

rest of Canada that there was unity in the Conservative party, and that we are only traduced when our opponents say that in that province we have no sympathy and no following. There have been hundreds of thousands of splendid Conservatives who have gone, election after election, to the polls in that province, and those who have gone down have taken their defeat like men, but to-day they begin to see the dawning of a better time, and clearly within their vision is the day when the Conservative party, by the aid of that grand old province, will once more take its rightful place as the exponent of all the people in the country.

This wonderful government that has been acclaimed, has been acclaimed for what? Not for last year's Speech, because that had gone into discard; not for this year's Speech, because it has twelve headings and no substance, and has been destroyed by a malediction from the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Hoey). But the great thing in the Speech was the thing that was not in it—the splendid government that had not got us into war. I did not want to go into war. I do not know who was consulted about going into war or staying out of it, and I do not know what were the reasons that were determinative in the government staying out or going into war, or any other way they may phrase it, because it is all contained in confidential documents that have not been exhibited to us, cannot be exhibited to us and would not have been exhibited to us if parliament had been called together. If parliament had been assembled, all we would have had would have been a despatch-case set up on a desk in the House, and we would have been told "The reason for doing what we are doing or not doing or not attempting to do is contained in that case. If we could show you what is in that case, we could show you the reasons for what we are doing, but we cannot unlock that case and cannot show you what is in it." We would have had to trust the government.

How far does the government trust us? I notice that the right hon. leader of the government took into his counsels my hon. friend who was formerly the leader of the Progressive party (Mr. Crerar). I did not notice that he called upon my right hon. friend the leader of the party to which I belong (Mr. Meighen). Was it only a portion of Canada that would be interested in going into war or staying out of war? or is the thing really that which its appearance would indicate, namely that the most solemn, the

most tragic, the most terrible thing that could come before this country, the danger of another awful conflict, was to be made a matter of party negotiation and party politics? Was it in this way that they were to decide whether there should be war? Would a telegram have gone forth that we would go into war if the Progressive leader had said he wanted it? It is too solemn, I think, to be dealt with in that way. We do not know yet what the government's policy was. It looks to us as if Lloyd George, seeing he was not getting any definite answer, recalled his proposal, and I am very glad that he did, because as I see it, if the Empire is really in peril once more, if it is not the political swash-buckling of Downing street, if it is real peril, there will be no question about the answer of real Canada. But I would like to suggest to the hon. leader of the government to get away from any party politics in connection with this. Do not merely talk about calling parliament together, when practically all the issues are determined, and there will be only one thing for us to do if parliament is called together, but let us as a nation try to strike at the very root of this accursed European diplomacy and insist upon sitting in and taking part in the very inmost councils of the Empire and having our share in the determination, not at the moment when war is about to burst upon us, but long, long before, and let us have our say about the path that the Empire shall tread, and the direction in which it shall lead the feet of the people. Did the hon. member for Brandon wish to ask me a question?

Mr. FORKE: No, I was listening for some applause after that statement.

Mr. BAXTER: I was not expecting any, and I do not desire any. I was not making my address for the sake of applause, nor did I think that I was at the moment travelling on a plane that would invite any bucolic sarcasm. I wanted to go a step further—and there may be some in this audience who will be willing to listen to me—and say that after one hundred years of showing the people of the world how peace can be kept over a great water area and over a great land area, I think there are men in Canada of sufficient brain power and sufficient vision to teach something, even to the best of the statesmen of Great Britain, and I think that the homely common sense that has characterized our men on the frontier, and the rugged common sense that has characterized our men in the cabinet, might be of some utility, if brought into some of the European chancelleries and might have its effect upon the