

its union of provinces. It is scarcely overstating the facts when we say that our lands, our forests, our fisheries, our water stretches, our mineral resources of gold, of silver, of iron and of coal, are not inferior to those of the United States, yet, for reasons difficult to explain, we find them very largely undeveloped and not contributing to that degree of wealth and prosperity and population which we have the right to expect. We have built up magnificent systems of transportation not excelled in any part of the world. We have assumed great financial obligations for the carrying out of those enterprises, and yet in growth and population and in the settlement of our lands and the development of our minerals we are lamentably lacking. These are problems with which we shall have to grapple with all the earnestness and ability which have marked our people in the strides of progress made in other directions. A country like Canada, with less than eight millions of people, which has been able to surpass all expectations in enlisting 400,000 men, in floating enormous loans within our own boundaries, in assisting the Empire in the titanic struggle which is now going on, by fully realizing the necessity of concentrating its attention upon the problems of the development of Canada and the growth of its population, should be equal to adopting such a policy as to ensure the growth of this country by leaps and bounds. No progress will be made in this direction until Canada breaks away from the narrow channels in which she has been moving in dealing with great national questions, and adopts a large and comprehensive national policy looking to an increase of all its spheres of development, resourcefulness and energy which she has shown during the present war.

Reference is made in the speech from the Throne to the intention of the Government to ask Parliament for an extension of the term of Parliament which will expire in the month of October next. This is a matter upon which I need not enlarge. Its importance and significance will present themselves to the minds of honourable gentlemen with quite as much force and lucidity as I could present them to the House. The Government is not seeking as a suppliant to have the term of its office extended, but recognizes that with the important and tragic questions with which it has to deal, growing out of the war, the time would be singularly inopportune to plunge the people of Canada into all the excitement and rivalry and intense

heat and jealousy of an election contest. At a time when hundreds of thousands of Canadians are fighting in the trenches in France and Belgium for the defence of the Empire, at a time when they are giving their life-blood, at a time when they are leaving desolate, parents, wives and children of the families to which they belonged, no more unfitting time could be conceived for precipitating the people of Canada into all the undue excitement and unfriendly aggravations of an election contest. At the last session of Parliament a Bill was unanimously adopted extending the life of Parliament for one year. The conditions which then obtained and which appealed to Parliament as warranting this action, not only exist to-day, but are intensified in the many tragic features which I have pointed out of the losses which Canada has sustained in the great struggle in which she is now engaged.

Measures which will be brought before the Chamber at the present Session will be largely measures growing out of the war, and I have no doubt they will receive the same support and sympathetic consideration that have been given to the different war measures presented by the Government since August, 1914.

I trust that Parliament may not be unduly prolonged in the transaction of its business, and that the same patriotic and valued consideration will be given to all measures introduced by the Government which we have the right to expect at the hands of the Senate of Canada.

Before sitting down, may I be permitted to refer to the very flattering remarks which my hon. friend the leader of the Opposition has made with regard to myself. I am always overcome when I attempt to reply to the very kind sentiments which are so frequently expressed by my honourable friends opposite, in whom I find that I have the hearing ear and the understanding mind, and sometimes the helping hand, just as much as I find them on this side of the House; and I can assure the honourable gentlemen that I appreciate the very gracious remarks which have been made by my honourable friend the leader of the Opposition. I hope that as long as I am discharging my duties upon this side of the House I may have the confidence of my friends opposite, to the extent, at least, to which they have shown it in the past.

Hon. L. G. POWER: Honourable gentlemen, I cordially endorse the sentiments expressed by the honourable the leader of the Opposition with respect to the leader of