

ed upon the initiative of the cabinet. Members who are warm supporters of the government on measures of policy know that, according to the rules of the house, an adverse vote on a comparatively minor issue may defeat the government. This rule should be amended to require an affirmative vote on a definite want of confidence motion to defeat any government. Such a change in the rules would promote independence of action on the part of the members.

After all, many of the electors are not worried as to what party is in power or when an election is to be called. Their primary interest is in employment and decent living conditions. When we think of unemployment we are apt to look at the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) and criticize him because he has not provided work or pensions or insurance for every person in Canada. The Minister of Labour has to work under great handicaps. There is a limit as to what can possibly be done in his department. Those limiting conditions can be overcome only by the other departments of the government.

How can we rid ourselves of excessive costs in government? How can we speed up the development of our resources by private enterprise reasonably controlled? The Rowell commission is expected to help us answer these questions, but what of the many other important considerations that cannot possibly be touched upon by that commission? Here is where we need group leadership in foresighted planning. Every member should do more forward thinking so that time will not be lost. I say to my fellow Liberals in this parliament, we each have our responsibility, yet the blame for any inactivity on our part falls inevitably upon the shoulders of our leader.

Strengthened organization without the loss of a single day is a crying necessity. That is my recommendation to-day to the Prime Minister and to the government. I want to exonerate myself at once of the charge of selfish ambition. Let them free me of any suspicion of office seeking. My motives have to do solely with the needs of the nation. The distress of the people demands that a new fresh group of say five or seven members be set to work immediately to represent us all in definite forward planning. It matters little whether they be under-secretaries, ministers without portfolio or simply members of an advisory group, so long as they have the opportunity and the ability to think ahead for us along new lines. High qualifications are essential. It may be that the best equipped members from the standpoint of organizing ability may come from two or three provinces only. If that be so, let them be

chosen accordingly, whether they come from Prince Edward Island or Quebec or British Columbia. The situation demands the immediate time and thought of more men of broad outlook.

Mr. W. K. ESLING (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, the people of the federal district of Kootenay West, along with all the people of the Dominion of Canada, have both pride and pleasure in the prospective visit of their majesties. However, there is cause for regret in the fact that the interdepartmental committee could not see its way clear to include in the royal itinerary the southeastern portion of British Columbia. It is felt that their majesties would have pride and pleasure in viewing the largest metallurgical plant in the world. Situated at Trail, this plant operates on the output of the mines at Kimberley, the largest silver-lead-zinc mines on this continent. This plant at Trail is of special interest to the empire at large. At the outbreak of the war there was available a very limited supply of zinc, and this supply was controlled by a New York syndicate which taxed the empire and its allies with exorbitant charges. At that time there was no method of treating the complex silver-lead-zinc ores, but the task of finding such a method was turned over to the research department at the Trail smelter. It was not long before the problem was solved. It is true that this involved a huge expenditure for plant and that there were many initial obstacles to overcome, but the result was a steady supply of zinc at a cost less than twenty-five per cent of what the New York syndicate was charging. A continuous supply of zinc was then available to the empire and its allies.

In this debate on the address it is permissible and even advisable for an hon. member to bring to the attention of the government certain conditions which exist in his district as well as complaints which may affect other portions of Canada. This is done in the hope that the government may consider the amendment of existing legislation or the enactment of new legislation to remedy such complaints. Residence property in the city of Trail is quite scarce and this makes it necessary that many of the employees of the smelter find accommodation elsewhere. Many of them have their homes in the rural districts or at Rossland, which is five or six miles up the mountain. With so many homes located away from the immediate vicinity of the smelter the problem arises of transportation for these employees. It is necessary for the men to be on shift on time, and the men on shift are anxious to get home on time. That problem confronted the employees, as well as the matter of a much reduced transportation