

Government should have been more diligent in giving information and in putting the whole facts before the House. My hon. friend would have done justice had he stated in the speech from the Throne: My Government has commandeered a certain quantity of wheat; we need it for such and such reasons, and the whole correspondence will be placed upon the table of the House. That has not been done,

but it must be done. I repeat:

5 p.m. at the present time I make no charge against any one, because

I have not the facts before me, but I must insist upon having all the particulars brought to the attention and knowledge of the House. If the transaction is, as I hope it may prove to be, perfectly honest and above board, it will be my duty to say so; but if it is not, then it shall be my duty to say the reverse.

At the opening of this session of the Parliament of Canada, we on this side of the House, His Majesty's loyal Opposition, feel that we should declare that we are perhaps more than ever before imbued with the responsibility which appertains to an opposition, and especially in time of war. It will be our duty to criticise: to criticise fairly under all circumstances, and to criticise forcibly perhaps, but always to criticise wherever there is cause for criticism. It will also be our duty, and a far more pleasant duty it is, to support whatever there is just cause to support. We come to this House with this one aim only: to contribute as far as may be in our power to the final and complete victory of the Allies over Germany. Our supreme aspiration is that Belgium shall again be free and as prosperous as she was, if that be possible, in view of the awful destruction she has suffered. It is our aim also, that France shall recover her lost territory and her natural boundaries restored to her, and that old England shall retain, unimpaired and undiminished and as glorious as ever, her prestige and her power in the world. It is our aim that both England and France shall resume, as early as possible, their onward march towards the future enfranchisement of the human race from the shackles of passion and prejudice; that a renovated German democracy may be triumphant, and that the German people, sobered from their dreams of conquest and domination may return to the instincts of peace and benevolence which at one time characterized their race.

[Sir Wilfrid Laurier.]

Rt. Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, let me in the first place congratulate you, Sir, upon your election to the Speakership of this House; and, in expressing those congratulations, may I be permitted also to express my confidence that you will discharge the duties of that high office in a manner worthy of its highest traditions. I join with my right hon. friend in congratulating the mover and the seconder upon the very eloquent, patriotic and earnest speeches to which we have listened this afternoon—speeches which express, indeed, the united spirit of the Canadian people with regard to the situation which Canada, as one of the great nations in this Empire, is presently called upon to face.

Since we last met some of our colleagues who sat with us in this House have passed away. One of these was the Hon. Samuel Barker, who represented Hamilton East. Mr. Barker had been a member of this House for about fifteen years. He was a man with whom I had very intimate association and upon whose counsel and aid I have many a time depended. He did not speak often in this House, but when he did address us it was as one well acquainted with the subject he undertook to discuss. Those who knew him only within the last four or five years did not fully realize the great energy and ability he brought to the discharge of his public duties in the earlier years of his parliamentary career.

Another member who has passed away is Mr. Lancaster. He entered the House, I believe, in the same year as Mr. Barker. Mr. Lancaster was a man of very earnest purpose and very strong convictions, which he expressed with great frankness and force. All of us have greatly regretted that during the past few years his health was clearly failing. We shall all pay tribute to his memory as one having an earnest and even intense desire to perform his duty as a public man and to serve the interests of the people in every possible way.

We mourn also the death of Mr. Reid, who represented Restigouche. My personal acquaintance with him was not so intimate as with the others of whom I have spoken. He did not often address the House. He deserved and received the respect and confidence of his fellow members.

A fourth member has passed away since we last met in the person of Mr. Richards, who represented Prince, P.E.I. He was a very genial, kindly man, one who made us feel that, whatever his party feelings might