

from the throne, is brought down, he will be expected to produce some better answer than the mere glorifications which have appeared in the newspapers as to the efficiency with which his department has been conducted.

This parliament has been flouted with respect to the customs enquiry. It solemnly passed a resolution in which it said that the judges should be appointed by the judges of the exchequer court, and they were so appointed in the first instance. When the change of administration took place an order in council was substituted for the voice of the judges of the exchequer court and a political tribunal—not using the words in that sense with respect to the judges—a political tribunal was set up and eminent counsel, a member of the Liberal party was appointed in connection with it. But information placed in their hands was not acted upon. I say now to the minister that the action of this parliament in demanding that prosecutions take place, naming the persons that should be prosecuted, naming the persons from whom money should be collected before the proper forum—and that forum did not mean a lawyer's office in Toronto but a court of law—was ignored. I say that when that action was taken and when those resolutions were arrived at they meant that this House of Commons demanded that action should be taken; and I say to the minister that when his legislation comes before this house—without taking up the time of parliament in going into the matter now—I hope that the names of these people will be given and some reasons offered parliament and the public why these prosecutions have not taken place. I say to my right hon. friend in all sincerity that he and not someone else has now the responsibility in this matter. I sympathized with my right hon. friend when he said to me in days gone by how difficult it was for the first minister to be able to know what goes on in every department of the public service. And that is the correct statement of the situation. However, I suggest to him that notwithstanding pressure of work he will find ample opportunity for satisfying his curiosity—shall I say?—if he will investigate the report that has been laid upon the table of this house.

There is only one thing more I desire to say with respect to the domestic situation, and that is in connection with research. I am wholly in accord with the suggestion made by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) that we should provide large sums of money for research. We have

[Mr. Bennett.]

research with respect to animal husbandry, with respect to grain, with respect to field harvests, with respect to forests, with respect to fisheries. And here I observe that the government has appointed a fisheries commission to deal with certain matters in connection with the maritime provinces. I hope that the report of this commission will be laid upon the table before the house rises and at the earliest possible moment, because it is important that whatever is proposed in connection with fishery matters should be considered by parliament in the light of the evidence taken by that commission. But with respect to research, may I make this observation: Nothing is more fatal to research than duplication of effort and waste of public money; and no laboratory work is worthy of the name—the Prime Minister knows that so well—that is conducted under departmental supervision, as just a little branch of a department with a deputy minister at its head. That is so in connection with the Department of the Interior and of forestry research matters. But these things cannot be done in that way; it is a waste of public money. I have endeavoured to make some investigation into the matter. I have made some enquiries with respect to the work done, for instance—my right hon. friend is thoroughly familiar with it—by the Rockefeller institute and the Carnegie foundation; also work done by other foundations in Great Britain, and work being done in the universities. If we are going to have duplication of effort it will be money wasted without accomplishing any results at all. I want to say on behalf of the Conservative party, and every member of it, that we desire in every way in our power to make possible the development of research facilities in this country in order that young Canadian men and women may find employment; there is nothing comparable to it. I speak particularly of young women because some of the best work done in connection with the Department of Agriculture, as the minister himself will tell you, is done by young women who have adopted that particular field of activity.

There is one other important matter I will speak of, and that is with respect to the uniting of the Department of Health with the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment. Many of the men who have returned from the front are opposed to uniting their department with any other department; but it may be that there is such a close relation between their disabilities and the Department of Health that such a union can be satis-