

*Family Allowances*

than to seek to raise in this country any form of prejudice, whether it be racial prejudice, religious prejudice, or prejudice against classes or regions.

Every one knows that Canada is a difficult country to govern. Every one knows that, at a time of war, we should, above all else, be as united as we possibly can. Yet in a period of war, at a most critical time, speakers on the other side of the house, in the official opposition, have repeatedly thrown out words insinuating that, in some way, this measure had been brought in to assist participants in an election in another province. I hope I can leave the matter at that. If what I am saying is not true I hope some one will immediately correct me.

There is another reason why this measure should not go into force before July 1 of next year. I have indicated that it is not my intention if I can possibly prevent it, and I think I may be able to, to deny to the people of Canada the right which is theirs of having an election at least every five years. This parliament is not going to be permitted to continue, whether the war is continuing or not, beyond the five years of its term. As is known, we were returned as a government to carry on the war. And we intend to do that; suffer politically as we may by devoting our entire time to carrying on the war, we intend to pursue that course in the manner that will best help to win the war. There are some hon. gentlemen opposite—and this is not restricted to the official opposition—who have been spending most of their time in trying to win elections and trying to destroy this government charged as it is with the many responsibilities that have been placed upon it by the Canadian people. I think I have some appreciation of the spirit that is in the breasts of the Canadian people. I tell my hon. friends that they will find, when the time comes, that the Canadian people are not going to be indifferent to the action, no matter from what party it originates, of trying to destroy the government that has been sent here to carry on the prosecution of the war, as vigorously as may be possible, and of seeking to destroy and undermine in every possible way its authority in different parts of the country.

I have been amazed—I must say that I speak of these things because I think they ought to be mentioned—at the fact that some men of high position in this country who were brought into the government service to help to carry on the war, knowing what they do about the seriousness of the situation, and how necessary it is that every man of ability who can serve should remain in service to help to

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

win the war, should have left the government service in order, in the crisis of the war, to help organize a political party against the government. That, too, is something that the people of Canada will not forget.

The people of Canada have a moral sense which can be trusted, and I think that some gentlemen will find that out. Speaking of the official opposition, some one said to me, it was true of them, as had been said of an opposition elsewhere perhaps, that they had not enough members to fill an omnibus. He added, the way they are being led at the present time, not in this house but from outside, that when the next election comes they will not have enough to fill a taxicab, let alone an omnibus. I think that is probably correct.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You had better look after your own fences; do not bother about us.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I know my hon. friend does not want me to worry about him. May I say that I am not worrying about him at all.

Mr. GRAYDON: I think you fellows will be able to walk; you will not need a vehicle at all.

Mr. ADAMSON: The Liberal party will come back on a bicycle built for two.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: However, that is by the way.

I come now to one of the other criticisms which have been made of this measure, that certain labour leaders have objected to it on the score that it might possibly have the effect of keeping down wages which are already too low. If I believed that any such possibility existed, I would be the last person to introduce the measure. But as has been so frequently made clear in this house, the effect of this measure, first of all, is going to be to create a much greater and more certain and constant demand for commodities in the domestic market of Canada than has existed at any time prior to the war. That of itself will keep up the demand for labour. That certainly is not going to make it any easier for employers to keep wages depressed.

The wage system takes no account whatever of family status. This is something that cannot be considered too carefully. The factors that determine the rates of wages must take account of international competition, national competition and local competition. In that process the fixing of the rate of wages is related no more to those who have great obligations than to those who have no family obligations. A man who has a large family