

unpopular, but which were in their belief for the ultimate good of the country. The only thing that saved Canada during the war was the fact that there was a Government that was not afraid to do things that would be unpopular.

That is very gratifying when one considers the source from which it comes.

I do not want to detain the House too long, but I would like to read a short item from the Toronto Star, which I always understood to be a strong Liberal paper. This is what it says about the Union Government:

"The Union Government is in an extraordinary position," says the Toronto Star in reviewing the session of Parliament just closed. It says: "It has given the country more legislation of first-rate importance than any previous government ever did in the same length of time. It has shown more courage in handling big and difficult questions than any previous government. Yet it is conceded on all sides that the Union Government stands no chance of being upheld by the country, and apparently nobody, even at Ottawa, expects anything else than that the Government will be wiped out when the next elections take place, be it soon or late."

"The work that stands to the credit of the Union Government since the election of 1917 is considerable. But that which has been done in the brief session now closing would in itself be enough ordinarily to make the reputation of an administration. The Grand Trunk has been nationalized in the face of all the influence that the C.P.R. and the big financial and other corporations, mostly with headquarters in Montreal, could exert."

"The Union Government has pushed through legislation enabling Ontario or any other province, to make prohibition bone-dry within its boundaries by taking certain steps which will ensure federal aid in the doing of it."

There may be some difference of opinion on that point.

The work of abolishing patronage and perfecting civil service reform, of having all purchasing done on a sound basis, has been pushed through. This is one of the biggest things in the way of cleaning up graft and waste ever done by any government in any country.

Another great thing has been done. It was during the present session that the Government explained the new status Canada has attained within the Empire—a status which has been accorded international recognition. Canada is now declared to be one of a group of British nations, in full control of her own affairs.

Canada's new status is something which seems to be causing our friends on the other side of the House a great deal of uneasiness. The honourable gentleman from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Roche) was at great pains to show that Canada had not attained a new status.

As I have said, during the period of the war the Government has done much; and the same is true of the period of reconstruction. I do not know about military life—

there are men here who do—but I believe I am not far wrong when I say that it is extremely difficult to re-establish men in civil life after they have spent some time in the army. I can only refer to what has been done in this respect in Manitoba. The remarks which I am about to read were made by the member for Lakeside in the Manitoba House. The following are statistics on soldier unemployment in Manitoba as of February 7:

Number of soldiers not working, 1,481; number who have not applied for work, who were living without assistance of any kind 600; number to which A class certificates had been issued, or those who had no employment and were seeking work, 165; number to which B class certificates had been issued or those in employment whose wages were not sufficient, 148. Those who had been receiving assistance right along numbered 591. When it was considered that 30,000 soldiers had been demobilized in Manitoba, said he, those figures were very reassuring.

Judging from that statement the Government has been very successful in the re-establishing of the soldiers.

During the last year or two we have heard a great deal about the agrarian movement, the farmers' movement. I do not know of any reason why a farmer should not move if he wants to and has the ability to do so. The sympathy of the House may not be with me in what I am about to say, but I ask honourable members of this Chamber to accept what I say as a sincere expression of my views. I believe that Canada, because of its diversified interests, is one of the most difficult countries in the world to govern. It is easy to govern a municipality because the interests of the people are not so varied; it is comparatively easy to carry on a local government, because the interests of the people are similar; but when it comes to governing Canada, owing to the diversified interests and extent of the country, government is a very difficult problem.

For forty years I have lived in the West, and what I am about to say will apply principally to the three Prairie Provinces. The three Prairie Provinces have not very much on which to depend. It is estimated that the population of those provinces is to-day very nearly 2,000,000 people—1,960,000, I think. Including British Columbia, the population of Western Canada is about two and a half millions of people. The people of the three Prairie Provinces have a great deal with which to contend. Some of you know it and some of you do not. I was astounded to read in the press the other day a statement to the effect that