sick no longer have the financial obstacles standing in their way to treatment and they are able to go to hospital and be cared for.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is just one other matter I want to deal with before I sit down. The Leader of the Opposition talked, yesterday, about political promises, not his political promises, not his political program, but about ours. Now, political programs are something that we don't just pass at a convention and then forget about. Political programs are something which we keep very close to us — I have one here which I usually carry in my wallet or keep on my desk — because we regard our provincial program, passed by the thousands of people that we represent who in constituency and in provincial conventions, lay down the policies which we are here to carry out as a highly important matter. This is their platform. This is the program which we were elected to implement in 1944 and I make no apology to anyone for the extent to which we have been able to carry out the mandate which was given to us two and a half years ago. What does it say? There are nine planks and I shall deal with them very briefly.

It says first: "That a CCF Government in Saskatchewan will give you security in your home." I point here, first, to The Farm Security Act, passed by this administration guaranteeing the home-quarter, providing the crop failure clause, the amendments to The Exemptions Act, giving exemption to sufficient farm produce to enable a man to look after his family, and I refer to the work of the Provincial Mediation Board. I have the Board's reports for both 1944-45 and 1945-46 and I am pleased to be able to say that in these two years there has not been a single resident farmer in the Province of Saskatchewan who has appealed to the Mediation Board for protection, who has lost either his home or his farm. In the year 1945 there were 101 orders permitted by the Board with the consent of the parties concerned in order to clear up estates or accounts but not a single foreclosure granted without the consent of the parties concerned. In 1946 there were three orders made without consent, but all of the debtors were outside of the province, all of them no longer were living on the land and none were making an attempt to meet his obligations; 48 were granted, but with consent in order to clear up estates or accounts and in those two years not a single debtor, who asked for protection and was living on a Saskatchewan farm, has been denied the protection of the Act by the Government of Saskatchewan.

I want to remind my friends in the official Opposition that this has been done in spite of the fact that they have voted against every piece of farm security legislation we have put on the statute book and that this protection has been given to the

February 5, 1947

farmers in spite of the fact that the Federal Government has done everything possible to obstruct us. First of all, they talked about disallowing our legislation, but there was such a public outcry they had to drop that like a hot potato. Now they are taking the crop failure clause to the courts. Why? They came to us about a year ago and said: "Now, if you make that crop failure clause inapplicable to veterans acquiring land under The Veterans' Land Act, we will forget about the whole thing." Two men farming side by side, one a veteran and one a non-veteran; we say to the man who is a non-veteran; "Under The Farm Security Act you don't pay an amount equal to the interest in a year when there is no crop." We say to the other man: "By virtue of the fact that you have served your country overseas and risked your life and limb in defence of democracy, you will have the privilege of paying your full interest with no reduction this year." For this farm security legislation on the statute books of Saskatchewan, there is no thanks due to the Liberal Party, either provincially or federally, because they have done everything possible to have it taken off.

Next: "The CCF Government will give you real debt reduction." The only figures I have been able to obtain are the figures from 30 of the leading lending companies through the Dominion Mortgage Association and I could not get the figures for 1946, but in 1945, these lending companies had reduced their mortgage indebtedness, in Manitoba by \$2,400,000; in Alberta by \$3,800,000, and in Saskatchewan by \$10,900,000. In addition to that the Government itself — as most of the Members know — has cancelled \$30,000,000 of seed grain indebtedness, as well as some million dollars of relief indebtedness.

"Increased Old Age Pensions": I am very quick to say, Mr. Speaker, that we are not satisfied with the Old Age Pension being paid in this province or anywhere else. We still have a long way to go before we are paying the old people of this province or of Canada what they need, or what they deserve; but we have made a substantial start. In 1943, the average Old Age Pension paid in this province was \$17.53; last year the average Old Age Pension paid in this province was \$27.55 — \$10 per month more, and you can add to that about \$3 per month for the health services which we are giving, to bring this up in the neighborhood of \$30 per person per month. In addition . . .

Mr. Danielson: — You gave 1943. What was the figure for 1944?

Mr. Douglas: — In 1944? We were in office six months of 1944. Do they want credit for what we do too?

In addition to increasing the Old Age Pension, the exemption has been increased and also, Mr. Speaker, this Government has discontinued the practice of placing caveats against old age pensioners' property up to \$2,000.

