

"An Opposition in war time must not be factious, but it must be watchful, critical"

"The Opposition is bound to reserve to itself the right to question the Government, to watch closely and perpetually its political conduct of the War, to express any misgiving or disagreement it may feel frankly and distinctly."

"To this I may add the comment of a paper published in this city, a paper which is not unfriendly to the Government; I refer to the Evening Journal. In its issue of a recent date we read:

War and Party Politics

"Australia and New Zealand have had general elections since the War broke out, and some of our Canadian papers are pointing to these as illustrating the fact that domestic politics do not need to be suppressed in war time. Would it not be better to look to the view of both parties in the Mother Country? When the Imperial Parliament met in November, 'This,' said Premier Asquith, 'is not a proper time for dealing with any matter of domestic politics,' and the view he thus expressed was taken willingly by both sides. Practically the whole attention of the House was devoted to the War and matters arising out of the War.

"A fine example of the surrender of party to patriotism was given by Mr. Austen Chamberlain when, with the approval of the leader of the Opposition, he accepted Mr. Lloyd George's invitation to co-operate with him in making the Budget proposals as workmanlike as possible. These proposals were not such as he himself would have submitted, but once they were laid before the House he consented, without prejudice to his own views, to resume the Treasury consultations which proved so useful at the outbreak of the War. By this proceeding the path of the Finance Bill was set free from difficulties which might have hindered its progress.

"Mr. Bonar Law held as an exception that every member and every newspaper had a right to attack any member of the government who might be doing his work inefficiently. And nobody questioned that."

"I commend these words to the attention of the House.

British Government Consulted Opposition

"You will see that in Great Britain the Opposition were consulted by the Government as to their financial proposals. This is a matter of record and of history. I might go further than this newspaper goes and say that at all stages of the War, from the first to the present day, the Opposition have been kept in constant consultation by the powers that be; they were consulted as to military operations, and at every step were asked to give their advice.

In Canada the Government did not consult the Opposition

"It was not so in this country. We were not consulted. If we had been honoured in the same way—not that I claim anything in that respect, but representing here a great party comprising almost half of the population, having views of their own on many of the financial problems which now confront us, claiming to be as patriotic as the other side, and claiming to have done their duty as amply as was in their power—I say that, if