

ville (Mr. Motherwell) called us collie dogs. After listening to such convincing arguments I am sure you sir, will be struck by the soundness of the constitutional doctrines propounded by hon. members opposite. I would certainly be surprised if you, sir, were not moved by their logic and consistency expressed in such glowing terms of admiration.

Having listened to them I cannot but remember that the depression we are passing through has shaken the whole world. In all countries political parties are confronted with a similar situation but they take different views as to the different questions at issue. In Great Britain I understand a by-election is being held in the county of Dumbartonshire, and on Saturday morning last the papers reported that Premier MacDonald had sent a letter to his standard bearer in which he said:

Return to-day to partisan politics would shatter the foundations of confidence at home and abroad on which all the national services must rest.

These are the views of a real statesman. Everywhere in the overseas dominions, in Australia, in New Zealand political parties are trying to cooperate in order to achieve a return to prosperity and the end of unemployment. In the Free State of Ireland the elections are over and we hear with pleasure that Mr. Cosgrave is extending a friendly hand to Mr. De Valera. Should a foreigner visit Canada certainly he would be led to believe after reading the speeches of hon. members opposite, that an entirely different situation prevails here. He would be led to believe that here in Canada constitutional liberties are being crushed by the Conservative party; he would be led to believe that the people are oppressed, that the leaders of the opposition have been muzzled and representatives of the press imprisoned.

Why such violence of language, why such a display of literary indignation? Have the banks closed their doors? Has the Liberal party in Quebec repealed the famous Dillon bill and let the sixty election contestations be argued on their merits before the courts? Has the government refused to relieve the unemployed? Has the constitution been suspended? No, Mr. Speaker; no such unprecedented or unforeseen events have taken place. The government of the day, to comply with the numerous petitions they have received from all over Canada, has decided to give two months' further time to the municipalities and provinces to carry to completion their works of relief. That is the purport of the legislation this party is desirous to put through parliament; nothing else.

May I read the resolution?

Resolved that it is expedient to introduce a bill to amend chapter 58 of the statutes of Canada 1931, striking out the word "March" in section 8, and substituting the word "May" therefor.

That is all. That resolution is being moved to give bread to the needy and comfort them during the last days of winter. The other day the hon. members for Lake St. John (Mr. Duguay) and Champlain (Mr. Baribeau) told of petitions they had received from their constituents. I received a similar petition from the city of Levis, one from the city of Riviere du Loup in the constituency of my hon. friend from Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), and a telegram from Colonel Lavigueur, the mayor of Quebec, who was a distinguished member of this house, asking for an interview with the Prime Minister tomorrow morning to submit a similar petition with regard to the unemployed.

May I pass in review some events of the past with respect to unemployment? During the session of 1930 this parliament voted \$20,000,000 for the relief of the unemployed. The critics on the opposition benches, in no mild terms, stated that that amount was not sufficient. During the session of 1931 hon. members opposite, especially the hon. members for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) and Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) censured the government for doing nothing at all. Finally, realizing the situation was becoming worse and worse in Canada on account of the disastrous crop failures in Saskatchewan, and that conditions were tantamount to a national calamity, the government presented the bill from which came the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act of 1931 authorizing parliament to meet the emergency, and providing adequate measures to meet the lamentable situation the equal of which no parliament in the history of Canada had before to meet. Many hon. members to the extreme left of Mr. Speaker expressed their willingness to vote for the bill. It appears however that followers of the leader of the opposition had not yet emerged from the valley of humiliation and unfortunately for themselves expressed their willingness to vote against the measure.

But, Mr. Speaker, a by-election was to be held in the constituency of Three Rivers-St. Maurice, and general provincial elections were imminent in the province of Quebec. It was decided therefore by hon. gentlemen opposite to strike a great blow. Their legal advisers were hastily summoned, and after many hours of desperate juggling with constitutional precedents, they decided to resort