

Prime Minister has momentarily taken an eye off the war and is now looking over his broken-down political fences.

I was under the impression that the present Prime Minister did not like reform programmes ushered in close to the time of a general appeal to the public. My belief was based upon the Prime Minister's words as found in his address as leader of the opposition in a similar debate to this in 1935, when the then administration brought down its reform for security plan. On that occasion the present Prime Minister, standing where I am to-day, had this to say:

In other words, I want votes, that is why the Prime Minister to-day brings in this programme of social reform so-called, on the eve of an election. . . .

Looking at the speech from the throne, I have come to the conclusion that his policies are a sort of *omnium gatherum*. They are intended to take in a little of everything he can discover in anybody's policy.

How applicable the Prime Minister's words of 1935 now become in relation to the present speech from the throne. I toss them back to the Prime Minister as an appropriate comment on the present government's programme, and I repeat the Prime Minister's own words:

. . . his policy is intended to take in a little of everything he can discover in anybody's policy.

And I go further along the pathway then chosen by the present Prime Minister when he urged upon another prime minister at that time to bring down at once the legislation forecast in the speech from the throne, in order that it may receive the careful scrutiny and consideration of the elected representatives of the people.

Let us get this programme down out of the clouds to where we can see what it really is. It may well be that these lofty high-sounding phrases mean very little in the way of reform to the Canadian people. I hope that it will prove more than a smoke-screen to blind the electors so that they cannot see the tragic failure of this government's administration. The government has done some attractive political window-dressing. Let us see now what they have on the shelves inside. What is on the shelves is what counts. Let the government bring forward its measures so they can be judged by what they are, not by what the government hints they may be. No speech from the throne in itself ever accomplished anything for the Canadian people. All the vague generalizations this one contains will accomplish nothing either. Let us have the measures which the government proposes. They alone can do anything for Canada. Then

[Mr. Graydon.]

we shall see wherein the government's plans are adequate or inadequate to meet the challenging problems of these days.

Turning to the speech from the throne, this is what we find:

Mutual aid for destitute populations! No one opposes that. Let the measure be brought down.

Expansion of world trade? No thinking person but supports that. Bring forward the measure, not a promise.

National security and enduring peace by international cooperation! Brave words that have become hackneyed by over-use. No one in the world but prays for that. Bring down the bill.

A national minimum of social security, full employment, a higher standard of nutrition, more adequate housing, social insurance against unemployment, accident, ill health, old age and death of the bread-winner! Why has the government let eight years pass by without these? No one opposes these principles. Introduce the bills so that they may be enacted into law.

Rehabilitation and reestablishment of returned soldiers! Transformation of war-time to peace-time economy, insurance against social and economic hazards! Let us have, not words, but specific proposals. Adequate plans will find no objectors.

War service gratuities! By all means, and as quickly as our parliamentary system will permit, and let us err on the side of generosity when we are doing it. Tax modifications! This government seems to know how to modify them only one way—upwards for all, which has led to absenteeism by many, even when maximum production is needed as never before.

Expansion of trade commissioner service! A belated admission of previous failure. Research activities! The government's record in this respect is one of lost opportunities.

Housing plans! Health insurance! How long have these been promised, now to be resurrected in an election year? I suggest that the government bring in the legislation as soon as possible.

More generous old age pensions! We are in favour, but the government's repentance in an election year carries no sense of confidence.

A minimum of well-being for the children of the nation by family allowances! After two decades of opportunity to do so the government now in its dying days makes a preelection bid for votes. There is a problem to be met in the care and health and training of children, and it should be met without