

"This is an unusual advantage to give one political party, and is only justifiable because of war conditions. In recognition of war conditions the time of the present Imperial parliament has been extended, but it is safe to say this would not have been done had the Asquith Government not invited the co-operation of the Unionists, and formed a coalition government. No such course has been followed by the Borden Government, which has cold-shouldered the Liberals at every turn. Manifestly, if there is to be a further extension of time it must be on a different basis, and this is voiced by The St. Catharines Standard in the following terms:

"Let our leaders—Sir Robert and Sir Wilfrid—get together, not to make a truce, but to sit together in the same cabinet, if such be the best solution. Premier Asquith and Lloyd George and Reginald McKenna sit at the same council-table in the British Cabinet with Bonar Law and Arthur Balfour and Lord Lansdowne, and why not the statement of both parties at Ottawa? Is there any good and sufficient reason why they should not, when the interests at stake are so tremendous? It is time for plain speaking by those who love our country more than the spoils of Egypt or the panoply of power. Let us stand by and for our boys at the front, who take their lives in their hands, and are willing to make the supreme sacrifice which man can make, and when we show that we have set aside all our political difficulties and animosities until the war shall have been brought to a glorious close, then will we see a rallying to the colors, and a heartening of all our people who love the triumph of Righteousness, Justice and Freedom.

The Expositor adds the following comment: "It is all right, and probably in the public interest, that there should be a truce until after the war, but it can no longer be a one-sided truce, and the government should be made to clearly understand this fact."

The Conservative Government should not seek to impose a one-sided truce, which is about as bad as none at all. One of the lessons of the war is that we should trust each other more, and build up a united nation on broad, fair, just and equitable foundations, eliminating as far as may be possible a narrow spirit, unjust and unworldly words and actions. The Kingston Standard (Conservative), expressing its belief that Sir Wilfrid's refusal to follow "the example of the British Government" as to an extension of the parliamentary term, is "unthinkable," says: "This is not a time for politics. The Empire is at war and sore pressed. We need unity—not discord, political or otherwise." If we follow the example of the British Government, it will be a coalition government which will ask for an extension of the parliamentary term, and it will have the warmest support of the people who have no heart or patience for politics or self-seeking. It is gratifying to see the expressions of a desire for unity from the papers quoted, and such a feeling cannot but spread and leaven our whole political fabric in these days of stress and strain and sacrifice.

A TIME FOR MODERATE COUNSELS.

(Friday, Nov. 10.)

There can be no doubt that privately a great deal of consideration is being given to the question of a coalition government in Canada for the period of the war. Today the expression in some quarters is that it is too late. Such a movement, it is said, should have been made at the beginning of the war, or at least a year ago. It must be recognized, however, that no person in Canada dreamed for a moment that the war could go well on in the third year, as it has, and with prospects of continuing for a year or more at least.

The British Government continued for a considerable period after the war began to be a party government, but the day came when the