

article and often from the size of the print. Unless, therefore, there is some wholly reliable source to which journals and speakers alike can go for information and for the refutation of false or prejudiced statements, a party's true position on any question is likely to be quickly and sometimes wholly lost to sight. It must too be remembered that the old days of party newspapers are past. The party press is pretty much a thing of the past with a notable exception or two so far, at least, as the Liberal party in Canada is concerned. Consciously or unconsciously it is only too true that advertising, not news columns, are the main concern of public journals. There was a time when the former was a means to the end as regards the latter, but the reverse today is all too true in all parts of the world. That must necessarily mean that special interests and privileges will never lack sympathy and support for their point of view and doctrines, and that those who are opposed to privilege must expect to find themselves, so far as press support is concerned, very much in the minority.

In any real crisis the support of the press may be all but completely withdrawn or lacking. Such was certainly the case in 1917, on the issue of conscription. I know it to be a fact

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Speeches-1922 - 1932

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