

my appreciation of the services he has sought to render and has rendered this country while acting as Minister of Labour. I agree that Senator Robertson's breakdown in health has been due to the zealous manner in which he has endeavoured to deal with the great problems of his department, and we all deeply deplore the fact that the strain has been such as to impair his health and make it necessary for him to tender his resignation as Minister of Labour. I am equally sure I speak for all in this house when I say that we hope he will soon be restored to full health and strength and again be in a position to resume his duties as a member of the other chamber.

In speaking of Senator Robertson's breakdown, may I say that I believe my right hon. friend will now see that the suggestion and appeal, made in all earnestness, that the great work of unemployment relief should be carried on by a commission and not be left in the hands of a single minister of the crown at a time such as that through which the country has been passing, was a very wise and prudent one. I hope the present Minister of Labour, viewing the situation as it is in Canada to-day and as it is likely to remain for some time to come, will carefully consider whether even yet in his own interests, the interests of his colleagues, the interests of the government and the interests of the country it is not desirable to have this great work of administering unemployment relief in the hands of a properly constituted relief commission. After all, ministers of the crown have enough in the way of responsibility in administering the regular work of their departments, and when a task which is quite exceptional has to be undertaken, it may be necessary to carry it out by exceptional methods. Again I extend to my hon. friend my best wishes.

The Prime Minister has referred to one other ministerial change which is in the nature of an addition to the ministry, namely, the appointment of the Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, a former Prime Minister of Canada, as a member of the cabinet without portfolio. I do not agree with Senator Meighen's point of view on many things; I do not expect to be able to agree with much that he will have to say with regard to the policies of his party, but I am in entire agreement with hon. gentlemen opposite in my admiration for his outstanding attainments as a parliamentarian, and his exceptional qualifications for the leadership of the house to which he has just been appointed. To him, as an old political opponent but a still older personal friend, I extend my best wishes for successful leadership in the

Senate of the party of which he has just been chosen leader.

Yesterday in witnessing the imposing ceremony of the opening of parliament, I could not help but think of the curious twists and turns of which public life gives so many evidences, when I saw the former leader of the Conservative party, one who had held the position of Prime Minister of Canada, occupying a position to the left of His Excellency the Governor General, as leader of the upper house, when I knew that his ambitions had always been much more closely associated with the House of Commons, and when I reflected that to the right of the Governor General in the person of the present Prime Minister was one who, if I am not mistaken, at one time had ambitions which led him rather in the direction of the upper house, and which ambitions he was only prevented from realizing, because his leader of the day would not give him the appointment to which he aspired. As I looked at these two gentlemen on either side of the throne, I could not help wondering what in the course of time this double-barrelled leadership of the Conservative party was going to mean.

Mr. BENNETT: It will mean two or three fewer senators at an early date.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We will hope that is not the only effect it will have. Up to the present I had thought that as far as the political citadel of the Conservative party was concerned there was not room there for more than one big gun. However, we will wait and see.

Apart from this pleasantry, which my right hon. friend has not found it possible to take in that spirit, I do say that I believe the country even more than the right hon. gentleman will be relieved by the fact that he has surrendered one of the many portfolios which he has held and that the country will welcome at this time particularly whatever evidences he may find it possible to give of a strengthening of his ministry.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): It is not my intention to criticize the past deeds of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) nor to offer him advice for the future. I am merely taking this opportunity to congratulate my good friend (Mr. Rhodes) on the achievement of being appointed to the office of Minister of Finance. We realize that this is a very heavy portfolio and we recognize that he will bring to bear upon the discharge of his duties a very great ability. We hope that he will be successful in the task that lies