

long, and will seriously militate against the accomplishment of the most necessary reforms. I want to say to my fellow-countrymen, very earnestly, that the times through which we are passing are of such a nature that no government, except it be a government enjoying the most complete confidence of the people of Canada, can hope to meet the needs of the present, or be equal to the grave situations by which, in any month or year, Canada may be confronted as a result of conditions at home and abroad. Stability and an unmistakable majority are more essential than ever.

Perhaps I may be permitted to speak as one who has had some experience in the administration of public affairs. In a period of approximately nine years, between 1921 and 1930, at which time I held the office of Prime Minister of Canada, there were at least five years during which, time and again, I saw the government thwarted in its intentions and efforts because of a majority in the House of Commons insufficient to enable it to bring in, with any certainty of their enactment, measures which otherwise would have been introduced. I saw the government further thwarted in its enactments by the action of a Senate that was politically hostile, and that rejected measures, which, after the greatest difficulty, had secured their passage through the House of Commons. I need not tell you how overwhelmingly Tory the Senate will be in the next Parliament of Canada. Of this I am perfectly sure, that any party, seeking reconstruction, to say nothing of a complete change of the existing order, or any party espousing liberal principles and policies, which does not receive in the forthcoming elections a majority so overwhelming as to leave no doubt in the minds of anyone as to the will of the people, will not have a ghost of a

chance to see its proposals embodied in legislation. This applies to all policies, whether they relate to unemployment, trade, monetary or social reform, or aught else.

Must Avoid a Tory Dictatorship

If it is desired to give Toryism the chance of its life, and to set up a first-class dictatorship in Canada, all that is now required is to supplement the Tory Senate, and the Tory bureaucracy, which has been brought into being in the last five years, with a Tory House of Commons. I ask you to think of what, under such circumstances, will become of individual liberty. If, on the other hand, the existing Tory bureaucracy and Tory Senate, are to be made amenable to public opinion, and liberal measures, by whatever name they may be called, are to have a chance at all, it will only be by the return of a House of Commons which is overwhelmingly Liberal.

This brings me to the most important of all the questions which I should like my fellow-countrymen to ask themselves. This question can be expressed in a single word. It is not a very difficult word, but it is a very old one, and one that is full of significance. That word is "whither." Whither are we tending in Canada today? That question should make its appeal to all who have their homes in this country, and who value freedom, and free institutions. It is a word which, above all, should appeal to the youth of our land, who are facing a future all too unknown and uncertain. It is the question which every mariner asks himself before he begins to cross the seas, and which he asks himself, more than ever, when the seas are rough and the skies are overcast. It is the question which every pioneer has asked himself, as he has blazed