

I wish first to offer my congratulations to the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Matthews) who moved, and the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Chevrier) who seconded the address in reply to the speech from the throne. Both of their addresses were admirable, and as good a presentation of the subject as I have ever heard.

I can assure hon. members that the old historic riding of Parkdale will rejoice with the rest of Canada at the coming of Their Majesties King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. We shall all be proud to see them. I know the people of my riding will be present in large numbers to see the king and queen, because we are not far from what will be the headquarters of their majesties while they are in Toronto. If they are given a nice drive, which I hope will be arranged, they will go through a portion of my riding which is the most attractive part of that city. We shall all be delighted to see them there.

I would first ask forgiveness if anything I may say should hurt somebody's feelings. It is absolutely not my intention to say anything which will cause strife in this house; I do not think I have ever attempted to do so. I have always acted more or less as a peacemaker among some of my hon. friends, even those on the other side of the house.

We have to-day plenty of trouble, without creating any more strife. We have no unity, no cooperation among ourselves and worse still, no cooperation with other countries. Conditions everywhere are in a terrible state, and we have found no superman yet to solve our problems.

Some hon. members have suggested as a remedy the nationalizing of everything, and especially the controlling of business. My advice to this or to any other government is to forget nationalization and attempting to control business because it cannot be done. While in business for many years I have learned at my own expense that the law of supply and demand will always regulate prices. There is no use of any government trying to run business; they cannot do it; it requires men trained in the business world. The government should stop interfering with business and tinkering with tariffs. Many men have been driven out of business because the worry of running business to-day is greater than can be realized by anybody who has not had practical experience in it.

I agree with the statement which has been made in this house that customs regulations should be simplified. There are many rulings which not only the customs officials, including the commissioners of the different branches, but the minister himself, cannot understand, and the fact that there is such diversity of

opinion among those who are administering the customs tariff makes it impossible to get a definite decision from anybody. About a couple of years ago there was put on the order paper a resolution to the effect that something should be done to make it easier for customs officials and business men to understand customs rules.

Toward the end of the session of 1937 the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Ilsley) introduced a bill to prevent men who had claims against the government from realizing on those claims. I consider that this was quite unfair. He had that bill piloted through the senate committee with the assistance of all the commissioners he could gather together and the odd hired individual who had left the department and who was brought back for the purpose of defeating the wholesalers and importers who were trying to have their claims satisfied. One would think he was dealing with a bunch of thugs or highwaymen rather than with men of high integrity in the wholesale business. Not only did he prevent them from getting their money, but there was put through this house a bill that had the effect of putting them out of court altogether so that they could not sue the government.

He did, however, allow two big firms in Toronto to sue the government for drawbacks which they should have received that year and years back, and they successfully beat the government in the courts. I am wondering whether the government have paid their debts. My view is that the government themselves should pay their debts just as they expect others to do. I do not know how much money was involved in that particular case, but the gentleman in Toronto who looked after the railway claims and the claims in connection with customs had the whole thing compiled. The fact is, however, that the government had the money with which to pay their debts, and they should have done what a good many others do when they fail. Private persons give their creditors 50 cents or 20 cents on the dollar. But instead of that the government robbed these people of every dollar that was legitimately due them. Would anyone with high integrity do such a thing? Is it any wonder that conditions are as bad as they are? Is it any wonder that no one wants to be in business, that no one wants to own a home or property or anything else, because everybody is robbed to death? We are all simply asked to pay taxes. When this gentleman who was looking after the claims of the railways and customs went back to Toronto, he took to heart so seriously the treatment he had re-