

Parliament and of its committees, would be afforded reasonable hours in which to perform their work.

Such a change as the one I have suggested would correspond, in a general way, with the rule that prevails in the United States Congress. If it were adopted, the mornings from 9.30 to 12 o'clock could, when necessary, be devoted to the meetings of committees, and the members of the House, when not so engaged, would have ample time to attend to their correspondence and to perform other duties. In any event, their evenings, as a rule, would be free, and that would give them opportunity to dispose of any arrears of work. The proposed change would practically do away with night sittings, and would in the long run provide Parliament with more working hours, by reason of the increased length of the afternoon sittings, than does the present system. Speaking solely for myself, I make the suggestion now, so that, if there is an earnest desire to expedite public business this session, the necessary change can be made, and Parliament, like any other business institution, will transact its business within what are generally recognized as business hours. There is no question in my mind but that the long and unnecessary night sessions do not conduce either to proper consideration of public business or to economy in public expenditure.

At the opening of the first session of a new Parliament it is to be expected that frequent echoes would be heard of the election from which that Parliament has but recently emerged. Even in war time that is bound to be the case. Thus far in this debate we have heard several echoes of the late general election, but it is significant that, neither in the speech from the Throne nor in the speeches from the Government side of the House, has there been any echo heard of the race and religious issues that were deliberately raised by certain members of this Government and by their supporters, on the platform, in the pulpit, and in the press, for the express purpose of setting race against race and creed against creed, in order that, in the resulting turmoil and fratricidal strife, they might snatch a lease of power, and so gratify ambitions that set a higher value on attaining public office, no matter how secured, than upon the promotion of national unity in the face of a foe whom these same gentlemen pretend we are fighting in order to assert the rights of small nationalities and to enforce the principle of national self-determination. These

[Mr. Murphy.]

omissions, Sir, it shall be my endeavour to supply before I resume my seat.

Last year during the debate on conscription I appealed to the right hon. gentleman who was then, as he is now, the leader of the Government, not to proceed upon the line he then purposed following, but to adopt some one of the alternative proposals that emanated from this side of the House, in order to keep Canada united both at home and abroad. The appeal that I made was unheeded. Similar appeals from other hon. gentlemen on this side of the House met with a like reception, and while time has already vindicated those who made the appeals to which I refer, time has not, and time will not for many a day to come, eradicate the evil results of the late election. Canadian Prussianism, as practised throughout the campaign, has done quite as much harm to our national life as German Prussianism could do, if it were set up in our midst and imposed upon our people by force of arms.

For, Mr. Speaker, mark what has happened and what is in store for us. The seeds of distrust and hatred were sown wide and deep; the crop will not be of this year's harvesting nor of next; nor, in my belief, will it be gathered within the present generation; for, Sir, I venture to say that long after all those who engaged in sowing these seeds shall have passed away the fruits of their evil labours will continue to spring up to the confusion, embroilment, and division of Canadians who will have to deal with the survivors and the descendants of the three millions of people who either were disfranchised or whose religion was attacked and insulted for the miserable purpose of gaining a victory at the polls.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: Now, Sir, so that there may be no doubt as to my position, let me say at once that I have no quarrel with those who in the late election supported the Government in the honest belief that conscription was the only way to secure reinforcements for the troops at the front; in the honest belief that conscription would be promptly, uniformly, and honestly enforced if the Government were returned to power, and that 100,000 men to relieve the men in the trenches would be sent to the front as soon as the Government was installed in office. To induce such beliefs the most lavish promises were made on behalf of the Unionist candidates, and as I have said, with those who believed in such promises and who supported the Govern-