

generally do, men who with staunch hearts will follow a policy of Canada first and foremost, Canada as a link in that world chain of nations on which the sun never sets, so as to secure peace, happiness and prosperity to all the people of this world.

Mr. J. E. LETELLIER (Compton) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, called upon, at the opening of the first session of the fifteenth Parliament, to represent in this House, the riding of Compton, I heard noisy protests, from my very arrival, among the hon. members of His Majesty's opposition, and, above the din of these protests, it was easy to make out these words loudly uttered against the government: "It is a headless government, a moribund government; a government usurper of the people's rights." Fortunately, to-day, these high sounding phrases used by the hon. members of the opposition have subsided and one may surmise that a forced compunction obliges and will oblige, for a long time, our friends of the opposition to use towards the present government a more subdued tone and wiser language.

Who, among the hon. members of the opposition, would dare contend that the present government is without a leader? The hon. Prime Minister, on the one hand, with much consideration for the popular verdict—owing to the complexity of the vote—deemed it wise to ask His Excellency the Governor General of Canada to call parliament in order that it might solve the uncertain situation in which were placed the various parties in this House; on the other hand, very considerate of the code of honour and wishing to enter parliament by the expressed will of the people, he declined the offer of generous members who desired to vacate their seat in his behalf. He is now placed in authority, and I heartily congratulate him for having so wisely acted. His so sincere devotedness to public affairs, and his so profound respect for our free institutions, are a guarantee of a very sound administration.

"It is a moribund government," stated hon. gentlemen of the opposition. Could they express themselves thus when they saw the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) occupying the so difficult post of acting leader, with such dignity and rare tactfulness which even compelled their admiration.

Could they possibly maintain that the government was dying, when such hon. ministers as Robb, Boivin, Stewart, Cardin, Motherwell, Cannon, Macdonald and King, at the head of their important departments, fulfilled their task with such ability and zeal.

The people wished that the government which was so unjustly attacked should no

longer put up with the abusive language of the opposition, and we witnessed one after the other the present office holders take their place in the departments of Railways and Labour, they will prove themselves worthy of the task entrusted to them—I have named the hon. Messrs Dunning and Elliott.

"A government usurper of the people's rights," had cried out hon. members of the opposition. Fascinated by the allurements of power, they checked up their numbers and came to the conclusion that their supporters were numerous enough to entitle them to be called upon to form a government. It is then that my hon. friends of the Progressive party generously cast their vote with the government so as to preserve to the country a wise, far-seeing and progressive administration. You alone, Mr. Speaker, escaped the criticisms to which the government had to submit, and the unanimous choice of the hon. members of this House in placing you again in the Speaker's chair, leads me to believe that the day is not far away, when legislation will make permanent the office you so gracefully hold. Together with the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) I express the hope that you will become the first holder.

The budget that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) presented to us raises a unanimous chorus of praise. The unavoidable criticisms which it has also suggested will not prevent the people from being relieved of \$25,000,000 of taxes, and appreciating the wisdom of the Liberal government who, heirs to the enormously difficult task bequeathed by the previous government, nevertheless were able to rouse the country from the state of depression into which it had fallen and lead it on to prosperity, where the vigour of the eminently constructive principles embodied in the Liberal party's policy will shine in all their splendor.

The budget shows us a real surplus and there is no need of further proof than that of the wiping out of taxes. Scrutinize the budget, glance at it with an evil eye, if you so wish, truth is always truth, and the hon. members of the opposition will have to humbly admit that the hon. Minister of Finance has had the glory of rousing great enthusiasm from the shores of the Atlantic to those of the Pacific. Objection may be taken that automobile manufacturers closed or wished to close their factories, owing to lack of protection. I shall retort: the present government is not the appointee of financial interests, but the elect of the people, and it intends to safeguard the rights of the people in preference to the interests of a few large business concerns.

[Mr. Baker.]