

It was interesting to me, and a sad commentary on the way these so-called leaders of ours take their responsibility, to note that on the day I made my address in Ottawa they devoted almost the whole afternoon to a discussion of the propriety or the advisability of giving the franchise to Indians - as if that would have any effect, beneficial or otherwise, on this country's present predicament. Personally, I do not think Indians should have a vote. There are far too many people voting now. In fact, it disgusts me to hear Bennett say that he is going to leave the railway situation to a plebiscite. Such a proceeding would be ludicrous, because not one person in five hundred would really know what they were voting on. Meighen, you will remember, was going to leave to a plebiscite whether this country should go to War or not. My God! Can we look for any leadership at all amongst such men?

One thing I fear about this situation, Jim, is that my friend in Ottawa is waiting, as his associates seem to be waiting, for a crisis to come upon us, as there came to Germany, England and the United States. As a result of the crisis in those countries, we have Hitler in Germany, Mussolini in Italy and Roosevelt has been given powers larger than ever accorded to a president of the United States. It looks to me as if R.B. thinks that out of the crisis he will emerge as Dictator of Canada. I am not sure that I want him in such a position. He is cabaret performer enough without giving him supreme power and a greater chance of showing off. If a crisis does come, I prefer to have it handled as it was handled in England, - a national government and the balancing of the budget. That, to my mind, is the only hope of arriving anywhere.

In making the address, I chose Ottawa because that is the seat of government, and I chose the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Association of McGill because that was the most academic body I could have in Ottawa and I proposed to discuss the matter in an academic way. I was very careful to point out that my remarks were not aimed at any particular party or political leader.

Since making the address, I have been invited to speak on the same subject before the Canadian Clubs of Windsor and Hamilton and the Empire Club of Toronto. But I have refused these invitations. I am not going into political life and I have no personal axe to grind. If I continue to make these speeches it will only consolidate the opinion that I have some axe to grind or that I am being put up to it by some interests.

Eight years ago I wrote an article for MacLeans Magazine in which I advocated the need of a general staff in government in Canada. I am more than ever convinced that what I advocated then would be a good thing now. We want something