

opportunity to bear testimony to the kindness that was shown to me by the late Dalton McCarthy, and the late Hon. N. Clarke Wallace, who wrote an open letter on my behalf to the people of Canada. I wanted to pay that tribute, and I think it only right that I should do so.

Let me offer a word of advice to my friends of the so-called Liberal party on the other side. If they seriously think of obtaining office, if they have any serious notion that the people of Canada will be willing to place the administration of public affairs in their hands, I would suggest that they join heartily in assisting the powers that be to carry out all measures that make for the good of the country. The responsibility of citizenship is something, I think, the people of Canada are apt to lose sight of. It is all very well to say that we have a Government, that the Government has the responsibility and must do the work and supply the ideas. As I pointed out before, no government embraces all the wisdom, or even a great portion of the wisdom of the people. The members of the Government do what they can, but think of the colossal tasks that lie before the Administration, think of the dreadful responsibilities that rest, not on the Government but on the people. For, after all, the people must bear the responsibility. There is no use in expecting the Government to do all. Take the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Carvell) for instance. I suppose no man in Canada is besieged as he has been and is at this time—all clamouring for the expenditure of money in their several localities. The idea must be given to the people of Canada that they have the responsibility on their shoulders. It is useless to blame the Government if everything is not right; let the people get right themselves, and that will help to make the Government right. With the enormous problems of the returned soldiers and reconstruction to be dealt with, the Government will be absolutely powerless unless it has the sympathy and support of the people in so far as it is doing right. And, of course, it is quite absurd to suppose that the average Government does not want to do right. It may not be composed of the wisest or the greatest men, but these men according to their lights are usually trying to do the best they can, and in that they are entitled to the support and sympathy of the people. Carrying out the simile of the wilderness and the promised land, I would say to hon. gentlemen opposite that if they want to inspire the confidence of the country, they must get in line and assist in the measures

[Mr. Richardson.]

that make for the country's good, or if they do not, the fate that overtook the children of Israel will overtake them—yes, and even worse, for not even a Joshua or a Caleb among them will enter the promised land. They will remain in the wilderness until they all die out, and only their successors who learn the lesson of service will be able to enter the promised land and partake of the milk and honey.

This afternoon I discussed to some extent the subject of party. I did not go as fully into the idea as I had intended to and I think it is particularly important in this country, and especially at this juncture, that there shall be a very clear conception on the part of the hon. members of this House and on the part of the people at large in regard to "party." I read an address made by an hon. member of this House recently at a function in Toronto, in reference to party. He evidently had it in his mind that Union Government was not a party and he appealed to history to show that they were sure to degenerate into a faction. My hon. friend entirely misreads history in regard to that. Party came into existence in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Before that, in the Roman Empire, they had a sort of municipal government, but, inasmuch as it was impossible to take a vote for the entire Roman Empire, and a vote could only be taken in Rome or at some other place, the system fell by the wayside and degenerated into a military dictatorship led by Cæsar. That is why Cæsar was assassinated. Perhaps some of my good friends do not know that but it was because Cæsar lent himself to the idea of a military despotism that he lost his life. Henceforth Cæsarism prevailed and the world lay prostrate at the feet of a military despot. I rather think that Cæsar deserved to lose his life under these circumstances, but I am not going to go over the history of the world from the time of the dissolution of the Roman Empire down to the organization of the British nation.

Party, as I say, came into existence in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It was the strong, independent spirit of Puritanism standing out in protest against the exercise of the Royal prerogative in matters of Church and State that produced the first party. The development of party government is a very interesting study. Parties were organized for the purpose of accomplishing a reform. The Puritans organized, increased their strength and finally were able to challenge the prerogative of the King. In order to lay my founda-