"Medical: The CCF Government in Saskatchewan will give medical and hospital services irrespective of the ability of the individual to pay." That does not say 'free', as some of my friends have been trying to tell the public. We have, as a matter of fact, of course, given free services as my friends will find, for cancer. Of course, I know that they have been going around, saying to people, "Why we started the cancer program!" Let us look at the figures. The amount of money which has been

February 5, 1947

actually spent by the Cancer Commission up to July 10, 1944 — that is the day we took office — for hospitalization of cancer patients: nothing; the amount spent for surgery performed on cancer patients and paid for by the Cancer Commission, nothing; the amount spent on hospitalization of cancer patients from July 10, 1944, to December 31, 1946 — \$334,000; the amount spent on surgery performed on cancer patients and paid for by the Cancer Commission for the same period of time — \$88,541.

We are providing free care for cancer patients; free care for those who are mentally ill; free care for those who are treated for venereal disease at our clinics and free penicillin for treating them; we are providing two-thirds of the cost of public health services in four regions and will be in two other regions and we are making a very substantial contribution to the Hospital Services Plan which, as I pointed out, will not be entirely financed and cannot be entirely financed on the \$5 which is being collected from the citizens of Saskatchewan.

Then No. 5 was: “The CCF Government of Saskatchewan will give equal educational opportunities to every child in the province.” Again, I point to the equalization grants which have been paid by this Government. I point to the authorized text books which were given to children in grades one to eight; I point to the scholarship grants which have been paid to enable students to go on to university. Again, I am the first to say that we have not, by any means, managed to do all that needs to be done, but we have made a very substantial beginning towards providing a greater measure of educational opportunities for the children of the Province of Saskatchewan.

No. 6 says: “The CCF Government will give increased mother’s allowance, maternity grants and care for the disabled.” I want to point out that in 1943 the average weekly allowance per mother paid in this province was \$7 and that in 1946 the average weekly amount paid per mother was \$15.68. In order to be perfectly fair, I should point out that in that figure there is included payment to 539 incapacitated fathers. The fact is that it is being paid, that is the most important part. That \$15.68 now represents the average amount we pay to these people and in addition we are providing free health services, not only for these mothers, but for their dependents which is at least worth another \$5 per month.

Item No. 7 on this platform says: “The CCF Government will give freedom of speech and freedom of religion.” Well, I hardly need to elaborate on that. After the Leader of the Opposition talking yesterday, for two hours and myself talking, I suppose for two hours, speech still seems to be pretty free in this province; and if any of the Members have been to church lately — if not, I suggest that they might go — they will find that the churches are still doing business at the same old stands. I don’t think the people of Saskatchewan have forgotten those political broadcasts that Mr. W. F. Kerr used to indulge in, in which he said that the churches were going to be burned, that freedom of speech would disappear, that newspapers would be licensed and, worst of all, if the CCF Government ever got into power, there wouldn’t be any more elections. All of you can see the falsity of these wild and irresponsible statements. We have had three by-elections since that time and I can assure my hon. friends that there will be a provincial election and it will not be six years from the last.

February 5, 1947

No. 8 on this platform was: "The right of collective bargaining for labor." There is no need for me to elaborate on that. The Trade Union Act has resulted in a 60 per cent increase in trade union membership. The Annual Holidays Act, has been in operation long enough to be able to say that the only people who have taken any exception to it were the CPR on the one hand and the Federal Government's own railway, the CNR, on the other. But otherwise the Act is operating very well and at this Session legislation is to be introduced regarding shorter hours of work in certain lines of business. The whole principle of collective bargaining for labor has been introduced, not only with respect to labor generally, but even with respect to those employees who are working for the Government and for the various Government corporations which had never before been done.

The last plank, plank No. 9, simply says: "The CCF Government in Saskatchewan will give encouragement to the Co-operative movement." I am sure there is no need for me to elaborate on that. We have set up the first Department of Co-operatives in Canada. We have working committees with the Co-operatives. We have given financial assistance to them when such financial assistance was needed and we are setting up, at this Session, machinery whereby financial credit can be advanced to co-operative societies in order to assist them in their expansion and their development.

