

*The Address—Mr. Argue*

national chairman and national secretary respectively. A higher tribute could not be paid.

He has a thorough grasp of economic and social problems and a profound appreciation of the ends which must be served by the democratic society. Not only in abstract principle but in his daily actions as leader of the party he shows his firm belief in democratic co-operation. He always seeks and takes the advice of his colleagues in parliament and on the national executive. He pays close attention to the views and wishes of the C.C.F. membership. His rejection of material advantages in order to serve the cause in which he believes is itself proof of his devotion to the socialist principles of the movement which he leads.

Mr. Coldwell today is in good health and in other ways he is carrying on for this nation the long service he rendered in the House of Commons for 23 years. I am convinced that when the history of this nation is written Mr. M. J. Coldwell will be considered one of the great Canadians of the twentieth century.

We also lost in the past election the services in this house of Mr. Stanley Knowles who in the last parliament was the deputy leader of the C.C.F. group and who represented the constituency of Winnipeg North Centre. From 1921 to 1943 that constituency was represented by the late Mr. J. S. Woodsworth. During the time Mr. Woodsworth represented that constituency and since 1943 the voice from Winnipeg North Centre has rung out in the parliament of this country in support of the aged, the weak, the disabled and indeed on behalf of all those who deserved and required a champion in this chamber. Stanley Knowles' zeal coupled with his unequalled knowledge of the rules of procedure of the House of Commons makes his early return highly desirable and certain.

I could go on and name the other members of our group in the last parliament who were defeated on March 31 but time will not permit. I must say, however, that each of them made a substantial contribution to the debates of this house over the years and I am certain that as the session progresses and we consider measures in which those gentlemen had been interested their past contributions will be referred to in all quarters of this house.

In the recent election the Conservative representation to parliament increased from 112 to 208. The Liberal representation was reduced by more than half, from 106 to 49. The C.C.F. losses were large and painful for us, a reduction from 25 to 8 in our representation and the Social Credit group of 19 members was entirely wiped out.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

At six o'clock the house took recess.

[Mr. Argue.]

**AFTER RECESS**

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

**Mr. Argue:** Mr. Speaker, at six o'clock I was saying that on the basis of the results of the election some people might say that the splinter parties have now ceased to exist and that this is the end of the C.C.F. movement in this country. Before they jump to that conclusion, however, I have some figures I should like to place on the record indicating the votes obtained in the election. The C.C.F. vote in this election held up well compared with last year. In 1958 we polled some 689,000 votes, a drop of just 18,000 votes from our total of 707,000 last year. Taking the popular vote in the country, we dropped 1 per cent, namely from 11 per cent to 10 per cent.

On the other hand, in 1958 the Liberal party experienced a loss of 290,000 votes compared with the election last year. The Social Credit vote was down 240,000 from 1957. If one compares the votes in 1958 with 1953 one finds that the Liberal party lost 140,000 votes and the Social Credit party lost 125,000 votes while the C.C.F. party gained 53,000 votes.

Everywhere across the country we have heard reports that our organization was relatively good, that there was a great deal of enthusiasm, our supporters worked hard, meetings were well attended and the response by way of financial contributions from our supporters was exceedingly generous. We are not at all discouraged. Since we have been able to survive the Conservative landslide with much the same vote we had a year ago, with a substantial increase over our vote in 1953 and with the morale of our supporters and workers across the country high, we look forward in spite of our losses to the day when the C.C.F. movement in this country will gain in strength and will occupy the treasury benches of this parliament.

Our movement is 25 years old. It was born officially in 1933 at Regina. We advanced a lot of ideas at that time that have been promoted over the years and have found their way into the statute books of this country. The policy of the C.C.F. party and its objectives in 1933, as stated in the second paragraph of the declaration issued at Regina, is as follows:

We aim to replace the present capitalist system, with its inherent injustice and inhumanity, by a social order from which the domination and exploitation of one class by another will be eliminated, in which economic planning will supercede unregulated private enterprise and competition, and in which genuine democratic self-government, based upon economic equality, will be possible.

Since that time many progressive measures which the C.C.F. has promoted have been adopted in this country. One can refer to such