

work as a party. In that awful session of 1926 we were accused every day of being Grits or Tories although as a matter of fact we were neither. We are not interested either in Liberals or Conservatives, except, personally; as a party we are interested in neither. We want such amendments in the rules and usages of the house as will enable new groups to function; that is, we want to come closer to having representative government than we have had it before. We believe that questions should be debated on their merits, that private members should be free to vote on legislation on its merits; and more than that, that private members should be able to introduce legislation and that this house should be free to vote on the merits of such legislation. As it is now, legislation is all cornered by the government, and only the legislation which the government approves of stands any chance of getting through this house.

A very considerable number of people in the country believe what we believe. They believe that our present system of government is outworn, that it possibly served its day, but that day is over, and they want such amendments in the rules and usages of parliament as will cause it more closely to resemble a representative institution. For instance, take the budget which the Minister of Finance has brought down. Whose budget is it? Is it the budget of the House of Commons?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Miss MACPHAIL: Who planned the budget? Did the Minister of Finance take the members of the Liberal party into consultation, did he have their cooperative help, did he get the help of the Progressive-Liberals, or the Liberal-Progressives—I always forget their correct title—did he? No, he did not, I am sure of that. He brings the budget down, but it is not representative of the opinion of the House of Commons nor of the Liberal party. If the Minister of Finance is to bring down budgets in this way, well, the rest of us had better go home or go down to Keith's theatre. It looks to me as if the time must come when the government will have to be representative of the people. In a word, it is a Robb budget.

The time will come when the cabinet will be a committee of the House of Commons. The cabinet will be chosen from the house and be responsible to it. I look to that day with hope. I do not look for it soon, but I do think it is coming. Once more I want to quote from a leading Canadian to show that others than the few of us who sit in this corner of the chamber believe, that the

[Miss Macphail.]

two old parties as at present constituted are simply the cover under which class interests operate in this country. Sir Andrew Macphail in his *Essays in Politics*, published in 1909, said:

We are living under the government of an interested class, who find a party in power and keep it there until it becomes too corrupt to be kept any longer; when it seizes upon the other party and proceeds to corrupt it.

Sir Andrew Macphail is not a man who makes rash statements. That statement should sicken any good Canadian, and yet I believe it is absolutely true. Of course, I think they pick the finest looking men for the cabinet; the privileged classes like to dress their windows to the best advantage. But, after all, the forces which operate through any cabinet are exactly the same. They are not the forces which look to the interests of the people of Canada; they are the forces which look to the interests of certain well-organized and wealthy classes in this country.

Now I come for a moment or two to the budget. At last we have a "stable" government, the government that the Prime Minister wanted. He made very entreating, very convincing speeches to the country that he must have a majority in the house before he could bring down legislation that was good for all the people, that he must not be hampered by having to submit proposed legislation to the house and be humiliated possibly by having it turned down. So he came back from the last election with a majority. He was joined by our Liberal-Progressive friends, lead by the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Forke) who thought—and possibly still thinks—that the Prime Minister needed greater numbers to bring good government to Canada. I want here to say that my heart aches for the Minister of Immigration. He is an honest, but a deluded man. So the Prime Minister comes back to the house with a majority, and now we are going to get legislation that is in the interests of all the people. We are going to get this thing that he has been desiring to give us since 1921. Last year, his first session, one could say that he had hardly begun, and the budget then brought down was not much; but we can overlook that. Now we come to the second year of his administration, and we get another budget. Well, if this budget is in the interests of the common people, then I certainly am not capable of representing their interests. We had the income tax reduced 10 per cent last session, and now there is another 10 per cent reduction, and we had the spectacle yesterday of the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) getting up and entreating the rich men