

order to lighten the burdens on our returned men, many of whom are crippled and incapable of earning their living.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there have been presented to the house the motion of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb), the amendment of my hon. friend from St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan), and the subamendment of my hon. friend from East Lambton (Mr. Fansher). What are we to do? Well, I will tell you what I am going to do, and I will give my reasons. It is easy to move amendments. It is the safest thing in the world to rock the boat when you are standing on land and in no danger of drowning. My hon. friend from St. Lawrence-St. George knows very well that nobody in the southeast corner and nobody on this side of the house can vote for his amendment. So his party is safe. Then there is my friend from East Lambton and all his associates in the opposite corner, for all of whom I have a great deal of affection, especially for the lady member.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I mean that, Mr. Speaker. Now, they know the Conservatives cannot support the subamendment, and they know we will not vote for it. Well, they are rocking the boat while standing on dry land—the safest thing in the world to do. But we will suppose that the amendment from the official opposition carries. What happens? This government is defeated. Then who comes into power? Our friends opposite, now the official opposition. Would we have a ten per cent reduction of the income tax? No, Mr. Speaker; unless I am very badly mistaken the income tax would be wiped out immediately. Would we have small reductions in the tariff? No, Mr. Speaker, there would be increases, or else their speeches that I have listened to during the last five or six years do not amount to anything. Now suppose the subamendment of my hon. friend from East Lambton carries, what happens? Would the U.F.A. group take office, with my friend from Acadia (Mr. Gardiner) as Prime Minister? I have the greatest regard for him, but would he be able to form a cabinet?

Miss MACPHAIL: There would be enough of them to form a cabinet.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: They have no chance of coming into power. The only thing they can do is help put the Conservative party in the saddle, and I know they do not desire to do that.

Mr. MCGIBBON: Which side would you be on then?

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Would the U.F.O. group take office? I should like to see the lady member become prime minister. But how would she be able to form a cabinet, whom could she choose besides the hon. member for East Lambton?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): May I submit to the hon. gentleman that if the hon. member for Southeast Grey became prime minister a large number of members would flock to her party rapidly.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: They would all like to be bachelors. I have proven that it is impossible for the U.F.A. group to form a government, and I have also proven that it is equally impossible for the U.F.O. group. What other group can we look to to form a government? We have the Progressives from Saskatchewan, four in number, led by my hon. friend from Rosetown (Mr. Evans). By the tone of his speech last night he seems to be at loggerheads with the world. Now, would he undertake to form a government? If he would be prime minister—well, to be prime minister a man has to do a lot of smiling. I am afraid my hon. friend would either have to change the tone of his speeches or adopt my mentality—I can smile almost any time. But I have not yet exhausted the possibilities. We have another group in that corner of the house—the hon. member for Nelson (Mr. Bird). I have the greatest regard for him. But he is alone, we cannot very well expect him to attempt cabinet making. Our last recourse is the labour group of three members, and for them I have a very high regard. How could they govern the country? There is only one ultimate result in voting for the amendment or the subamendment if either carries—the return to power of our Conservative friends. I am certain that nobody on this side of the house desires to see them on the treasury benches, nor do my hon. friends in the southeast corner desire it, and far less do the Canadian people.

As I said before, Mr. Speaker, the budget does not satisfy all my ideals or provide all that I think the country requires. I am frank about it.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Not frank enough.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: But I would rather have a slice of bread than no bread at all.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): There is not even a slice.

Miss MACPHAIL: It is not bread this time, but a stone.