

that is, I am not certain, but I strongly suspect that there is much truth in it.

Could you not convince the Prime Minister that there is a wealth of desire to be helpful to him in the enormous responsibility he bears, if he will only let the loyal people of Canada help him? I think he should take steps, through you, to assure himself of that support before opinion becomes too critical, - and I cannot impress upon you too much the fact that it is becoming extremely critical. There are any number of the best young men of this country, men whom you can readily guess, who are your friends, and whom you know are worthy of every trust and confidence, men who will not abuse your friendships men who are Conservative, and, above all things, not radical, - and these men are shaking their heads very grievously at the present state of affairs. They do not think for a moment that any other government would have done any better than the present government, and they are willing to believe that no other government would have done as well. They know the principal causes of distress in Canada arise from conditions outside of Canada, conditions in which Canada is included and by which we are affected. But, they are not satisfied.

We British people believe in Democratic Government; that is, we have great respect for parliamentary authority. Yet it is felt that our present Parliament is about two years behind in its appreciation of what the public is thinking. The people are heartily sick of the political prejudice that exists, and that governs the decision in most cases. People have little or no sympathy with the Opposition, who try to embarrass the government at every turn, who think they have the Conservative party on the run and are not going to change their attitude until that party is pushed over the precipice. To them it apparently makes little difference what happens to the country as long as they can turn the voters against the government and, as they believe, of course, in favour of the Opposition.

I went before an academic body in Ottawa - the Ottawa Valley Graduates of McGill University - and made an academic plea for national government. I said that I was not directing my remarks against any party or against any men, but in a time of crisis like this I felt there was no place for party government. My plea did not please any of the politicians, but it pleased a wonderful number of people in widely different parts of Canada, who are getting a little tired of the exhibition of party government we are now witnessing.

I had an idea that the formation of such a government would head off the support which the C.C.F. would be likely to get if an election were called now. The C. C. F. is growing. It lacks strong leaders, but people turn out in their thousands to listen to what such leaders as they possess have to say.

Good
deals
of
1933