

*The Address*

in Council were necessary for the proper administration of our public affairs, in every case where such Orders in Council were submitted to the courts they were declared illegal and ultra vires, and as a result the government was condemned.

It is not an Order in Council of that kind that the Government of Canada has passed with regard to the administration of fisheries in the province of Quebec. We have passed that Order in Council, Mr. Speaker, only to conform with a judgment of the Privy Council; and I wish to state here that in passing such an Order in Council the Federal Government has not abandoned an inch of its territory or renounced the shadow of a right in favour of the province of Quebec. My right hon. friend allows himself to be blinded—to be blinded by his bitterness against the city of Montreal and against the province of Quebec; and he is wrong in leading other provinces of the Confederation to believe, that by that Order in Council the Government has granted a favour to the province of Quebec, because that province never asked for, and never received any favour, from this Government.

My right hon. friend ended his speech by asking my colleagues what had been the verdict of the last general election. I will be very frank and I will tell him that I could not altogether analyze the vote which was cast at that election. It would be very, very difficult to find the determining factor; but there is one thing certain and that is that the people of Canada, by an immense majority, voted against the continuance in office of the Meighen Government, who suffered in that election such a defeat as no other government has experienced since Confederation. As to my right hon. friend who leads the Opposition, I wish to be allowed to say that I admire his high attainments. He is a very eloquent speaker; he is a good fighter; but I regret to have to say that he is not a good loser. But he is now in the right place to learn. In his present seat he will have an opportunity to learn, and I hope that some day we will be in a position to say that he is as good a loser as he is a fighter.

Another word, Mr. Speaker, before I resume my seat. My right hon. friend has taken pleasure—particular pleasure—in designating me as “The Master of the Administration.” This is an old game which has been played before in this House by some of my right hon. friend’s predecessors. Still there is one thing I regret: it is that it is resorted to to-day

[Sir Lomer Gouin.]

not so much to annoy me as to accentuate the unfortunate differences which have existed far too long between certain provinces of our Confederation and the province of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party has one chief and one chief only: that chief is the Prime Minister of Canada, the leader of this House. He has, and he can depend upon, the loyal support of all his colleagues, of everyone of the Liberal members of this House, and of every Liberal in Canada. As for myself, Mr. Speaker, I am nothing but a man of good will. I hope that I will be long enough in this House to convince all my fellow members, Conservatives and Progressives as well as Liberals, that I have only one ambition in coming here: It is simply to be permitted to serve my country in my own modest way and to try and help bring about that spirit towards which I have directed all the efforts of my life for twenty-five years in another field, the spirit of unity, Mr. Speaker, which is so necessary for the prosperity of our country and for the happiness of our citizens.

Mr. D. M. KENNEDY (West Edmonton): Mr. Speaker, in rising for the first time to address this House I hope that I shall not find myself out of order too often. Public speaking has not been my business; I have been engaged in the far Northwest for the last number of years trying to subdue this earth or a part of it. The life of a farmer is not the kind of life that tends to make one a finished public speaker. It is a life that serves to give one a practical view of things; and I hope that if my remarks are not quite so polished in form as those of some other hon. gentlemen who have preceded me, the House will nevertheless hear me with patience.

I represent in this Chamber the constituency of West Edmonton—the largest, possibly, in Canada. It reaches from the Saskatchewan river to the northern boundary of the province of Alberta; a distance of 450 miles north and south, and about 250 miles east and west. It has a population of something like 70,000 people, an increase of 99 per cent since 1911. I consider, as an ordinary citizen of this Dominion, that it is a great honour that I should be chosen to represent this constituency, and I also realize that I should do my best to live up to the great responsibility that has been imposed upon me. West Edmonton has a population that is composed of farmers, miners, lumbermen, fishermen, and town and city dwellers.