

I do not think anyone can say that, from the beginning of the war, I have failed to keep before the people of Canada the appalling seriousness of the world situation and the magnitude of the conflict itself. I can truthfully say that I have done all that lies within my power to avoid and to discourage unnecessary political controversy at this time of war, and to keep Canada united. No one can accuse the government of not having concentrated its energies upon the winning of the war, and upon making Canada's war effort just as effective as it could be made. But while the government has been giving its time and attention, all but exclusively, to the promotion of Canada's war effort, and to the solution of the problems which arise from day to day out of the war, the political parties by which it is opposed have been pursuing a different course. Instead of assisting the government in making clear to the people the terrible nature of the world conflict and the urgency of the demands of war, they have been developing and perfecting their political organizations, disseminating their party propaganda and exploiting the discontents which inevitably arise from the controls it is necessary to impose at a time of war, and the irritation which comes from restrictions of any kind. For the government of a country at war, this is an intolerable situation which cannot be allowed to continue.