

common line of policy. Coalition is one thing; abandonment of party and alignment with another is a wholly different thing. Those are the only two courses, and what we desire to know, what Parliament has a right to know, what Parliament cannot be denied, is which of those two courses was adopted. Does anybody opposite know which course was followed? Do hon. members for Montreal know which course was followed? Do they know which course was prevented? Do they know what were the terms given to the missionary of the hon. gentleman who proceeded to the city of Winnipeg to lay them before the leader of the Progressive party? Do his following in this House know what those terms were?

Mr. DUFF: Certainly.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They certainly do. Who is the hon. member who knows? Speak out. Since the Gordian knot was cut, not by the leader of the Government, but by the master of the Government who sits to his left, since the bans were forbidden by him—

Mr. MARTELL: You are the King maker.

Mr. MEIGHEN: What does the hon. member mean by that?

Mr. MARTELL: You say the bans were forbidden by the hon. member. You have made him Prime Minister and you have made the hon. member a member of the administration by your autocratic actions.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I have been charged with autocracy; I have been charged with much that is wrong; but I have never yet been charged by a chagrined and disappointed country, nor even by the Prime Minister himself, with having made him.

Mr. MARTELL: Your record has made him Prime Minister, apart from his ability.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is true that since the contest, since the bans were forbidden, the Prime Minister has made reference to the negotiations, but the attenuated character of his utterances is very marked indeed. He stated, speaking in Quebec, that he had invited the Hon. Mr. Crerar, leader of the Progressive party, to come into his Government on one condition and one only.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I interrupt my right hon. friend? Would my right hon. friend read any remarks of mine in which I mentioned Mr. Crerar's name?

Mr. MEIGHEN: When my hon. friend was speaking at Newmarket on the 19th January, the following assertion was made. If it did not refer to the leader of the Progressive party, it would be interesting indeed to know to whom it referred.

Over and over again, I have said that the Progressive party was a sort of advanced Liberal group. I decided I would be true to what I said in that regard and I made known to Progressive leaders that I was prepared to take into my Cabinet representatives of the Progressive party on one condition, that they come into a Liberal Cabinet.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Did that refer to the leader of the Progressive party, or did it not? I do not know what the purport of the Prime Minister's interruption was.

The explanation given was that he invited Progressive leaders to join his Government, but to join it "as a Liberal Government"—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I hope the Progressives will note the enthusiasm with which that quotation is received by hon. gentlemen opposite, and I hope as well that hon. gentlemen opposite will note the coolness with which it is received in the Progressive party. That is to say that they desert the party, that the leader deserts the party that he led into the contest, abandon it and join this Government as a Liberal Government. That is one course that might have been followed. Do hon. gentlemen think that was the course that was followed? Apparently, a few minutes ago there were some hon. gentlemen who would like to proclaim that they did think so. I know they would desire that that was the course followed, but I am afraid we cannot accept it unless we impugn the honour and the word of an hon. member of this house. We have had no version of those transactions from the leader of the Progressive party himself. I think we should have had a version from both leaders. When in 1917, the then leader of the Government, Sir Robert Borden, approached the leader of the Opposition of that day with a view to coalition, the negotiations between the two were embodied, under the joint supervision of both, in written documents which immediately afterwards were given to the country, and indeed were later placed upon the pages of Hansard.

This country was advised fully of the negotiations. But how different to-day at the hands of him who never tires of pro-