

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not at all.

Mr. BENNETT: Yesterday the right hon. gentleman himself said it would not be expected that a by-election would be held in the case of the recent vacancy in the constituency which was represented by the late Mr. Nicholson.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I did not say anything of the kind. I said it would not be expected that by this time that particular by-election would be over. I would have expected the writs would have been issued immediately.

Mr. BENNETT: I suggest to the right hon. gentleman that he will have opportunity to make speeches in due course.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: But the Prime Minister must not misrepresent what I say.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not misrepresent. I desire to point out that it is the course that has usually been followed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is not.

Mr. BENNETT: I go further, and state with very great frankness that there is no evidence that this country wants a general election.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: Not only is that true, but the fact is that the business people of this country are wholly opposed to a general election at this time, as is well known—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BENNETT: —not only by hon. gentlemen on this side of the house but by hon. gentlemen opposite. But in addition I say there will be a general election in due course. It will come, just as all other general elections have come, in an orderly and proper manner. But when the charge was made yesterday that there had been a deliberate attempt on the part of the government so to arrange the Dominion Franchise Act passed last session as to secure some benefit from it, I say to the right hon. gentleman and those who supported him that they must have overlooked the provisions of the statute to which they took no objection when passed by this house; not only that but provisions to which they subscribed.

Parliament was prorogued on July 3, 1934, and the Dominion Franchise Act was among the bills assented to on that day. The Dominion Franchise Act was proclaimed in the Canada Gazette of July 6, 1934, and came into force on that day. Section 14 provided that not later than six months after the act came into force the dominion franchise com-

[Mr. Bennett.]

missioner should publish in the Canada Gazette a proclamation calling for a general registration of electors to commence and end on respective days to be set in the proclamation. Therefore the position was that the right hon. gentleman was a party to the enactment of a section that gave to the franchise commissioner six months from July 6 to commence registration. That was arrived at by common consent. The hon. gentlemen within sound of my voice were parties to it. Then why come to this house and endeavour to make political capital of that to which the right hon. gentleman and his followers were parties?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say to the Prime Minister that the attitude of the opposition was based upon the assurance given by the minister of the crown who presented the measure.

Mr. BENNETT: And I assume that with his high intelligence the right hon. gentleman understood the English language. Six months from July 6 was the time given to the franchise commissioner within which to commence to make his lists.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We were assured that he would commence immediately after prorogation.

Mr. BENNETT: Then the franchise commissioner, Colonel Thompson, having under the terms of the act published this proclamation, proceeded with his work. The names of the returning officers for electoral districts were published in the Canada Gazette extra of August 25, 1934. These returning officers proceeded as required by section 13 to divide their electoral districts into polling divisions. No complaints of any delay in their work have reached any member of the government or the office of the Secretary of State. Two weeks after the returning officers were appointed, that is in the Canada Gazette of September 8, 1934, the dominion franchise commissioner published the names of those appointed by him as registrars of electors. In the meantime the dominion franchise commissioner with the assistance of the chief electoral officer was engaged in preparing all the forms under the act and instructions in English and French for the use of registrars of electors and of the enumerators appointed by them. Listen to the work he had to do. All these forms and instructions had to be printed at the printing bureau for distribution, and required approximately seventy-five tons of paper. The registrars also procured at local printing offices the printing of the public notices in form 4, and