

In the last parliament the government had a majority entitling them to carry on irrespective of what groups there might be, but they went to the country and came back with a lessened force. In the last parliament the government tolerated the groups without being subservient to them; but what is the position now? I ask hon. gentlemen opposite to remember that the groups can inflict death upon this government any time they so desire; they can inflict that penalty any time they wish. Is it reasonable to argue that the people of Canada expect these groups, with the lesser power they have or should have in this House, to be in a position to take such an attitude as that? I do not think so. I think it is a poor argument. The position of the government is entirely untenable; to me it looks intolerable.

I do not know that I expect hon. members to agree with me, but I wish to read what the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) told the House the other day, and I am going to criticize his attitude in some respects. He gives his reasons for casting his vote in favour of the government, and he goes on to say:

When the government says, "We will do this and so," we have a very reasonable belief they will carry it out because, if they do not, they may lose support. But if we accept merely the assurances of hon. gentlemen opposite and they come into power, we have no assurance that they will carry out even any pledges they make, because they can always appeal to the country.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. FRASER: Thank you, very kindly. The hon. member said they could always appeal to the country. That is the point of view, I may say, which must appeal to men anxious for certain specific legislation. Well, the hon. member had a very nice riding in British Columbia. He was not afraid of the elections at all. What is he kicking about? Why is he afraid to go to his people again? That is absolutely beyond me. There is nothing else in it but a fear of the result of an election when he appeals to the country again. He is afraid to go back to his constituency, and what is he afraid of? If he has such a fine constituency and such a fine backing, what is the matter with him? Why not clear up the situation by appealing to the country and seeing what the people think about the condition as we have it in Ottawa at present.

There is much conflict of opinion with regard to the present situation here, and a great deal of consideration should be given to that question by every hon. member in [Mr. Fraser.]

this House, because the country is expecting it of them. So far as I am concerned, my mind is firmly made up that the people of this country are very shortly going to insist upon another election.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): We just had one to-day.

Mr. FRASER: Just had one the other day?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): No, to-day.

Mr. BALDWIN: Would the hon. member like to face his opponent again?

Mr. FRASER: Surely. We had a very nice, pleasant time, and I defeated Mr. McBride by a handsome majority. Let my hon. friend remember, Mr. McBride was sent to this House in 1921 with a majority of 3,306 votes, and I am here representing that same constituency by a majority of 926 votes.

Now Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words on a question upon which there will not be very much controversy or difference of opinion. In this House I represent the district of Cariboo. Cariboo is no small constituency; I think it is the largest in the Dominion. It is about 650 miles from north to south and about 350 miles east to west, and it covers a big stretch of territory—about half the area of the province, I believe. That constituency came into prominence in the first place on account of the mining development there. Gold was discovered in the district of Cariboo in 1860. It was then and still is an outstanding mining district in British Columbia. It has produced very substantial quantities of gold, and has one of the most important industries, the mining industry. I am very much interested in the progress of the mining industry, not only in British Columbia but in the whole Dominion of Canada. I have always been very much interested in the proceedings of our legislature, and I can assure hon. members that one-half of the time of the sittings of the British Columbia legislature is occupied in questions relating to the mining industries of that province. I have been surprised to come to this parliament and find so little said about the mining industry of Canada, because it is one of the most promising industries we have. Nothing will conduce more to a revival of favourable commercial conditions in this country than a revival of the mining industry.

I want to compliment the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Lapierre) and the hon. member for West Kootenay (Mr. Esling) for