

for the purposes of these figures, I have accorded to the Progressive party, but in which I understand the litigation is not yet complete, which litigation, if it resulted otherwise than as contended by them, would mean the election of the Conservative candidate there. Consequently the facts I have adduced are fortified against all possible doubt or attack. It will be seen from them that the supporters of the late government are in a large minority in the present House, in a minority represented by some forty, and in addition to these facts, of those who were elected not as adherents of either of the two great parties which historically have divided our country, but as Progressives or some other members, no less than seventeen contested their seats against, and defeated candidates running on behalf of, the then administration. I have in my possession a list of those who triumphed over candidates of that administration. There were, I think, eight in Alberta, four in Saskatchewan, four in Manitoba and one in Quebec. Hon. members who have come from the contests and are now in this House will be able to give to you, Mr. Speaker, more graphically than can I, an account of the manner of the attack upon them in the contest itself, and how definite was the division between their own candidatures and those of candidates representing the government of the day. Adding to the

116 the seventeen, mentioned, 5 p.m. and not mentioning, for the moment, those who though running as Progressives, did not defeat government candidates, or those who contested seats which the government of the day abandoned, we find now sitting in this parliament 133 members elected by the people of this country against candidates of the late administration. Of the import of this fact not only can there be no question, but the gravity, the significance of it, surely the whole of this Dominion fully comprehends. In the face of a verdict in which, in 133 seats out of 245, the candidates of the late administration were signally defeated and left at home and in which their own candidates returned with only 101 out of 245, a remnant of the ministry of the last parliament comes before this parliament and has the assurance to ask of this parliament a vote of confidence, so that that remnant may continue in office.

Let us now look at the result from the standpoint of the popular vote. The returns completed now show that the candidates of the government—and again I say there are included among them at least two who contested seats as Independent Liberals—received 1,266,000 odd votes; that the candidates re-

presenting the Conservative party received 1,467,000 votes. The excess of the Conservative vote over the vote of Liberal candidates was more than 200,000 in this Dominion of Canada.

Mr. BOURASSA: Does the right hon. gentleman include in those figures the votes given in the province of Quebec for the so-called Patenaude candidates? I want to assure my right hon. friend that I did not ask the question for the purpose of raising applause; I asked it merely for information.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I would give the hon. gentleman credit for considerable prevision did I assume that he asked the question in order to raise applause. And if he did not ask it for that purpose then why did he ask it? The candidates to whom he refers were included among the Conservative candidates and ran directly antagonistic to all the candidates of the government. The government, then, stands in a minority in the country, as opposed to the Conservative candidates, of something over 200,000; and including the candidates who ran against the government and not as Conservatives, their minority is many scores of thousands more. The government obtained, indeed, very little less than half a million votes fewer than the number obtained by the candidates who ran not in favour of their administration and almost wholly and directly antagonistic to them.

These are the indisputable facts, none of which I have over-stated in the least degree. I appeal to hon. members now whether I have not stated simply the outstanding and indisputable facts of the last election. We have a group of men in this House—and I direct the attention of hon. members to them as they sit in their seats—who come to parliament and assert that they are still the government of the country, although many members of that so-called government are absentees. And not only do they come to parliament to get its verdict, but prior to coming here they announced in effect from many a stump in this country that they proposed to carry on for four more years in defiance of the will of the people. So much as to the first assertion in the amendment, that the candidates of His Majesty's late advisers, at whose instance the election was called and the appeal was made, were defeated in the large majority of the constituencies of Canada. The amendment proceeds to say that nine ministers of the crown, including the Prime Minister, were rejected at the polls and have no seats in parliament. It would be but to absorb the time