

of moment in a by-election of such importance as that which took place in St. Henry. Because the government is bound, doubtless the Minister of Finance will foot the bill. That surplus to which the hon. member for Renfrew North (Mr. Warren) referred this afternoon will have vanished into thin air, like the dew before the morning sun.

It may be somewhat amusing that this should be so—but there is the record. The amazing thing is that upon that record apparently the people were greatly impressed, for we find that in that particular section of the constituency they gave the very large majority of about 5,000 to the hon. gentleman who took his seat this evening. So it would seem that the labours of the Secretary of State were not in vain, nor were those of the Minister of Public Works.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: Those hon. members from western Canada who are saying, "Hear, hear" must say so with great joy, because they know their trouble is now ended. When I hear the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Howden), I realize how he must feel about it.

But from another angle the matter has a somewhat different aspect, and I feel quite certain that when that aspect has been traversed and appropriations made the feeling will be different. The government cannot say that in Winnipeg the workmen, their wives and families will be neglected, but that in Montreal they will be cared for. The federal government cannot espouse such a doctrine as that. Clearly it is not a case of the old, worn five cent piece; that doctrine is no longer in vogue. It could not be said to be that, in any sense. It is however a declaration of high policy in which the government commits itself to care for men, women and children, or for all those who may find themselves in want in the great cities of Canada. That I am sure is a statement with respect to which every representative of a city in Canada, and especially representatives from western Canada, will rejoice and be exceeding glad. For my part, I thank the Secretary of State and the government for taking so noble an attitude. I am sure the Minister of National Defence will be highly regarded in Vancouver when he is able to tell his constituents that thanks to a by-election in St. Henry there will be no further difficulty or worry with respect to the wants of the workmen, their wives and children in that great city. That it involves a large sum of money is a matter for the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) to settle.

[Mr. Bennett.]

I was about to point out that no one in this country can help being concerned over the conditions that exist. There never has been a time when we had greater disharmony and lack of unity among the provinces that comprise confederation. Admittedly the circumstances that surround us, leave much to be desired. We have large numbers of unemployed, although they are fewer than they were. In addition to that, we have large numbers on relief. The figures would indicate that they have increased by 80,000 during the last month or so. That is a substantial increase. The cause for a large number of these people being on relief is attributable to conditions other than the drought conditions which have obtained in the prairie country.

We have a situation in this country where we find the formation of organizations that contemplate a dictatorship such as fascism on the one hand, or communism, on the other. Hon. members may have observed in a Montreal daily the picture of a large number of men giving a salute in the approved Nazi form.

An hon. MEMBER: They were boy scouts.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, boy scouts, but apparently this matter is taken much more seriously in the province of Quebec. From what has been said and done there it is quite clear that this thing is regarded as being of great importance. I directed the attention of the Postmaster General (Mr. Elliott) to-night, as well as a few days ago, to the fact that the mails of this country had been intercepted and papers taken therefrom. It is quite clear under the law that that should not happen. In the United States that was the cause of a long and protracted struggle in the state of Illinois. Is such a situation to continue in Canada?

We have the formation of these bodies and we hear talk of fascism and other forms of dictatorship. The other day I was reading a report by a gentleman who has written a great deal on public questions. He said:

A world ended in 1918. Another is struggling "powerless to be born." It is between these worlds that we are to-day, with two great forces even now at grips as to which shall control the world of to-morrow. These forces are liberty or some form of "compulsion."

Being a country of only eleven million people, all we can do is to endeavour to improve our position in the light of our experience. We have abundant revenues brought about by heavy taxation. That is admitted. Whether or not relief can be given from that high taxation is a matter that the government must consider. We have