So, Mr. Speaker, when my hon. friend talks about the CCF always running to Ottawa, the CCF always making the excuse that Ottawa has not done something or other, there is the platform of the CCF and not in one single line of those entire nine items is the Federal Government mentioned. These things we have done and we have done them by ourselves and we have done them without Ottawa and in some cases we have done them in spite of Ottawa.

And now just to impress upon my friend, let me recapitulate: 1. A CCF Government in Saskatchewan will give you security in your homes. 2. Real debt reduction. 3. Increased Old Age Pensions. 4. Medical, dental and hospital services, irrespective of the individual's ability to pay. 5. Equal educational opportunity for every child in the province. 6. Increased mothers' allowances, maternity grants and care for the disabled. 7. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion. 8. Collective bargaining, and, 9. Encouragement to the co-operative movement.

That nine-point program, Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with our promise of industrial development, constituted the mandate on which this Government was elected two and a half years ago. In view of the progress which we have made in that time, I would feel perfectly free at any time to go to the people of Saskatchewan, either for a vote of confidence or to ask that they give us a mandate to carry even further our program of setting up a co-operative commonwealth in the Province of Saskatchewan. But we were elected for a five-year term. We have gone to the polls three times since we were in office, therefore, there is no reason why we cannot spend the balance of our time rounding out the programs which I have outlined. But, if at any time, the Liberal Party feels that we ought to have a mandate before going further, we are quite prepared to submit our program to the people of this province, strong in the assurance that they will not only approve of what they have done, but that will give us an overwhelming mandate to continue to work for the welfare of this province.

February 5, 1947

Mr. F. A. Dewhurst (Wadena): — Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate, I would first like to extend my congratulations to the Hon. Member for Morse. I not only have the pleasure of having him as a seatmate, but also as a roommate, so I have the opportunity to know him fairly well.

I find, Mr. Speaker, it is a little difficult, after listening to the speech by the Hon. Premier, to speak at any length as he has covered the subject very well. So I shall attempt to cut mine shorter.

I also had the pleasure of taking part in the Morse by-election and I would like first to spend a few moments talking on some of the happenings in the Morse by-election. At a meeting held by our Opposition out there, on the night of the 26th, which was the night prior to the by-election in Morse, I had the privilege of being at a meeting in Central Butte, which was addressed by the Hon. Member for Arm River. I took very careful notes of his speech and I would like to proceed with your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, to give this House a few of the statements which he made at that meeting and if the Hon. Member still believes the statements he made at that time were true, he has every opportunity to make these statements again in this House where they can be challenged by the Minister concerned. He can make his statements and back them up here. Now, one of the statements he made was that, under the Liberal administration, prior to the CCF coming into office, Old Age Pensions on estates of \$2,000 or under were free, that there was no charge back to the Old Age Pension recipient.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to elaborate extensively on these statements, because I think the facts very eloquently speak for themselves.

Another statement was that the mental hospitals, under the former administration, were 75 per cent free to all people requiring mental care and now they were only 95 per cent; and also that prior to June, 1944, cancer treatment was free. The Premier has referred to these so I think that covers that point pretty well.

Another statement was that all arrears of taxes, relief, etc., were cancelled in 1937 by the Liberal Government up to and including January 1st, 1935. Why January 1st, I do not know. I imagine it would be cut off at December 31; but it was up to and including January 1, 1935, and the present Government have not cancelled any or helped out the farmers in any way, shape or form, from that day or prior to January 1st, 1935.

Also, he was quoting from the Budget Speech of the Provincial Treasurer, of last year, and it was just about this time at his meeting that he noticed that I was at the back taking notes and he held up the Budget Speech and for my information he quietly told me that that was the Budget Speech of the Provincial Treasurer and he had no doubt in his mind that if I would ask the Provincial Treasurer for a copy, I would get one. But it so happened, Mr. Speaker, that I had three copies and I took my three copies and compared them and I found that all three were the same. In no place could I find the statement which he referred to, which was that, according to the Budget Speech, taxes in Saskatchewan had been increased by \$142 per quarter section since this Government came into power.

February 5, 1947

Another statement, Mr. Speaker, was that in the House, in the Session of one year ago, the Premier had stated that the Government had no idea of what they were going to do with the money for Crown corporations; it was entirely up to the Planning Board. Well, I think the Premier has given some explanation of what the Government's ideas and program was of the Crown corporations and I think that pretty well answers itself.

