

The Address—Mr. Noseworthy

even before the war was over with Japan, in the matter of research and training personnel for this kind of a job.

The fourth reason is:

Not only has the nature of the unemployment we were providing for changed radically from the possibilities envisaged in 1945, but the practical experience acquired in attempting to develop a shelf without provincial and municipal co-operation indicated the need of a more flexible method of preparing to meet possible eventualities.

In other words, the reason is that the government could not get the co-operation of the provinces and the municipalities. What has the government done since 1945 to secure that co-operation? It called one dominion-provincial conference when two provincial premiers refused to accept the terms which were offered. Then the conference ended. So far as I know no attempt has been made in the four or five years since to call another such conference. People from all over Canada were clamouring for another conference. The government has shuffled off its responsibilities by blaming the provincial premiers for having wrecked the one conference it did call, but has made no effort to call another until next fall. We do not know that even then this shelf concept will be discussed at that conference.

From the statement of the Prime Minister it would appear that the government has completely reversed its policy in that respect and that the shelf concept is off so far as the Liberal government is concerned.

During the course of the Prime Minister's speech of February 20, and referring to the co-operation with the provincial and municipal government, he tried to show that most of these public works which have to be carried out within some municipalities should be a municipal or provincial matter. He said:

But there will inevitably be some residuary problems from time to time in some areas, and the initiative in dealing with them must be taken by the local authorities. If they need assistance they should go first to their provincial governments.

In other words we are back where we were in the depression days, with groups coming to the municipal government for some solution to the unemployment problem, the municipal government passing the buck to the provincial government and the provincial government passing the buck on to the federal and the federal throwing it back to the provinces and municipalities. During the five years that have intervened since the war, five years when the government has had every opportunity of preparing for the kind of situation that is facing us today, the government has failed to reach any closer understanding with the provinces and municipalities in relation to meeting the unemployment situation. Today the unemployed in Toronto, 20,000 of them, go from the city council to Queen's park, to Ottawa, and back to Queen's park, just as the unemployed did in the thirties.

Mr. Sinnott: You made a good job of doing nothing.

On motion of Mr. Boucher the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Fournier (Hull): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we shall proceed with the motion of the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) to set up a committee to inquire into old age security. If that is concluded we shall take up the resolution in the name of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) to amend the Research Council Act. If we dispose of these two we shall try to conclude the resolution to refer the estimates of the Department of External Affairs to the external affairs committee.

Mr. Drew: What after that?

Mr. Fournier (Hull): I think we would adjourn at any time if we got through that much business.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.