

their attention upon the work of the imperial conference, especially as he is going to be absent from the country for probably two months, the better it will be both for himself and for the country.

I have said, Mr. Speaker, that I do not think that the conscience of my hon. friend or of those who sit about him can be any too easy at this time, especially when they consider the manner in which the victory which brought them into power was attained. I have also said that with one exception, I do not intend to review the general features of the campaign. I am going to speak of the promises which were made by my hon. friend as the leader of the Conservative party, promises which he said would be fulfilled if he were returned to power and promises which he said would be fulfilled at the first session which would be called for the purpose of getting through the necessary legislation. When in his present position my hon. friend hears the extent of the program which he has laid out for himself, he will I think be taken somewhat by surprise. It may be very easy to create fears in the minds of the people with respect to existing conditions and to make promises as to the way in which those conditions will be relieved, but if my hon. friend has read, as I think he probably has, that story by Mrs. Shelley of the Frankenstein monster, it may serve to recall that there have been persons who have created situations which ultimately have been their own undoing. He promised at a first session to end unemployment or "to perish in the attempt." Unless I am much mistaken there is something prophetic in the phrase. My hon. friend will discover before he is through with the electorate of this Dominion that they will hold him responsible to a degree which perhaps he has not anticipated for the obligations which he has assumed as a result of the office he now holds.

The promises made by the present Prime Minister during the course of the campaign fall broadly into two groups. The first will be found in what I shall call his magna charta of pledges. The particular document which he cited in full in opening the campaign at the first meeting held at Winnipeg, a document which he has quoted at different times in articles contributed to the press, contains a list of promises of the Conservative party in the nature of pledges which would be redeemed, if they were returned to power. There is a supplementary list—I am afraid it is much longer—of additional promises which were made to suit particular localities and occasions, this I shall call his cornucopia of promises. The magna charta of pledges was so drafted

as to suit the country as a whole; it could be looked at in any part of the country and something would be found in the nature of a pledge which would appeal to that particular part of its immediate necessity. However, in travelling about, my hon. friend wished to particularize to a greater extent and he evidently exercised some care in discovering as he entered each locality what particular promise or pledge he could make which would best ensure votes for his supporters. So we have the two, the magna charta of pledges and the supplementary list, the cornucopia of promises.

Perhaps it would be better to read first the magna charta. It is dignified, not by the name of promises—these are pledges, each pledge being enumerated and beginning with the words "We pledge." The list is headed "The Party pledge." Without doubt these eight pledges were the guiding chart of hon. gentlemen opposite during the course of their discussions in this house at the last session. They were prepared for the purposes of debate here, in the first instance, and for use throughout the general campaign. Although the last general election was fought from the standpoint of hon. gentlemen opposite almost exclusively on the question of unemployment, these eight pledges which were announced at the first meeting in Winnipeg do not contain one single reference to unemployment. There was no pledge given with respect to unemployment and its relief in what was laid down as the eight pledges of the party. My hon. friend evidently discovered that he could make political capital out of unemployment and thereafter, while continuing to stress these pledges to some extent, he dealt more particularly with the question of unemployment.

Perhaps my hon. friend will recall the article by himself which appeared in the July 15 issue of MacLean's magazine. He and I were alike honoured by being asked to make a contribution regarding the election issues, and my hon. friend presented his article entitled "The Election Issues As I See Them" which appears at page 8 of the issue of that date. Although that article is dated July 15, it does not contain one single reference in the nature of any pledge respecting unemployment. Evidently the question of unemployment was not in his mind until he began to see the number of votes he was likely to get by making appeals along that particular line.

The party pledge, made on behalf of the party as a whole, reads as follows:

1. We pledge ourselves to a policy of protection for Canadians in the development of our