Now, the last one was a gem. He was charging the Premier of this province with running around the Morse constituency, speaking from public platforms, radio and elsewhere and deliberately misrepresenting the facts and deceiving the people. He said that in his opinion he felt that any Member of a responsible Government, who would take his place on a public platform and deliberately try to mislead the people or deceive them, was not fit to represent the public and should resign his seat. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, when we are going to have the by-election in Arm River? He referred to the statement that the Premier has made here, today, regarding no evictions. Mr. Speaker, I will grant the Hon. Member the privilege to refer to anything he likes in the Speech, but I do know that he will have somebody here to check him up, who has a better chance of continuing than I had at that meeting when I was shut off at the end of the third question by God Save the King. Now, Mr. Speaker, he referred to the statement the Premier had made in regard to evictions and he said that he could prove that the Premier was deliberately lying, that they were all falsehoods and that any time he consulted the Premier and asked him about these statements, he just sat there and hung his head and would not even answer. Now, Mr. Speaker, that would not only be a treat to me, but I think, to all the hon. gentlemen of this House, to see the Premier in his place, having to sit there and hang his head and could not answer the Hon. Member's question! I asked him why he did not, the afternoon before, accept the Premier's challenge at Halvorgate, where the Premier had challenged Mr. Culliton, or any of the other Liberal speakers on behalf of the Liberal Party, to meet him in public debate. If he felt that he could make the Premier take back his statement, that was the thing he should have done and I, also, without the Premier's consent at that time, challenged the Hon. Member for Arm River to meet the Premier in public debate and the Hon. Member could name the day, the time, the place and the subject to be debated. I will now, on this occasion, once again extend that invitation to him, this time with the Premier's consent. So, Mr. Speaker, I think that is pretty well enough for some of the statements that were given at that time.

However, on my way home from the by-election I journeyed through the constituency of the Hon. Member for Kerrobert-Kindersley. I visited for a few days with some friends I used to know when I worked in that part of the province and it was very interesting to me. I stayed overnight with one fellow who is a good friend of mine, but unfortunately for me and fortunately for the Liberals, he is a supporter of theirs not ours, he said, "Well, it used to be that I had to spend my time defending the Government, but now it is all changed and I can spend the time criticizing them." He said, "It looks like I'll be able to criticize them for a good long time to come." Last fall, Mr. Speaker, I happened to be visiting a friend and he was joshing me about our platform, policy and so on. He had in his possession a nice shorthorn bull which was given out in that locality by the Federal Department of Agriculture and

February 5, 1947

after kidding me for some time he said to me: "Do you think your CCF Government could hand out as good a bull as that?" "Well," I said, "I admit that when it comes to handing out the bull we don't try to compete with the Liberals."

Now, I would like to touch, for a few moments, on some of the topics and the issues which affect the constituency which I have the honor to represent. We have, there, a larger unit for schools which I will give a few figures on. This unit was organized only last March — 1946 — with 95 schools in the unit. It had a total assessment of \$9,132,647 rural, and \$397,869 in the village. It gets an equalization grant of 900 or \$34,319. Some of the schools in this unit had a mill rate before of over 25 mills. It is true that they were not all that high, but there were some schools in the districts where there were quite a few children going to school that had a 25 mill rate and there were other places where the mill rate was down low where there were more little children attending school, and consequently, those who had a larger school to teach and should have had to hire teachers with more experience, had the least ability to pay them. Consequently, the teacher who had the heaviest school, generally was the teacher who had the least training, because the teacher who had the most training could more or less decide where he wanted to go. This unit, with only eight months of experience, has definitely improved the school situation in the Wadena Unit area. There were a considerable number of schools repaired and redecorated and fixed up, with some schools — I don't know the exact number yet — built and more plans underway. The Saint Front School, which is only about six miles from my own home, has approximately 60 pupils or a little more at school. It is a two-room school. Each room is roughly, approximately 22 feet by 24 feet. So you can see, Mr. Speaker, that in that school there were 30 or more pupils in each room, 22 x 24, which did not give them a fair chance at all to get a decent education. The plaster was falling from the ceiling and kept dropping on their heads while studying. Over two years ago they applied to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board for a permit to build a new school and they have not been able to get one.

