

members of the Progressive party has been well placed. It has been a pleasure to me to notice that at the outset he has set his face against anything in the nature of class organization for political purposes. In so doing I think he has taken a stand which is very much in the public interest. He has seen, I believe, even in the short time during which he has been in this parliament, that one of the worst misfortunes that can befall the common good is that, in this country's political affairs we should become divided into groups on any basis, whether it be of occupation, of race, of religion, or other sectional or class interest however expressed. I am confident that he has taken a step which will be for the good of our country as a whole in advocating the wider view of the interests of all classes of the country in general, and setting himself in opposition to anything which looks to a narrowing of that broad basis.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, may I also, with my right hon. friend, congratulate the new members who have come into this House, and wish them well in the discharge of their public duties.

I come now to some of the remarks which my right hon. friend made on the Speech from the Throne. His utterances were directed first of all to references in the Speech which seemed to bear similarity to references in the Speech of the preceding year. He thought this was a mistake; he took exception to any repetitions. But the latter part of his address was altogether in the nature of a criticism of omissions from the Speech from the Throne of references which had been made in the Speech of last year. That is my right hon. friend's favourite way of criticizing: he endeavours to place his opponents in the position that regardless of whatever they do, they must, somehow, be in the wrong.

My right hon. friend might well have paused in some of the criticisms he made in reference to repetitions and omissions. He seemed eager to attack the government on not having fulfilled some of the promises which it made on a previous occasion with respect to its railway policy. He was very definite and very positive in what he had to say in that regard. He asked, why is it that we have still to-day two railway systems, why is it that after the promise of co-ordination and unification there still remain these two systems, the National Railway system and the Grand Trunk Railway system, with their separate offices and all the additional cost which that involves? Why is it, he asks, that we have not even a promise in the Speech from the Throne that these two systems are to be amalgamated and brought

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

together. He sought by his remarks to create the impression that the government in some way was not sincere in the pledge it had made that it would see that these two systems were amalgamated. He sought to imply that by avoiding some explicit mention in the Speech from the Throne, the intention was, to allow further time to elapse before these two systems were brought together as one, or else to evade this responsibility altogether. Well, may I tell my right hon. friend that he is much mistaken in his criticism in that regard. His remarks are not only wholly without foundation, but are absolutely untrue as respects what has been accomplished by way of the amalgamation of the Grand Trunk and Canadian National railways. My right hon. friend had to do with the drafting of the legislation under which these systems were to be amalgamated. That legislation provided a certain procedure whereby after a board of directors for the Canadian National Railway system had been appointed the other system was to be brought under that board. That has been accomplished, and I may tell my right hon. friend that the Grand Trunk Railway as a separate system no longer exists; that it has been amalgamated with the Canadian National Railways, that to-day there is only one National Railway system, that there is only one head office, that there is only one management, and that there is only one board of control in charge of both systems. Perhaps my right hon. friend hereafter will be a little more careful and not display such haste to criticise.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the right hon. gentleman permit me a question? Does he say that the two sets of departments and the two sets of officers do not exist as before?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is exactly what I say. The two sets of officers have ceased to exist. There is now only one set of officers and only one head office.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Will the right hon. gentleman tell me who is the traffic manager of the whole system, the Grand Trunk and the Canadian National?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If my right hon. friend will only be patient he will get all that information very much in detail in a very short time. But for the present let me give him information which I think ought to satisfy him: to-day there are no longer two separate systems; they have been amalgamated and brought together as one national railway system.