

Dr. Manion Begins at Wrong Time and Wrong End.

It must already be apparent to the Leader of the Opposition, but I should like to make it equally clear to you, that if Dr. Manion really hopes to form and lead a union government, he is beginning at the wrong time and at the wrong end. The time to form a union government is before, not after, a general election.

That, you will recall, was what was done in 1917. The union government of Sir Robert Borden was not formed after a general election. It was formed first. The elections followed immediately afterwards. Throughout the campaign, its leaders were known; its ministers were known; its policies were known. Its candidates in the constituencies were known. They were union government candidates, definitely pledged to support, not some government to be formed after the elections were over, but the union government headed by Sir Robert Borden. The government had not been formed to implement some policy vaguely described as the winning of the war. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and those who shared his opinions were every bit as anxious to win the war as Sir Robert and his followers. They differed on a specific policy. That policy was conscription. The union government was formed to obtain the support of the country for that policy.

Electors Being Led up a Blind Alley.

In the elections of 1917, the leaders of opposed parties who joined together to form the union government stood side by side on political platforms throughout the campaign. Their policy was openly supported and openly attacked. The electorate was not asked to engage in a game of blind man's buff, in which the parties constituting the union government,

their leaders, their policies, and even their candidates, were all unknown. Believe it or not, that is exactly the situation as we have it today. You are actually being invited by Dr. Manion to go, from now on till March 26th, up a blind alley, which he says leads to national government, and on that day, in some booth at the end of the dark road, to mark and deposit your ballot for a government that is not yet in being, and may never come into existence.

An Unquestioned Mandate Essential to Canada's War Effort.

Regardless of all else, I am sure you will not wish, either on the days immediately following the election, or so long as the war continues, to have the government of this country busy with bickerings and bargainings between opposing groups when its whole effort should be devoted to the prosecution of the war.

I want to say to you, my fellow-countrymen, very earnestly, that the times through which we are passing are such that no government, except it be a government enjoying the most complete confidence of the people of Canada, can hope to meet the grave needs of the present, and the still graver needs of the future.

This war demands Canada's utmost effort. Such an effort can be made only by a government which draws its strength from every section of the country and has been given an unquestioned mandate by the people. Can you name any political group or combination of men, other than the present government, which is likely to enjoy your confidence, or has the remotest chance of being representative of Canadian opinion as a whole? This is the vital question which you, the electors must continue to ask yourselves between now