

to the victors than to the vanquished, a war that profited only those who lived from it, a war that was to insure peace, but that has sown the seeds of war.

Such things sometimes inspire us with much bitterness. We know that the depression has been hard on everybody, but its after-effects, if we do not exert ourselves to soften their blow, will mean disaster and the triumph of anarchy and of communism. Five years ago, such a thing was possible; to-day it is probable, and the day when it will have become an established fact it will be too late to think of making amends and of consenting to the necessary sacrifices.

The Liberal party has always shown us a great deal of sympathy. The presence in this chamber of a score of young Liberal members and the government's intention to initiate us, in a serious and practical manner, to public administration in our country is further proof of this sympathy which the Liberal party has never withheld from us. It behooves us now seriously to prepare ourselves and to try to deserve it as much as possible.

The other reforms that the government intends to accomplish in the field of social and political economy, that is the establishment of a national and representative commission to supervise the distribution of work to the unemployed and the payments of direct relief, the amendments to the Canadian constitution intended to adapt it more closely to the present needs of the nation, which has grown in the last thirty years, especially when the Liberals were in power, are steps that will largely facilitate the return to the land and to a proper equilibrium. And further, Mr. Speaker, history will record that in 1935, as in 1896 and in 1921, the coming to power of the Liberal party, the true party of restoration, marked the end of a period of misery and the beginning of an era of prosperity, of justice and of peace. Thus, Mr. Speaker, the facts continue to vindicate the ability, the good sense and the spirit of enterprise of our two great leaders, Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the right honourable the present prime minister.

Your patience, Mr. Speaker, has no doubt been tested by such a lengthy speech. Anybody else could have made it shorter and better, but certainly not more sincere.

It is with these sentiments that I have the pleasure and honour of seconding the motion of my distinguished colleague from Parry Sound.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, may I very heartily congratulate the mover (Mr. Slaght)

[Mr. S. Fournier.]

and the seconder (Mr. Fournier) of the address for the speeches with which they have favoured this house this afternoon. The generous references of the mover to the leader of the opposition and the leaders of other parties were in the best form of those who practise at the bar; and the seconder's speech gives evidence of his having inherited a great name in law circles and indicates that he must, if he is given health and strength and opportunity, play a great part in the service of the state.

I could not but be impressed with the mover's speech when he referred to the glories of the community which he represented. I felt perfectly certain that he was contemplating a discontinuance of his service there as a tourist and taking up his permanent residence at Parry Sound, a contemplation which I am sure will be received with great joy by those who call him their member. But he fell into one grievous error, and one into which many members of this house have fallen during recent months. Not content with referring to the very great majority that the government has, a majority that I venture to think will become somewhat troublesome as the months go by, he also referred to the fact that it had behind it a support unprecedented in the history of this country since confederation. Surely he has not read the returns. I wonder if the hon. gentleman realizes that the government that sits opposite me to-day, with 171 members out of a house of 245, has been placed there by less than 35 men and women out of every hundred of the population of Canada who had the right to vote on the fourteenth day of October last. I wonder if he realizes that, according to the figures supplied by the chief electoral officer, 5,917,387 persons had the right to vote in October last.

Mr. BRADETTE: The dead and the duplications.

Mr. BENNETT: There were none. The list was issued on the first day of May, and is the most up to date list this country has had in recent years. In addition to that, of that number, out of every one hundred persons, men and women in Canada who had a right to vote, only thirty-five voted for the government—including the independent Liberals—that sits here with 171 members. That is an anomaly that cannot possibly endure if democracy is to last, for it has been said so frequently that majorities are the indications of a sound democracy; in other words that where the popular will is not represented there can be no sound or enduring democracy. That is a commonplace; it is said in every text book; it is spoken of on every hustling; it is