

of the position as I then viewed it. I knew that before Parliament reassembled in the new year, there would be much speculation as to what the government's course in relation to a general election might be. I was anxious that political controversy, certain to develop in the then approaching Ontario elections, and the federal by-elections, should not, regardless of results, be allowed, if at all possible, to divert the minds of the Canadian people from an utmost effort in the winning of the war, until final victory was achieved. Accordingly, I set forth in unequivocal words, my own view as to the course which I believed it to be the duty of the government to pursue. This view I expressed in the following words:-

"While our fears about its outcome have lessened, the war, in a more immediate way, has been brought closer than ever to us. All arms of our fighting services are now in the thick of the conflict. Our fighting men are certain to continue in action on many fronts, until the enemy has surrendered. No one can say for how long that may be. Our men face a terrible ordeal of battle. Until victory is achieved, above all else, they must command a singleness of purpose in our hearts and minds, and the utmost that our country can give in their support."