

to vote in federal elections. To take the position that the Secretary of State (Mr. McLarty) takes would mean that if a province should put a prohibitory clause in its elections act, this parliament would be bound to adopt that provision in its election acts. That does not make sense. This is a sovereign parliament, and in enacting this measure we can put in it any provision we wish. I would urge that this house put content into our assertions about building a new social order, by extending the benefits of that new order to the least among us.

Mr. LIGUORI LACOMBE (Laval-Two Mountains): This is a dominion plebiscite, as the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) said a moment ago. The hon. member is perfectly right in supporting the amendment. I will do so. The poor must have the privilege of voting on this plebiscite; consequently I am deeply pleased to support the amendment. Why disqualify the poor, who are making greater sacrifices than the rich in this war?

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): I only wish to say a word as to my position in regard to the bill that is before the house. My leader (Mr. Hanson) has expressed my views as to why it is consistent to vote with the government at this time, because over a period of some weeks nearly all the members of the house have expressed themselves and some of us have stated our views in opposition to the bill. I still find the bill as abhorrent as I did at the beginning, but if we must have this measure let us get it over quickly. That is why I am voting with the government to-day.

May I suggest, before the last rites have been performed over the remains of parliamentary government in Canada, that the members of this house observe the usual two minutes of silence for contemplation and that the Prime Minister and his cabinet apply to themselves the message that was brought to Canada yesterday in speaking before the Rotary club, Montreal, by a very distinguished brain surgeon, Doctor Penfield, who has just returned from Great Britain: "Get your heads out of the sand; you are not doing enough; it is later than you think."

The new Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) a few weeks ago spoke of the Prime Minister as the captain of the ship. I would carry the simile a little further and say that we members of the house are the crew, and now that the ship of state is hopelessly adrift in a terrific gale, we find the captain ignoring the crew and calling upon the passengers to help him guide the ship.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I had not intended to take part in the discussion of this amendment, but it might be proper to say a word in view of the remarks of the hon. member for Parkdale (Mr. Bruce). It is, I think, of interest, certainly to the country, if not to hon. members who are fully aware of the fact, to know that on the second reading the principle of the bill is always the main consideration. I would direct attention to the fact that all members of this house supported the second reading. There was no division, nor was any division even called for; every hon. member therefore, according to the records of parliament, was in support of the principle of the bill.

The hon. member for Parkdale has said something about the message brought by a distinguished gentleman to the people of Canada to the effect that they should get their heads out of the sand. I hope my hon. friend's head was not in the sand at the time of the division on the second reading, because certainly he supported the second reading of the bill or else was absent from the house and did not indicate any position. But, according to the records, his position is that he supported the principle of the bill, or at any rate did not oppose it. I am at a loss, therefore, to understand how, when all parties in this house have supported, and I think wisely and rightly supported, the principle of the bill, and members generally are now advocating that when the plebiscite is taken it be supported by the people of Canada generally, some hon. gentlemen opposite should continue, as the hon. member for Parkdale has sought to do this afternoon, in the remarks which he has just made, to cast ridicule not only upon the bill and the purposes of the bill but upon parliament itself.

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Fair) which was negatived on the following division.

YEAS

Messrs:

Black (Cumberland)	Lacombe
Blackmore	Lockhart
Bruce	McGregor
Cardiff	MacInnis
Castleden	MacKinnon
Church	(Kootenay East)
Coldwell	MacNicol
Diefenbaker	Marshall
Douglas (Weyburn)	Nicholson
Esling	Nielsen, Mrs.
Fair	Noseworthy
Fraser	Perley
(Peterborough West)	Quelch
Gillis	Ross (St. Paul's)
Green	Ross (Souris)
Hansell	Rowe
Harris (Danforth)	Roy
Hlynka	Shaw
Johnston (Bow River)	White—37.
Kuhl	