

I can quite understand why Dr. Manion doesn't like that name. He would, however, have treated you more fairly if he had used it. Probably he doesn't like the name because it summons up from the past memories of many things we would like to forget. What, however, Dr. Manion is avowedly advocating is a government composed of men of different political parties, and, therefore, of conflicting political opinions.

Place of Political Parties in Government.

There is, of course, nothing to prevent political parties maintaining their identity and still working together for a common object. Dr. Manion's party did that at the special war session of Parliament last September. That is a matter of attitude to meet compelling circumstances in special cases. It is an attitude which was clearly defined by Sir Wilfrid Laurier during the last war and maintained by him throughout. Speaking for the Liberal Opposition, in Parliament in 1915, Sir Wilfrid used these words:

"We are prepared to give to the government, to those who for the moment have the confidence of the Canadian people under our constitutional system, the support to which they are entitled for the attainment of the great end which we all have in mind."

Canada, like other democratic countries, has relied on government by political parties. It is a great mistake to speak of political parties as though they were a menace to the country. Parties are not ends in themselves. They are only means to an end. Through them, men and women who share similar views on great public questions are able to make those views prevail. Party government enables those who are willing to blend their views and opinions, so to combine forces as to advance policies founded on common

views and principles. Political parties are not water-tight compartments. They are not secret societies or exclusive clubs. They do not bar men and women from membership because of race, class, or creed. Anyone is free to belong to whatever party he pleases. If he ceases, for the time being, to give his support to a party to which he normally belongs, it may be, and usually is, because he is not satisfied with its present policy, or with its leader; or, because, he believes that in the existing situation he would advance the country's interest by placing his support elsewhere. If he chooses to continue to support a party or a leader who no longer represents his views, that is his misfortune, if not his fault. If his party is not the majority party, his views will or should be advanced by the minority leader who speaks for him.

Mackenzie King Government a True National Government.

The present government of Canada is, in the truest sense, a national government. It had in the late Parliament the support of a majority of the representatives of the people. That majority happened to be the largest majority which any government in Canada has ever had. Dr. Manion has told you that "every government starts to die soon after it is elected". That may have been his experience in office. I am happy to say it has not been mine. The majority with which we began was not only maintained but increased as the sessions passed by.

Union Government Leads to Dictatorship.

A union government is almost certain to mean one of two things: a weak government, or a dictatorial government. It might conceivably be both, because the terms are not necessarily contradictory. Weak, because it leads to endless