

pare we must compare democracy at the age it was in England with the age it is in Canada, in order to arrive at a fair judgment, and I think it may be said that democracy in Canada has given a fair account of itself under the conditions that existed. But it is reasonably clear that there are improvements that should be made, and I merely suggest these two. In France they are severely logical; I remember on the last occasion I was there inquiring with great care as to how they carried on their elections. Strange as it may sound, sir, the truth is that in France no chamber of deputies is ultimately elected that has not been so elected by the majority of the electors. They have their vote; if there are three or four candidates and one candidate does not secure a majority there is a second polling, after those who are low drop out. If at the end of the second polling the majority has not selected a candidate there is still another polling. So in every case in France the member elected to the chamber of deputies is a member who represents the majority of the electors of that division, though it may be necessary to have several pollings before that end is attained.

I merely mention this in passing because of the observations made by the hon. member for Parry Sound (Mr. Slaght) with respect to the support the government received throughout the country at the last election.

I desire now to point to what I conceive to be a somewhat more painful matter. We have endeavoured, with doubtful success, to do something in this country to attain a measure of unity. We have not always succeeded. There have been times when the representation from one great province was wholly for one party. In this very parliament there are provinces represented by members of only one party and none others. What I deprecate is the appeals that were made in the province of Quebec in connection with the war. "Canada to enter war." There is the sheet that on Saturday was circulated throughout that province. I should say further that I have before me the handbill that was circulated in the constituency of Argenteuil. This statement that Canada was to enter a war is supplemented by a dispatch not unlike the dispatch that appeared in 1930 with respect to the war in Egypt. "Canada can mobilize a powerful and fully experienced army within twenty-four hours," stated this official. This is from Ottawa, dated October 11, special:

Canada will probably be drawn into the European war if Great Britain is forced in, and irrespective of what politicians, statesmen and economists say, the dominion will not be able to help herself.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Then follows a statement as to Canada's preparation for the war. It is quite at variance with what has recently been said. This is an indication that Canada is already prepared in other provinces to send its troops into the field.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): What paper?

Mr. BENNETT: This is called the Montreal Reporter, and is dated October 12, 1935. That is only one; I have others. This handbill for instance was circulated in a little community in the county of Argenteuil. I have many others circulated in other parts of Quebec.

But there is something more to which I regret I have to direct attention; I refer to observations made by the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) in that campaign. Some few years ago, when the government of that day came into office, the leader of the opposition spent much time reading into the record many statements and extracts from my speeches. To-day I shall content myself by referring to one made by the Minister of Justice at a meeting at St. Roch market on September 7:

Before 1930 the province had in Ottawa a unanimous representation. We did not disgrace the French Canadians. We had influence in the cabinet; I do not wish this influence to diminish. I want to be with Mr. King and I want the whole province to be behind me. I ask you to give me this support.

Further, when visiting his committee room on September 16, he is reported to have said:

That's why I ask again our friends to unite, to put aside their petty quarrels, to assure us of a majority like the one we had in the parliament from 1921 to 1930. There is no question, it is we from the province of Quebec who led in the parliament during that period. It has not been the same thing since 1930.

That form of insularity does not make for national unity. And when the hon. gentleman refers to the united front of Quebec prior to 1930, and then says their voice was not as powerful because twenty-four voted for candidates of the then government in 1930, and appeals to them to strengthen their influence and their power by uniting and forgetting petty things—when they are not petty—I think it is doing an injury to the commonwealth. I leave it at that. But before I proceed to the next point let me say that what was so with respect to Quebec in this particular was so in other parts of Canada as well. The effort was made wherever it was thought it would be effective to have men and women, women mostly, believe that the Conservative party had wedded itself to war at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Speaker,