

Let me seek to bring home to the Ministry wherein Parliament and the Government, as at present constituted, have ceased to be representative of the will of the Canadian people, and wherein there is justification for the demand which is being made from one end of Canada to the other, and which honourable members of the Opposition desire to voice, for a new parliament and a new government.

The first essential condition of parliamentary government under our system is that the elective chamber, or, in other words, the House of Commons, shall be, in the fullest meaning of the words, a representative assembly; that is to say, representative of the will of the people. This implies that members shall be elected under a franchise that is fair and just, and with reference to some policy that is known and defined.

No one will pretend that at the present time the present House of Commons fulfils either of these fundamental conditions. The most that it has been possible to say in attempted justification of the methods by which representation was effected was that they were deemed, by the Government that framed them, expedient in a time of war, to ensure the Government's return to power.

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