

confederation by yielding their own strong personal convictions to a compromise view in order that confederation might become an accomplished fact. What I have said, and undoubtedly will continue to say so far as I am at present advised, is that those who study dispassionately the history of Canada will realize that it has been the party with which I have the honour to be associated that had to bear responsibility for great national endeavours resulting in bringing to a successful conclusion the federation of the provinces, a national policy, and that ultimately responsibility has usually rested with the Conservative party at times of great crises, such as the great war and other occasions to which references might be made.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I hope the Prime Minister has made it evident, and that he is clear in his own mind, that I quoted from an Ottawa paper, exactly as I read it.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, it was the Ottawa Journal. Not for one moment would I suggest that the right hon. gentleman did not read what was in the paper.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I read the article in the first instance in the Ottawa Citizen, and was so astonished that I looked up the Journal report, and found that it was similar. I used the Journal report intentionally so as to do the Prime Minister full justice.

Mr. BENNETT: Undoubtedly it was a Canadian Press dispatch. I took the trouble to look at the reports in the Montreal Star, in the Evening Telegram of Toronto, in the Mail and Empire and in the Toronto Globe. There is a lengthy report in the Globe as to what I said with respect to Mr. Blake. There is also an extended report in the Mail and Empire. It will be observed that the summary is not a fair summary of what I said. In order to make definitely certain I conferred with those who were there and heard my remarks. Not long since I was attacked venomously in one newspaper on the basis of a statement copied from another which was wholly at variance with what had been said. Fortunately I had spoken on the radio, and therefore was able to contradict the statement made in the press. That is one of the reasons radio becomes of extraordinary value, because usually there are people behind it who can take down what may have been said and are able to verify the correctness of summaries.

I believe I have dealt with the matters to which attention was directed by the right hon. gentleman, with the exception of his

[Mr. Bennett.]

reference to honours and awards. There is standing on the order paper a resolution in the name of the hon. member for East Hamilton (Mr. Mitchell), the discussion upon which could hardly be anticipated in its entirety. I purpose however to endeavour to indicate to this chamber that the action taken was to save the House of Commons from being unjustly attacked. I will not to-night discuss the question of honours and awards from the standpoint of their desirability; I will only say this, that in all nations there is usually recognition by the state in some form or another of those who render persistent and continuous service to it. It may be a humble service that they render, or it may be a very exalted one. There have been many men and women in all walks of life who have believed that recognition by the head of the state of services rendered is a proper act on the part of the chief executive. Those who remember the life of Nelson will recall his views on that subject. Those who recall the life of Lord Curzon will remember a speech he delivered in the House of Lords complaining of the scanty recognition of his services which, he said, was wholly at variance with the general custom which had been followed. There is in a new democracy a fairly widespread belief that those who make a statement to the effect that they believe in these things are subject to ridicule on the ground that the basis of their belief is a desire to be recognized themselves. That is usually the difficulty in new democracies; it has been so in days gone by. In this very country, from the earliest days of the establishment of responsible government, the crown in the person of the sovereign has granted awards and honours to those who have served the state in whatever capacity they may have served. The fathers of confederation, it will be recalled, were honoured, some being Companions of the Bath, others Knights Commanders, Sir George Cartier ultimately being made a baronet. These are matters of history. It will also be recalled that in 1802 Napoleon established the Legion of Honour, of four grades, and those in this country who wear on the lapel of their coat the insignia of that honour value it very highly. Honours of other countries are conferred upon Canadians as a matter of courtesy. Some of the great nations of the earth have named Canadians for services rendered as vice-consuls or for some particular service that may have been rendered, whatever it may be. There are illustrations of that about us everywhere. The late Chief Justice of Canada and the late Speaker of the House