

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my hon. friend prefers to follow the example of certain gentlemen in the senate of the United States, I for my part prefer to take my example from the parliament of Great Britain and to emulate the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. No speeches have been made in the British parliament of the character of that made by my hon. friend in this house; and so far as the British public are concerned, I hope they will understand, when they read the words of my hon. friend, how they happened to be spoken—

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: —and will not take those words too seriously. We all understand my hon. friend's jingoist tendencies, and I think it is important that the people of Great Britain and of the United States as well should understand them.

Mr. BENNETT: We will discuss the right hon. gentleman's tendencies later.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Very well; my hon. friend will have an opportunity to do so.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say that the first of all duties of a public man, and certainly of the leader of a political party, is to be very careful of the way in which he refers to the domestic affairs of other countries, and doubly careful when his words have reference to the possibility of international difficulties.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think there is anything more I need add at the moment, except to say to my hon. friend that, as the session proceeds, I shall endeavour to touch upon any points that have been omitted at the moment.

One reference my hon. friend made upon which, before concluding, I should like to say a word. He spoke of the Elections Act and wondered whether the allusion thereto, in the speech from the throne, in any way portended an early election. I wish to put at rest his mind and the minds of other hon. gentlemen who may have any doubt as to the intention of the government in this particular. The government must always reserve to itself the right to judge when the proper moment comes to go to the country and make its appeal to the electorate. So far as I can see at the moment, there is no reason whatever why any appeal should be

made to the country this year. I believe the country has every confidence in the government; I believe the country is prospering more and more; and unless something develops in the course of this session to cause the government to alter its present intention there will be no election until at least another year comes round, and then possibly not for another year or more.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): My first duty is to congratulate the mover (Mr. Cayley) and seconder (Mr. Ferland) of the address upon their speeches last Friday. If I have any criticism to offer of the speech of the mover it is merely this, that with reference to the conditions generally prevailing in Canada he was rather too optimistic, taking all things into consideration. However, I take this opportunity of congratulating him upon his effort.

Now, we have had the privilege this afternoon of listening to the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) as well as to the right hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). The prime minister has replied to the leader of the opposition, and I am not going to take up the time of the house to any great extent in criticizing the observations of either of these gentlemen. I think I have something to say of some importance to the people whom I represent and consequently I will not devote too much time to a criticism of these speeches.

One remark the leader of the opposition made struck me forcibly. While he admitted that we in Canada at the present time were enjoying an apparent prosperity, he warned the country to prepare for a possible deflation. I believe there is some truth in what the hon. gentleman has said, because we who are students of economics must know that while we have periods of prosperity, so called, these periods are always followed by periods of deflation; and it is my judgment that we in this house should take every step we possibly can to provide against the time of deflation when it comes, whether immediately or four, five or ten years hence.

One other remark I wish to criticize is the reference of the Prime Minister to the Crow- nest pass agreement. The western members know very well what this agreement means to western Canada. When we went into western Canada it was understood that we were to be protected by legislation in regard to grain rates. For war purposes this agreement was set aside for a certain period. The rates immediately went far beyond and above those specified as the maximum in that agreement.