

Canada, the War and the Political Parties

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:—

Allow me to acknowledge with deep feelings of appreciation the compliment implied in the warmth of your reception this evening. I am indeed no stranger to a warm reception at the hands of those assembled. For twenty-five long years and more it has ever been my pleasure to meet your ringing cheers whenever and wherever I have had the opportunity to present myself.

May I congratulate you on being so fortunate as to have been able to secure the continuation of the services of our good friend, the president, for the coming year. I am glad to know that you give such evidence of your sound judgment in recognizing that which we who have lived in the city for a number of years have long since recognized in our worthy president—those sterling qualities which so eminently fit him for the position which he occupies.

It is true, for reasons within the common knowledge of all, that we have not had many opportunities for political meetings since the outbreak of the war. During that period the government has been called upon to meet an emergency the like of which no government has ever been called upon to meet in Canada before. We had no precedent to guide us, for never in all our history had we such conditions forced upon us. The government, however, took hold of the situa-