

*Suspension of Sitting*

hon. members on both sides of the house our very warm appreciation of the manner in which they have cooperated with the government throughout the entire session in the work of legislation which has been before us. We have realized from the beginning that without the cooperation of all hon. members it would not be possible to complete the legislative program we had planned in time to permit of prorogation before the coronation. Fortunately we have been able to consider practically all the measures which we had hoped it would be possible to present to the house at this session, and although the session has been shorter than some others there has been no sacrifice of any public interest. The results have been effected through continuous concentration on the measures before the house, and also by cooperative effort on the part of all to effect the result which he have happily achieved.

I should like particularly to thank my right hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) for the help which he has given to me and to the ministry during the session.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend's long experience in public life has taught him the art of making the path of a ministry very difficult if he cares to do so, and also comparatively smooth if he is of a mind to help in that way. Fortunately since his return from his trip around the world he has been full of sunshine and good humour, and that has been reflected in the proceedings of the house this session. I thank him very warmly, because I realize that without that cooperation we could not have achieved the results which we have, nor could we have brought the session to its conclusion at this time.

I would say just one further word; it is that the significance of the work of the session itself is reflected in the number and the importance of the measures which have been passed. They will, I believe, bear favourable comparison with those of any session of the Canadian parliament.

I beg to move that the sitting be suspended until nine o'clock.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is not easy for any leader of an official opposition who has been recently in office and passed through the trying times that we had in Canada to adapt himself readily to the role of the candid friend, especially if he recalls, as sometimes he must, what he had to endure during the period

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

of time to which I have referred. All I can say is that if my right hon. friend does contemplate the possibility of ever being in opposition again, and if he thinks a trip around the world has such a mellowing effect, he should arrange to take one at the earliest possible moment. But I should hope that he would not go alone; I should earnestly hope that he would be accompanied at least by some of his present colleagues, and some of those who would not be unwilling to be his colleagues if the opportunity offered.

It has been a matter of great difficulty to determine exactly what is the duty of one situated as I am at a time such as this. Here is a government charged with great responsibilities, whose prime minister must of necessity represent the country at one of the most important functions in our history, the coronation, which is to be followed by an imperial conference involving the discussion of questions of great magnitude affecting vitally the happiness, well being and prosperity of a great nation, in fact, of many nations. Under these circumstances, as I indicated yesterday, it is really the duty of the leader of the official opposition to discuss the situation with those with whom he is associated, and on balance to determine which course is best in the interests of the country. I do not for a moment deny that great opportunities to make political capital have presented themselves since the day this house opened. There were grave constitutional problems that might have been discussed in a partisan manner, which could have brought no good to anyone, except possibly and momentarily to the participants themselves, but which in the very nature of things could not have been advantageous to the country as a whole.

With respect to the legislation, I believe the prime minister will not think me ungenerous when I say that much of what we have passed might have been presented a little earlier; for I believe that some of the measures would have been the better for more mature and careful consideration. I know, too, that he will not regard it as in any sense a critical observation when I say that we should like to have had these measures go further. It may be suggested that we perhaps take too pessimistic a view of conditions. I hope not. But I do not for a moment deny that after an absence of some months from the country, and on my return looking about me and contemplating the problems that face us, I cannot help thinking that there are very many difficult situations which we shall have to meet before we are firmly established in prosperity. I cannot believe that these will be regarded as the