

our people. I do not wish to be disagreeable, but I think it is admitted by everyone that the present Government and even this present Parliament do not represent public opinion.

Mr. SHEARD: No, no.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: There is no doubt that this Government has not the support of a large portion of the people.

Under such circumstances there cannot be between the ruling power and the governed that confidence and good will which are necessary for the efficient administration of the country, especially when such important matters as the one I have referred to are to be considered and decided. Friends of the Government in the press and elsewhere admit the situation, but they say: Perhaps the Opposition is not favoured with any more support. That remains to be seen. As far as I am concerned, I would not be afraid to go back to the people of Quebec East, and I think I can fairly claim that I represent their views on the floor of this House. And I think I can make the same claim for all my hon. friends on this side of the House.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: I do not know any one on this side of the House who would not be returned by his constituents in the event of a general election.

Mr. H. M. MOWAT (Parkdale): I would like to ask the hon. gentleman whether he represents the United Farmers of Quebec in making his pungent remarks.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: Mr. Speaker, the United Farmers of Quebec are behind the Liberal party because the Liberal party is behind them. Quebec Liberals have stood by the farmers, and the farmers know that.

Some hon. MEMBER: What about Ontario?

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: Not one of my hon. friends on this side of the House would be afraid to go back to his constituents for re-election. How many members on the other side would dare make a similar venture? Even if it were true that the Opposition is not any more favoured by the public than is the Government, that would not weaken the force of my argument. On the contrary, it is a formal admission that the House of Commons of Canada as at present constituted does not represent the public opinion of the country, does not fairly represent or express the ideas and

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opinions and aspirations of the Canadian people. I ask the Government to put an end to this dangerous condition of things; I ask them not to force themselves any longer upon an unwilling people, but to go to the country, appeal to the electors and have a House of Commons which will represent fairly and properly the people of Canada. If I were in order, Mr. Speaker, I would move that the Government resign.

Mr. C. J. DOHERTY (Minister of Justice): Before making reply to the pathetic appeal of the hon. member (Mr. E. Lapointe), I desire to say just one word of warning by way of breaking news that may bring palpitation to the hearts of a great many of our friends on the other side. After listening to this pathetic appeal, and in view particularly of the implicit confidence that we all have that the hon. member has the implicit confidence he claims to have in the confidence which the people of the Dominion repose in him and his colleagues, one could not do less than say that so pathetic an appeal deserves the most careful and thoughtful consideration. I venture to say—and I know it will create a feeling of grave anxiety on the part of many gentlemen sitting on the other side as to how long they may continue to sit there—I venture to say that that appeal will receive the most careful consideration which can possibly be given to it by the Government.

The hon. gentleman, I may add, is very apprehensive of a Government being in power at the time of the Conference that is expected which would not possess the confidence of the people of Canada. May I remind him that it has already been stated that when the Conference does come about, in virtue of its importance, it would be thought proper to ask representatives not only of one side of this House to form part of the delegation which will represent Canada. As the hon. member has announced himself as the one member of this House who undoubtedly possesses the confidence of his constituents, perhaps he may look forward with hope to the probability of his being there, to make quite sure that just what the people of Canada think will be voiced in that gathering.

Mr. MAHARG: I remind the hon. gentleman who is leading the House that there are three sides to this House now.

Mr. DOHERTY: Well, we all recognize that it is in the middle way that virtue stands, and we will try to remember virtue, too.