

portant resolutions were adopted at that convention. One was a resolution condemning the Borden Administration because during three years of war it had carried on Canada's part in the war as a purely partisan proposition. That resolution I shall now read to the House, so that hon. gentlemen may judge for themselves whether or not the Liberals of western Canada were justified in adopting it. The resolution is:

This convention of the Liberals of the four western provinces of the Dominion assembled for the purpose of assisting in the solution of the many serious problems facing Canada at the present crisis feels compelled to place on record its most severe disapproval of the war administration of the Borden Government.

War is essentially the business and concern of the entire nation and not of any section, class or political party. It can be waged to the greatest advantage only when behind its prosecution all classes of its people are enlisted in the same passionate determination to defend the right, and triumph over the forces of despotism and unrighteousness.

Any attempt to arrogate to one section of the people or one political party a monopoly of its prosecution and the prestige of the conduct of a national struggle for freedom and existence can be characterized only as base and unworthy in the highest degree.

Because the Borden Government has sought from the outset to make our national life and death struggle a prerogative of one political party, to the exclusion of one-half of the Canadian people, and an instrument for selfish political advantage rather than the triumph of national ideals, because it has exhibited gross incompetence and inefficiency in the face of national peril; because it has substituted partisan selfishness for honour and fair dealing; because dissension has overcome leadership in its councils, and weakness and vacillation have taken the place of firmness, resolution, courage and efficiency in execution, we condemn it as no longer entitled to the confidence of the Canadian people.

Is there a line or a word in that resolution that is not absolutely justified by the history of Canada's participation in this great struggle for the last three years? The Prime Minister has himself condemned his own administration quite as much as the western Liberals do in the resolution which I have just read. Why has he been in conference week after week and month after month with Liberal leaders from the West and other parts of Canada for the purpose of forming a national government, if partisan government was not contrary to the interests of Canada in her war efforts? I say that the conduct of the Prime Minister for months past, since he made his first proposal of coalition to the right hon. leader of the Opposition, verifies in every line and every sentence the resolution against the Borden Administration passed by the Liberal Winnipeg convention.

[Mr. Neely.]

Does the Prime Minister, or any man on that side of the House, say for one moment that Canada's efforts in the war up to the present time have not been conducted on a party basis? If they were to deny that fact, the country would simply laugh at them. Even in connection with the proposal of coalition that was made to the right hon. leader of the Opposition, there had to be announced a policy which, in days to come, future Conservative leaders in this country could say was a Conservative policy, and that that policy had saved Canada's efforts in the war. I repeat that that resolution passed by the Winnipeg Liberal convention is verified to the fullest extent by what the Prime Minister has said and done with regard to forming a so-called national government after three years of party government during this great struggle.

There was another resolution passed at that convention which seems to have exercised the Tory press and the Tory political leaders throughout Canada to a very great extent. It was a resolution which I am proud to say I had the honour of proposing to the convention, and which received its unanimous support. It was the win-the-war resolution.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. NEELY: I know this is bad medicine for some hon. gentlemen opposite, but they may as well take it; they are going to get it anyway. There has been a great deal of criticism on the part of Conservative newspapers and Conservative leaders throughout the country because a certain amendment proposed by the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Turriff) to the win-the-war resolution was not agreed to by the convention. It was an amendment proposed to the second clause of the resolution. I do not wish to put on Hansard the whole clause, but will just read clause 2:

By the maintenance, in unimpaired strength at the front, of our fighting forces, and the taking of all steps necessary to secure the required reinforcements for this purpose.

My hon. friend from Assiniboia moved on the floor of the convention to amend that by adding the words "by compulsion, if necessary."

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. NEELY: Before you rap the gavel, Sir, I hope you will take this unseemly interruption into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will give the hon. member full credit for any interruptions, but I might point out that I think he is going