

*The Address—Mr. Bennett*

they are experts, they will be able thus to delude the people of this country into believing that they are their custodians, that they are the guardians of their happiness, that they and they only are the people who care for the well-being, as my right hon. friend said yesterday with tears in his voice, of the labourer and the farmer.

When the right hon. gentleman spent so much time yesterday in dictionary definitions of the word "humbug," I could not but think that he probably defined the word so clearly in order that the people of Canada and the members of this house might have a clear understanding of just what was meant by it as applied to himself and his government during the past nine years. There we had them, free traders, the death-knell of protection, a tariff for revenue, all bunched together, appealing in the east for the one and in the west for the other, and then yesterday we had a grand plea for national unity. Why, sir, we all heard the pathetic appeal for national unity made yesterday by the right hon. gentleman opposite, and the covert insinuation at the close of his speech with regard to a navy. Did you realize what that was for, Mr. Speaker? Was there a man in this house who for a moment did not realize what my right hon. friend was again endeavouring to do? We all remember the cry of the *La Presse* newspaper in the days before the election; we remember the cries of Taschereau and the appeals to the passion and prejudice of the people of this country, designed to arouse the people of Quebec to the thought that I was trying to create a navy. This is the right hon. gentleman who talked about national unity yesterday, and then lightly dealt with one of the most difficult problems confronting the Canadian people to-day in connection with Russia. This is the right hon. gentleman who says there is nothing we will not do; that we are ready to support our appeals in the name of patriotism, self interest and in the name of religion itself. This came from the right hon. gentleman who in 1927 passed an order in council terminating our relations with Russia and sending its minister out of this country because, he said, their fifteen cases of posters and literature did not satisfy him that what they were doing was not inimical to the public interest. Then a few minutes later in his address he turned to the people of this country, through this house, and said "A man does not live by material things alone; there are things of the spirit as well," and this two minutes after he had been talking about the material advantage of Russia to

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Canada. Thus my right hon. friend illustrates in his own person and his own speech the real meaning of the word "humbug."

As I have said, I do not propose to traverse at great length the measures which we offer to this house for its consideration. These measures of necessity must be considered as the business of the house proceeds, and it would be wasting time to anticipate the discussion of them because, as I have said, they will be discussed upon the second readings, in committee and on third readings if necessary, so there will be the fullest possible opportunity to consider every phase of every measure that may be brought forward. Therefore I pass them by, except to say that the measures which will be submitted to this house are measures which it is believed by the administration will advance the interests, the welfare and the well-being of the Canadian people. We commend them to this house and to the investigation, consideration and discussion of members of the house, certain that if they are approached from that angle, and that angle only, they will meet the requirements I have mentioned.

Now let us proceed to a matter to which the right hon. gentleman directed the major part of his address. After all, four and a half hours is a fairly reasonable time in which to make up for a silence of six months. When one thinks of the enormous amount of toil that must have been involved in this analysis of all that has gone by, and this gazing into the future with the eyes of a would-be seer, but after all with the vision of nothing more than a very poor prophet, one wonders what the four and a half hour speech was all about. What was it all about? He said that the speech from the throne divided itself into two parts, the sermon and the diagnosis. Well, upon the sermon he founded diatribe and abuse of a character seldom heard in this house, while upon the diagnosis he performed a surgical operation that resulted at least in disaster to those about him.

Why is it that present conditions prevail in Canada? Do you realize that this new land, in the present world-wide depression, should have been able, had its policies been adequate, to escape such results? Do you realize that if this country had been making thoughtful provision for the future, if its leaders had been looking into the future with eyes of vision, there should not have come this disaster to the Canadian people? Do you realize that this government has been in power eight months and that whatever conditions prevail in Canada to-day are attributable, not to it but to the governments