

non-employment during that period were quite as severe as those which prevail in Canada at present. I hope the manufacturing and commercial establishments in Canada, and other large employers of labour will bear in mind that during a period of great prosperity things have been going well for them and well for the country, and if owing to a certain financial stringency which prevails throughout the world, business may be checked a little now, it is not desirable that they should be too ready to throw men out of employment. They ought rather to have a little patience and to use a certain foresight and to look forward to that recovery of business which we have every reason to believe will begin when spring opens.

I have transgressed upon the time of the House much longer than I intended to. Let me say in closing simply this. The Government have in mind and will have in mind the prevailing conditions, whether restricted to Canada or of world-wide scope, and the Government will endeavour to do their duty by the people of Canada and by this country. The Government are firmly impressed with the belief that any little check at the present time is purely temporary and that the people of this country have every right to be optimistic and to look forward to the future with confident hope that the development and progress in the years to come will be infinitely greater than any which have characterized past years.

As to the resolution which my right hon. friend has proposed: it is designed to invite the opinion of the House adversely to the Government; it is a want of confidence resolution pure and simple. Under the circumstances, in view of the paucity of argument which my right hon. friend was able to bring forward in its support; in view of the fact that we have these conditions under consideration at the present time; in view of the fact that my right hon. friend has not been able to point out in his speech one single measure which he himself would advocate at present for the purpose of relieving the conditions which he claims to exist, I ask the hon. members of this House to mete out to this resolution the treatment which it deserves and to reject it by an overwhelming majority.

Mr. MICHAEL CLARK (Red Deer): I should like to be allowed to associate myself with the expressions that have been used on both sides of the House, both as to the sympathy of the people of Canada with

their Royal Highnesses and as to the ability displayed by the mover and seconder of the Address. I would like to congratulate my right hon. friend the Prime Minister also on the fact that he appears to be in very good health as compared with the reports we heard about him during the recess. I am very glad he has been able to give us abundant evidence that these reports were very much exaggerated.

I have a somewhat unpleasant duty to discharge in my next sentence, and that is to take absolute sides with the leader of the Government and against my right hon. friend in one particular. I am a western man, and personally I am grateful to the Government for the time at which they have called the House together. I have good reason to know that that action of the Government was taken not without sympathy for the members of this House who live at great distances from the seat of government. I do not think that the late meeting of the House should lead to any undue lengthening of the session. I think that, if we get to work as we should do, it would rather have the effect of the business going through in a more expeditious and business-like way than sometimes it has done.

There is a great deal of purposeless talk, I think, in all parliaments. Not that I think that that applies to the talk of the Opposition last session. There was nothing purposeless about our talk. We had a very definite purpose in view and we accomplished it. Our purpose was to bring the Government and their supporters to a better frame of mind in regard to naval proposals. What that frame of mind is now, I am in a little haze about, so far as the Prime Minister's speech is concerned. I am glad, however, to recognize, in the business-like address which has been brought down, that the Government desires to shorten the session and to shorten discussions. Certainly, the programme of the Government for this session is most unambitious in its nature. I think they have introduced only one Bill, and that they are compelled to do, under the circumstances, by the last census—the Redistribution Bill. With regard to that Bill, I would only say this: that I have found a very general opinion amongst the people of this country—and an opinion which I share—that there will be two considerations, which at any rate will be present in the mind of the Prime Minister of this country in regard to that Bill. The first is that he is most unlikely to go outside the recognized constitution of the country,