

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

First, he was the governor, then he was the commander in chief of the army, admiral of the navy, prime minister, president of the council, and many other things which I have forgotten. The Prime Minister could fill all these positions, in fact he has been filling many of them here for the last year and a half. The house will remember the first estimates which were put through by this government. There were supplementaries to cover money which had been spent, but instead of each minister handling his own, the Prime Minister handled them all.

When it came to entomology I offered a modest suggestion. Although I could hardly stand upon my feet. I made a few remarks about the cutworm, and when the Minister of Agriculture made his maiden speech—he was in good form and he made a good fighting speech—he used up a column of Hansard to ridicule what I had said. If he had lost as much through the cutworm as I had, he would have understood what I was saying.

The government has received many other suggestions from this side of the house but it does not understand them. I can understand that because the Tory and Liberal minds are poles asunder. We do not understand each other. I will admit quite candidly that I do not know a Tory from Adam; I do not understand him and I cannot grasp his psychology, but the electors will soon understand and will correct any difference there is between us. I intend to offer some more suggestions if eleven o'clock does not come too soon.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Is there someone hollering over there? Look at those two birds in the front row—I am up in years enough to respect old age and I will let it go at that.

Suggestions have been offered from this side of the house right down to the east end. The hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Coote) offered a suggestion regarding the construction of houses, and yet we are told we are offering no constructive suggestions. They have appealed to us for cooperation, they have asked us to work shoulder to shoulder with them while the best authority in the world tells us not to cast our pearls before—Tories. Why should we? Yet I am going to continue because some of the seed may fall in good ground; I hope it will not be all stony and sterile. The seed fell in some good ground last year.

I see the Prime Minister is now in his seat. I was about to remark that the Prime Minister was far more docile, far more amenable to reason last year than he is this. He has been far more difficult to bring up this year.

[Mr. Motherwell.]

Maggie's task at bringing up Jiggs is not in it with the Conservatives' task of bringing up my right hon friend. Last year I had some encouragement in making a few suggestions. When the Prime Minister brought down his budget last session, it was claimed that it was the only budget ever brought down that was worthy of the name. Nobody ever budgeted like that before and nobody ever backed away so much before. But we do not want to rub it in too much because we think the country benefited by his backing away. This year, however, he will not back away one inch; he is just like a balky horse. I am going to blame his colleagues for this. The greatest move the Prime Minister made last year was when he discarded two proposals. At first he was going to give the five cents to the exporters of wheat; they were the only ones who could prove the export was made, but he backed away from that. Then he was going to have a magnificent new income tax schedule, but he backed away from that, rather ungraciously, it is true. I believe if we were to keep on hammering he would back away from this rotten thing we now have before us. But many think he will not; he shows no signs yet of doing so. We are going to try to shame him into it, but I propose to hold responsible, not only my right hon. friend but every one of the other members of the cabinet. I have been in government too long—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: It is the only little opportunity my hon. friends have had to clap and laugh, but if they had let me put my words closer together, maybe they would not have had the opportunity. I have been in government too long not to know the difficulties of government; but no man can ever attain the dictatorial temperament, powers and practices of the present Prime Minister without the consent of his colleagues, at least, without their tacit consent. They must all accept the responsibility. If any of them do not like present conditions and feel strongly about it, they can stop it by one resignation; that is all it needs. At the time the Minister of Agriculture submitted to the most horrible cut in his estimates, he could have prevented it; it would have been a great trial, but he would have been the victor. No prime minister would let his minister of agriculture resign on that cut in the estimates, because to do so would wreck the whole government. I know what I am talking about.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.