

Newfoundland

cial means to discharge their responsibilities under the British North America Act. They will do the rest. We need not try to tell them how to run their education or housing or old age pensions or health or highways. They know how to do it; and they want to do it. Just as soon as we realize that there are wise men in even the smallest hamlets of Canada, and that all we have to do is enable those wise men to rule the country, then we shall have no more trouble. But when you let the centralizers take control of everything right down for example to the acres of peas or beans or carrots a man is going to plant, then you encounter real trouble.

Recently the Canadian people passed through the exacting crisis of the war. During that time they raised a powerful army. During that time they built up an efficient war-time production machine. During that time they designed and put into operation an admirable system of price control, and other economic controls. The present government must be given credit for having done all those things, in co-operation with the provinces. In the process the members of this house and the people of the country have seen this magnificent Canadian people carry on from coast to coast with scarcely a quiver or a creak, notwithstanding the fact that on many occasions this government encroached upon provincial fields, taking over powers that were obviously powers of the provinces. The provinces gladly acceded to the request of the dominion while the crisis continued, showing that there was no desire to interfere or to insist uncooperatively on provincial rights.

The people of this country will do that under any crisis. All that is necessary is to consult them. All that is necessary is to determine with them the objective that must be gained and the method that must be followed in order to do so, and you will find the Canadian people united. It will not matter a particle how much power a province has; it will gladly co-operate with any intelligent leading power in Ottawa.

The thing that is worrying the provinces is that, if they lose the constitutional power to determine the way their people shall be governed, then when crisis comes and they need that power they will no longer have it. During the war we did not find any sign of lack of unity, except perhaps between the two primary races in Canada, and I am not sure there was a great lack of unity there. Nor did we find any sign of any kind of "balkanization." I think one of the members of the C.C.F. party is responsible for that noble word. He will never see the balkanization of Canada as long as we remain Canadians and true to our traditions. Let the

provinces have as much power as they desire; we shall find them working together as long as we give them wise leadership.

May I turn for a minute or two to the remarks made by the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton). He said it required a change in the British North America Act to admit the provinces of Manitoba, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta and Saskatchewan. I know that the hon. minister was speaking—

Mr. Claxton: I am sorry, but I never said anything of the kind.

Mr. Blackmore: I gathered that was what the hon. minister said, and that he was using that as a reason why it was quite logical to change the British North America Act in order to bring Newfoundland into confederation.

Mr. Claxton: I know the hon. member wants to be fair. I never said anything of the kind, nor did I intend to say anything of the kind.

Mr. Blackmore: I am sorry, but I was making notes rather hastily and I am not quite sure I got his idea. I gathered from his remarks the impression that he was trying to argue we were proposing to use the same procedure in admitting Newfoundland as was used in admitting these other provinces. Am I correct in that?

In those remarks, I do not believe the hon. member was quite up to his ordinary standard of quick and accurate thinking. You will remember that Alberta and Saskatchewan were already part of the Dominion of Canada, since they were part of the Northwest Territories. British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and Manitoba were not sovereign states. They had never become sovereign dominions under the 1926 imperial conference and the declaration which followed upon that, nor under the Statute of Westminster, as Newfoundland has become. Newfoundland is a sister dominion. Consequently, the admission of Newfoundland to Canada involves certain principles which were not involved in the admission of any of the other provinces mentioned.

May I say a word or two concerning the stand of the Social Credit party on this matter? We Social Crediters favour Canadian unity, but we favour the decentralization of power, once and for all, to enable the provinces to protect their people industrially, financially and politically. We may be facing another depression in a very short time, as all hon. members know. If another depression does come and we begin to go through such trying experiences as confronted the Canadian