

Mr. McKENZIE: He may have stated a reason, but my capacity for reading newspapers is pretty limited, and there are practically only a few papers, such as the Mail and Empire—

An hon. MEMBER: The Globe.

Mr. McKENZIE:—and the Toronto Times, that I read. They are voluminous and interesting and they take up all the time at my disposal. I did not see in those papers any statement made by our good friend the ex-hon. member for Kingston. When the close relationships and the happy family ties that existed between this Government and the hon. member are snapped and the hon. member goes out and refuses to stay any longer with them, we have a right, as a jury, to draw certain inferences from the facts. And I believe if the hon. member could say something that would be helpful to this Government and give a helpful reason, he would do so; but as long as he could not do that, he held his tongue, and in my opinion, he did quite properly, for I have no great use for any man who goes out of a party and then tries to abuse it. I always apply to such a man the saying, "It's an ill bird that befouls its own nest", and the least we should do is to leave them alone and let the people at large judge the conduct of the Government.

Sir SAM HUGHES: In case Mr. Nickle should present himself for re-election for Kingston, would the leader of the Opposition go down there and support him?

Mr. McKENZIE: It so happens that I am neither a soldier nor a sailor, and I fear I would have no other qualification to vote there.

I hope we shall be able to stir up this Government to do some of the things that are absolutely necessary in the best interest of the country.: It is to be hoped that the Prime Minister will fill up the gaps, although he may be under an embarrassment because he has two elements to consider, the Unionists and the old line Tories; and whenever he has a position open he has this fight for it from two ranks. I suppose there will be no peace for him until he fills the vacancies, but the people of this country expect him to have courage and determination to see to it that those vacancies are filled and that some business is being done by the Government more than simply the shuffling back and forth with the hope of keeping themselves in power. I hope those matters will be attended to and the different elements which enter into the

[Mr. Edwards.]

life of this country will—during the short time that hon. gentlemen who are now on the Government benches have the privilege of holding their respective positions and dealing with these matters—be able to say of them that in their last days nothing became them, in respect to the administration of the departments of this country, better than the leaving of them, and at the last moment they had made a dash for the improvement and betterment of the affairs of this country.

Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I join most heartily and sincerely with my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Mr. McKenzie) in extending congratulations to the mover and the seconder of the Address, both of whom made admirable speeches and acquitted themselves very worthily of the important duty which devolved upon them.

With respect to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, I desire also to associate myself with what was said by the mover and seconder of the Address, as well as by my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition. It has been both my duty and my privilege on more than one occasion to express to His Royal Highness the welcome of the Canadian people. In that welcome there has been a note of personal affection and esteem, apart altogether from the very high position which His Royal Highness holds as heir to the Throne. Everywhere there has been a very warm expression of affection, admiration, and, more than that, of comradeship. I am quite sure that the close ties by which the Prince has bound himself to the people of Canada in this visit will never be severed.

I need not spend much time in replying to the interesting and amusing address of my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition. He has taken upon himself a good deal of concern with regard to reconstruction of the Government, the filling of portfolios, and with regard to the position which the Government holds in the country. My hon. friend in these matters dealt, admittedly, almost altogether in surmise, but he might have given us some very interesting information indeed as to conditions on the other side of the House as to which he has a perfect knowledge. I could not but observe his remarkable reticence in that regard, and I do not think it is necessary for me to pursue the subject further.

My hon. friend has taken exception to the delay which has taken place in constituting the Board of Commerce. I quite agree that it would have been far better