

of us followed with difficulty, but, judging from the questions which were put to him, I think that possibly there is just a little misgiving on the part of members of the House as to whether Canada will properly retain her autonomy in the scheme which he has outlined. He laid considerable stress on one feature which did not appeal very strongly to me, and that was that it was rather epoch-making to find that the Prime Minister of Canada may in future be able to communicate direct with the Prime Minister of England instead of through the Colonial Office. Surely that is a matter of mere detail. I am reminded of the time when, in my own city of Kitchener, or, as it was at that time, the city of Berlin, we did not have free mail delivery; we had to go to the post office to obtain our mail, which was a roundabout way of getting it. Now it is carried to our doors. It is just a matter of greater convenience but brings about exactly the same result.

Since the Union Government has come into existence, a good many of us have been curious as to what model they have taken for some of the legislation which they have enacted. Since the President of the Privy Council has read from a booklet, the Constitution of the Bolsheviki, which I understand, is forbidden by Order in Council, our eyes have been opened. First of all he read that the Bolsheviki had compulsory military service just like the Union Government. He went on to say that they had obligatory labour laws, and I wonder whether that is the origin of the Order in Council "Work or fight." The press, he likewise stated, was suppressed, and I could not but feel that we could draw a parallel between some of the enactments of the Bolsheviki and the War-time Elections Act. The President of the Privy Council stated that the Bolsheviki gave guns only to their own people, just as the Union Government, or the Borden Administration gave the ballots to its own supporters through the War-time Elections Act.

I listened to the speech of the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark) who spoke of the light in the window and the latch on the outside of the door. For my part I think I would use that lamp in the window for the proper purpose for which lamps are intended. Personally I would take that lamp out of the window. Those who may have strayed away from the house, I think, know the way back very well, and may be left to find it for themselves at the proper time. But the hon. member for Red Deer did not like the metaphor of the

lamp and the latch-string. He rather fancied himself as a young lady who was receiving the attentions of two ardent swains. He rather enjoyed the experience, and thought he would wait for some time until he should finally make up his mind. There is an old saying in another language, which I cannot repeat in the vernacular, that under conditions of this kind the young lady may say at the outset, "Which one shall I take?" but overnight the question may revert to, "Which one will take me?" Further, Mr. Speaker, in these practical times, even young ladies have an eye to the main chance, and it may be that sometimes they postpone their decision in order that they may seize the opportunity of taking a peep into Duns or Bradstreets, to find out which of the two suitors can give her the best of the things of this world. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would not for one moment suggest that the hon. member for Red Deer was not entirely sincere when he stated that his reason for remaining on the other side of the House is entirely that of the national interest. I do not say so, and I believe that he was just as sincere when he made the statement in question as when he pronounced that magnificent and eloquent eulogy upon his old friend our late leader, the Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier. But if it were otherwise we on this side, would admit at once that we cannot compete with the other side at all. We have very little to give, so that perhaps after all the young lady from Red Deer might as well make her decision at once, place her reluctant hand in that of the hon. gentleman from Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt), and getting off that picket fence—which must be very uncomfortable and which they are said to be straddling together—might say to him in the words of Ruth:

Whither thou goest I will go, thy people shall be my people, thy God, my God. Where thou diest I will die and there will I be buried.

I heard also the other day the hon. Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Calder). He appeared perfectly sincere in every way, and I for one would say nothing whatever in criticism of a man who feels that his national duty keeps him on the other side of the House. But I would say to him that if he feels, as he apparently does, that he should keep his former Liberal principles in cold storage for another season, that he be very, very careful that they do not perish in the rarified atmosphere in which they are now living.

The hon. minister invites suggestions, criticism and some indications as to the tem-