

Proportional Representation

great city all the other way, especially when the number of people belonging to the different political parties make that representation an untrue and improper representation of the public opinion of those cities. What we want in this country is a method of election which will ensure an adequate and proper representation of the real thoughts and the real opinion of the people upon public matters.

Mr. DONALD SUTHERLAND (South Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the three minutes left before six o'clock will scarcely be long enough to give the explanation I should like to make in reply to the question asked by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster). I was not aware that this resolution would be debated to-day. I have listened with a good deal of interest to some of the statements which have been made, and particularly to the references that have been made to a resolution calling for the transferable or alternative vote which was passed at the last session of parliament. A good many things have happened during the past year; a good deal of light has been thrown on the actions and motives of some of the people of this Dominion as well as of other countries, and I think it is about time that we were speaking frankly what we believe to be the fact, and that we should cast aside this camouflage which has been attempted by a good many people of this Dominion so far as political parties are concerned.

To my mind the object that is sought by the alternative vote, which is coupled with this resolution, is one that is intended to carry out the designs of the members of the two parties calling themselves the Progressive party and the Liberal party, whereas, as a matter of fact, there is absolutely no difference between the two. I think the people of this country thoroughly understand their object, what they have in view, and the means by which they are going to take advantage in a scheme of this kind. For that reason I must say that I am absolutely opposed to any further experiments along the line suggested by the most impractical members of the House, the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Good), and his colleague the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster). They are always ready to venture into some field where no definite results are in evidence; yes to enact freak legislation, as one hon. member suggests.

Just a little over a year ago last March, there was a meeting held in the city of Ottawa of the Liberals of eastern Ontario, and statements were made at that time by [Mr. McMaster.]

prominent men in connection with matters which are affected by the resolution before us. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I should like to refer to the remarks that were made by one or two speakers on that occasion. I quote from the Ottawa Journal of March a year ago:

Mr. J. W. Curry, K.C., M.L.A., Toronto South-east, seat "A," after saying that the convention of eastern Ontario Liberals was to him an eye-opener, proclaimed himself a consistent believer in Liberalism which meant progress and the betterment of the people. The political situation which developed in Ontario in 1919 was a protest against Toryism. The United Farmers of Ontario had organized and developed as a protest against the actions of the Conservative party in power. Mr. Curry referred to his support of the U.F.O. government headed by Premier Drury, known for years as a staunch Liberal, and the help he had given in moulding legislation. As a result, he was told he had deserted the Liberal party, and the suggestion was made that he be read out of the party. No man could divorce him from his Liberal principles. He was behind the Liberal leader, and would be behind that leader if three parties went to the country.

What clearer evidence could you have than this statement, made by a Liberal member of the Ontario legislature with regard to his attitude?

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question being put, pursuant to rule.

Thursday, April 3, 1924

The House met at three o'clock.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Mr. J. D. CHAPLIN (Lincoln): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present the petition of Rev. George H. Smith, D.D., of St. Catharines, in the county of Lincoln, against the petition praying for the incorporation of the United Church of Canada, on the ground that the said petition is not in conformity with the standing orders of this House.

SELECT STANDING COMMITTEES

BANKING AND COMMERCE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That the name of Mr. R. Milne be taken from the list of members comprising the standing committee on Banking and Commerce and that the name of Mr. J. Steedsman be inserted in lieu thereof.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT— PRINTER'S LIABILITY

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 29, to amend the Criminal Code (Printer's liability).

Some hon. MEMBERS: Explain.