

found in the maritimes to excel our province, and we confidently hope and expect to see a Canadian National railway hotel located at this particular point, because we feel it will not only help the province but be profitable to the railway as well.

I have spoken, Mr. Speaker, of the wonderful progress being made in Canada in various ways. I am sure that as Canadians we ought to be proud of our country, but I am afraid we sometimes fail to realize just what a wonderful country we have, and in it there is no fairer gem than the little island which I have the honour to represent.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your kind attention.

Mr. D. B. PLUNKETT (Victoria, B.C.): May I offer my congratulations, Mr. Speaker, to the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) upon the services he rendered this country at the signing of the Peace treaty? On that occasion he not only honoured this Dominion, but brought great credit to himself as our representative. And may I convey to the hon. member for Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Lavigne) my thanks for his kindly greeting upon my entry to this house? I can assure the hon. member that British Columbia values such courtesy, coming as it does from a representative of the historic province of Quebec.

I am sorry that neither in the speech from the throne nor in the budget as submitted by the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) was there any specific relief or indication of help for the agricultural interests and working people of this country.

In regard to the prosperity to which the hon. ministers are continually referring to glorify their administration and to distract the attention of the people from the real issue of the day, I would suggest to the Prime Minister that having by force of circumstances been compelled to seek a constituency in the wheat belt, he should visit his constituents occasionally and talk with them. Had he done so I feel sure there would not have been such a tendency on his part to force this myth of prosperity upon the citizens of Canada, and particularly upon those engaged in agricultural pursuits. It is therefore difficult for me to give any further credit to the present government, especially for the budget introduced by the hon. Minister of Finance. I select this sentence from the minister's budget speech:

The administration will refuse to support any extravagance in the spending of the taxpayers' money.

What hypocrisy and cheap political propaganda that sentence contains! Think of the cost of the trips taken and the time spent by cabinet ministers coming to my constituency in Victoria. I did not have the pleasure of speaking with them on the same platform in Victoria, but I am glad to meet them tonight, for I have a few stories to tell them of what they said on that occasion to the people of the city of Victoria, and I am going to ask them now to make good what they then promised or implied. I would suggest to the hon. members on my left that if they wish to get anything for their constituents they should resign. Then in the ensuing by-elections they will get wonderful promises, but they will have to wait for results.

Before the Prime Minister could become familiar with the plan of campaign of his party managers in Victoria, he sent the following telegram to the Liberal candidate, as it appeared in the *Victoria Daily Times* of Wednesday, October 31, 1928:

I am delighted to learn that you have received and accepted the unanimous nomination of the Liberals of Victoria to contest the constituency in the interests of our party in the approaching federal by-election.

That was the only time that the interests of the party were ever mentioned. Presumably the Prime Minister had not yet had an opportunity of consulting his colleagues and did not know the plan of campaign that they had laid down. As I say, that was the only time that "the interests of our party" were mentioned. We were told in Victoria that the issue was local and was being fought by the Liberal party in the interests of our city. But let me proceed with the telegram:

Your presence in the House of Commons would be of the greatest advantage to the government in every way, but especially in relation to all matters pertaining to the interests of the province of British Columbia.

The Prime Minister has on several occasions lectured the opposition for, as he alleged, preaching sectionalism and dividing east and west. But is it a good thing to favour one province as against the others, as this telegram implies? It might be good tactics at a by-election, but the people of Victoria did not think so; they exercised good judgment. The telegram continues:

I cannot therefore express too sincerely my hope that in the general interest you may be returned as federal member for Victoria.

During the by-election I had hoped that we would have the presence of the Prime Minister. However, he did not visit us. But perhaps he thought it safer to send telegrams than to lose his political prestige by visiting