

Mr. CRERAR: I am not at all clear what my right hon. friend is quoting from. Will be kindly inform me?

Mr. MEIGHEN: As I stated, I am quoting from a Canadian Press despatch from Calgary the statement made there by the present hon. member for Medicine Hat as to the occurrences that took place in the city of Saskatoon on the occasion when the hon. member for Marquette met his followers there.

So we will expect to-night when the leader of the Government speaks that he will for the first time take us into his confidence and frankly and fairly tell us what the terms of those negotiations were, whether he only offered the hon. member for Marquette and the other Progressive leaders inducements to come over to his party and enter his Government as members of his party, or whether on the other hand he did what the hon. member for Medicine Hat in detail declares he did, and what all the circumstances of the case would lead us to believe was actually the fact—whether he offered terms for a coalition of another party with his own in order that he might have the numerical strength he desires for the conduct of affairs in this House.

Now, I have passed from one article to the other as the subject is remotely referred to in this Speech from the Throne. There is not enough of legislation proposed in this document to occupy much of the time of Parliament. There is not indeed enough foreshadowed in this Speech from the Throne to cover as much work as the late Government, when they were in office and when immense work had to be done, disposed of in a day or at most in a week. All that is here foreshadowed can be dealt with in a very short time indeed.

Oh! I note one omission. I wonder if it has not occurred to hon. members. Are you aware, Mr. Speaker, that there is no announcement whatever in the Speech from the Throne that responsible Government has been restored in Canada; no declaration to an anxious public that our emaciated and mutilated constitution has been resurrected and rehabilitated to its pristine integrity? Why, even the hon. member for North Winnipeg was impressed by the protestations of the present Prime Minister in the election contest on that subject. Look, he says, at the Speech from the Throne. Are we not actually told that the treaties into which Canada has entered at Washington are going to

be submitted to Parliament? What a concession to democracy! What a vindication of Parliamentary practice! What a restoration of the rights of the people! Well, were treaties never brought to Parliament before for ratification? Were treaties ever accepted, save only when there was no possible way of avoiding it and in cases of virtually no consequence, except after those treaties were brought before this Parliament and ratified? The late government always did it. But the member for North Winnipeg says: Order in Council government is gone.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Order in Council government is gone; "Hear, hear" say hon. gentlemen opposite. Will the hon. gentleman tell us when he speaks how many Orders in Council he has passed since he attained office two months ago? Will he tell us anything his Government has done save by Order in Council? Does the hon. gentleman have in his mind Orders in Council passed by the late administration in unnecessary anticipation of the will of Parliament, subject to ratification—orders that he believes should not have been passed? Let him name one and I will undertake now—yes, if he will permit me, I will do it before this debate is over, though I have not the right to speak twice—to name him one passed in his two months of office that offends more in that respect than any offence he can even attribute to any Order in Council passed by the late administration. I will undertake to name him Orders in Council that not only unnecessarily transcend the powers given this Government by the Parliament of Canada but that in my judgment, transcend even the powers of Parliament itself. The hon. gentleman has laid on the Table some of the Orders in Council that he has passed. He has laid on the Table Orders in Council that do not even pretend to be within the powers of the Government. I am free to say that there come times when a government must, in the discharge of its bounden and inescapable duty, take courses in anticipation of the will of Parliament. This Government has taken those courses, but the most extreme exercise of Order in Council government that this or any Parliament has ever witnessed has been that indulged in by the very gentlemen who sit opposite us now, led by him who made it his boast on every platform—and an easy boast it was; it