

2/

## PRESS CLIPPINGS

Office of  
The Leader of the Opposition

D 21232

Name of Publication.....

Date .....

Subject .....

### On Political Parties.

"Let me pause to say a word about political parties. To listen to what some people are saying, one would believe that there is something sinister, if not fundamentally wrong, about a political party as such. To see how absurd this is, one has only to ask oneself what means is possible, other than the agency of a political party, for men and women who feel and think alike on great social, economic and political questions, to gain expression in legislation and administration for aims and ideals which they share in common. A political party is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. It is the means whereby men and women who hold similar views are enabled so to augment and to consolidate their numbers as to gain a majority over all opposing forces. They thereby secure the power necessary to give effect to their views in matters of government.

"Even Mr. Woodsworth and Mr. Stevens," the Liberal leader continued, "who seek to create a prejudice in your minds against what they speak of as the two old political parties, have found it necessary, in order to further the aims they have in view, to organize political parties of their own. Are their aims any the less genuine because they are being championed by a political party? Would these parties be any the less worthy of support if, in addition to their names, they had great traditions, and had fought from generation to generation for the ends they profess to be seeking to serve? You will do well, especially where there is a tendency to tear up everything by the roots, and to get aboard the last carry-all that comes along, to see that the vehicle to which, for the next five years, you intend to trust your individual fortunes, and the political and economic life of our country, is made of something more substantial than the banners pinned to its sides, and the volume of sound its musicians are capable of producing:

### Third Parties.

"In Canada we have long had the two parties known as Conservative and Liberal. The control of government, ever since Confederation, has been almost exclusively under the one or the other. Of third parties, however, our country has also had its share. It is interesting to note how these parties have appeared, from time to time, under different names. In the general elections of 1896, for example, there were, in addition to the Conservative and Liberal parties, the political party known as the Patrons of Industry, and as well, the Equal Rights party. In 1921 there was the Progressive party. There also have been the United Farmers party in Ontario and in Alberta, and the Independent Labor party. Now we have, in addition to these, the political party which styles itself the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, better known by its initials as the C.C.F., and, most recent of all, the new Reconstruction party.

"Let me explain just how it is that we happen to have two old political parties which tend to perpetuate themselves from year to year, and from generation to generation. Also, why third parties have sprung into being from time to time and, as regularly, have disappeared. It will help you not only to distinguish between the old and the new, but to judge the more accurately as to which of these parties is likely to be in the best position to further your own interests and the interests of the country. Never forget that your interests and those of the country are inseparably bound together.