

This is true in politics at all times, even in peace times. It is doubly true at a time of war when tempers are frayed, minds are impatient, passions easily aroused, and hatreds intensified. And yet, there is no time in which this ability to look ahead, to see beyond the immediate present, to judge conditions not only as they are, but as they are likely to be, is so greatly needed as in time of war.

I cannot over-emphasize that truth. And if it is your duty to look ahead at election time, it has been my duty at all times.

Far reaching decisions.

During recent years, when world conditions were steadily deteriorating, when the world's peace was threatened, when the hopes of saving it were imperilled, it was my duty each and every day, calmly to consider the future. When national unity was endangered, when the Leader of the Opposition was demanding a general election in July and August of last year, when war came in September, when I had to consider the summoning of Parliament in war session, and recommending to Parliament Canada's participation at the side of Britain and France, I had again carefully to look beyond the present to the future.

I had particularly considered the future, as well as the circumstances then existing, when I recommended the dissolution of Parliament and an immediate election. I, of course, have been only too well aware that my motives as well as my actions would be misconstrued by opponents in a political campaign. I have had however in these matters but one question to ask myself: What, in the interests of Canada, in the interests of Canada's war effort, in the cause of the

allies, was the right thing to do. Having decided upon what I believed to be right, I have not hesitated in acting upon that decision.

Dissolution of Parliament more than justified.

I think that even my opponents are beginning to see that I was right in not permitting a political campaign to be started in Parliament, and followed later by another in the country. You will probably agree also that I was right in making it possible for all the men in our defence forces to cast their votes under the most favourable conditions, and in making it possible to have the elections concluded before war itself bursts forth in all its fury. Are you not heartily glad that the past eight weeks are over? Can you bear to think of what it would mean to us all, if this year's political campaign were still some weeks or months away, or were just about to begin, instead of happily being, as it is, almost at its close?

The importance of wise counsel in political affairs.

In deciding upon the right course, I have had to guide me such political experience and wisdom as I have gained in a life-time spent in the country's service. I have also fortunately had what is most valuable of all, the counsel and advice of able, trusted and experienced colleagues, with whom, over many years, I have fully shared every confidence in matters of common national concern.

"Where no counsel is, the people fall;

"But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."

That ancient proverb I have kept constantly in mind through-