

ada, that the country was on the verge of ruin and bankruptcy because of the actions of the King government, and that if the Conservative party were put into power that conditions would at once be remedied. Those remarks were thrice fallacious. In the first place the conditions then prevailing were grossly exaggerated to suit the purposes of my hon. friends and to facilitate their election campaign. In the second place no attention was paid to the fact that the crisis was world wide, that Canada was perhaps less involved in it than most other countries, and therefore this situation could not be possibly ascribed to the King government.

My hon. friends opposite should have known that if they were put into power it would not be possible to cure this situation at once, a situation which was not wholly Canadian and which did not result from any governmental action. My hon. friends opposite seem to realize that now; indeed in my humble opinion they never at any time failed to realize it. When they claimed that conditions in Canada should be ascribed to the Liberal party and that they could at once cure all our economic ills they knew very well that they could not do so. At that time they asked for power to do it, now they are asking for time to do it, and they claim that having been in power only eight months it is not fair for us to challenge their record in this regard. I invite the attention of hon. members to the collective efforts made by my right hon. friend and especially by his ministers to dissipate the impression they created during the last election campaign and to do away with the pessimism which to a certain degree they succeeded in spreading throughout Canada. By their pronouncements and official declarations since the election they have tried to avoid the effects of the false impression which they created during the campaign.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) yesterday resented the reference to his government as a one-man government, and claimed that he has the cooperation of his colleagues. Well, in his efforts to dissipate the wrong impression which he himself created by his campaign speeches he has had the cooperation at least of some of his colleagues, because quite a number of them have endeavoured to show the country that after all the conditions existing in Canada are not as bad as they claimed they were prior to July 28, 1930. It would require the putting on Hansard of a whole scrap book if I were to endeavour to give the house all the quotations from the different speeches which

[Mr. Rinfret.]

relate to this endeavour, but perhaps I may be permitted to give a few quotations from some of the official declarations of the present government.

About a month after the elections, on August 22 to be exact, the press of this country published a report which emanated from the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) and I do not think there will be any objection if I read one paragraph of this official document which is in vivid contrast with the statements made by the Conservative party during the election. I quote one paragraph from the Montreal Gazette giving the text of the report of the Minister of Labour, as follows:

I do not for one moment suggest that the present unemployment is due to any governmental or lack of governmental activity. Unemployment is not a purely Canadian problem. It is world-wide. But it is not the business of the government of Canada to look after the world as a whole. It seems to me the problem first to be faced is for the government to look after the people of Canada and assist them to look after themselves.

This is a very fair statement; the only fault I find with it is that it came a month too late. It should have been presented to the Canadian people not after, but before they had an opportunity to vote.

The next official declaration that I should like to place upon Hansard is one that was given to the country on Thanksgiving Day—which happened to be the eleventh of November, may I say to the hon. gentleman beside me (Mr. Neill)—by the then Acting Prime Minister of Canada (Sir George Perley) who said—and this was an official declaration, mark you!—

The world has been passing through a period of serious economic and political disturbance, Canada has not escaped its share of the difficulties of readjustment. Many of our fellow-citizens are still suffering hardship and uncertainty. The testing time, however, has only served to prove the strength and solidity of the Canadian economic structure, and the determination and mutual helpfulness of our people. Few countries have been as fortunate.

Imagine the Acting Prime Minister of this country thanking the Almighty that this country was not such as his friends had depicted it to the electorate! I have to pass over many such quotations to come to a declaration which was made by the Prime Minister when he returned from England and which had much the same flavour. This is what the Prime Minister gave to the Montreal Standard on the 14th day of December, 1930:

I can only repeat to you what I said before, and I hope to make another statement soon. Our difficulties are the lesser ones. They are