

I always do with very great interest, on account of the courteous manner in which he not only criticises his opponents, but addresses this House, I was particularly interested in attempting to follow, afled from the Address itself, his depiction of the sins of omission and of commission of this party to which we on this side of the House have the good fortune to belong. I do not think my honourable friend omitted any of those alleged sins with which we have been charged.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: You recognized them all.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The most censorious critic could probably not have covered the field more effectively than my honourable friend, and the refrain of the Prayer Book occurred to my mind as we listened to those sins of omission and of commission: "Lord be merciful to us miserable sinners!" However, as my honourable friend proceeded, it struck me that his remarks were really a tribute to the administration of the Government which he, in a very courteous way, has attacked.

My honourable friend, in the first place, found considerable fault with the Government for not dissolving ere this. Probably he overlooked the somewhat unimportant fact that when this Government was elected in December of 1917 it was for a term of five years, which term will not expire until December 1923. I venture to say to my honourable friend—and I say it with all confidence—that if a vote were taken to-day amongst his own party in the House of Commons, the members of the Liberal party in that Chamber would not vote for a dissolution of Parliament at the present time. I have not yet seen any evidence whatever of any attempt made to place before the country any declaration on the part of members of the House of Commons of a sincere desire for dissolution at the present time. The only two gentlemen whose voices I have heard raised in behalf of a dissolution are Mr. Flynn, of Toronto, who leads a section of the veterans in Ontario, and the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons. Outside of those two gentlemen I have not heard the matter seriously discussed, nor have I heard of any serious demand made from other sources upon the Government or the electorate of Canada that this Government should dissolve Parliament. I am sure that my honourable friend opposite is fully convinced, as is the country, that no better Administration could possibly succeed

a general election than that which is to-day charged with the administration of the affairs of this country. The Borden Administration and the Meighen Administration which followed may be said to have been a continuous Government; and since 1911 that Government has administered the affairs of Canada under circumstances that were never before paralleled in the history of this or any other country. That administration, when it came into office in 1911, inherited all the sins of my honourable friends opposite—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: And their virtues.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And their surplus.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED:—sins too numerous to mention, and, I was going to say, too deadly to permit of my giving any adequate description of them. But when war broke out in Europe in 1914 this Government was charged with the most onerous duties that any Government could possibly assume. We have come through that period of the war down to the present time. We have expended no less than two billions of dollars in the prosecution of the devastating war, which almost destroyed civilization; which destroyed it in central Europe and wiped out that great northern empire, Russia. But honourable gentlemen who sit upon the opposite side of the House and who represent the Liberal party of Canada have not yet successfully challenged this Government as to the wrongful expenditure of one dollar. I say, honourable gentlemen, that is a record of which any government might be proud. During that length of time, and with that enormous expenditure, which far surpasses our conception, never have our opponents succeeded in establishing one act of corruption which could be charged against this Government. Will not my honourable friends readily accede to the statement that the people of Canada are fully aware of this fact and that they are not clamoring for a change of Government? They are not demanding a dissolution in the face of the administration with which they have been so benefited. But I may say to my honourable friend that in due time this Government will appeal to the country. It will not consult the leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, but in due time, I may say, in order that my honourable friend may be fully aware of what we intend to do, we do purpose to dissolve and again appeal to the country,