

M. E. Nichols, Esq., - - - - - #4.

Most inhuman of all, the dependents of men who have left Canada to risk their lives in the service of the country have been left in many cases in a destitute condition without having received either the pay their men had assigned to them or separation allowance. One of these women was pregnant and starving. Mothers who were dependent upon their sons have been told that their claims for separation allowance are refused or under investigation. Why should a mother who was dependent upon a son be placed in a different category from a wife? Why should it take four months to investigate these claims?

In view of these facts, to which much could be added, I find difficulty in understanding your suggestion that the life of the present Government and Parliament should be extended. If you fear that the opposition is so disorganized that the present Government will be returned to office you may rest assured that the Government itself will be all too conscious of the advantages which will redound to them through that weakness, and no objections by your paper will alter their decision. My suggestion is that it would be preferable to call a conference of the press of Canada that is truly desirous of seeing Canada mobilize her resources in a real effort, and explore the avenues which may lead to a union of those who are now convinced of the utter inadequacy of our present effort. Through this medium we might secure candidates for Parliament pledged to prosecute the war with proper vigor. Among these leaders will be found and there will be hope for Canada where today there is none.

I would like very much to discuss this problem with you at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

R.