

The Address—Mr. Gardiner

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gardiner: My hon. friend groans, but I venture to say that during the election campaign he did not demonstrate in any way that there was any considerable unemployment in this country. I continue reading the speech.

The greatest periods of development in Canada's history have been under Liberal policies.

Mr. Knowles: The minister has been continuing on borrowed time, and he is not going to make a statement such as that. I certainly did speak about unemployment, and I pointed to the proposals which the government had made in 1945, and which have not been acted upon.

Mr. Gardiner: I continue to read from the speech:

Now that the war is over and we are facing a period of peace we must assist in perpetuating it by developing this country.

Then, I go on to deal with policies under which we could bring about that development.

Mr. Knowles: Did you forget to deal with the McGregor report?

Mr. Gardiner: I wound up by making an appeal to the people of this country to vote for the Liberal candidates on Liberal policies, particularly as applied to agriculture. I venture to say that every statement that I have been criticized for making is contained in the speech that was delivered over the radio, but the people of Canada did not criticize it. The people of Canada supported it. That is why we have three-quarters of the members.

The opposition members of this house have stated that the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe) had something to do with obtaining the majorities that were obtained in the last election. They went on to state that we did it by misrepresentation. I want to tell them that we made the same statements throughout the election campaign as we had made from 1944 until the election campaign. That fact is borne out by the press reports and by *Hansard*. In addition to that, I would point out that everything we said during that election campaign has come true since the election.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Harkness: No one was ever more wrong than the minister has been.

Mr. Gardiner: Within the last week we have received a request from the FAO committee for the surpluses we have in Canada to offer to the world. You could put them all down

[Mr. Gardiner.]

in three words, and to each one you could add a few million pounds, then there would not be anything left. And all these surpluses, a little bit of cheese, a little bit of butter and some honey.

An hon. Member: How much?

Mr. Gardiner: A little bit. A year ago my hon. friends were insisting that we had to have 10 million pounds distributed over Canada as a surplus in order to make it possible for butter to be distributed to consumers at the end of the year. We are not going to have much more than that by the time we get to the end of the year.

An hon. Member: Three times that.

Mr. Gardiner: In other words, we would hesitate to say to the world today that there is a large surplus that could be available.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gardiner: We have also a small surplus of cheese, a small surplus of butter and a small surplus of honey—

Some hon. Members: Time!

Mr. Gardiner:—and my hon. friends get excited about time. If they were in power, we would be back to the old unemployment position we were in in the thirties.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Ross (Souris): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Bow River.

Mr. Ross (Souris): I just want to ask one question.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ross (Souris): Are no questions to be allowed?

An hon. Member: No questions.

Mr. Ross (Souris): May I just ask the minister this question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Bow River.

Mr. C. E. Johnston (Bow River): Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the Liberals obtained so many votes in the last election,—

Mr. Knowles: And only 49 per cent at that.

Mr. Johnston:—when one listens to that great political speaker, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). There is no doubt in my mind that there is no better political stump speaker than the Minister of Agriculture. The thing that amuses me is that the