

to the mover and seconder of the Address my compliments and assure them of my pleasure in having heard their speeches at the opening of this debate. It is not my purpose to review what has taken place since the election in October further than to remark that since that time, the smoke and the clouds having cleared away, the people of Canada have realized that they failed in that election to return a majority group to parliament. The Conservative party since that time has been in the same mood and has evinced the same disposition that we find to-night—disappointed and disgruntled, desiring to reach out and to come over here where they are not wanted by the elected representatives of the people.

Now, Sir, it has been suggested that the government, having failed to secure a majority group, should have resigned and allowed another minority group to succeed it. The wisdom of the Prime Minister and his government has been amply confirmed by the elected representatives of the people, and although there are some hon. members who have an idea that being elected by one constituency means more than being elected by another, that is not true. My hon. friend from Victoria (Mr. Tolmie) this afternoon twitted and criticized the Prime Minister because he had gone to Prince Albert to seek election, having suffered defeat in the general election—as have all prime ministers in this country at some time or other. It was his right to select the seat that he wished to represent, and having selected Prince Albert, he should not be criticized by any hon. member on the opposite side, because we find that the great leader of the Conservative party, Sir John A. Macdonald, did not hesitate to go to Victoria, British Columbia, to find a seat, having been defeated in the general election—and in those days Victoria was much more remote in relation to the central provinces than is Prince Albert to-day. We find also that Sir Wilfrid Laurier at one time had occasion to go to the same district—Prince Albert—for re-election. I think, Sir, it can be fairly said that the Prime Minister has been unfairly used by the opposition. They apparently fail to realize that he is not only Prime Minister of Canada, but is also the leader of one of our great, historic parties. They have risen in their places and twitted him and his party because he had not a seat in this House, and then, for party advantage, they have seen fit to try to prevent his re-entry into this House at an early date. But the election has taken place to-day, and the result will be known by hon. members within an hour or two. Un-

[Mr. J. H. King.]

fortunately under the cumbersome machinery of our law an election cannot take place in less than from four to six weeks, and in the meantime the difficulties facing this government have not been made any easier by hon. gentlemen opposite. But we are not asking for any quarter. The Prime Minister will be elected to-day to a seat in this House, and in due course he will be among us again.

Mr. LAPOINTE: He is elected.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Good. All that the Conservative party has said against him as an individual and as Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal party will not, I believe, benefit the opposition one iota.

During the general election and for the preceding three or four years a vigorous propaganda has been conducted throughout Canada by the Conservative press and by the Conservative party in denunciation of the government, saying we are inefficient—

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Your turn is coming. Our Conservative friends have denounced us, saying we are inefficient, that we are doing nothing for the country—

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. KING (Kootenay): Just wait a minute; we will see. A studied attempt was made by the opposition, both in this House and throughout the country, to create a feeling of despair on the part of the public. How well they succeeded is shown by the result of this election. Do hon. gentleman opposite think that any good can accrue to Canada from such propaganda? When this government came into office what was the financial condition of the Dominion? My hon. friends opposite are fully aware of the facts. In 1921 when the books were balanced it was found that revenue had failed to meet expenditures by \$91,000,000. In 1922, the last year in which our friends opposite had control, there was a deficit for the fiscal year ending in March of \$81,000,000. But in 1923, by careful administration and by economies effected in the public services by this government, economies which did not disturb the efficiency of those services, the deficit was reduced to \$31,000,000; in 1924 there was a surplus of \$35,000,000; and again in 1925 there was also a surplus.

Mr. CHABOT: How about the bonds guaranteed by the government in 1922, 1923 and 1924; surely the hon. minister would not put those on the credit side of the financial statement?