

"I would observe, first of all, that it is not proposed here to alter the principle of the constitution. It is not proposed to override the control which the people have over Parliament. It is simply proposed to suspend for the time being the operation of the constitution. If it were proposed to make away altogether with that principle which is embodied in the constitution, certainly I would oppose such an attempt with all my might. But no such thing is proposed. This measure simply proposes that the constitution shall be suspended for twelve months, at the expiration of which time it will resume its full force."

Note these words, Mr. Speaker, "It is not proposed to override the control which the people have over Parliament". I shall confine their application to the War-Time Elections Act, which was the method the Government of the day adopted to ensure its return to power. Did the Government by this Act override the control of the people over Parliament? I shall not trust to language of my own to answer that question, I shall quote the words of an honourable member of this House, who until but yesterday was also a member of the present Administration. His words were spoken at the time the measure was under discussion in Parliament.

At page 5596 of Hansard (Sept. 10, 1917) the honourable member for Halifax, (Hon. A. K. Maclean), is reported as follows: