

There still remains plenty of evidence that thrift and enterprise are useful and commendable. Thrift is still necessary, and, as I have said, if I were to make any suggestion it would be to supplement this measure with a national scheme of contributory old age pensions, to give the people an opportunity to provide for their own security in their declining years.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker I should like my first word in closing this debate on the second reading of the family allowances bill to be one of appreciation of the attitude which the house generally has taken toward the measure. I particularly wish to thank the members of my own party for the united and loyal manner in which they have supported the measure and also for the able way in which, through their speeches, they have explained essential features of the bill itself and the fundamental principles which underlie it. Their addresses reflect credit upon this House of Commons. May I say to the members of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, to the Social Credit group and to independent members who have spoken that I am also pleased that they have indicated their intention to support unitedly and unanimously the second reading of this measure.

With regard to my hon. friends of the official opposition I should also like to express my appreciation to those of their number who have supported the measure in principle and have given reasons for that support. I must confess that, in some respects, my feelings have been rather of amusement than surprise at the attitude which as an opposition they have adopted. When I read the statement made by the leader of the Progressive Conservative party, who referred to the measure as a species of political bribe, before there had been any opportunity of discussing it in this parliament, indeed before its terms had been made public, when he said that he hoped the day was coming when there would be an end to this legal bribery of the electorate, I thought that those who profess to be his followers in this house would have championed his position. I thought that if this was a species of political bribery we would have had one gallant gentleman after the other rising in his place and giving reasons to this house why this measure should not be supported. The fact that they did not is, I say, to their credit. Perhaps it was because of the intimation I gave them that what their leader had said was a reflection upon the membership of this house, and would reflect in particular on

any hon. member who might take the same attitude. It is quite clear that no hon. member in his place in this house has wished to repeat any such allegation on the floor of parliament.

The members of the official opposition did briefly, in a sort of fashion, indicate that they thought there were better means of dealing with the question. I was a little surprised to hear the leader of the opposition (Mr. Graydon) say that this measure was not one of social justice. I hope that will not cause him to refrain from supporting it when it comes to a vote on the second reading. He has probably heard enough in the debate to cause him to change his mind on that score, as a good many others have evidently changed theirs. If this measure is not one of social justice I cannot understand how anyone in this house would desire to support it. But as I say, if the leader of the opposition has changed his mind on that score, as he probably has we shall see definitely when the division takes place.

My hon. friend was followed by one other champion of the point of view of a past age, the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Bruce). I myself think it is fortunate we have the hon. member for Parkdale in this house because he does belong so obviously to a past era. As I listened to him giving his arguments against this particular measure I could not but think of the familiar lines; they appear in Dickens' "The Chimes" of just a century ago:

Bless the squire and his relations,
And always know our proper stations.

There is another line or two:

Oh, let us love our occupations,
Live upon our daily rations.

In other words, in the hon. member's mind the whole of society is to be classified in strata—those with high sounding titles and many possessions are to be at the top, and those who are unfortunate enough not to possess much of this world's goods are to be classified as belonging to the lower stratum of society. That point of view, which unfortunately is still held by far too many, was clearly set forth in what the hon. member for Parkdale said in the course of his remarks.

However, Mr. Speaker, there ended the brave attack by the opposition on the measure. As I remember it, there was on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite complete silence for a day. Hon. members on this side of the house continued to give reasons why they believed it was in the public interest that this measure should be supported. That period of silence of a day having elapsed,