Last spring, after the unit came in, they started work on a school at Saint Front, a four-room school. Unfortunately, they were not able to get the cement to go on with construction, but the excavating work for the basement and the gravel and that sort of material that could be got ahead of time, is on the scene ready for construction this coming spring. Now they have a carload of cement stored ready to start work in the spring. So I think that all things speak fairly highly for the larger unit system. Wadena Unit is one of the heavier populated units for children attending school. It has roughly 3,000 children attending school in that unit, which I think, the Members will agree, is one of the heavier units and it has not got the heaviest land for the best type of production or pay, so that I think we can expect that in a year or two we will see some great improvements in the Wadena Unit.

Also, I would like to mention, for a moment, the highway situation in my own constituency. In the constituency of Wadena there is one highway running full length on the east side, but it isn't all up to highway standard yet and there are two highways both crossing beside a little bit of No. 6 in the southwest corner. We have a total of 167 miles of highway in the Wadena provincial constituency. Now I won't say that these are the exact figures, but they are the approximate figures as close

February 5, 1947

as I could get from the Department here. Since July, 1944, there has been a little less than a quarter of the total of 167 miles, built or rebuilt, and 26 miles have been gravelled and the people of my constituency tell me that that is the most highway construction they have seen for a number of years, because it hasn't been just in one year, it has been a little each year. There were 10 miles of No. 35 re-graded and gravelled in 1944, between July 1 and December 31. In 1945, there were 16.31 miles of highway graded in that constituency and this last year there was another, roughly, 11 miles of new highway built and 16 miles of gravelling done, so that nobody can say it was put on just prior to the by-election or anything like that. It was spread over each year. The municipal roads are being improved, too, at the same time as greater grants are being given and more assistance, wherever possible, to the municipal councils.

I would like to see, as soon as possible, some means whereby from this Legislature, we can give additional help to the municipalities, who are in the greatest need, because some of our northern municipalities are in great need of financial help.

Then also the agricultural services of this province are being improved. In the province at the present time there are four regional supervisors, 36 Ag. Reps and 325 committees working with them and the people are becoming more and more conscious of the services available to them. Before they had heard of agricultural representatives, or departmental representatives, on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, but they had never seen any of them. Now they are getting more familiar with them and while it takes time to get something like this really working, where the people can take full advantage of it, it will come in due course whereby they will know what information they can get and they will go to their agricultural representative for that information.

Now, the Wadena constituency, this past few years, has not been a fur-bearing district. There used to be, at one time, a considerable amount of trapping done in that area, but these last few years, since the water has vanished to some extent, the muskrat and a lot of other fur-bearing animals have left the district. However, there are a few trappers still doing a little bit of trapping in that part of the country — something like the Member for Meadow Lake referred to — “gypsy” trapping. That is about the style of trapping we have there, a number of farmers' boys going out and setting a few traps and catching a few weasels or whatever kind of furs they can. But they all tell me, with hardly any exception, that they receive at least 50 per cent better prices now when they ship their furs to the Fur Marketing Service than they ever got by shipping any place before. While in Wadena this is not one of their main sources of income, it is just a sideline for most of the boys that take it up, they themselves appreciate very much the services of the Fur Agency in Regina.

Similarly with the health services passed by this Legislature, a year ago. With very little exception this is meeting a very favorable reception in my part of the province. A lot of people in that part of the province have never known good times. A lot of the settlers settled that country between 1909 and 1914-15, along about that time. When they settled that part of the province it was all heavy bush and lots of water, consequently, the amount of acreage that could be broken was very small and even if they had a crop and the crop itself did not

February 5, 1947

freeze out, they did not have many acres and, therefore, the return in bushels was small. Then year after year we had heavy frosts and it was not until the latter part of the 1920s, until the country started to dry up, that we were not hit so bad with the frost and then the depression came on with all it brought in its train.

A lot of the people in that part of the province have never known prosperity unless it is in the last year or two and they lament on the fact it seems to be too bad that the only time they can get a fair price for their produce is when they have to have their brothers, relatives or sons, or whatever the case may be, risking their lives in war; that it takes a war to create a market for the foods which they can produce; but in peace time their brothers or relatives and friends were riding the boxcars, unemployed and out of work, when at the same time the abilities of those unemployed could have been producing at that time. Things such as telephones and roads and a number of other public services could have been of very great advantage to that part of the province during the past few years when labor has been so scarce and production needs so great.

