

Mr. BENNETT: Now the cat is out of the bag. I put these things in a book, he says. Masquerading as a Liberal! If that be so, there should have been no objection on the part of the right hon. gentleman to placing these reforms upon the statute book when he had the opportunity. Why did he not do so?

Mr. DONNELLY: There was no need for them.

Mr. BENNETT: There was no need for them! Go and ask the thousands of people who have been bankrupted by the speculation that took place during the regime of the late government.

Mr. DONNELLY: Who is speculating in wheat to-day?

An hon. MEMBER: "My government."

Mr. BENNETT: Then the right hon. gentleman raised an objection to the use of the word "my." How short his memory is! I suppose it is because he has no government that he now forgets. It is true it is not usual to refer to "my opposition," and I judge if he did so, it would not meet with universal approval. There are not lacking signs of that too, if one can pay attention to the remarks made and the gossip one hears from time to time, carefully guarded though it may be. I merely remark that the use of the word "my" has been common for at least two hundred years. Anyone who will take the trouble to look at the lives of any of the eminent British statesmen will find that that word is used in Hansard. So far as my investigations go, it has been used frequently in this country by all prime ministers and I presume it will be used again by whoever is fortunate enough to become a leader of the government from the opposition side although I see no sign of anyone there yet. Be that as it may, I merely mention the fact that the reference made in the speech from the throne by the representative of the crown to "my ministers" is certainly the only form that is ever used, either "my government" or "my ministers." Usually the two forms are used in the same speech from the throne, either "my ministers" or "my government," and they are used alternately.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is correct. I never took any exception to His Excellency the Governor General using the expression either "my government" or "my ministers."

Mr. BENNETT: May I say to the right hon. gentleman that yesterday he did raise that objection.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, he did not.

Mr. BENNETT: Then he objected that I had used the expression with respect to the government and I had spoken of it as "my" government. Later on I think I shall give him the number of times he used that term in at least one speech of his. Incidentally he also suggested that the time had come when the government should terminate its life by resigning or precipitating a general election. Let us review the situation so far as this government's support is concerned. If we take the general election in 1930, as compared with to-day it has exactly the same support from British Columbia as it had on that occasion; there is no change. In Alberta it has increased its support by one. In Saskatchewan its support has not changed although the Liberal party have added one to their number by defeating a Progressive. In Manitoba there has been no change. In Ontario the Liberals succeeded in the old seat of North York, which is normally Liberal and which was held by the late Mr. Lennox for purely personal reasons, as everyone knew, and they also succeeded in Frontenac-Addington. There were two Liberal gains. The Labour candidate carried the Hamilton vacancy, which was a further loss to the government. In Quebec we gained one seat since the general election—Three Rivers. Therefore up to that point there were three losses and we had gained two, or a net loss of one seat as compared with the standing at the general election. Then we went down to New Brunswick and lost a seat there under circumstances that are well known to every man who knows the history of that province. In Nova Scotia there was no change, in Prince Edward Island no change, and the net result over four years has been that the government has lost two seats. That is the position.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask the Prime Minister if with four vacancies existing he has the same number of supporters to-day as he had when he took over the government?

Mr. GOTT: Another interruption!

Mr. BENNETT: I will deal also with that, but first I desire to point out to this house and country that the net position of the government is that after four years of the greatest depression the world has known the government has lost two seats out of 245 in the House of Commons.

With respect to the vacancies I think there is a general, almost a universal rule that to precipitate a by-election, with the expense incident thereto, when a general election is not far distant has not been the course usually followed.