

often said that the young men of Quebec show a knowledge of political history unrivalled by the other young men of this country. The hon. gentleman has indicated his wide knowledge, his intellectual powers, and his disciplined mental processes, and I am sure his speech met with the approval of all members of this house.

But when I say that of the speeches which have been delivered, I have said all that can be reasonably expected, because the mover and seconder of the address had a most difficult task to perform. I venture to say that in the many years which have elapsed since Confederation it will be somewhat difficult to find a speech from the throne so vague, so filled with generalities, and so lacking in the promise of useful legislation. It might indeed be said that instead of being a prospectus, as all speeches from the throne are supposed to be, indicating something of the intention of the administration with respect to the future, it was a record of the past, a record of the days that are no more. When the speech from the throne undertakes to rejoice in a prosperity which has passed it is not serving its purpose; as I understand it, the purpose of the speech from the throne is to give an idea of how the government proposes to deal with the problems which have come upon the country. It is not sufficient to say that in 1929 the country enjoyed a prosperity which we do not at the present moment enjoy; what we expected to have from the government, and what we should have had was some indication as to how the problems now before the country would be dealt with, and what its intentions were with regard to them. Perhaps the absence of our old friend the late Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb), to whose untimely passing we referred the other day, had something to do with the sparse bill of fare. The sagacious mind and great wisdom of that distinguished gentleman perhaps would have given this house something better to deal with than it has now.

This affords me the opportunity, perhaps, to congratulate the hon. gentleman (Mr. Dunning) who now fills the office of Minister of Finance. I trust that he may emulate his predecessor in regard to his public declarations. In every instance in which the late Mr. Robb had occasion to deal with public affairs, he never engaged in claptrap oratory for the purpose of appealing to the mob.

May I venture further to congratulate the Minister of Railways (Mr. Crerar) upon his accession to the cabinet. "Oh what a fall was there, my countrymen!" As the hon. gentleman looks upon those who sit opposite to

[Mr. Bennett.]

him he will see the faces of some of those with whom he was once a colleague, and as he looks to his right upon the benign countenance of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) he must recall the scathing remarks he made about the administration of which he was once a member. He must recall those days, and those glib phrases which slipped so easily from the mouth of the Minister of Justice.

I can readily understand why the Minister of Railways the other day made the speech which he did in Regina. Perhaps some of the members of this house are unaware of the observations he made. He said that in seeking a concise definition of liberalism he went to the dictionary to find the meaning of the word, and by that dictionary he was able to classify himself. It was impossible by any other means at his disposal to determine what he was. He must recall that in the days gone by he had denounced the cotton industry in Canada as being an industry which was not indigenous to this country and one which should not exist. He said that a few thousand people were given employment in Sherbrooke or Valleyfield but that the Canadian people as a whole should not be penalized to provide employment for those who lived in the constituency of the former Minister of Finance. He denounced the rubber industry and said that that industry was not indigenous to Canada, and yet his colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Malcolm) just a few days ago sent out to the members of this house a record of the rubber industry in Canada for the month of January last only, showing that Canada sold \$2,500,000 worth of rubber in competition with the rest of the world. In competition with the United States, where that industry is not indigenous either, Canada was able to secure \$2,500,000 worth of rubber trade in the markets of the world. Is it any wonder that he had to seek the dictionary in order to find what party he belonged to?

Then he said he was a free trader and he denounced protection in all modes and forms and clearly expressed his detestation of that principle. He said, "The Progressive party will lead the Canadian people into the promised land." The hon. Senator Forke and the hon. Minister of Railways both have seen the promised land!

I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that nowhere in the history of our institutions will you find a case in which you have opinions so diverse and so strongly expressed as those which have been expressed by the hon. Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Euler) and the new Minister of Railways and Canals. Imagine