

ask that the British North America Act be again amended to provide for such a situation. My right hon. friend smiles. I know he was going to say, if he could interrupt me, that once the power is conferred upon a province it comes within section 92, and the parliament has lost control over the power. That is true. But the people have the right to speak, and if they do, any government they put into office will ask for an amendment with reference to this or any other amendment.

This is not the first amendment to the British North America Act to go to the imperial parliament. I heard the leader of the opposition recite some of them a few days ago, and I say to-day—and in so doing I compliment him—that the statute of Westminster was breathed forth first by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and then by his eminent successor the present Prime Minister, but it happened to be passed when the leader of the opposition was Prime Minister; not one section or subsection of that statute would have been placed upon the statute books of the imperial parliament if the leader of the opposition, when Prime Minister, had not said to the British government that Canada wanted it passed; and because of that it was passed. So, when hon. gentlemen of the social credit party say that there is a dark lantern brigade or something of the sort looming above the horizon, I reply that if there is, then let them look to the right of themselves; let the right look to the left of themselves, and we will look after ourselves.

That is all I desire to say, and I would not have injected myself into this debate but that I did not wish to allow a wrong impression to go abroad in the country at this time, when governments are at their wits' end to know what to do and how to do best those things that are necessary to keep the wolf from the door and provide for the poor people who to-day and during the past few years have been unable to find employment in the industries or the vocations with which they have been associated all their lives. This government has undertaken to grapple with that great problem, and in the midst of its endeavour is seeking, not to control the credit of Canada or the parliament of Canada, nor to evolve new banking institutions which would be superior to parliament, but to have placed upon the statute books at this session legislation that will permit them, in a democratic open way, to do their duty and live up to the promises made by the Prime Minister when in opposition and on the platform from Halifax to Vancouver. I believe that before this session closes every promise he made will be fulfilled, except that perhaps

time will not permit one or two of them to be carried out at this time. But at the very earliest opportunity—I speak without authority or knowledge, but with confidence—the Prime Minister will implement every promise he has made, promises which to him are as sacred as his beautiful memories of those whom he loved and who have gone before. My last word is to ask hon. gentlemen opposite to help him in his awful task of trying to revive this great young Canada of ours, and not to cling to that retardism which happened during the days of the leader of the opposition, and for all of which he was not to blame, because there were conditions over which he had no control. For those he could control he was taken to task, and for those he suffered; and now I sit down.

Mr. DAVID SPENCE (Parkdale): The hon. gentleman from Halifax (Mr. Finn) who has taken his seat always entertains the house. We are all delighted to hear him, but I really cannot follow what he has been saying, so he will excuse me if I pay no attention whatever to it.

Mr. FINN: That is a sort of left-handed compliment. Perhaps my hon. friend may be deaf. If he heard all right I should like him to answer.

Mr. SPENCE: Yes, I heard all right; thank you. He seems to have great faith in the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King). I hope he retains his belief.

Mr. FINN: I have implicit faith in him.

Mr. SPENCE: I did not know that this proposal was of so much importance to the business world when I heard the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) introduce it this afternoon. I thought it was rather an argument to be taken up by my hon. and learned friend, and I was called from the house and forgot to come back. But when I returned I heard my hon. friend from Broadview (Mr. Church) making a splendid argument on behalf of the municipalities and the business world, both the wholesale and retail trades. He represents a riding in which there is more retail and wholesale trade than in any other riding in the city of Toronto, or even in Montreal, and he should know something of what he is talking about. He is to be commended for the argument he advanced. Men like myself, who are engaged in business, do not like to be continually under the necessity of rising to argue against legislation which is intended to hurt or has the effect of hurting the business world.

Business has been crucified for the last good many years. Everyone has the wrong con-