

but as my hon. friend knows, the several dominions wish to be represented as well as the home government and it was not found possible to get agreement among the dominions to have the meeting held in Ottawa.

Mr. CAHAN: I misunderstood the hon. gentleman.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As a result the conference will be held in England in late September or early October of this year.

As to the reference in the speech from the throne to the appointment of a woman to the Senate, my hon. friend took exception to the wording in the address to the effect that His Excellency had upon the advice of his ministers acted at the earliest opportunity to summon a woman to the Senate. May I point out to my hon. friend that the earliest time at which any individual could take his or her seat in the Senate was when parliament resumed. That was the earliest opportunity at which any summons could have any effect. The lady who has been appointed to the senate took her seat on the first day of the session of this parliament. I do not think it would have been possible for His Excellency to have obtained a seat for any member of the senate before that time. That was the earliest opportunity at which any person could gain a seat in the senate.

Mr. BENNETT: That is not what the speech says.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Again I say that my hon. friend has gone through the speech from the throne with a fine-tooth comb and his comment on that particular phrase indicates the pains he has been put to in order to find something to criticize. If there is nothing in the affairs of the administration during this past year which is more deserving of criticism than the phraseology in the speech from the throne as to the time at which His Excellency summoned a woman to the senate, I think the government has little reason to be concerned over the confidence which the country, I believe, has in the administration?

My hon. friend, looking for fine points all through the speech from the throne, has missed altogether the larger vision. With regard to the appointment of a woman to the senate he has altogether failed to see that what really has been effected is a very considerable measure of senate reform. Speak about the democratizing of the senate! I hope that my hon. friend and all hon. gentlemen opposite will recognize that for the first time in the history of Canada the women of

this country have been given a voice peculiarly their own in the upper chamber of this parliament. May I also direct the attention of my hon. friend to the other appointment to the senate that has been made by the government, the appointment of one who was formerly the leader of the Progressive party in this parliament. In other words, to the farming community and to the women of this country there has been given an added voice in the senate by the appointments which have been made within the past few weeks. That is the real significance to be attached to that item in the speech from the throne, not that there is some phraseology capable of being twisted into a meaning which was never intended. What I say in this regard is, I believe, equally true of practically all the comments that have been made by my hon. friend on the speech. He has not sought to get a true perspective of the matters contained in the speech.

I have already pointed out in regard to prosperity that my hon. friends' vision is very limited indeed. With regard to the transfer of the natural resources to the western provinces my hon. friend said, and perhaps rightly, that he had very little to say on that subject at this time because bills would be introduced later; but he did not point out, as he might well have done, that what is there set out indicates the result of a settlement of differences between the provinces and this Dominion which have occasioned very considerable difficulty for many years in the past. Reference is made to the maritime provinces. When we came into office we found a condition of unrest in the maritimes. It was the most serious situation with which the country was then faced. We appointed a commission to look into conditions there, and we acted on the report of that commission in very considerable detail. A very little still remains to be done, and I hope that before we are through hon. gentlemen may find that the report has been implemented in all particulars. Coming next to the western portion of this country, we found on assuming office that the western provinces for some fifteen years previous had been trying to get back their natural resources. Hon. gentlemen opposite had been in office from 1911 to 1921, they never were able to effect a transfer; they never were able to work out terms satisfactory alike to the provinces and to the federal government. We have achieved that result. That is part of the achievement mentioned in the speech from the throne.

Going still further west, to the province of British Columbia, there was an old grievance