

tion held on October 23, 1933, in Yamaska the Liberal majority of one was increased to 84. In Mackenzie on the same date the Progressive majority of 3,076 was changed to a Liberal majority of 1,614. In Restigouche-Madawaska, also on October 23, 1933, the Conservative majority of 548 was changed to a Liberal majority of 6,472. In the by-election of April 16, 1934, held in the constituency of South Oxford, the Liberal majority of 55 was increased to a majority of 1,493. On September 24, 1934, in the by-election held in West Elgin, the Liberal majority was increased from 1,437 to 2,893. In the by-election held on the same day in Frontenac-Addington the Conservative majority of 3,371 was changed to a Liberal majority of 2,651. That is the first time since confederation a Liberal candidate has been elected for Frontenac. In the constituency of Kenora-Rainy River on the same day the Liberal majority was increased from 502 to 6,165. In North York on the same day the Conservative majority of 298 was changed to a Liberal majority of 3,687. In the 1930 elections the Conservative majority in the constituency of Toronto East amounted to 7,075, and in the by-election of 1934, which was held also on September 24, the Conservative party retained the seat. As I have stated however they retained it by a minority of votes; their candidate polled 2,143 votes less than the Liberal and Cooperative Commonwealth Federation candidates combined. In the face of those figures representative of the feelings of the people how can a government say it has the right to continue in office? How can it do so? By what right does the government at this time bring in new policies and seek to put other legislation upon the statute book?

May I point out another fact: It has been customary in the past for the government of the day to notify His Honour the Speaker of vacancies as they arise in the membership of this house so that writs may be speedily issued in order to complete its representation. This administration immediately after coming into office did give notice of one or two vacancies, but every vacancy that has arisen in this house in the last three years, notwithstanding that in many cases the vacancies were on the Conservative side, has been notified to the Speaker by Liberal members of this house, showing that the government has so little confidence in the support it enjoys throughout the country that it is unwilling to fill vacancies created by loss even in its own membership. These things make it perfectly clear that what the country had expected rather than

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

another session of parliament was a general election, a general election in which the people themselves would have had an opportunity to express their views. Why then, have we this additional session?

Well, the Prime Minister has told us. He let the cat out of the bag in one of his broadcast speeches. In his fourth broadcast speech on the ninth of January my right hon. friend spoke as follows:

As I have said, you will be fully notified by me of the precise nature of these reforms and their estimated effect when the appropriate legislation is presented to parliament. I know you will carefully and earnestly think over all that I have said. Effective action depends upon your steadfast support. Ultimately your approval of my reform program can only be given by your support of me at the polls. That naturally I want.

In other words, "I want votes," that is why the Prime Minister to-day brings in this platform of social reform so-called, on the eve of an election, after having made all kinds of promises five years ago; after saying "I will end unemployment;" after saying "I will blast my way into the markets of the world;" after making promises in every part of the country with respect to every conceivable thing that could influence an electorate. Having failed to carry out those promises and having to admit he has failed, the Prime Minister brings in on the eve of a general election an entirely new set of policies and claims that these are the policies of the party of which he is the head and says: "I want you to give your support to these policies"—or rather "I am giving you these policies because I want your votes."

Well, my right hon. friend will not be able to cover up his record of the last four and a half years quite so easily as that. The people of Canada have too intimate a knowledge of what they have had to endure during the last few years through the failure of his policies, and his failure to fulfil any of his promises, to allow any other policies he says he will put into effect to influence their judgment very much.

Now may I point out the position we are in with respect to a general election? I have said that one of the supreme efforts of this administration has been stealthily to alienate the authority and control of parliament, to take power into its own hands and away from parliament with respect to many of the important affairs of the nation. This government has succeeded at last in that effort to the extent of taking away from parliament itself the power of securing for the people, whose representatives its members are, an