

It is not fear of the outcome of such a contest, but a sense of what patriotism demands, that prompts this suggestion. With members of parliament and the sons of members serving at the front, with continuous recruiting a necessity, with contingent following contingent across the seas, with conditions what they are known to be in the world to-day, the Canadian people would be the first to discern the sinister motive actuating any party that might attempt such a course, and would not hesitate to give expression to a just resentment at the polls. The mere act of dissolution, however, to say nothing of the verdict of a general election, whatever it might be, would, at a time like the present, be susceptible of misrepresentation abroad, and might be fraught with results exceedingly grave to Canada and the Empire.

The war, as respects Canadian politics, has relegated to the background, for the time being, all questions other than those of meeting its obligations and aiding its prosecution to a successful and speedy termination. As to the justice of the cause of the Allies, and the necessity of their ultimate victory in the interests of higher civilization and the liberties of mankind, there is but one opinion in Canada,—but one opinion, it might be said, on this continent. How better could the prevailing sentiment have been expressed than in the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, at the opening of the special session of Parliament in August last, words which not alone epitomized the Liberal point of view, but, as the proceedings of that remarkable gathering disclosed, the single thought of the entire country as well!

"It is our duty," said Sir Wilfrid, "more pressing upon us than all other duties, at once, on this first day of this extraordinary session of the Canadian Parliament, to let Great Britain know, and to let the friends and foes of Great Britain know, that there is in Canada but one mind and one heart, and that all Canadians stand behind the Mother Country, conscious and proud that she has engaged in this war, not from any selfish motive, for any purpose of aggrandizement, but to maintain untarnished the honour of her name, to fulfill her obligations to her Allies, to maintain her treaty obligations, and to save civilization from the unbridled lust of conquest and power."

How more splendidly could the Opposition have displayed its loyalty and sincerity than in the policy it adopted and followed throughout, and which found such noble expression in these further words of the Liberal Leader!

"Speaking for those who sit around me, speaking for the wide constituency which we represent in this House, I hasten to say that to all these measures we are prepared to give immediate assent. If, in what has been done, or in what remains to be done, there may be anything which in our judgment should not be done, or should be differently done,

we raise no question, we take no exception, we offer no criticism, and we shall offer no criticism so long as there is danger at the front."

This being the attitude which, under Sir Wilfrid's leadership, Liberals expect their representatives in Parliament to maintain, it is well, perhaps, that men of all parties, and men of no party in Canada should know that Section 50 of the British North America Act provides:

"Every House of Commons shall continue for five years from the day of the return of the writs for choosing the House (subject to be sooner dissolved by the Governor-General), and no longer."

This being the language of the constitution, there is imposed on the ministry by it, no necessity for a dissolution earlier than September, 1916. Surely we may hope that before that time the war in Europe will have run its course, and our minds be so at rest that a consideration worthy of their importance may be given domestic policies and problems. Meanwhile, all the country will expect of the Administration is efficiency, economy and honesty in the exercise of the latitude thus accorded, that Canada's name may gain added respect abroad, and the vast opportunities and responsibilities of public service be rendered more attractive to men of character at home.

THE CARE OF BELGIAN REFUGEES.

A second necessity arising out of the war on which Canadian statesmen might seek to evolve a common policy, concerns the present and future well-being of destitute Belgian refugees. Whilst here there is an obligation which Canada holds in common with all nations that cherish freedom, it comes with peculiar directness to us when consideration is taken of the immensely increased obligation placed upon the families of the British Isles, through the flight of countless numbers to their shores, and the comparative immunity from danger and discomfort enjoyed by the people of this Dominion through the security which British protection affords. It is not sufficient to send men to fight, that involves a sacrifice which falls almost exclusively on those who go, and on those who spare them from their homes; it is not sufficient to send money and clothes, that occasions sacrifices mostly of an impersonal kind, and, in many instances, sacrifices that are but little felt. As a people we must be prepared to do our share in caring for human life itself, sacrificing the personal pleasures and feelings, and incurring the discomforts and heartaches incident to witnessing loneliness and dependence, wherever seen, or providing for allman suffering, wherever found. Belgium will doubtless wish to repatriate her surviving sons, and the nations of the world that comprehend the meaning of justice, will yet unite in seeing that he who may escape the carnage and devastation of war, are given