

George in that respect. Did he do more than we did ourselves? Yes, he did more, because the opposition of the Unionist party in Great Britain, and I must say of the Nationalists also, and some of the Radical members, prevented Mr. Lloyd George from carrying on his policy as he had conceived it.

### Blaming the Senate

"But we did not prevent the Canadian Government from carrying on their fiscal policy. It is to-day on the statute book. The Senate of Canada has been pretty much blamed, but there is no reason at all for the Senate of Canada being blamed, because the Senate, well understanding its duties and remembering that in fiscal matters the voice of the Commons ought to be the dominating voice, would not oppose that measure and it was, therefore, carried.

### Not the Time for an Election

"I do not disguise that in time of peace I am a party man. I have been entrusted with the confidence of a great portion of the Liberal party for a long time past. We have our differences with the Government of the day. I am anxious for the return of the party to which I belong because I believe we have the true policy for this country and not the men who are now in office. **I speak honestly that which I believe in the interests of the country when I say there should be, there ought to be, a change of Government or a different policy pursued, but I do not care, for my part, so long as the War lasts, to open the portals of office with that bloody key.**

### Liberals Forced to Prepare

"But we have been told, and it has been made a grievance against us, that we were making preparations in view of a possible election. I have nothing to conceal in that respect. We have made preparations of late. After the War was declared in the month of August, we gave loyal support to those in whom the Canadian people placed confidence in 1911. Nay, we did everything we could to prevent party differences, but when we saw that preparations were being made for an immediate dissolution, when we knew the men who were pressing and pressing the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues for an immediate dissolution, we would not have been true to the duties which we owe to ourselves, to the Canadian people, if we had not made some preparations, so as not to be caught absolutely napping should the moment of dissolution come.

**"But I have this to say to the Prime Minister and his colleagues: I do not care for an election. Let the Prime Minister and his colleagues say that there shall be no election as long as the War shall go on, and I will pledge myself and the party that we shall stop all preparations and think of nothing but the War.**

### Not Too Late to Act

"It seems to me that it would have been fairer, it would have been more in accordance with the fitness of things, it would have been more in accordance with what the Government owed the country, if they had stated frankly, 'yes' or 'no,' we shall or shall not dissolve. It is not too late,

it can yet be done, and the country may be spared at once the incubus under which it has been laid for the last few weeks or months. We cannot compel the Government to do it, though, and, though we cannot compel the Government to do what in our judgment ought to be their duty, we know what our duty is. We are in this uncertainty to-day—we do not know whether the Government is going to dissolve or not, but in so far as I have authority over the destinies of the Liberal party, I have only this to say: we shall not do one thing to prevent the Government from going on with the War policy.

### The Duty of Liberalism

"What is the duty of the Liberal party under such circumstances? The duty of the Liberal party, so far as we conceive it, so far as we will exercise it, is to see that the War is prosecuted to an end and to a final victory. Of course, if the Government dissolves this month or the next, or before the summer, or at any time during the War, it shall be our duty to accept the challenge and to present our policy."

### The Naval Policy

In his concluding remarks, the Liberal leader referred to an article in the Toronto News which sounded to him very like a premonition of an election. It was under the heading, "Rejected," and stated, "on authority which it believes to be incontrovertible, if the Laurier Government had succeeded in the general election of 1911 all the tenders for the Canadian war vessels would have been rejected."

"Why should this be brought in?" commented Sir Wilfrid, "if not to create the impression that the Laurier Government were not sincere in what they did? I know what the Canadian Government to-day has not done. They have not accepted the tenders, nor given the contracts, but as to what the Laurier Government intended to do, I have only this to say: I, in 1909, brought in a resolution for the creation of a Canadian navy. This resolution was accepted by the Opposition of the day. the men now in office.

"In so doing I took my political life in my hands. I encountered the hostility of a certain section of my own fellow-countrymen in Quebec, called Nationalists, and also the enmity of a certain section of this province, called Imperialists. I knew what was impending before me, and I thought the day had come when it was the duty of Canada, with a population of eight million people, fronting on two oceans, to provide for our own defence.

"If our policy had been prosecuted we would not have had to take the support of the Australian fleet or the Japanese cruisers to defend the shores of British Columbia. I defy the Toronto News to bring its proof, if proof it has. **But it has no proof, because there is no such thing, and the reason is, I am not built that way. With such weapons as that I will not fight. With such weapons I do not want to win. When the time comes we will make a fair fight, whether we win or lose. No Liberal will have to blush for the active support which you will have given us."**