

The Address—Mr. Gardiner

country, and the policy of the C.C.F. party as announced is the same. On the other hand, the policy of the Liberal party has been one of trade in order to improve the affairs of this country.

Mr. Hatfield: Free trade.

Mr. Gardiner: Therefore we have had good times when we have had a Liberal government in power, and we have had bad times when we have had a Conservative government in power.

Mr. Knowles: Did you forget to say "free trade"?

Mr. Gardiner: I have here a considerable file which proves that everything that has been said in criticism in this house by the opposition with regard to what I said before the election and since is wrong, but I want to say that it proves that the press is right. Whenever I say anything which hon. members on the other side of the house rise and say is not correct, then they say that I am condemning the press. I do not say anything of the kind. Everything in this file is correct. Everything in it quotes me from 1944 down to the present as having said that when we brought in the support act we were introducing it to deal with a condition which might develop when the time arrived—which possibly would arrive—when we would not have contracts for the sale of farm products. Opposition speakers claim that was not said until the election was over. That was the appeal made to the people during the election campaign. My friends say that I misrepresented the situation to the people. I think that hon. members will permit me to do what it is not my usual habit to do in the house. I think they will permit me to follow my notes of a speech which I delivered over the trans-Canada network of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on May 28, not very long before the election. It was an address I made at the request of the Liberal organization in order to set forth to the farmers of Canada the policy of the government concerning agriculture. This is the statement which we made, and upon which I appealed to the farmers to support Liberal candidates from one end of Canada to the other. At that time I said:

We have entered upon a federal election. The date fixed for voting is June 27. The Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent has given a nation-wide broadcast. He has pointed out that the Canadian people are being guided through a period of transition from war to peace in a prosperous condition. We are sure that the majority of the people will give credit to the government for having given that guidance which assured the present degree of security and prosperity.

Then I dealt with the Conservatives as follows:

We have two sets of critics. The Conservatives say we should have removed wartime controls immediately war was over and given a free hand to everyone who desired to make profit by developing our natural resources.

Mr. Drew: You knew that was not true.

Mr. Gardiner: You will think it is true before I am through with it. I went on to say:

They also say we should take off those forms of taxes which were found necessary for the prosecution of the war. This they claim would have given incentive to men and corporations to produce for profit and then distribute those profits through giving employment.

That is the good old policy of Sir John A. Macdonald.

Mr. Drew: Did you speak about the millers?

Mr. Gardiner: I continue reading:

They do not seem to think there is any possibility of any person or corporation when given an absolutely free hand taking more out of the primary producer or labour than he is entitled to by retaining too much profit.

Mr. Knowles: What about the free hand you gave the millers?

Mr. Gardiner: I find it hurts both the Tories and the C.C.F.'ers now just as much as it did out in the country. I am going to deal next with the socialists.

Mr. Knowles: What about the McGregor report and the way you kept it secret?

Mr. Gardiner: You are just giving your case away when you come to the protection of the Tories. They will be coming to your protection in a minute. Then I went on to say:

The socialists or C.C.F.'ers, and communists on the other hand, maintain that this and every other country should retain at all times the controls which they claim brought prosperity to the masses during the war. They say there should not be profits; production should be for use and not for profit. They claim that if you allow production for profit the average run of person, when he becomes a capitalist, that is when he acquires property, is so selfish that he cannot be trusted to manage it. They claim that either the property itself should be taken over by the state or the product produced by the application of labour to the natural resources should be taken over and marketed by state boards. They claim that when the product is marketed the planning boards of the government should see to it that all that part of the return which previously represented profit should be spent by boards to give service to the people. Sufficient should be returned to the producers so that they can go on producing, but no more.

The C.C.F.'ers know that this is not a very popular doctrine, so they plan to water it down in its presentation until they get control of enough provincial governments to put themselves in power at Ottawa. When this is accomplished they will then enforce the policy in its entirety.

The Liberals think neither of these criticisms to be well founded. Liberals believe that war is the most foolish possible method by which to try to settle anything. Nevertheless we realize that during