

*Ministerial Changes*

become Minister of Labour. He will continue to discharge the duties of Minister of Immigration and Colonization, and of Minister of Mines. It is a question whether those departments should not be merged, and it is one to which the government has given some consideration and attention.

I should like to bear tribute to the service rendered to this country by Senator Robertson. A man of great breadth of view, fair-minded, with a warm appreciation and understanding of the conditions of others, and interested in the welfare of humanity to a singular degree, it may be truthfully said, that he actually wore himself out in the service of his country. If ever there was a casualty in the conflict against economic conditions you may speak of him as a casualty, for he has been stricken by ill health through the services he has rendered to Canada.

The Department of Fisheries will be administered by the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau), the department to which it was once attached, the former minister (Mr. Rhodes) having relinquished the portfolio to become Minister of Finance—a position which I have relinquished, much, I am sure, to the sorrow of my right hon. friend.

It also gives me very great pleasure to advise this house that Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, a member of the Senate, has been sworn as a member of the administration without portfolio.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has followed the customary procedure in announcing to the house at the beginning of a session the changes which have taken place in the ministry since the last session. In so far as there is cause for rejoicing in the changes that have been made, I see no reason why we on this side of the house should not join very heartily with hon. gentlemen opposite, because after all my right hon. friend has just been carrying out what we have been advising him to do all along. We have urged the appointment of someone other than himself as Minister of Finance; the appointment of a Minister of Labour who would have a seat in this house, and the strengthening of the government generally. I am sure it would have been more to the Prime Minister's own advantage and to the advantage of the country, had he effected what he has just done a year and a half ago, at the beginning of the first session, instead of at the beginning of the third session of this parliament.

[Mr. Bennett.]

I am afraid that for the most part the task of the new ministers will be that of undoing much of the mischief my right hon. friend has done during the time he has more or less monopolized the offices of government.

May I extend to the new Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) the very warm congratulations of myself and of all who in this house belong to the Liberal party, and wish him well in the discharge of his public duties. He is an old member of parliament, and is well known to us all. He has a fine public record, and possesses high attainments and qualifications which eminently fit him for the position. I am sure we wish him all success in what at this time must be a very onerous and difficult task. I believe that my hon. friend has accepted this office from a high sense of public duty, because it means additional strain and work to him at a time when political ambitions may not mean as much as they did before he had won the name for himself which he now possesses. We will do what we can to join with him in effecting necessary economies, and if he will do something towards stabilizing the tariff and avoiding extremes in other matters, which I think he personally appreciates as being highly necessary, he will find us ready to go a long way with him.

I should like to extend my hearty congratulations also to the new Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon), coupled with my best wishes as well for a successful administration of his new department. As he knows, right along we have been advising the Prime Minister to have a Minister of Labour in this house, and now that at last this has been done, I may say that we are pleased with the choice that has been made. May I say to my hon. friend that having had the privilege of holding the portfolio of Minister of Labour for a time in the federal administration I can appreciate both his opportunities and his responsibilities. In the course of the time during which he may hold that position, I hope he may be able to do much in helping to solve the great and complex human problems so intimately associated with labour. It is not to be expected that he will ask for any assistance from this side, but may I say to him that in his efforts to improve industrial conditions in Canada he will at least receive no embarrassment from myself or those of us who sit to the left of the Speaker. Where opportunity permits, we shall be only too glad to afford him all we can in the way of cooperation.

I am only too ready to join with the Prime Minister in expressing profound sympathy with Senator Robertson, and at the same time