

of Transport; we cannot have even anything such as that. But we are to have a trans-Canada airway, and doubtless at the appropriate time the Minister of National Defence will be able to make a supplementary statement indicating the extent to which this may be available for the protection of neutrality.

The last measure referred to is one of the most dangerous that can possibly be considered by this parliament. To introduce legislation that will compel people abroad who hold our securities payable in a certain manner to be satisfied with the tender of pieces of paper is a matter which calls for the most careful consideration. I am sure the Minister of Finance has no misunderstanding or misapprehension of the grave implications of such legislation, apart altogether from our capacity to enact it, when dealing with securities that are held outside the dominion. I can only await the legislation in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, during the last few months there has been increasing evidence of the attacks that are being made upon the democratic form of government. In a great many quarters democracy is being attacked as it never has been before. The contention is being urged that the condition that prevails in this house by which the government, with forty-six per cent of the votes cast at the election, should have so vast a number of supporters, is the negation of the sound principles of democratic government. I do not know whether that can be remedied by any means that we can use, but certainly in Australia compulsory voting has had a beneficial effect. I know the attacks on our democratic form of government are increasing. I know, if we persist in believing, with regard to the question of appointments, that a man has to be a defeated candidate to be eligible for office at any time, we shall have grave difficulty. I know there has never been a time since this dominion came into being in 1867 when there was greater reason for every hon. member of the house, and the government in particular, to realize that it is not a question of party as such that must be considered, but that if we are to maintain government of the people, by the people and for the people, what must be considered is the well-being of the people regardless of the effect it may have upon the political fortunes of those who for the moment are entrusted with power. I say that seriously. It is no good, after pandering to prejudices and

appealing to passion, to hope that in the end you will do other than destroy the very democracy that we are endeavouring to sustain. And the expenditure of public moneys on a large scale, a very large scale, putting into the hands of the people money to the extent of millions of dollars, can in the long run have but one effect. You have only to read the history of France to appreciate and understand that.

As far as we are concerned any measures which the government may submit to this house for parliamentary sanction and approval, which have for their end the improvement and strengthening of democracy and the removal of the conditions to which the hon. member for Gloucester referred in that very thoughtful summary of conditions which he gave us—although I could point out to him that the use of the word "dole" is not quite appropriate with respect to conditions as they now exist in England—anything which will assist in the accomplishment of that end—and I speak for those, few in number but representing nearly as many voters as the great numbers of the government yonder—we will gladly and proudly support. As Canadians we are anxious to do our best to preserve the integrity of our country and to maintain our democratic institutions.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased indeed that my first word this afternoon should be one of welcome to my right hon. friend on his return to Canada and particularly to his place in this House of Commons from his journey around the world. I extend this welcome to him, if Your Honour will permit me so to do, on behalf of all hon. members in this house. We are glad to see that he has returned obviously much benefited in health, and equally obviously greatly benefited in spirits. I sincerely hope that the improvement which is so evident to-day in his outlook upon affairs generally will long continue. Personally I cannot imagine any more certain evidence of the country's progress in the past year than that my right hon. friend has been able to recognize it so completely in the short time since his return to Canada.

I wish also to thank my right hon. friend for the note of cooperation with which he began his remarks and with which he closed them. He said frequently when he was on this side of the house that the government needed the cooperation of the opposition on