

Privilege—Mr. Roy

have the ministers of defence speak at a time which will enable the three ministers to speak as nearly as may be possible in consecutive order. As hon. members are aware, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston) returned to Ottawa only last night; we would wish to have defence matters discussed together. This arrangement would afford the minister at least some opportunity to prepare himself.

If these suggestions are acceptable to the house, after the leader of the opposition has made his statement, I shall move that the Speaker leave the chair and will suggest that the sitting be continued in committee of the whole with the Deputy Speaker in the chair.

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): The statement just made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) I think substantially covers the arrangement made yesterday afternoon. It will be recognized that the observance of this arrangement depends almost entirely upon consent; I do not see how we can go on at all unless we come to some agreement. Therefore, while all the details of the matter are not exactly to my liking, I hope the house will concur in what the Prime Minister has suggested.

ST. LAWRENCE WATERWAY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT AS TO PRESENT
POSITION

On the orders of the day:

Hon. R. B. HANSON (Leader of the Opposition): Before the next order of business is called may I ask the Prime Minister to give to the house and the country, to-day if possible, a brief statement on the present position of the St. Lawrence waterway proposal. If he cannot give that statement to-day, will he be good enough to do so to-morrow?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I should prefer to make the statement to-morrow. My understanding at the moment is that the agreement has not yet been reported out of committee in Washington, and that therefore it is impossible to say just when or if the agreement itself will be passed. However, I shall make inquiries between now and to-morrow and give the house a further statement then.

PRIVILEGE—MR. ROY

STATEMENT OF MEMBER FOR GASPE AS TO HIS
CHANGE OF SEAT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. S. ROY (Gaspé): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege in order to [Mr. Mackenzie King.]

make a statement with regard to my change of seat in this house. I am sure the house will be interested to know why I intend to follow hereafter an independent course in this parliament.

A political party is usually composed of men with the same principles, and among whom there is some friendship or brotherly spirit. The Liberal-Conservative party founded by the MacNab-Morin coalition in 1854 was a real partnership composed of some Quebec moderate Liberals and Conservatives, who wished to wipe out old dissensions and form, with Ontario high Tories and moderate Liberals, a party with Conservative tendencies. Mutual respect was at the base of this union of different groups, and as long as MacNab and Macdonald were at the helm the aims and desiderata of French Canadians were not ignored when the party's policies were considered. Friction sometimes occurred, as I am sure it now occurs in the Liberal party, but we managed to preserve mutual respect and to keep a reasonable share in the appointments of high officers in the civil service and in the building of such public works as were required for the trade and commerce of the dominion.

The *bonne entente* between the two main elements of the Liberal-Conservative party gradually deteriorated. As time went on, French Canadian influence dwindled in the party. This was largely due to the demise of Sir John A. Macdonald. The Liberal party was strongly organized, and it manoeuvred the Conservative party into becoming an English Canadian party in which French Canadian sympathy was forcibly thrown into the background. The present Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) cleverly followed Sir Wilfrid's tactics, and the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) is using the Minister of Justice for all he is worth. Sir Robert Borden and Mr. Meighen were never able to control the element which is bent on wrecking our efforts to make Canada a country in which three million French Canadians will be considered. Mr. Bennett, now Lord Bennett, was the man who said we ought to be pleased with the concessions granted to us by English speaking Canadians. He went back on the principles of the party which had put him in power, and did more than all the Liberals put together to shake public confidence in political conservatism.

Any French Canadian member of this house who has mixed with the Conservative party as it now exists must realize that he is not a member of their political family. He is at