

the Empire are passing, to emphasize the necessity of all parties in the state being united in assuming and bearing the national obligations which the state has been called upon to meet. The extraordinary burdens now being carried by the Allies, including our own country, have been forced upon us. We have willingly accepted them. This was inevitable; it was the price of national existence; and the problem we now face is how to assume and discharge to the greatest advantage the obligations we are assuming. Party interests and racial differences all sink into utter insignificance in face of the duties the nation is now called upon to discharge. We are not only called upon to raise and forward reinforcements to take the place of those who have fallen in the war, and thus loyally discharge our fighting duties in the line of battle, but are compelled to face equally important, if not equally onerous duties within our own boundaries. If the war is to be successfully carried on and if in the near future the nation is to rise equal to the burdens which it has assumed, Canada has to meet its financial obligations and has to work out successfully the problem of reconstruction after the war and the restoration of normal conditions in our country and in all its national interests. It will involve all the efforts and the genius of our people, irrespective of party, race, or religion. Those of our people whose services cannot be used on the fighting line have an equally patriotic duty to perform within Canada in concentrating their most loyal and patriotic energies in assisting the Government to grapple with the innumerable problems that are to-day facing the whole of the Canadian people. It is not a time for one section of Canada to upbraid the other on account of the differences which, from time to time, arise in the carrying on of the war, the result of whatever policy may be adopted by the Government. The Government of the day represents the people of Canada, both those who supported and those who opposed it. It represents the interests of the state. The action or policy of the allied governments in prosecuting the war is to all of us an anxious one, not only to our own people but practically to every nation in civilization. This is a policy not lightly decided, but is the result of anxious thought and deliberation; and, while criticism and even censure may be legitimate, yet in the final analysis there is one duty with which every citizen is charged, and that is in this most critical of times to give loyal and patriotic support

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to the laws and governance of the state, no matter how much he may differ from them. I take it for granted that all parties in Canada, no matter how much they may differ from the policy of the Government of the day, must clearly recognize that if Canada is to come successfully through the present crisis, it can only be accomplished through the unity and support of the entire people. The fundamental basis of all democratic institutions is government by the majority, and at such a time, no matter how great the differences may be on the part of the minority as against the Government of the day, and where practically it is apparent that the assertion of the views of the minority tends only to largely paralyze without defeating the policy of the government of the state by the majority, the interests of the state must therefore correspondingly suffer from any disunion, no matter from what source it may come.

When the Allies entered this war in 1914, we all felt confident, even including the Central Powers themselves, that the war would not have extended up to the present period. This would not have been the case had Russia maintained her role as one of our allies in the carrying on of the war. We could not have anticipated the utter demoralization of that great power. Instead of her being one of the most powerful of our allies, she has become not only a menace, but has actually played into the hands of Germany to such an extent as not only to prolong the war, but to very largely destroy the fruits of the successful struggle which the allies had successfully gathered up to the point of Russia's detachment from her allies. We are, therefore, to-day facing a situation which while formidable must not be permitted to be discouraging. We find Germany in possession of Northern France, Belgium, the Balkan states, part of Italy and many of the all important areas of Russia. She has detached from us our Balkan allies as well as Russia, thus forcing upon us the adoption of a practically new programme not only to carry on the present fight but to continue the fight for an indefinite period in the future. To dislodge Germany from the territorial fields of which she has taken possession, in which she has entrenched herself most strongly, and from which she is drawing supplies for continuing the war, constitutes a problem that might discourage the boldest were it not for the inspired hope which we all possess that the Allies, in the cause for which they are fighting will yet prove invincible. If under these conditions Germany