So the health services in that part of the province, as I have mentioned before, are meeting very favorable reception because there are a lot of people who needed medical attention and to go into the hospital but could not afford it. Mr. Speaker, in the last issue of Liberty the issue for February 8th, there is a very good article under the title: "Canada's Shame, our Mental Hospitals." The author goes on to compare the mental institutions in western Canada and of the four provinces he speaks with very high praise for Saskatchewan. He visited all four provinces and while in Alberta he said that he was unable to have a talk at all with Mr. Cross. He refused to even see him and finally got into conversation with him on the telephone and he said that they had no money and he said that he thought that strange for Social Credit.

Mr. Danielson: — Who is the author?

Mr. Dewhurst: — Don Le Bourdais. He had visited the institutions and made a survey of all mental hospitals throughout Canada, an authority on mental institutions. I would like to quote two paragraphs from his writings in dealing with Saskatchewan. In the first he says:

Certainly the Saskatchewan Government does not seem to have any difficulty in finding money for mental hospitals. 'In two years we have doubled the expenditures on mental hospitals and there is every indication that this will be increased even further this coming year.' I was informed by the Hon. T. C. Douglas, Premier and Minister of Public Health.

Further on again, he is talking then about lack of materials and so on for building adequate facilities. He says these last, of course, are not peculiar to Saskatchewan. Every other province is in the same boat. But the present Saskatchewan Government cannot be blamed for existing conditions. It has been in office only two years. Since 1945 mental hospitals have been free to all citizens of Saskatchewan of 12 months standing, a step forward. Every other province in Canada still charges all patients who can pay, although these charges are not equal

February 5, 1947

to actual cost, these provinces all get by because considerable proportions of what they spend. You will find it in the statement of the Liberty magazine of February 8th.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as far as the proposals on new legislation in the Throne Speech are concerned, I am here to support them. I believe that they are another step forward towards trying to give the people of Saskatchewan security in their homes and to lift from them unnecessary burdens. You know, every time I walk down Scarth Street or Eleventh Avenue, here in Regina, when I come to the intersection there, I always stop and look at the nice gold letters engraved right onto the building, "Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation." Evidently, Mr. Speaker, when they built that building they thought the Canadian people indefinitely wanted a permanent mortgage over their heads and naturally they resent it when the CCF Government tries to devise ways and means whereby mortgages can be lifted from the heads of the people of the province.

I think the people of Saskatchewan, if given a fair and just chance and given the true facts, are on the whole as intelligent a bunch of people as we have any place and I think that the three by-elections the Premier referred to will support that. When the people have had a chance to come back and say whether they like or dislike the legislation or the administration of this Government, in each case they have endorsed it, and I think that statements like we have heard yesterday from the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, that the average person would not understand, the reference to the public health services, well I think they understand a lot of things a little better, or maybe quite a bit better, than some other citizens of this province think they do.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to support the motion.

Mr. A. L. S. Brown (Bengough): — Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate, I wish to take this opportunity to add my congratulations along with the others, to the mover and seconder of the motion. I was particularly impressed with the high level upon which the mover opened this debate and could not help but feel that if it could only have been maintained on that level, we would have been making history in the annals of this Legislature or of any Legislature. It was particularly lacking in personal criticism and contained many constructive suggestions, which I am sure the Government will take note of and act upon.

The Hon. Member for Meadow Lake, in his seconding of the motion, gave to us a word picture of the conditions of the North, which was of particular interest to me being a Member from the southern portion of this province. He made us realize that the problems in the North were our problems and could only be solved by those Members of themselves working together with the Members of the North in an attempt to find a solution to all of our problems. It was in marked contrast with the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition whose speech was punctuated with destructive criticism and at times even, I believe, degenerated to personal criticism of individuals, both in and out of this Legislature. It was entirely lacking in any item of constructive suggestion into which the Government could get its teeth and act upon. I listened, or attempted to listen, very carefully to what he had to say and I failed to hear him enunciate one principle of free private enterprise — which they so fondly

