

PARTIE DOCUMENTAIRE

LE PARLEMENTARISME

Partis politiques canadiens

Extrait de "The Independence papers, No. I", mai 1925, publié par John S. Ewart, avocat, C. R. :

"What are the issues which divide the two principal political parties in Canada to-day? For what, with heavy expenditure of energy and money, are they fighting? Can anybody tell me? Were we to listen credulously (as some do) to electioneering oratory, we might be inclined to say that it is economy. But when we observe that each year the government brings before parliament long lists of proposed itemized expenditures, and that, while futilely objecting that the added-up total is monstrous, if indeed not criminal, the Opposition offers no, or very little objection to any of the items, we are reminded of Mark Twain's reference to the weather: "Everybody talks about it, but nobody does anything about it."

Or is the separating subject the tariff? Talk enough there too. But to what end? Only this: that Conservatives swear by protection and are afraid substantially to increase the rates, while Liberals swear at protection and are afraid substantially to reduce the duties. ¹ The Tariff is a fine debating subject — in the House of Common or among the college striplings.

Probably I am not far wrong in saying that the only real division between the parties is the line between the Speaker's chair and the entrance door of the Chamber in which the party leaders scold one another. From one side: "All that you care for is to retain office"; and from the other: "All

¹ In *The Globe* (Toronto) of 4 April 1925 was the following: "Our view is that in Canada neither the free traders nor the extreme protectionists can have their way, and that the only solution is a tariff embodying a moderate degree of protection for native industry". There are High and Low Conservatives, as there are High and Low Anglicans. Every one of all classes ranks himself a reasonable and moderate — that is, not excessive.