

the attention of hon. gentlemen angularly opposite to these facts. Do they want the West represented by a fraction of its proper and due representation in a Parliament that may last for five years? Do they think it is better to do that in order to get a verdict on the tariff issue in the state the tariff issue is in to-day by virtue of the manipulations of hon. gentlemen opposite? Does my hon. friend from Red Deer think it is worth while? Now, I would like him to say.

The West will be undoubtedly entitled under the census to from ten to twenty-five—no one knows how many more seats in this Parliament. If this House is dissolved before redistribution that representation is denied. If this House is dissolved nothing can be gained except a confused and utterly uninterpretable verdict on the tariff issue that can get no government anywhere and can be a mandate to no Government at all. Indeed, there can be no result whatever except the return of at least one consistent body to this House, large or small, and the deception of both wings of the other body. That is the only verdict that could be given under the conditions that obtain to-day. Consequently, I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that under the circumstances that obtain now; under the conditions of public policy and the discussion of public principle that to-day obtain by reason of the statements and speeches of public men, the clear duty of this Government, for the present at all events, is to carry on and to carry out its policy so long as a majority of the members of this House repose confidence in the Administration.

That duty we intend to perform. That duty through three and a half years we have sought to discharge. I do not think that in the history of Canada any other government has more zealously held to its programme, more clearly, definitely and determinedly sought to carry out the mandate upon which it was elected, to discharge all the duties of government. In doing so, it neglected its party affairs and, indeed, by some of its policies, though they were in the public interest, shattered its party organization from coast to coast. That has been the record of this Government. From now on until the dissolution of this House we intend to pursue the duty that we have pursued until now. The course that we pursue will be submitted to this Parliament elected by the people of this country, and while we enjoy the confidence of the representatives of people of this country

we do not intend to shrink from our course or to be stamped from it by the declamation of the leader of the Opposition.

My last word is this. In the past few months since I have had the honour to discharge to the best of my ability the responsibility that now is mine, I have missed no opportunity to obtain from the leaders of hon. gentlemen opposite specific and clear statements of their position on the issue which they say should be submitted to this country for decision. I regret to say that I have failed. In the speech from the Throne that great paramount issue and others as well are placed before this House for discussion. The position of the Government on that great issue is unmistakably clear and the opportunity is given to hon. gentlemen opposite, of all shades of opinion and from all parts of the country, to be equally frank in their statement of their position. Let them first discharge that duty and, until they do so, let them not say that there is sufficient issue for the country to decide.

On motion of Mr. D. D. McKenzie (Cape Breton North and Victoria) the debate was adjourned.

On motion of right hon. Arthur Meighen, the House adjourned at 9.20 p.m.

Wednesday, February 16, 1921.

The House met at Two o'clock.

REPORTS AND PAPERS

Statement of Governor General's Warrants issued since last Session.—Sir Henry Drayton.

Statement of Expenditures on Account of Miscellaneous Unforeseen Expenses from April 1, 1920, to February 15, 1921.—Sir Henry Drayton.

Statement of Temporary Loans issued and outstanding since the last Session of Parliament.—Sir Henry Drayton.

Report of the National Battlefields Commission for the year ended March 31, 1920.—Sir Henry Drayton.

Report of the Ottawa Improvement Commission for the year ended March 31, 1920.—Sir Henry Drayton.

Statement of Civil Service Insurance for the year ended March 31, 1920.—Sir Henry Drayton.

Report of the Royal Society of Canada for the year ended April 30, 1920.—Sir Henry Drayton.