

15 PRESS CLIPPINGS

D21321
The Leader of the Opposition

Name of Publication.....

Date.....

Subject.....

When you get that confidence, men and women will start investing again. The money is there, but it won't come out today; you know it. Every man and woman in this audience who has a little money knows how carefully it is being guarded. If you think you are going to lose it by investing it, you are going to hold onto it.

Substantial Majority Needed

I hope the people will see to it that whatever party they return to power is returned by a large enough majority to ensure in the minds not only of our own people, but in the minds of people in other countries, that there is going to be in this country a government which will be constitutionally able to carry on the business of the country in a stable way. (Applause).

I speak of this because I have had some experience in this way. When we came in in 1921 we had only a majority of one. I know that time and time again when I would have liked, and my colleagues would have liked to have put through a measure we believed to be in the public interest, and when we discussed this measure in caucus and began to consider the whole thing, we could not count with any degree of certainty on this measure making progress through the House of Commons because of the opposing forces against us.

A government in Canada in the next few years will need a very substantial and solid majority, and more so for this reason: All legislation to be passed must go through both Houses of Parliament, and the Senate of Canada today is two-thirds Conservative. What chance are the Liberal measures going to have of being inaugurated unless there is such an overwhelming backing on the part of the people of Canada to the Liberal policies that no Senate would dare to oppose the will and wish of the people as expressed in the general election. (Loud applause).

Here again I am speaking of practical things. I am speaking of things in your own interest and I leave this matter with you at this point. I am sorry, ladies and gentlemen, that the hour is getting on, that I have not time to touch on other things, but I hope I have made clear to you that these are not ordinary times.

You wouldn't treat an election at this time as a horse race or a show or think you are going to have fun with the speakers.

A Serious Business

It is a serious business, and there is not a man or woman here or who is within sound of my voice whose lives will not be better or worse as a result of what takes place on the 14th of October next.

You have been given reason by an all-wise Being to use, and I ask you in the campaign don't allow yourself to be swayed by prejudice, but ask yourself what is going to be the best thing for yourself and the best thing as a consequence, to our country as well.

Battle for Responsible Government

Let me conclude with a further word referring again to history repeating itself.

I was very much touched to hear on this platform in this part of Canada the kind reference made by one speaker to my mother's father—William Lyon Mackenzie—who 100 years ago was battling in Ontario for the right of the people to govern themselves against an Executive that had taken pretty well the power of government in its own hands.

The speaker said history was repeating itself. I wonder if anyone of you know how true that statement is. What is the difference between democracy and dictatorship?

The whole difference lies in whether the people's representatives control the executive or whether the executive controls the representatives. (Applause). 100 years ago in Ontario the people were returning representatives to Parliament but the representatives did not compose the Cabinet.

The Governor came out from the old world and selected the men he wished to govern the country—the executive.

It became impossible to have the will and wish of the people carried out under that arrangement and what Mackenzie and those associated with him sought to do was simply to bring about a change in Canada that had come about in Britain, whereby the executive became representatives of the House of Commons and whereby the government would be so changed that those who were performing executive duties would have to do the will and wish of the Legislative body and be responsible to the legislative body, the legislative body determining what amount should be spent and for what purposes it should be spent.