

the country out of its depression into a period of prosperity, greater than any it had previously known. During this period, Liberal policies served to effect in substantial measure a union of Liberal and Progressive forces, alike in Parliament and in the country.

Today, history is once more repeating itself. We have in the field as third parties seeking nation-wide recognition, not the Progressive party, or other of the third parties of previous general elections, but the C.C.F. and the Reconstruction party. Each of these parties has come into being under Tory administration since Mr. Bennett assumed office. Each is a product of the depression and discontent, which Tory policies have served to aggravate and prolong. My hope and expectation is that history will continue to reveal the sequence with which we are already familiar. With the return of a Liberal administration to office, and the adoption of Liberal policies, carried out on broad and generous lines, and with more concern for human relations, than for the methods of big business, and of high finance, and of high pressure salesmanship, there is no reason why this period of depression should not be followed by a new era of prosperity; and why the unrest and discontent, which have brought these third parties into being, and to which they owe their existence, should not also disappear.

Let me draw your attention to what happens where candidates of third parties are returned to Parliament. It is important you should clearly understand this, if you expect the next Parliament to be able properly to function on your behalf, and to be equal to the great tasks by which it will be confronted. Where, in the House of Commons, the elected representatives of third parties have not, sooner or later, come to join up with the mem-

bers of the parties from which they originally sprang, they have invariably formed themselves into a group or groups, aloof from both the government and the opposition. They have not constituted themselves a party with any real sense of obligation or responsibility. In this irresponsible position, they have sought to hold a so-called balance of power. Indeed, this is exactly what is put forward by many as the end at which a third party should aim; a measure of power, with no measure of responsibility. But that is not, by any means the worst feature. If members of third parties remained a group or groups, championing definite principles and policies, the situation might not be so difficult for a government to handle. They tend, however, to become, not so much a group, or even groups, of known mind and purpose, but an aggregation with as many minds and purposes as there are individuals.

Need a Government with Confidence

There may be times when it may make little difference to a country whether its Parliament contains groups which sit, as it were on a political teeter-totter, and enjoy the game of see-saw, giving their support to the government or withholding it from the government, often without apparent rhyme or reason. Such, however, is not the situation in Canada today. You cannot reconstruct on quicksand, any more than you can lean upon a broken reed. Any uncertainty with respect to the authority and power of the government which is to conduct the affairs of Canada during the next five years, will render impossible the fulfillment of the policies necessary to bring Canada out of the depression in which she has laboured for so