

I still believe very strongly every word of this statement. But this does not mean that a general election might not have to be held before the war in Europe is over on the basis of the unconditional surrender of Germany. If we could be assured that the heaviest of the fighting against Germany were past, that fact would alter the situation. But until that time is past, my view still is that there ought not to be a general election in Canada if it is at all possible to avoid one.

There are, however, other considerations to be weighed. There is, first, the constitutional limitation upon the life of parliament. The people of Canada have a right to say who shall represent them in the making of the laws and in the administration through Parliament of the public affairs of the nation. The law provides for this choice within stated periods, and it is a duty of the government to see that this right is maintained unimpaired. It follows, I think, that even if the war in Europe should not be over by the time the legal life of this parliament runs out in 1945, the government ~~will~~ will not prolong its existence beyond the stated time.

There is, secondly, a more immediate issue apart from the constitutional limitation. If there were, for example, sufficient evidence that any considerable proportion