

should approve of the arrangement which his colleagues have urged and which he has accepted.

It was the purpose of the Prime Minister to have set forth to the country during the recent session the policies for which the Government would stand during the life of the present parliament. During his illness, and just before his departure, he embodied his proposals in written form, and, on the second of October, the day before he left Ottawa, he submitted them to a gathering of Government supporters. It was his desire that these proposals should be taken into consideration by those present and that at a further gathering, the suggestions of senators and members should be placed before him, after which he intended to formulate these policies from his place in parliament as controlling the action of the Government during the period mentioned.

Some of the proposals thus presented have since been carried out by action taken during the recent session. Sir Robert Borden desires that after due consideration of the advice and suggestions of the supporters of the Government in parliament the policies as finally accepted shall be presented to Parliament and to the people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is the present situation. The Prime Minister has gone away. He has left some document which is to be discussed by his followers in Parliament. He has set out what he thinks should be the policy of the party, and if all cannot agree on that policy as outlined by him, then he and they must part company. That, Mr. Speaker, is what it amounts to. In other words, instead of the policy being decided by the party's followers, or by a convention representative of the people belonging to the party, the Prime Minister, as an individual, lays down what is to be adopted, and if it is possible to secure agreement on his policy they will carry on. But what does this document say? "During the life of the present Parliament,"—another couple of years. That is the proposal that is put before the country at this time. This Government and this House, as unrepresentative as it is, is to be continued for another couple of years through some policy that is yet to be framed and that is still unknown. Why, Sir, a position of that kind is impossible, and, in the opinion of the people, will prove intolerable.

There is no remedy for such a situation except the remedy which the constitution provides; that is to say, at the earliest possible moment there should be an appeal to the people of the country so that the will of the people shall be known and voiced by a parliament and government that is truly representative. Sir, we have passed the time when people exist for the sake of governments. People do not exist to-day for the sake of

governments. On the contrary, governments exist to give expression to the will of the people. Having this fundamental principle in mind, therefore, I beg to move, seconded by the hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria, (Mr. D. D. McKenzie), that the following be added to the Address to His Excellency:

We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that the conditions under which the Government was formed and the present House of Commons was elected have now passed away, and that new conditions have arisen which are not being adequately met. The regrettable protracted absence of the Prime Minister, the widely accepted belief that it is not his intention to return to the duties of his office, the makeshift arrangements for the direction of important departments to which no minister has been regularly appointed, the attempt to carry on the public business when the three eastern Maritime Provinces are entirely unrepresented in the Cabinet—these and other things operate to produce a condition of uncertainty and instability from which a vigorous and efficient administration of the Dominion's affairs cannot be expected.

We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that in the interest of the peace, order, and good government of this Dominion such a condition of our public affairs should be brought to a speedy termination, and that the only effective remedy is to be found in an appeal to the electors at a general election.

We, therefore, respectfully represent that Your Excellency's advisers should forthwith bring forward the promised Franchise Bill for the enrollment of the electors and give it precedence over all other business, and that upon the enactment of such a measure as may be necessary, and the making of temporary provisions for the urgent public service, they should take the proper constitutional steps to obtain Your Excellency's approval of an appeal to the people at the polls.

I submit this resolution, Sir, as being fundamental in the way of what is necessary in the reconstruction of our political institutions.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, observing the time honoured custom which it is a delight for me to follow this evening I beg to tender my congratulations to the mover and to the seconder of the Address in reply to the speech from the Throne and to add my words of felicitation to those that have been uttered by the Leader of the Opposition. These two gentlemen have acquitted themselves in a thoroughly workmanlike manner. They have shown themselves proficient in parliamentary oratory and they have produced a structure which