

Government. It is true that at the present juncture criticism is freely indulged in. Attacks are made in every quarter; everyone is abusing everyone else—the Bolsheviks condemn the Government. The returned soldiers abuse the pacifists. But when this state of feeling subsides, I have enough faith in my fellow-countrymen and enough confidence in their gratitude to know that they will support the party that did the right thing whether it was popular or not. I admit there is some talk of the unpopularity of the Government at the present moment, but that does not bother me a bit, because we know that it is merely a passing cloud. While it is fostered by my friends on the other side—sometimes, I regret to say, not altogether fairly—I know it is but transient. And when the next election comes, whether at the time demanded in my friend's motion, or a little later—probably a little later—the present Government, comprising men who formerly held different political views, is going to be swept ultimately into power again. The history of Canada shows that the people have favoured keeping governments a long time in power during the last forty years, and history will repeat itself at the next election. Then, my hon. friends, I think, will be somewhat ashamed of themselves when they go down to defeat—except in one province—because they did not try to unite with us to put an end to dissension, to throttle the racial feeling the moment it appeared, and to lend their support to a government working for the advantage of the whole country and of the whole Empire, and for the well-being of mankind at large.

Mr. LOUIS JOSEPH GAUTHIER (St. Hyacinthe-Rouville): Mr. Speaker, it is my intention to speak in my own language on this occasion but before entering upon any remarks I wish to answer very briefly the speaker who has just preceded me (Mr. Mowat). The hon. gentleman says that we are not ready for an election and he concluded his remarks by stating that whenever there should be an appeal to the people the Government he is supporting would come back triumphantly to power. If it is true that we are not ready for an election, and if the Government is sure to come back triumphantly to power, why do they refuse the amendment of my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition

5 p.m. (Mr. King)? We do not ask a dissolution because we hope to come back to power; we ask a dissolution in order that the people shall have an opportunity to say whether or not they have

any confidence in this Government. We do not care to come back to power but we want to fulfil our duty. That is the difference between us and the hon. gentleman. He says also that now is the time to try and get nearer to the province of Quebec. Speaking in my own name, and for my province, I will quote the words of one of our public men who says that the province of Quebec is not in a state of mind to enter into any conference; it has been misjudged; it has been badly treated; it has been slandered; it is waiting for its hour and after that it will confer but not before.

The hon. gentleman says that whenever the Government shall be ready to propound a policy, that policy will appeal to the people of Canada. Yesterday the right hon. gentleman who leads the Government (Sir George Foster) told us that they had a policy but the hon. member for Parkdale who supports this Government is not aware that there is a policy. He tells us that there is going to be a policy propounded and in advance he tells the country that he is going to support it. I believe he is a bad supporter of the present Administration as he was a bad supporter of the Liberal party. If he desires to come back to the Liberal fold we will receive him because the door is open, but if he should be only as good a supporter of the Liberal party as he is of this Government we will not rely very much upon him. I will now proceed with my remarks in my own language.

Mr. L. J. GAUTHIER (St. Hyacinthe-Rouville) (translation): Mr. Speaker, the mover of the address in answer to the speech from the Throne told us that the war had destroyed the old order of things political in this country and that Canada was entering into a new era. That is exactly what we believe, that is precisely what we maintain and that is also what the leader of the Liberal party, the leader of the Opposition, has submitted to this House and to the country in moving for the dissolution of Parliament.

He laid emphasis on the fact that the hybrid alliance which gave birth to the government we have been enjoying since 1917 had brought about the overturn of the old political order of things.

What is the present situation and how did it originate? For the winning of the war, the constitution of the country had to be battered in; to win the war, individual rights had to be done away with; to win the war, the constitution had to be