

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

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

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

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

but if he continues to impose increased duties then the cure of unemployment will be long in the future.

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

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

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