

I believe it is a rule in this house to use as much courtesy as possible when commenting on the speeches of other hon. members delivered here. It has been very noticeable however, at least to myself, that whilst the custom of congratulating and complimenting other members on their excellent addresses has been adhered to in the opening of one's speech, it soon becomes apparent that these chivalrous remarks must soon give way to criticism, at first mild but progressively hostile and vituperative. Honeyed words rapidly turn to the bitterest vitriol; sweet-scented bouquets become the hardest of bricks.

It is not my intention to hurl any bouquet-wrapped bricks at the Minister of Finance; suffice it to say that the budget of 1928 is a marvellous piece of manipulation, considering the circumstances under which he had to work and the diverse elements with which he had to deal. There are many people in Canada who think that the success of any government is contingent upon compromise; that no government can successfully deal with or satisfy the electors unless by compromise. Their philosophy of politics is summed up in one phrase: No government can function successfully without compromise; its very stability depends upon it. In view of past events it would seem that this philosophy was sound so far as the government were concerned. At any rate they all seem thoroughly imbued with this doctrine, as is proven not only by the budget but by certain things that have been said and things which have taken place in this house in the past few years.

It is now a matter of history that this corner of the house once boasted of a fairly large group. What has become of that group of yesterday? Ask compromise. Where are those ten Progressives who used to glare so defiantly from this corner at those who sat on the government side of the house? They were led astray by the siren voice of compromise. What force is it that can transform the free and militant eagle into the gentle and cooing dove of peace? It has been the magic wand of compromise wielded by the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Mackenzie King) who is possessed not only of an intellect of a very high order, but a genius for compromise unrivalled by any member in this house. Consequent upon this understanding there has been an agreement reached whereby it is recognized that the country has demanded a stable government and the group are anxious to comply with that demand; that the policies upon which Progressives and Liberals were elected are based upon commons principles; that the Progressives shall give united support to the government upon those principles, and that the

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Progressive group shall retain its identity as hitherto. I agree that this is a masterpiece of compromise and admit that it is very cleverly stated, but whether or not the Progressive group is capable of retaining its identity, they have an opportunity even while sitting on that side of the house to act as guardian angels over the Liberal party, to stop them from committing the unpardonable sin of breaking pre-election promises and keep them in the straight and narrow path indicated by the low tariff reform pledges which have put them in the high position they now occupy in the country. I am sure that any reasonable person when offered strawberries and cream will refuse to accept apple sauce instead; if promised the substance we should not grasp at the shadow. I should like to believe that the members who left our group have acted and will act in all sincerity, for I should not like to hear it whispered in application to them, when the roll is called out west: "Oh compromise, what indiscretions have been committed in thy name!" I hope that the Liberal-Progressives are still the evangelists of low tariff. I sincerely urge them to practice what they preach, and if they feel it incumbent upon themselves, in view of their non-activity in the matter, to offer up a prayer, I wish they would include in it a solicitation to their colleagues for a more consistent attitude towards the tariff policy on which they were elected.

When I say this I am reminded of a band of evangelists who were holding a revival some time ago, in order to make a sinful world see the error of its ways and repent. At the conclusion of one of the meetings it was suggested by one of the brethren that some hats should be passed around among the hard boiled sinners in order to take up a collection. This was done, but when the hats came back they were found to be full of old nails, buttons and pins, but not one red cent. Thereupon one of the brethren remarked "Let us now thank God." "For what?" inquired another. "Let us thank God that we have got our hats back," was the reply. Now before our Progressive friends over there pass their hats to their so-called Liberal friends by conviction let their high priest, the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Brown) give them first a sermon, taking as his text: Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and seeketh relief, and I shall give you the protection of my low tariff. Let him then without any further admonition go boldly to the Minister of Finance, hat in hand, with one eagle eye on the minister and the other equally concentrated on the hat, and see to it that the hon. minister puts in that hat not the old nails of futile promise and