February 5, 1947

pretend to support — which could be applied to our economy here in Saskatchewan and as such improve our society. I scanned the Liberal platform or, at least, the press reports of the Liberal platform, as it came from their convention in Saskatoon and, once again, I failed to see in that platform one item of free private enterprise, one item of principle of free private enterprise, which they were going to apply to the economy of Saskatchewan and as such improve our conditions. They mentioned the question of irrigation, which can only be done under social development. They mentioned the question of marketing boards, which is certainly the basis for a socialized system of marketing that ends in a Dominion Co-operative Act, which is simply extending into the Dominion field the principle of social ownership along that field. They mention the question of extensive irrigation, which can only be done through social control and social development. They mention the question of increased aid for pensioners, which is simply another social security. They mention the question of a 40-hour week, which is certainly controlling, by a social measure, the conditions and hours of work of our laboring class.

On the one hand they condemn the theory and ideologies of socialism and then on the other hand they appeal for support to the people on the grounds of increased social development and social control. They are travelling with one foot in the airplane and one foot in the ox cart, which, I presume, is a good trick if you can do it. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker — if a suggestion is in order — that either they get both feet into the ox cart and travel down the road to economic chaos or else they get both feet in the airplane and travel along with us, and, incidentally, a large part of the rest of the world, along the sky-road to democratic socialism with our destination economic and social security.

If I may divert for just one moment, Mr. Speaker, to something which possibly was not directly contained in the Speech from the Throne, but it is something that I feel is sometimes overlooked and is particularly overlooked by the Members of the Opposition. They have failed to realize that we are living in a complex and interdependent society, a principle which has been recognized by practically every progressive government in the world and is climaxed in the attempt by the different governmental bodies of the world to work out a formula for a workable and successful United Nations Organization.

This principle of interdependence of society has been recognized by the governments here in Canada and, to a large extent, by the people of Canada. If there is any exception to that it must be in one or two political parties. This principle of interdependence has been recognized in Canada by the calling of the Dominion-Provincial Conference and while the conference may have failed in its initial proposal, it does not alter the fact that there is that interdependent era in the society within Canada and in the societies within the world. The fact that from that conference a tax agreement arose — a tax agreement which we will be asked to ratify at this Session — gives us some hope that there may emerge a fuller solution to the problem that faces us at this present time. As to the interdependence of the nations of the world and of the societies of the world, an incident occurred in my constituency this spring which brought this principle very forcibly to my attention.

In the spring my constituency was honored with a visit by

February 5, 1947

a Mr. Quan, a renowned engineer from China, who was sent over here to the American continent to study the irrigation projects that have been undertaken in America and in Canada, with the idea in mind of taking back this information to his people so that they may undertake extensive schemes of irrigation to provide food for their hungry people. Mr. Quan, whose father is a proprietor of a restaurant in the town of Assiniboia, took the opportunity during his visit here in America to visit his father at Assiniboia and I had the privilege and the honor of meeting that brilliant young engineer and of hearing him discuss the problems of his people and the conditions under which his people were living at that particular time.

His visit occurred at the commencement of seeding operations in that district. While we saw, in our seeding operations, the commencement of a year's work from which we hoped to obtain a living wage, he saw something else in the kernel of wheat that was being placed in the ground at that particular time. He saw in that kernel of wheat a hope that there may be some food for his starving people in his country. But as he saw us put that seed into the ground, there must have been a doubt raised in his mind and in the minds of his people, that we might, once again, fail them as we have so often failed them in the past. It was just at that time, Mr. Speaker, that the machine companies of Canada had gone on strike for an increase of 12 ½ per cent, although they knew, the industrialists of today knew, that the increase in the price of farm machinery meant a reduction in the production that the mechanized agriculture of Western Canada could be expected to produce. And this incident, in itself, must have raised a doubt in his mind as to our sincerity in fulfilling the resolution that we passed here, at the last Session of this Legislature, that we would undertake to the limit of our ability to provide foodstuff for the world.

I also recall an incident which occurred ten years previous and which had some similarity to this pleading with us for food for his hungry people. I recall that ten years previous I was attending the University of Saskatchewan and I heard there a young Chinese student plead with us for understanding of the struggle that China was going through at that particular time. China, at that time was standing alone against the rising forces of fascism and imperialism. He pleaded with us to take some action to eradicate the evil that was in our society at that particular time, but we heeded not his plea.

