

Old and New Political Parties

One hears from time to time a great deal about the old political parties, as though noble traditions and years of experience should count for nothing in politics, although they are expected to count for everything in other spheres of activity. There is no more reason why a political party should not be proud of its many years of existence and of office than why the members of any church, of any regiment, of any institution of learning, of any business concern, should not be proud of service it has rendered over the years. The danger to representative government, in many countries today, arises not from the perpetuation of parties which have a long and honourable past, it arises from a bewilderment of political parties that have no past, and but little promise of any future.

In this Province, there have appeared in recent times, the Union Nationale, the Bloc Populaire, the C.C.F., Social Credit, the Union des Electeurs, the Labour Progressive party, and so-called Independents of every colour of the rainbow. What do any of them represent either of tradition or of a truly Canadian outlook? The so-called Union Nationale is not national, but narrowly provincial; the Bloc Populaire is certainly not popular; many people do not know what the initials C.C.F. stand for; one day, Social Credit is the same thing as the Union des Electeurs, the next day it is not; and the third day it is