

J. A. G.  
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VII.

NO ELECTION IN WARTIME

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I should like to say a word about my own views on the holding of a general election in wartime. Each successive reassembling of Parliament has aroused speculation about the course of action which the Government would follow. During the LIFE OF THIS PRESENT Parliament there have been general elections in all nine of the provinces. To fill vacancies in the representation of this House, 15 by-elections have already been held. I have throughout been anxious that the political controversy certain to be generated by such electoral contest should not be allowed to divert the minds of the Canadian people from an utmost effort in the winning of the war until final victory is achieved.

I still hold strongly to the view I expressed as long ago as July 24, 1943. At that moment all arms of our fighting services were in the thick of the conflict; and while our fears about the outcome of the war had lessened, in a more immediate way than at any earlier stage of the fighting, the war had been brought closer than ever to the people of Canada. I said:

"Our fighting men are certain to continue in action on many fronts, until the enemy has surrendered. No one can say for how long that may be. Our men face a terrible ordeal of battle. Until victory is achieved, above all else, they must command a singleness of purpose in our hearts and minds, and the utmost that our country can give in their support."