

Prussianism and militarism is overcome, there will be many things to settle and one of the most vital and momentous will, undoubtedly, be the future status of our Dominion. It is with that problem that I shall endeavor to deal to-day. To the objection that the present is no time to discuss such questions, the answer may be made in the words of one of the most distinguished writers of British Imperialism, the author, in fact, of the Imperialistic plan for the future governance of the Empire, who well says "for those who survive this conflict and must face the problems that it will bring to a head no time is too early to ask ourselves what self government means; not otherwise can these problems find their solution." What we shall consider to-day are simply possible contingencies, that may arise after the war is over, and when the Empire, with the cause for which is so justly fighting triumphant, shall emerge from the conflict with its power undiminished, its prestige unimpaired and its honor unsullied.

The opinions which I shall express are, of course, only my personal views based on a rather close study of history and made on my sole responsibility and though you may not agree with all of them I am sure that being, as you are all, liberals and therefore believers in freedom of speech and liberty of thought, you are ready to give them a hearing.

We are living in troublous times and you are all aware that one must be rather careful what he says or prints especially since the recent Order-in-Council adopted by the Unionist Government at Ottawa. Being a law abiding citizen I shall of course respect the law, whatever my personal opinions may be, and therefore all discussion of the causes or the conduct of the war will be avoided by me until the war is over and Kaiserism and autocracy crushed. *Lex dura, sed lex.*

But as far as the war itself is concerned I would like to say just this: — Canada has been in the war since the very beginning and it will be in the war till the last gun is fired. The Dominion is at one, with all the free democratic nations of the earth, with Great Britain with France, with