

The Address—Mr. Bradette

I should like for a moment to speak concerning a delicate subject. A few days before the last vote in the most recent Ontario provincial election, in this city of Ottawa a fine institution which has been operated for generations was granted \$250,000. Perhaps the amount should have been greater. But my point is this: Why was not that money voted properly from the floor of the Ontario legislature? Why was it granted just at election time? I do not criticize the grant, because in my view the organization in question should have been given at least \$500,000. But a procedure of this kind skirts closely the process of political buying; there is no getting away from that fact.

These are matters which of necessity must be placed before this national forum because, in my view, no matter what party is making an appeal to the Canadian people, it has no right to buy votes out of the provincial or the national treasury. And I would stay by that statement. After all, the roof of democracy must fall over our heads if care is not taken in this connection.

In a few months it is likely that we will be engaged in a general election. I do not want to see the spectacle of the political parties of the House of Commons going before the people in an effort to overbid each other out of funds in the public treasury. That is not democracy; that is not freedom; that is not Canadianism—and it should not be done. It is falsifying our constitution.

May I next refer to those election promises which are never implemented. The Canadian people generally are as well informed as members of the House of Commons, and when promises are not fulfilled they are entitled to resent it. They do not like this failure to fulfil promises, and they soon learn that they have been fooled. You may fool them once or twice, but you cannot fool them all the time. I make this appeal in all sincerity, because I well remember when, in 1935 I believe it was, I made a definite promise during the campaign, and I promised that I would never make another one. My promise was that I would bring back a better service for the numbers 1 and 2 transcontinental trains from Toronto to Winnipeg, passing through Cochrane. But my promise was never implemented, and the people up there have held that against me,—and rightly so. Every election I am reminded of it. I would repeat that it is contrary to all democratic principles to go before the people at election time, whether provincially or in a general election, and make promises, when those who make them know full well they will never be fulfilled.

While I have not the time to go deeply into the matter, I should like to say a few

[Mr. Bradette.]

words about dominion-provincial relations. In this forum three years ago, prior to the 1946 dominion-provincial conference I expressed the wish that the premier of Ontario would be big enough to see the viewpoint of all parts of Canada. I am sorry he did not come up fully to my expectations. I do not blame him altogether for what happened in those instances; but he must take some of the blame.

I come from a section of the country which at times has had quarrels with Queen's Park; I mean northern Ontario, that fine treasure house in Ontario. Sometimes our resources were badly used and wasted, and at a time when we had practically no voice in the government at Toronto. However, we have always remained true to the old province of Ontario. When one hears talk of secession of that portion of Ontario from Fort William to North Bay or anywhere else, one may be sure that 99½ per cent of the people in northern Ontario have always been against it, and will continue so. We believe that Ontario must remain as it is at the present time.

The point I wished to bring out is that those of us from northern Ontario believe that the welfare of the whole of this province is better than the welfare of the northern section of it, or even of the city of Toronto. We believe in the welfare of the whole of the province—and that same principle applies with equal force to Canada as a whole. I would ask the present administration at Queen's Park, and I would ask those here in the House of Commons, as a man who was born in the province of Quebec, to forget sometimes some of the smaller features in politics, and to think of Canada as a whole. Ontario has been described as a privileged province, but she is not. Ontario is Ontario only through the accident of geography. While the people are Ontarian, they are primarily Canadian.

The leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew), as premier of Ontario, was a talented man; no one can deny that. He is a true Canadian. But why he did not practise that true Canadianism in his relations with the dominion and the other provinces is something beyond my comprehension.

May I say one word about our present trade situation, and particularly our trade with dear old England. I am speaking my mind on this score, because I have always been a great admirer of those fine, tidy little islands; and even more so since the last war, when for over a year Great Britain was the only human rampart against the hordes of barbarism, nazism and fascism. No matter what we do for England, no matter what happens in the future, we can never forget that fact; because