

an opportunity to return to Parliament a House of Commons that will give a proper expression to their views?

At that time the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar) and my right hon. friend were standing side by side; to-day they are standing directly opposite to each other, taking directly opposite positions. And why did my hon. friend for Marquette leave the ministry of which he was a member? He left it because he felt it was formed for a particular purpose, and when that purpose was fulfilled, that was as far as it had any right or authority to go. He took exactly the same position that my hon. friend has taken here, that the tariff was not an issue with which this Parliament could deal one way or the other. Under these circumstances I ask my right hon. friend, when he retains in his cabinet a colleague who has given a pledge of that kind to the people, how does he presume to suggest to His Excellency that the tariff is a question for discussion at this particular session of Parliament?

But the honourable member for Marquette and the honourable the Minister of Immigration and Colonization were not the only speakers who expressly excluded legislation with respect to the tariff from the jurisdiction of the Unionist Government, or who gave assurances, which the Canadian public were justified in taking as final and authoritative, that the tariff would not be dealt with until some subsequent appeal were made to the electorate with specific reference to domestic issues. The right hon. the Prime Minister himself also spoke with special reference to the tariff. I have already quoted the nature of his appeal on the general issue. Here is what he had to say more particularly with reference to the tariff:

In time of peace we can afford to support a candidate with a reservation, but in time of war they are a menace to a nation. I make no imperious demands. I only ask the people of this country to see the issue as it is, and to rise to a certainty that a vote in opposition to the new administration is a vote which will imperil the conditions under which we work for the war. We ask from no man and from no woman a reversal or abnegation of his or her convictions on fiscal matters or tariff matters or any other subject.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend says "hear, hear." I would ask him: Will he presume to say that his ministry in attempting to legislate on the tariff in the present session is not obliging the men and women of this country to forego an expression of their views on the

tariff question? If my right hon. friend will say that he intends to appeal to the people, then I am quite prepared to admit that he may not be denying them that right which he then said he would not take from them. But if he presumes in this session to attempt to deal with the tariff, the people will hold him guilty of as great a breach of faith as it is possible for a public man to commit.

We only ask that they postpone the prosecution of those opinions and convictions, and subordinate them to the infinitely greater necessity until we get through these abnormal times. This is all the appeal we make. The accepted basis of union was the only basis on which union was possible at the present time. What Mr. Calder, Mr. Crerar and I ask is that the people of this country unite on the same basis that the Government of the country united.

In the quotations I have cited, you have heard from the lips of the then Minister of Agriculture and the present Minister of Immigration and Colonization what the accepted basis of union was. They have both said that it expressly excluded any dealings with the tariff. My right hon. friend joins with them in an appeal on that ground. Again, I ask, how dare my right honourable friend presume to say that his Government is justified in dealing with this all-important question, without first giving to the people of Canada an opportunity to return to Parliament a House of Commons that will give a proper expression to their views?

Well, Mr. Speaker, one is almost at a loss to imagine what my right hon. friend can say in reply in view of the statements which I have just quoted.

Mr. EDWARDS: Do not worry; you will know soon enough.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think I know already what he will say. He and his colleagues in different parts of the country have apparently found it necessary to work out a defence for their position, they realize they are on the defensive in this matter, and when addressing different meetings they have attempted to make an explanation to the public, which they hope will be accepted. As far as I have been able to follow the remarks of my right hon. friend and his colleagues, there are broadly four grounds upon which an attempt will be made to justify the continuance of this Government. First of all he will seek refuge in the law and the constitution, in the limit of time permitted a Parliament by the British North America Act; in the right of a ministry to exist so long as it has