

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL: Before the hon. gentleman proceeds, I wish to ask the Speaker whether we are to understand that this is a general discussion upon the whole principle of the constitution of the Senate, or whether consent is given by the Senate to hear my honourable friend make a speech. If we are to have a general discussion, it may lead to further discussion. My own impression is that we ought not to depart from the principle of parliamentary practice laid down, that there should be no discussion unless the order of business provides for it. If we are going to have a general discussion, I may have a little to say in reply to my honourable friend.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I fail to see that the honourable senator has a right to interrupt me. I am simply asking a question. I am not continuing the discussion, and I think my right hon. friend should have waited until I put my question. I am asking the senator who has been informing the House on the question of majorities, in this House or elsewhere, what is the difference between a majority of one and a majority of 25 or 100? So long as you carry a majority, what is the difference?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The difference is this, that a very small majority, in a body constituted as is the Senate, is likely to give a greater influence to those members of the Senate who have been less active partisans in their lifetime than perhaps the majority of us, and who could perhaps bring a greater independence of mind to their actions in the Senate.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: There is not a member of this House who has not been an active partisan, and that is the reason why we are here.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: The point raised by the Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell is, I think, well taken. The hon. member for De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) was allowed to speak by the unanimous consent of this House; but, as soon as a member objects to any other remarks being made, I think further discussion is out of order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I have not finished my inquiry yet. The second inquiry is:

If such be the intention and the policy of the Government does it, or can it, expect the undivided support of Parliament and the people of Canada in regard to its party or political ends, over administrative measures?

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Now, I want an answer from the Government. The first question has been answered: the Government has no policy in regard to the first question. Now I want to know what the answer of the Government is to the second. Will the Government say yes or no?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The second question is answered by my answer to the first.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Very wise government! Now, the third question is this:

Is the Government prepared, in contradiction and in contravention of the agreement which obtains in the House of Commons regarding representation in that House to set aside similar conditions regarding the representation in the Upper House of Parliament?

What is the policy on that?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The third question is answered by my answer to the first and second questions.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Oh, the country will judge your answers, I tell you.

#### AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE INTERESTS OF CANADA.

##### MOTION FOR A COMMITTEE.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE moved:

That a committee composed of nine members of this House be appointed to further inquire into what is being done and what could be done to best promote the agricultural, industrial and trade interests of this country both during and after the war, such committee to be composed of the following members: The Honourable Messieurs Bolduc, Lougheed, Sir James, K.C.M.G., Dandurand, Edwards, Bostock, Ross (Moosejaw), Taylor, Ross (Middleton), and the mover, and to report from time to time to this House.

He said: Honourable gentlemen will remember that at the last session a committee was appointed, with instructions to inquire into what was being done and what could be done to best promote the agricultural, industrial and trade relations of this country, both during and after the war. The committee caused to be issued throughout the country some 20,000 letters inviting all incorporated bodies to make their own suggestions. A large number of answers were received. Many of them were limited to local interests, which can hardly be taken into consideration; but a great many made valuable suggestions, which are being tabulated by the clerks of the committee in a statement giving the names of the parties or of the body making the suggestion, and giving an abstract of the suggestion when it is of general interest. If the committee is re-appointed, the work could be completed by the month of April, when this House sits again after the adjourn-