Oh, it is true that over cups of coffee we lamented the plight of war-torn China and we gave pink teas and took up silver collections for the aid of the children of China, but we took no positive action to eradicate the cancerous roots of social evil that were already embedded in our world society. I recall that, at about the same time, Generalissimo Chiang Kai Chek pleaded with the leader of the British Empire to refrain from supplying Japan with materials of war and we replied, through the leader of the British Empire, that we could not refrain, that we were making 200 per cent profit upon the materials that we were sending to Japan. We glorified in the fact, at least by negative action, that from the blood of the innocent Chinese we were obtaining 200 per cent profit. As he saw here, this young Chinese engineer who visited Canada and America this spring, as he saw us through our Federal Government endorse the request of the machine companies for an increase of 12 ½ per cent, a request that was not substantiated either in fact or in substance, but yet was granted by our Federal

February 5, 1947

Government, is it any wonder that in his mind entered the doubt whether we were sincere or whether, once again, we were going to glory in the fact that from hunger pains and malnourished bodies of 20 to 30 million children, our industrialists would have their 12 ½ per cent.

I have referred to that instance, Mr. Speaker, because the Leader of the Opposition in his speech suggested that we, in our Private Members' resolutions were asking the Federal Government for something that we could not, or were afraid to, do ourselves. And while he admitted that he had not read them very closely, I am satisfied that if he had read them closely, he would have realized that that was not the case but that what we were doing through these resolutions is simply contributing our part to the welfare of the economy of Canada and of much of the world. We, as legislators in this Chamber, have a duty to perform that reaches far outside of these walls. We are interested, not only in the legislative work that we may do here, but we are interested in the economy of Canada as a whole, for, irrespective of whether we have the power to legislate over the Dominion of Canada, nevertheless we, as citizens of Canada, must accept the responsibility for the action of Canada. No, Mr. Speaker, we, representing the people here, have a responsibility to fulfil. We, as legislators, have a job to do, a job to do in which we must not fail, a job to do in which we dare not fail, a job to do in which we will not fail if we adopt as our motive the slogan of the Merchant Marines, as they kept the food-line to Britain open: "Damn the torpedoes and full speed ahead."

That, Mr. Speaker, is what I suggest that this Government is doing. It is going full speed ahead along the road to democratic socialism. In a resume given in the Speech from the Throne and in the resume just given by the Premier of the work that has been done and what is forecast in this Legislature, while it may not be as spectacular as some maybe would have hoped and certainly not as erratic as was suggested would be by the Opposition, nevertheless I feel that this resume of social progress that has been made within the limited powers of the province, is one which will go down in history in the Dominion of Canada for the progress made in such a short period by any government.

Our standard of living here depends primarily upon three things. First, our ability to produce; second, our ability to retain the wealth from that production for the benefits of our people, and, thirdly, in our ability to distribute the wealth as equitably as possible — wealth in the form not only of goods, but wealth in the form of goods and services as well. In the outline given by the Premier we have seen the great potential possibility of our productive capacity in a planned economy, and through the extension of the social services, we are extending and distributing those services which are being made available to the people, not on the basis of ability to pay but rather on the basis of need.

One charge that has often been levied against the present Government is the fact that they are increasing taxation. I doubt that this claim can be substantiated, in fact, it certainly cannot in figures. But as a taxpayer and as a resident of Saskatchewan, I am not so much interested in the amount of taxes that I may pay or may not pay, what I am interested in primarily is the amount of return that I can get for those taxes. I am interested in dollar value return in the form of services based

February 5, 1947

on need.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have at least some time before us in this Legislature in which to deal with specific details that have been brought down, so I will not weary the House with any detailed analysis of particular projects, which I think are of particular importance as outlined in the Speech from the Throne, but I do wish to take this opportunity of showing to the House that I will fully support the motion.

Hon. W. S. Lloyd (Minister of Education): — Mr. Speaker, I would at this time like to take a few moments to concur with what has already been said in the extending of congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address-in-Reply and to concur also in the extending of congratulations to the Member from Morse on his easy and decisive win in the by-election of recent months. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the privilege of adjourning the debate.

Debate adjourned.

The Assembly adjourned at 5:30 o'clock p.m.