

POOR PRINT
Epreuve illisible

C 277197

War - Canada's Participation in

Prior Approval to be Sought in General Election

Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, Hamilton, Ontario, November 16, 1925

Hamilton Spectator, November 17, 1925

"The Conservative party believes that it is our duty to exert our whole influence in the Empire to make sure the peace of the world, and we believe that in the fold of the British Empire is the problem of Canada's security best solved and that the whole country is ready to take whatever means are necessary to make this security certain. This much and no more do we believe should be done or purpose to do.

In the last war, the government had to decide its course quickly and submit its decision to parliament for approval. In such an emergency the government can not wait. It must act at once. Parliament was called upon the first day that it could be called, and that parliament, regardless of party, unanimously gave its support to the government in its decision. This is something which in this day is wholly forgotten.

Never did we think of sending our troops save after the authority of parliament was secured, and never in future would it happen. I'd go even farther and say that I don't anticipate another call in this generation, and I earnestly hope that our children and our children's children will be spared the curse of war. I believe that in the interest of all, such a decision be left with the people and that nothing be done till it is given. There would be no delay, and the fact that a matter of this kind was voted on, would contribute to the unity of the nation in the days to follow.

This will not necessarily mean delay, for in the stress of war such delay might be fatal. If a crisis of this nature came the decision would have to be made quickly and action would have to follow at once. We would go on with preparations, but before we put our decisions into execution to the extent of dispatching troops to another country, we believe that it would be better to have the consent of the people, such consent to be obtained by means of a general election. This would be in the interests of all the country and a feeling of greater security would be created. The people of this province yearn for peace just as earnestly as those of any other province, and to these ends will the policy of any