

PRESS CLIPPINGS

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The Leader of the Opposition

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Subject.....

That can be done by the executive itself. I always thought that matters that affect taxation were most sacred obligations of the people's representatives but they are all taken away and are in Mr. Bennett's hands today and have been in his hands between the sessions of Parliament for the last five years. (Applause). We have gone on each year sanctioning this sort of thing, because he passed this law we were silenced.

Not So in Britain

Now Great Britain has a much larger problem to deal with than we have, and no British Government has ever asked the House of Commons to pass over control by a blank cheque. (Applause). When I was in England I discussed with many Members of Parliament what they had been doing to meet situations and they were perfectly horrified when they heard that our House of Commons has parted with the control of the purse.

No British Government has ever asked the House of Commons to legislate for peace, order and good government during a period of general election and no British Government has ever asked the House of Commons to take away from the House of Commons the control of external trade and put it in the hands of a group of men which they may use as they please.

It is all right for Mr. Bennett to say, "Judge me by what I have done."

No man ever comes along when he knows the people are critical, but get power first, get past one general election, if you can, and come back with all power and see how they will be used.

The Growth of Dictatorship

What has happened since the war in some of the European countries? We all remember, everyone in this room will remember, it is only a few years ago, when Germany had a parliament, when Italy had a parliament, even in Russia there was the dawning of a parliament. What have they today? Parliaments are a nuisance, something to get rid of. In Germany you have parliament wiped out except when the dictator calls them together. No representatives are called together to discuss what they have to say. That sort of thing leads inevitably not merely to great control on the part of the executive,

but it comes sooner or later to lead to control of what you are allowed to think and say and what you are allowed to write. Take Germany and Italy for instance, how much freedom is allowed for you to think if you disagree.

What Manion Said

Only last night, speaking not very far from here Honourable Dr. Manion, and it is very interesting how he said it, said if Mr. King were to have criticized the Government in some of the other countries of the world as Leader of the Opposition as he is criticizing the Government he would be sent into exile.

Reference to National Government

That is perfectly true and that is what I want to bring home to the people of Canada, that this dictatorship business means, and you will see it if you get a National Government, a government composed of men who have all things arranged and so that if any one else if he expressed views contrary to the government, out he goes, not only out of politics but out of the country into exile, like my poor old grandfather had to do. That is one reason why as a Liberal I am proud to stand on this plank and preserve the rights and liberties of those who have gone before us. (Applause).

The Task of Liberalism

Liberalism has a great task. It is not merely that of continuing to widen the boundaries of freedom but to conserve and preserve what has already been attained.

What is the good of all your national services or anything else if you lost your liberty to speak, think and to write, if you lost your control over the treasury, over trade, if you lost the right to legislate and it passed into the hands of men who will use it for particular interests? (Cheers).