

day will soon come when exchange will be stabilized not only throughout the empire but throughout the whole world. When that occurs we will be relieved of the vexatious differences of exchange and the necessity for the payment of discounts and premiums.

This year the government introduced the Unemployment Insurance Act. In my opinion the introduction of such legislation is a little late as it should have been brought forward some ten or fifteen years ago. If that had been done then the legislation would have been on a sound basis to-day. This act received considerable criticism from hon. members in the opposite corner but I contend that it is a step in the right direction and is as far as the government could go at the present time. After it has been in operation for a year or two, any defects which may develop can be remedied. The number of people brought under the act is quite large and represents about as many as the government can look after at the present time.

A royal commission was set up by the government to inquire fully into the methods and practices of big business. The report of this commission will be brought down to the house very shortly and legislation based thereon will be introduced. As the administration of the legislation will devolve largely upon the next government I think it is essential that that government should be in full accord with it. For many years the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) has been watching the trend of events. He has taken careful note of what happened during the reestablishment period after the war and during the days of frenzied finance when merger after merger was brought into being. Many changes occurred in the period from 1921 to 1930. I contend that the Prime Minister is the logical man to be in charge of the enforcement of the legislation which he has introduced. This question will be soon placed before the highest court in the land, the electorate, and I have no doubt that the verdict will be in favour of the Prime Minister. I have a firm and abiding faith in the good sense of the electorate of this country.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I desire to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) on the budget speech which he delivered in this house just a week ago to-day. I want to congratulate him with respect to both its contents and its form. We have had four budgets from the hon. gentleman and I think I can safely say that in so far as the budget system under British practice is understood, these budgets have been models which future ministers of finance may follow. This budget was in marked contrast to the Dunning

budget of 1930. The hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth (Mr. Ralston) has referred to this as a make believe budget, but I submit that if there ever was a make believe budget, it was the Dunning budget of 1930, the budget which the people of this country rejected and threw out of the window. I have studied the public press and other organs which have expressed an opinion on this budget and they have been almost universally favourable in their comments. I think it could be termed a prosperity budget as it definitely signalizes the return to this country of normal conditions and the return of this party at the next elections.

I should like to make a brief reference to the illness of the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett): We are all delighted to know that his progress has been excellent and that he will be about his apartment in a day or two and back in this chamber before prorogation to resume his duties as leader of the government and the country. In due course he will make his appeal to the people. I do not doubt the bona fides of the right hon. the leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) in the expressions of regret and solicitude for the health of the Prime Minister which he made a few days ago in this house, but I should like to refer to the malicious and mendacious statements with reference to the health of the Prime Minister which have been made to certain parts of the public press by parties unfriendly to him. These statements have been calculated to raise a false impression in the minds of the people of this country.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hope my hon. friend is not insinuating that any one on this side is responsible for anything of that kind.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I did not so say. My words will speak for themselves. I said that I did not doubt the bona fides of the right hon. gentleman and I made no reference to hon. gentlemen on the other side.

There is one point in connection with his budget speech upon which I should like to congratulate the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth. Considering the length of his utterances I think it can be truly said that it was a marathon. He will soon rival his distinguished leader in this respect. I submit that in the main his criticism was picayune and wholly destructive with but a single exception to which I shall allude in a moment; he did not make a single suggestion which would improve any one condition in this country. And the possible exception was his reference to the establishment of a loan council, which suggestion I should like to observe