

Hon. Mr. Haig:—it will have an able leader. It is good for Canada that a man of his calibre has been chosen as the head of a great national party.

During July of last year the Honourable Mr. Bracken resigned the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party. A representative convention met at Ottawa on the last day of September and the two first days of October and elected the Honourable George Drew, formerly Premier of Ontario, to be the party leader. There is no doubt that the policies of the Progressive Conservative party will be so presented that the people of this country will understand what the issues are. In my province we recently had the pleasure of a visit by Mr. Drew and his wife. While I do not want to bring women into this discussion—

Hon. Mr. Euler: Why not?

Hon. Mr. Haig:—although there are in this house two distinguished members of the sex—Mr. Drew, in the parlance of the street, will have to “go some” if he is going to be as popular in Canada as his wife appears to be.

The choice of Mr. Drew as leader of our party gives representation to the newer element, the younger men. Mr. Drew was one of the generation that fought in the first world war. He represents also one of the two greatest provinces of Canada, and is necessarily interested, therefore, in the development of Canada as a whole, for no province other than Quebec has anywhere near the stake in Canadian prosperity that Ontario has. Ontario has provided the leader of the Progressive Conservative party, and Quebec has furnished the Liberal party with its leader. So whichever of these two men is elected—for it is unlikely that the C.C.F. or the Social Credit party will materially affect the result—the government of the country will be controlled by a man and a party who are determined to give the best administration possible.

An interesting example of the relation of cause and effect occurred at the Progressive Conservative convention. The program which had been adopted contained not only general principles, but a reference to items of what may be called administrative policy, such as the building of a highway across Canada. When Mr. Drew rose to accept the leadership it is doubtful whether he intended to single out this particular item, because it was only one of the planks in the party platform, but it apparently suited his purpose by way of illustration. Within a very few days a clamour arose right across Canada for action in this matter. The federal minister from Alberta, Hon. Mr. MacKinnon, suggested that

a conference be called to deal with the subject. Canada, beyond question, needs a trans-Canadian highway, for its own people, quite apart from tourist traffic.

I am doubtful whether the highway will ever be properly built unless the work is carried on under the supervision of engineers appointed jointly by the dominion and the provinces, and there is a reasonable contribution by the dominion, although the road will be under the control of the provinces. Only in this way will it be possible to cover great sections of territory where little immediate local use can be anticipated. I have particularly in mind certain mountain districts of British Columbia, wide stretches of Ontario, and considerable parts of the Maritime provinces. I am pleased that the Minister of Mines and Resources has called a meeting to deal with this subject, and I am sure that, no matter which party is in power, the Canadian government will push forward the enterprise more energetically in the future than it has done hitherto.

My honourable friend the chairman of the Committee on Tourist Traffic (Hon. Mr. Buchanan) will remind me, no doubt, that this road is urgently needed for the development of our tourist traffic. The main difficulty is the enormous cost. The province of Manitoba is building a highway from the United States boundary to Winnipeg, and although the distance is only about sixty-five miles, it is costing millions of dollars and will involve a great deal of work. The chief purpose, of course, is to enable tourists from the United States to travel into our country along the kind of road to which they are accustomed. These people are tourist-minded, but they will visit us only if we provide suitable facilities to enable them to come here.

I notice that abolition of appeals to the Privy Council is foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne. Without dealing at any length with that topic, I would say this. I do not think appeals to the Privy Council should be abolished when they affect differences of opinion between the provinces and the dominion. Once in a while there is a clash of jurisdiction between a province and the dominion, and in such cases I think it would be better that the appeal be sent to the Privy Council. I shall not deal further with this matter until the legislation is before us.

I am sorry that my honourable friend from Toronto (Hon. Mr. Hayden) is not here, because I want to discuss rent control. There is 76 per cent less occupancy of houses today than there was in 1938. This is due to rent control, and nothing else. Let me give you an example of why rent control cannot succeed. My wife and I occupy a house which consists of six bedrooms, two bathrooms, and various other facilities. We cannot rent part