

will be no mistake in the minds either of the people, or of Dr. Manion concerning our position; and no recriminations later on because anyone was left in doubt.

Responsibility for Government One Thing— Monopoly of Government Another.

Under our parliamentary system, the party with a majority in the House of Commons is charged with responsibility for government. From that it cannot escape, even if it would. But responsibility for government does not mean a monopoly of government. Responsibility for policy does not, for a moment, imply the desire or the power to restrict administration, and the business of carrying out the work of government to members of the majority party. I myself, as I think you know, have always looked upon public office as a high trust and a great duty. I have never sanctioned the dismissal of any public servant merely because of his political affiliations. Nor have I made party affiliation the criterion of appointments to the public service. I have been careful to recognize, at all times, the difference between the direction of policy, and the administrative work of government.

No Patronage in Canada's War Effort.

With respect to its war effort, the present government has had no desire to exercise, and has not exercised, so-called patronage. When we have named military leaders, we have looked for soldiers and sailors, and not politicians or partisans. We have asked how they can serve Canada, now and in the future, not what political party they have served in the past. With respect to all military appointments, commissions and promotions, you have been told by the highest military authority that political or private patronage does not exist, that it has been stamped out by the Minister of National

Defence, and that merit is the sole criterion for selection and promotion.

What is true of the fighting forces is true also of the other branches of our war activity. We have selected the ablest men available. Politics and partisanship have brought no preferment. As you all know, many of the most important positions are held by well-known Conservatives. Some by members of other parties and some by men who profess allegiance to no particular party. We shall continue to bring to the service of Canada the best men we can get. It doesn't require a union government to join together intelligence and patriotism.

Services of Non-partisan Character to be Utilized in Advisory Capacity.

With the war and its problems growing in intensity and magnitude, I shall seek, if we are returned to power, to bring to the aid of the Ministry, in an advisory capacity, a still larger number of men of outstanding ability and experience whose services in one way or another might be made available to the State, and add strength to the administration of our policies. How best their services might be consolidated and used, whether in immediate association with the war cabinet, or with a member of the Cabinet, intimately associated with its war activities, is something that I would like to consider with my colleagues before the next Parliament reassembles. All important administrative developments must be worked out by a ministry in the light of its responsibility for government as it is actually carried on. In this election, I do not intend, any more than I have done in previous elections, to make promise after promise for the sake of gaining political support. I prefer not to count my chickens until they are hatched, and I do not expect them to be hatched by promises.