

provincial conference very much in mind. I think that is just worth a word, because if you will look back you will see that various things emerge. There were quite enough difficulties facing the government without their making any brand new ones for themselves, but they seemed determined to have as many as possible, so they did make some new ones. This dominion-provincial conference could and should have taken place long ago. The problem has been staring them in the face for five years. After the end of 1942, when our sickening war anxieties lessened, we could look to the future, and there seems to me no reason why that conference could not have taken place then. But while they were thinking about it, an upsetting event took place; there was an election in the province of Ontario in 1943, and that might have muddled the waters a bit. Ontario was impertinent enough to elect a Progressive Conservative government. However, after the election it did appear likely that there would be a conference and certain negotiations took place between the dominion Prime Minister and the Ontario premier; but, as hon. members will recall, they did not get very far and in August, I think it was, the federal Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King), referring to the fact that Mr. Drew had expressed a desire that the Progressive Conservative leader (Mr. Bracken), should succeed in the election, said:

Such being the declared aim of the prime minister of Ontario, it must be apparent that any conference held before a federal election would have little or no hope of success.

To me that seemed a strange reason for postponing the conference, but if you look further back into the statements of the federal Prime Minister it becomes a little less strange. I should like to read a short statement made by the Prime Minister of Canada in the summer 1935, just before the election of that year, because I find it very interesting indeed. He said:

A guarantee of provincial cooperation is to be found in the fact that, save in one province out of nine, Liberal governments are already in office.

Later in the same speech he said:

It would seem that this is the kind of national government which the people of Canada really want; a government, in the dominion and provinces alike, that will be able to give expression to the will of the people as unmistakably expressed at the polls.

That is a very pleasant and even affecting picture, though in the light of what has happened since I suppose we may say it is now one of those pictures that "hang on memory's wall", because things have changed. It was a picture, you might say, of King Arthur and the knights of the round table,

all going out to do battle in favour of truth and justice. Since then, however, certain things have happened; there are some vacant chairs at the table now. Quebec's chair is empty; Ontario's chair is empty; Saskatchewan's chair is very empty, as the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) knows; Alberta's chair is empty, and in the case of Manitoba and British Columbia, while the chairs are not empty neither are they full. There is a sort of blur there. So, as I say, we have come to this situation. We have had to wait for the dominion-provincial conference, for the reasons I have indicated; without wishing to cry over spilt milk I think it is a serious situation, and I think the Minister of Finance has disclosed to us very clearly indeed how serious it is.

There is another "old man of the sea" that the taxpayer has on his back, and I should like to say a word about that. I am referring to controls. A great deal has been said in this house about controls. I thought I knew a good deal about them, but when I got a sort of full-dress statement on controls I found I did not know anything at all about them. They are really something when you come to see what they amount to, and I should like to just bring to the attention of the house some information in connection with these controls; it may interest you as it interested me. I have here a statement dated August 1 last, so I presume it is pretty well up to date. Out of this I will take the wartime prices and trade board. First we have the chairman, the deputy chairmen and members of the board. Then we have what are called the head office divisions, of which there are twelve, each with a supervisor or secretary or controller, as the case may be. Then we come to what are called the associated companies, of which there are several. Then we go on to what are called coordinations. These include capital equipment, foods, pulp and paper, textiles and clothing, and emergency shelter. Then we go on to a directory of administrations, and here we really plunge into big things, because on a short count I find that the directory of administrations includes about 150. I should like to direct your attention to just a few of them. There is one for books and writing paper; for cork and cork products; for fertilizers and pesticides; clothing and woollens; honey. There is jewellery, which is divided into seven categories. There is meat and meat products; there is fruit. Power has only one man; apparently Mr. Symington is regarded as a host in himself. Then there is one category which I find very interesting: cleaning, decorating, hairdressing, painting, renovating, undertaking, warehousing and storage. The