

(2) "Canadians are not going to bother with elections -- so representative government is gone." C155820

I know of no warrant whatever for this assertion. Indeed, in a recent statement the Federal Prime Minister Mr. Mackenzie King said he was not disposed even to postpone the date of the next election which he could constitutionally do. Even if he did, this would in no sense deprive us of representative government.

(3) "Manufacturing and selling are being put under a license system."

This again is a gross exaggeration of the fact that in war time a certain amount of restriction is inevitable. Restrictions there must be, but they will be as few as possible. They can only be made under the authority of Parliament and are subject to change by Parliament.

(4) "The government is getting ready to regulate practically all economic relations by dictatorial decree. The appalling total of all this seems to make Hitler a piker and Mussolini a maumering monk."

What I have already said on the subject of restrictions is sufficient to show how little foundation there is for this statement.

General Johnson then goes on to say of his own country in 1917 and 1918: "We did the job but we gave way grudgingly to every threatened invasion of the constitutional rights of our people."

This is equally true of Canada today ~~and will continue to be so.~~

I repeat that I find it hard to understand how General Johnson can bring himself to say things like those I have quoted. We in Canada are coping with a situation full of difficulty. We know as well as anyone the danger that in fighting the enemies of civilization we may be forced to adopt some of the very regimentation which we so much detest in their regime. It is not unnatural, I think, that we should feel that from our friends in the United States we might expect at this time sympathy, understanding and a patient examination of the facts, instead of the kind of thing which General Johnson has written.

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