

is a do-nothing administration. What has it tried to do? It established what is known as the Rowell commission, and the statements which have been made before that commission have rent this dominion asunder. It has put Canada back into the position of nine independent, separate colonies as far as the thinking people of Canada are concerned. It certainly has done nothing to foster unity in the broad sense of the word. Nothing which has come out of its proceedings so far has helped the general situation. Last night hon. members heard a very carefully worded sentence from the Prime Minister to the effect that in two or three months we shall have a report from that commission. After that, I suppose, we shall have a general election, and I imagine I can see in that report some phrases which, although they may not be of a kind that will make for unity in the country, may help the Liberal administration to save a few seats. The expression, "discord and confusion," describes the situation. The government is now having a little holiday, a little respite from this discord and confusion, because one of the main factors in this situation, the Hon. Mr. Hepburn, has gone off to Australia to find out how to run a country. I thought that last night we were hearing the swan song of the Prime Minister. In certain sections the swan seemed to die; then suddenly it would come to life again. By the time the Prime Minister had concluded his speech I did not know whether the swan was alive or dead. If last night's speech was the swan song of the Prime Minister, perhaps the young man (Mr. Hepburn) who is visiting Australia will be back to tell Canada, after he has looked over the situation in the antipodes, how this country should be run.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), who is not at present in his seat, said a few minutes ago that the government was able to do something about old age pensions and about this, that and the other thing, but that it could not do anything about the unemployed. I agree with him that the government has not done anything for expansion of employment. He asked the question whether any province has refused to accept assistance from the dominion government in looking after any aspect of employment. Could the government not at least have given the Canadian people some confidence in this parliament of ours by taking over the unemployed employables? That at least would have been a move in the right direction, instead of the many excuses which the government have put forward for not dealing with the situation.

Let them cut across some of the red tape and give us some of that action which they were talking about in Maple Leaf Gardens prior to the last election.

Then it was said that parliament would have its control over taxation restored; that the cost of living would come down, and that the people would have an opportunity to spread their income over some of the amenities of life which they required. What have the government done in that regard? To-day the iniquitous sales tax is in the first category of tax producers, when in my opinion it should be in the third. Why should \$138,000,000 be taken from the masses of our people on everything they want and everything they use, when there are other methods of indirect taxation? As I said last year, with this eight per cent sales tax we take from the babe in the cradle and from the octogenarian in his casket. We catch them all. I may be asked, What would you put in the place of it? I would put in the place of it those forms of taxation which bear a little heavily on countries other than Canada as well as on Canada. Customs and excise are not all paid by the Canadian people, no matter how hon. members opposite try to make themselves believe the contrary. They know and I know that foreign countries which want to dump their surplus wares in Canada absorb the customs and excise taxes. That indirect tax is the one which bears the least heavily upon our Canadian people. It is one which should not be lessened; it should at the least be maintained where it is.

All this administration has to its credit is that it has lessened the possibility of revenue from sources other than within Canada, and at the same time it has taken away from the Canadian citizen the opportunity to apply his artisanship in the secondary industries. I shall give the figures to back up my assertion. Last year the government extracted by taxation from the Canadian people \$516,000,000, whereas in 1936 it took only \$372,000,000. That is an increase of forty per cent. In other words, whereas three short years ago the government took one dollar, now they are taking \$1.40; yet they say that they are interested in keeping down the cost of living and controlling taxation. The fact is that taxation has been running wild, and it will be wilder still, because if you lower the barriers and let in more and more goods, even if the rates are lower and revenue comes into the country, the important point is that the jobs are gone.

We are told that customs administration will be stabilized. Well, perhaps the Minister of National Revenue is getting a little bit