

Mr. DUGUAY (Translation): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member for Gaspé will allow me, I would like to ask him a question.

Mr. BRASSET (Translation): You will have your turn later.

Mr. DUGUAY (Translation): Whether the hon. member for Gaspé is agreeable or not, I shall ask him to tell us how the money intended to relieve unemployment was distributed in the province of Quebec and in what way the provincial government—

Mr. St. PERE (Translation): The provincial government is in no way interested.

Mr. BRASSET (Translation): Well, I shall say to the hon. member for Lake St. John that the money to relieve unemployment was well spent in Quebec, perhaps better under the liberal rule of that province than it would have been distributed under the Conservative government at Ottawa.

At the emergency session, in September last, I had personally asked the government and the Prime Minister to take the necessary steps to have the right of way of a projected railway surveyed in the county of Gaspé. This would have given work to the unemployed of Gaspé and the money would not have been spent uselessly to draw gravel over the snow in order to relieve unemployment; the money would have been expended in a practical and efficient way and this undertaking would have had as a result the relief of unemployment during the winter. However, the Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) did not even think it worthwhile to answer my query, and brushed aside my suggestion.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed the other day that when the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) commented on the deplorable state of the people of this country, the features of the right hon. Prime Minister took an expression of self complacency. It is said that the Prime Minister is a man with large personal means—and I have no criticism to offer—I fear however that the hon. Prime Minister is unaware of what is going on; because, considering his responsibilities, if he could only realize the distress of the people, we would not see him smile disdainfully whenever the distress of the people is referred to.

In the course of this session, sir, many references will be made to the government's deficit, and the latter will try to place the blame on world conditions, and they will be partly right; they will also tell us that the customs and excise revenues show a decrease of about \$50,000,000 since July last and that

[Mr. Brasset.]

is the principal cause of the government's deficit.

Then, sir, I can point out that the government is inconsequent since the Prime Minister himself stated, in the course of the special session, that by raising the tariff his aim was precisely to decrease imports and, thereby, restrict the operations of that department. Since it is the government which has restricted the business of the Customs and Excise department, why should they impute this deficit to these branches of the service? It is stultifying itself, moreover that is a poor argument to invoke.

We shall also hear of the Liberal regime and tariff. During the last election, the Conservatives proclaimed everywhere that the Liberal tariff was the cause of unemployment, of economic depression and of all the suffering which existed in our country. But the moment the Conservatives assumed power, their tactics changed, so did their tone. A very few days after the election of July 28, the hon. Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) stated in Ottawa: "that the economic unrest cannot be attributed to any government, that it was world-wide." At the special session the Prime Minister made almost the same statement and almost in the same words as the Hon. Mr. Robertson. Finally, on November 8 last, Sir George Perley speaking in Ottawa, stated:

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. The testing-time, however, has only served to prove that strength and solidity of the Canadian economic structure. Few countries have been as fortunate.

This is entirely different from what our friends the Conservatives proclaimed during the electoral campaign, when they asserted that Canada was doomed to ruin and that, thanks to the liberal rule, Canada had perhaps become one of the last countries of the world. Circumstances alter cases.

We have had, sir, for nine years a Liberal administration. What has that administration given us? First, it has given us seven consecutive years of surpluses, which has never been done by any Canadian administration since confederation, not even by Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government so highly praised by our friends the Conservatives.

During that Liberal administration, taxes decreased year after year, the debts resulting from the war began to decrease and disappear. In a word the people were prosperous. That means, sir, that we had an excellent government.

Last spring, relying upon the results obtained, the right hon. Prime Minister of the