

and by adopting a horizontal cut of ten per cent on all civil servants' salaries, excepting those of judges, military men and the Royal Mounted Police—

Mr. LAFLECHE (Translation): It is coming.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): Which is a most crying injustice, a cut which affects far more the small salaried employees than those who are highly paid. They would have to admit also that, to solve the unemployment problem, the government dismissed hundreds of civil servants, and thereby increased the number of unemployed. They would have to admit that in having large amounts voted for works to relieve unemployment, the government acted hypocritically, since it reduced, on the other hand, the regular appropriations by an amount almost equal to the two-thirds of the amount voted for unemployment.

In Montreal, the government discontinued the work in connection with the Canadian National Railways, thus depriving the unemployed of almost \$10,000,000, per year, work which was necessary and which was set aside to please the former municipal administration of Montreal which was defeated at the last municipal election. The government also stopped the expenditure of \$1,500,000 for repairs to the Montreal harbour.

I could, sir, continue this enumeration, but I shall not do so. It suffices to prove to the house and the country how greatly the Canadian people erred by reposing their trust in those who now govern. Faced with such a failure, what excuses does the government offer? The only one, is that the crisis is world-wide—a contrary statement to that which was made at the last Dominion election. They then pledged themselves to find markets for our products, to bring back prosperity, to give work to all who needed it and, to our dear Quebec farmers, for whom the hon. Postmaster General (Mr. Sauvé) felt a sudden frivolous liking during the electoral campaign, they promised better prices for their butter. They made all these pledges, knowing fully well that they could not fulfil them, but they were intended, however, to deceive the people and capture their votes.

When we, in the opposition, basing our contentions on the budget provisions, blame the government for ruining the country, we are charged with making false representation; the hon. Postmaster General himself charges us with using abusive and regrettable language, when criticizing the government. As far as I am concerned, I have nothing to take back, here or elsewhere. However, may I point out

[Mr. Denis.]

that if such language has been used in the house, the Postmaster General can blame himself. Allow me, sir, to prove this statement. Contrary to what was said in the house, the Liberal party does not advocate free trade. All are aware of this, we are moderate protectionists; we believe in a tariff for revenue to protect not only the manufacturers and industrial interests, as you do, but the consumers who have a right to expect some consideration from legislators. This is called abusive language. The Postmaster General has misconstrued truth in making false statements to help the cause he is championing. This is again regrettable language, for as a member of the government he is held to state the truth. Let me give a further proof; he charged the Quebec government with having enacted in 1922, a measure similar to that adopted last session by this government to relieve the unemployed and farmers. The Quebec government never had a similar measure enacted, it never sought the authority to dispose of enormous sums through a blank signature, or to have recourse to armed force in order to maintain good government, peace and order.

Nowhere, neither here nor elsewhere, can there be found a precedent for such legislation. By this blank-signature act, it is possible to amend the whole of our statutes, and some have already been amended; the prerogatives of parliament have been assailed. The hon. Mr. Taschereau never had such legislation enacted. The Postmaster General's language is abusive and regrettable. Do not interfere, please, with the Quebec government's affairs; if you have petty scores to settle with Mr. Taschereau, this is not the place to do so. You have more important business to look after in your own department, for instance the dismissal of postmasters for supposed active political partisanship. You are better qualified to carry out this petty job than to administer the province of Quebec. The advice can equally apply to the friends who surround you. This discussion on the Quebec government makes you appear more ridiculous than interesting. A word to the wise is enough!

It is true, I have not had as much experience as the hon. Postmaster General, however, like himself, I have never believed that insults and abusive language are becoming a man of good political education. On the other hand, I wonder whether the hon. Postmaster General has a right to lay down principles which are pleasant to hear, and then set them aside at the first opportunity. I will recall the advice he gave the post office employees