

it appeared that the Liberals or Conservatives were making a clean sweep, there were still 48 members elected by a minority vote, and in some instances a very decided minority.

The only reason I bring this subject up is that I think this House ought to refer the problem to a committee. We are going to have to face it. No political bias would be brought into the matter at all. It makes no difference to me as a Conservative, or to you as a Liberal, or somebody else as a C.C.F.'er, if we believe in the fundamentals of democracy. The redeeming feature of the system I refer to is that it works. It also has a tendency to make for less bitter partisanship in politics than the present system. Take for instance the constituency of Neepawa. A division of the C.C.F. votes in that constituency, would have had a considerable bearing on whether the man or woman who represented it was a bitter partisan or one of a more independent frame of mind. I think the House could give real service on this proposition. Men or women would come voluntarily from different parts of Canada, to make representations to us as to what the effect of the proposed change would be, and I think we would be surprised at the unanimity that would come to us on this question.

So much, honourable members, for that problem.

Hon. A. K. HUGESSEN: Before leaving that subject, would the honourable senator be good enough to tell us whether or not that system is in operation in Manitoba?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: It has been in force since 1920.

Hon. Mr. HUGESSEN: How does it work?

Hon. Mr. HAIG: It works well. I have heard no objection to it by anybody. I sat in the Manitoba house for fifteen years and never heard an objection. I have heard objections to proportional representation in the city of Winnipeg. Perhaps I should not say this; but the objection one hears on the street corners is: "If we did not have proportional representation, that sucker Haig could never get elected." What they mean is this; one becomes well known to the public all over the city, and it is very hard to change him. However, that only relates to individuals within the party. The result of the system is that you get, within a small fraction, exactly the representation you are entitled to.

Honourable senators, the Government, whatever its composition may be, will sooner or later be compelled to give serious thought to this question. Otherwise we are going to have

Hon. Mr. HAIG.

government by groups, minority government. We very nearly got that in the last election. Minority government is nothing to write home about. I repeat that this question is one that will have to be seriously considered.

Now I want to say a few words under the heading of our external problems. This country depends on its foreign trade. We do not produce all the goods we need for our own use. True, we are large producers of grain, cattle, meats, eggs, minerals, lumber and fish, but there are many things that we have to buy from other countries. During the last few years we have enjoyed a prosperous trade, especially with Great Britain and other parts of the empire. That trade is being challenged now; there is no doubt about it. We have got to develop trade with other parts of the world, and that is a difficult thing to do. The prosperity of my part of the country—of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta—depends on external trade. We do not like having to buy goods in a closed market and to sell them in an open market. Some scheme has to be worked out whereby our grain, our cattle and our hogs can be sold on the world market. The British people have been eating Canadian bacon for the last six years and may be eating it for the next two, but I am not one of those who believe that Denmark will be unable to resume the sale of bacon to Great Britain.

Hon. Mr. EULER: Denmark is selling to them now.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I never thought we could retain the whole of that market. We have got to work out a policy for trading with Britain if this country is to prosper.

Next I want to touch on our internal problems. What are they? Well, our first internal problem is how to get rid of the wartime controls. I admit that at the present time we may need control over sugar. I say we may need that control; I am not well enough informed to know positively whether we do need it or not. Also we may need control over butter and some other things. But I say quite candidly that I do not believe we need control over meat. Throughout Canada there is a desire to get rid of these controls. In considering the problem of how to get rid of them we must listen, not to the controllers but to the men and women in Parliament, who are the best judges of what should be done. As every lawyer knows, the man who makes the best judge on the Bench is one who, in addition to his other qualifications, has a good deal of every-day practical experience. He makes the best judge because he knows human nature. Now, the members of Parliament know human nature; and by and large