

Government which has not the confidence of a majority of the people.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I merely wish to say, with the hon. gentleman's permission, that the editorial which he read from the *Albertan* is not the editorial to which I refer. The editorial to which I had reference was published about two months ago and used the exact language I used? If the *Albertan* is capable of changing that language, that is not my fault.

Mr. LEMIEUX: It is a revised edition.

Mr. MEIGHEN: You are always revising.

Mr. McKENZIE: Now, we had reason to believe yesterday that my right hon. friend was right up-to-date and that he was not dealing in old garments of the *Albertan*. He was speaking yesterday, the 15th. instant, and this was published on the 8th.

Mr. MEIGHEN: They may change back again.

Mr. McKENZIE: Yes, they may, but I venture to submit that the people of Canada will not be satisfied that the editorials of the *Albertan* newspaper are sufficient justification for the Prime Minister to base his arguments upon. This only goes to show that when one is in a desperate situation he is ready to grasp at straws. I venture to think, Mr. Speaker, that the astute mind of the Prime Minister was rather led astray by somebody who told him that there was such a thing in the *Albertan*, and he jumped at a fatal conclusion. And although he will not, I know, do it publicly, I should like the Prime Minister, privately at the first caucus of his party, to tell them that anything he said about the *Albertan* on which he bases his case is absolutely false and falls to the ground, and that for the present the case made out by the Leader of the Opposition is entirely undefended. It is quite possible that the Prime Minister will not be disposed to listen to anything we say on this side of the House. If he were well advised by his own friends and supporters, and if he felt that the country was behind him, he would have a perfect right as a party leader to pay little or no heed to anything we might say on this side, although it is always well to take warning and accept admonition from whatever quarter it may come, and to consider carefully whatever observations may be made by even one's keenest enemies. One would have expected the

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Prime Minister, ere now, to have paid due attention to what his own best friends have said, and I think he would be wise hereafter to consider their opinions. Now, last year a dear old friend of his party, the *Montreal Gazette*, tendered some sage advice to them and expressed some opinions regarding the Government at that time. That paper said then:

The art of government is most difficult under the best auspices; but a leaderless ministry, destitute of policy, must be the despair of its friends. The public memory is short, and public gratitude is an unknown quantity. The electorate required a guide, a policy, an association with those who invite confidence, and the Government offers neither guidance, nor principles, nor familiarity with the people. The situation is not suddenly precipitated; it began with the conclusion of the war. Since then futile efforts at permanent coalition have more than once been made, and Minister after Minister has dropped out until the situation has become difficult for the Government, and despondent for its supporters.

That was the opinion of that newspaper about a year ago. Reference was made to the matter when the House opened last year, but the Prime Minister will probably tell me that that article has no bearing upon the present situation, that they might have been finding fault with the personnel of the Government and with the leadership of those days, but that the conditions that prevailed then have passed, a new leadership having been instituted and new members having entered the Cabinet; consequently—this is what he will no doubt contend—this criticism of last year does not apply at the present time. Well, that might be an argument. But here we are confronted with an opinion very lately expressed, and I would respectfully suggest to the Prime Minister that he burn a little more of the midnight oil and read the public press so that he may learn what his friends, at all events, are saying about him. The same friendly newspaper, the same newspaper that has always been, as far as I know, a tower of strength to the Tory party, has again spoken, as late as the 8th day of February, the day after the Government met its Waterloo at Peterborough. This is what it says:

The Government has declared its intention to live out its term, and constitutionally has the right so to do. Its parliamentary majority may prolong its existence for nearly another two years, but will it continue as a strong ministry for that period? A majority somewhat perilous when parliament prorogued has been reduced. The by-elections won by the Government mean merely the retention of seats, and indicate no new feeling of confidence, while the contested