

courage to raise revenue through taxation. How can it be done otherwise? Where is the money to come from if not through appeal to the pockets of the people at large? As I have said, it is easy to borrow money, and while the loan was increasing by hundreds of millions, and while my honourable friend was thinking that things were running merrily along, I could not help thinking of the constantly increasing annual charge for interest that would fall upon the shoulders of the taxpayer. The continuation of the policy of borrowing only aggravates the situation. Why has no policy been expressed to-day which would hold out the hope that conditions are soon to change? My belief is that the Cabinet is too weak and too divided to bring down a policy which would lead us to hope that we might meet our yearly obligations. I am convinced that the present Cabinet will, before September next, announce another loan of \$500,000,000.

My honourable friend spoke with glee of the last loan of \$700,000,000; I think at the same time of the \$38,500,000 interest upon it the country will annually be called upon to pay. As I said last session, I am convinced that the taxpayers of this country will have to be bled to the tune of \$200,000,000 in additional taxation in order to meet our yearly expenditure. We have heard no announcement, either in the Speech from the Throne or in the speech of my honourable friend, which would indicate that the Government has any idea of where this supplementary \$200,000,000 is to be found. Why have we had no indication of a policy which would tend to re-establish confidence in the country? Why? One of the most influential newspapers in the Conservative party has said that it was because the Cabinet was headless and brainless. Yesterday morning, coming up on the train to Ottawa, I read a curious despatch sent to the *Montreal Gazette* by one of its correspondents. It said:

If Hon. J. D. Reid and Hon. James A. Calder, who are in New York to confer with Sir Robert Borden, fail to secure the Prime Minister's consent to remain as nominal leader of the Government, they will ask him to name his successor. These ministers and some of their colleagues are opposed to a parliamentary choice of a leader and would in the event of Sir Robert's retirement prevent this by having Sir Robert hand his crown to his own choice. Any leader chosen will have a difficult task, but it will be doubly difficult if the parliamentary supporters are told why they must follow instead of making the selection. Sir Thomas White has definitely stated that he will not be a candidate for the leadership nor accept it if offered him. Sir Robert will be asked to

name first and second choices, and these will be Sir Thomas White and Sir Henry Drayton. Hon. James A. Calder is a favourite of the Prime Minister and would be quite willing to be a compromise selection. The Cabinet ministers, with the exception of two or three, would accept any leader except Hon. Arthur Meighen. The Commons would accept Mr. Meighen and would be split in several factions were he ignored. It is believed, however, that the ministers in New York will prevail with Sir Robert and return with the glad tidings that the Prime Minister will retain office. This will carry the Government through the session, and with Parliament prorogued the Cabinet with eight months' recess can afford to ignore the Commons.

I have said that this influential and respectable organ of the Conservative party felt that the Government was headless; and it establishes that it is brainless by adding:

Unionist troubles are due to lack of an accepted policy to an even greater degree than from absentee leadership.

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King was justified in his criticism of the Government on this issue. The Unionist Cabinet cannot continue to exist indefinitely on its war record, no matter how clean and effective. Its supporters in the Commons are sick at heart from the Government's indecision and procrastination in formulating a constructive policy. A war administration is of necessity autocratic and secretive.

Then, in order to show the chaotic condition of the Cabinet, the writer goes further and explains that the Government stands nowhere before the people. He says:

While it is doubtful if there will be Unionist candidates in either St. James, Montreal, or Temiskaming, there will be candidates who support the Government's fiscal policy. In Temiskaming there are two candidates in the field, Liberal and Farmer-Labour. A Conservative convention has been called, but this will probably be cancelled and a well-known business man with large interests in the constituency enter the fight as an independent protectionist. Owing to the lack of Unionist organization and even a platform, it is very difficult to secure an official candidate. There is no one authorized to call such a convention, nor would there be much to gain by being selected as the Government's official candidate, as in the past Cabinet ministers have given no support to such candidates either by endorsement or on the platforms.

This is delightful irony. The Government will have no candidate in those three constituencies, but will try to win on its fiscal policy. It will not show its face; it will rely upon the Opposition carrying its colours to victory.

Now, what is the fiscal policy that is spoken of? Is it the high tariff of the Cockshutt wing of the Conservative party, the low tariff of the Calder group, or the moderate tariff of the Meighen-Winnipeg brand? We do not know. It appears that the Government will have no candidates