

compromises, and the stifling of views. Differences which now divide parties in Parliament would be transferred from Parliament to the Cabinet. What should be a clash of public principles might well become a clash of personal interests. Effective government would be crippled by compromise, or paralysed by inaction.

On the other hand, such a government might easily follow the European pattern. There the merging of parties into one, the suppression of minorities, and the silencing of opposition have soon resulted in the abolition of representative institutions. That is the soil in which dictatorships grow and flourish.

Union Government a Pretext for Other Ends.

Union government may also be a mere subterfuge to bring together, under the guise of a combination of parties, men of divergent views whose main purpose is to take some course of action which they would not be prepared to champion openly.

The main argument since the outbreak of war for a "national" or union government originated in the desire to postpone an election, and to extend the life of Parliament. Such a course would have turned Parliament and the government into a virtual dictatorship. It would have been a denial of the undoubted right of a free people to choose their parliament within the constitutional period fixed for the express purpose of maintaining representative government. That pretext for union government was ended when Parliament was dissolved.

Leader of Opposition in a Quandry.

For your guidance, and for the guidance of the Leader of the Opposition, let me come now to one or two very

practical matters, of which full account will have to be taken should the present government be defeated and Dr. Manion called upon to form his "union" government. To whom will he turn? At present, no one knows. His invitations to men of other parties thus far seem as a great secret as the acceptances.

In an attempt to find out if he himself really knows, I am going to ask him a few questions on your behalf. Who are the men of brains, inside or outside his own party, who will be asked to join him? All, obviously, cannot be members of his own party, because it would not require a union government to enlist his own supporters.

He has asked you to defeat the present government. Such a defeat would be a condemnation of our conduct of the war, and an expression of lack of confidence in our ability to administer the national affairs of Canada. Yet Dr. Manion has said that his government will include men of both the old parties. Does he propose to include in his government members of a government whose administration has been condemned and who have lost the confidence of the people? Dr. Manion cannot have it both ways. It is, in any case, hard to believe that Dr. Manion can expect to attract to his government any of the men whom today he so violently and recklessly condemns.

Who are to Compose Union Government?

Where then does Dr. Manion propose to find members of the Liberal party to include in his "union" government? I think you should ask him to tell you what Liberals he has in mind. Has he any hope of getting the consent of outstanding members of the party to join him? What will be the extent of the following which they will be able to bring