

ministry, and in each case through or in association with the ministry, the two gentlemen who above all others were the preferred leaders of the Progressive party. The country generally will recognize in the appointments which have been made a sincere desire on the part of the government not only to select the best men for these positions, but to select gentlemen who are particularly well qualified to render service in the parliament of Canada to the great industry of agriculture.

My hon. friend expresses some surprise that the present Minister of Railways and Canals should find himself on this side of the house at the present time. I would ask him to let his thoughts go back to the situation as it existed in this parliament in 1922.

Mr. BENNETT: I was not here.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My friend was not here. There were a good many others that were not here but have since come. I will remember the circumstances.

An hon. MEMBER: There will be more next time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It will go on as it is going, my hon. friend will find. My hon. friend the present Minister of Railways and Canals, who was then leader of the Progressive party, had the second largest following in this house. He might have taken the seat of the hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett).

Mr. McGIBBON: Only he had not the courage.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I can assure my hon. friend his remark does not add to my appreciation of his courage.

The party of that day took the view that it was in the interest of the agricultural classes of this country and in the interest of the Progressive party not to act as opposition to the Liberal party, but rather to cooperate with the Liberal party in the various measures it introduced in this house, where those measures were of a character to appeal to the Progressive group. That cooperation has been given in greater or less degree year in and year out. As my hon. friend knows, I have stated, in different parts of this country over and over again, that I looked upon the Progressive party and the Labour party as advanced wings of the Liberal party; that their policies were fundamentally Liberal policies; and that I believed it to be in their interest, as I believe it is in our interest, for us to unite on the great things which we have in common rather than to be divided,

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

or at variance with each other in the face of the common political enemy which we see opposite at the present time.

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman must not use war words like that.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am afraid I have got the habit from listening to my hon. friend. May I say this word in conclusion, because it is nearly six o'clock: I believe that throughout this country the wisdom of that course, involving as it did cooperation between men and women who feel and think alike on public questions, who share great, liberal principles, broad ideas and ideals, is becoming ever plainer to the people at large, and that when the day does come and my hon. friend gets his chance to seek to make his views prevail, he will find that cooperation a thing worth while, something to be seriously reckoned with.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In the course of his remarks this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend (Mr. Bennett) was kind enough to say that last year when touching upon the prosperity of the country, I had been the one to speak of Providence. If I am not mistaken it was my hon. friend who, being unwilling to explain the prosperity of the country as being due to the policies of the government, attributed that prosperity entirely to Providence. I would like to ask my hon. friend if he is still of the same mind as respects conditions of which he now complains, that the harvest last year not being what it was the year before, Providence is in the main responsible.

Mr. BENNETT: I think the hon. gentleman will find his answer in his own remarks on that occasion.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I remember the answer very well; I think it was that Providence required human assistants to work through, and was rather fortunate in having the present administration instead of the hon. gentlemen opposite to carry out its will.

In referring to the position of the country this afternoon my hon. friend set certain tests of his own concerning prosperity and in the light of those tests selected by himself gave his opinions. He omitted altogether the tests which as a matter of fact the government in previous years has used in account-