

representatives, I gave to members of Parliament, an assurance that a general election would not be held before Parliament had again been summoned. I undertook that the members would be called together not later than the month of January. I made clear, however, that it might be necessary to have Parliament summoned at an earlier date. I had in mind, when I spoke, as it is always necessary for one charged with the responsibilities of government to have in mind, that it is impossible, when events move swiftly, to foresee what may happen in an interval of time. I knew that the measures necessary to maintain national unity, and to promote Canada's war effort, could only be determined in the light of subsequent events. It was obviously essential that I should not so bind the administration's freedom of action in a time of war, as to prevent the government from taking, at the moment when the necessity arose, whatever action might become imperative. The undertaking I then gave was limited to having no election before Parliament was again summoned; and to have Parliament called in January, if it did not become imperative to have it summoned earlier. What I said specifically was: "At that time, we will be in a position to consider what steps may be most necessary with regard to developments that may ensue meanwhile". What did take place in the interval bears out, I think, the wisdom of this precaution.

I may say that in naming January as the month within which Parliament would be called, and before which time no general election would, in the ordinary course of events, be brought on, I had in mind the obligation which clearly rested on my colleagues and myself of organizing Canada's war effort in the most effective manner, and with the least possible delay. I had in mind the presentation to Parliament, when it met, of the record of what had been accomplished. I would have preferred, and would have mentioned an earlier date

than January, had I believed that Canada's war effort could have been properly organized and sufficiently advanced in a shorter period of time.

Organization of Canada's War Effort.

Since the special session of Parliament, my colleagues and I, as you all know, have devoted ourselves patiently, energetically, and unitedly to transforming the wishes of Parliament and the people into action. You know something of what within five months' time has been accomplished. The government's record will be fully presented to you in the course of the present campaign, and criticisms of that record met without fear.

It is true that from time to time, already, there have been criticisms. It would be a miracle if the transformation of a peaceful country into a nation at war were not marked by some shortcomings, by some unpreparedness, by some shortage of supplies. But those are minor matters and shrink into insignificance when placed in their appropriate perspective beside the true magnitude of our war effort.

Criticism, where it has been constructive, has been met by appropriate measures. But other criticisms have developed in recent days, not constructive, but destructive; not designed to further Canada's war effort, but to advance personal ambitions; to spread disunion, and to undermine confidence in an administration whose conduct of the war up to the beginning of the present year received general commendation.

Resolution of Ontario Legislature Beginning of a Political Campaign.

The nature of the political campaign it was intended to wage became very clear once the Ontario Legislature was