

We have reconstructed our Parliament Buildings and made of them a glorious edifice, of which as a nation we are justly proud. But unless we can restore the spirit of our forefathers, which made the constitution what it is; unless we can make of these halls of parliament a citadel of a people's liberties, we will have erected over the sacrifices of the war only a whited sepulchre, a thing in form and appearance outwardly beautiful, but within a charnel house of disillusionment full of intrigues and deceptions, full of broken pledges, of shattered ideals, of lost visions, of vanished faiths, and containing the seeds of a nation's decay.

What is it, Mr. Speaker, that works havoc in human lives, that destroys the noblest of friendships, that blights all that is most sacred in our human relations? It is the loss of confidence that comes through disillusionment, through the broken pledges, the shattered ideals, the lost visions, the vanished faiths. Cruel, indeed, it is when that breach in confidence comes between man and man, between friend and friend, between race and race, between nation and nation; but when it comes between a people and its Government, there is no saying what injury it may ultimately work.

What we need to-day is to seek to restore to the people faith in our parliamentary institutions, through conceding their right of control over the Parliament of the country. We know that there are rights under the law; that there are powers under the constitution; these we are prepared to concede to the limit. But is there no such thing in our national economy as public morality? Is there nothing binding in conscience and in honour between those who rule a people and those who have permitted them to rule?

The people know, they do not have to be informed upon the grounds of the support given by them to Union Government in 1917. It was demanded of them in words of patriotism; it was engraven upon their hearts in terms of human sacrifice. Confidence in the patriotic motives of the members of the Government was the essence of their support. That confidence has gone. The people thought they were returning patriots to power. They find in office to-day only office seekers, and office holders, those who love the loaves and the fishes, who make broad their phylacteries, who enlarge the border of their garments, who love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

greetings in the markets, who make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within are full of extortion and excess.

Confidence in government, Mr. Speaker, will never be restored till the people regain the control over Parliament and the executive which they have lost. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by my hon. friend the member for Shelburne and Queens (Mr. Fielding) that the following be added to the Address:

We respectfully submit to Your Excellency that Your Excellency's present advisers do not possess the confidence of this House or of the country, and that their retention of office constitutes a usurpation of the powers of popular government.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, a few moments remain before six o'clock in which I may at least undertake the task of complimenting, in terms and in spirit sincere, the efforts of the mover and seconder of this Address, and of acknowledging some of the personal references that have passed from the previous speakers.

The mover of the Address has not only done credit to himself and to his province, but has contributed to this debate a literary charm that constitutes, to the present point at least, one of its main excellences. The seconder is a new member, and I only speak the mind of all the hon. members here when I say that he has disclosed an ability and a grasp of Canadian affairs that constitute him at once a real asset to Parliament, an acquisition to debate, and an honour to his constituency and to his province.

I have to thank both of them for their kindly references to my accession to this office, and having done that, I pass to acknowledge, in the spirit in which I know it was meant, the very generous terms in which personally the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) referred to myself, and to the hope he expressed that the conflicts of parliamentary life and debate will not disturb the long standing friendship that has existed between us, nor in any way perturb the amenities of our personal, or, indeed, of our public intercourse. I am under no temptation whatever at the present time to believe that his hope will not be realized to the full. I have known the leader of the Opposition for, I think, something over a quarter of a century. I think I understand his public opinions and I think I can clearly get the meaning of his speeches; and I assure him here and now that if the essential humour of his addresses is always to be so thinly