

you continued in office, under such conditions, the greater mortgage you would make upon the future of the Liberal Party and Liberalism in Canada.

I cannot forget the situation created in this Province after the Provincial Election of 1902, when Mr. Ross returned with two majority but with the Opposition so strengthened and with such a body of public opinion behind it as indicated the public really desired a change. Mr. Ross decided to hang on and fight, and he did for three years. But during these three years the prestige of the Government and the Liberal Party was so low/^{ered} that now, for twenty years, Liberalism in Ontario has never had a real chance to win a general election. Had not the war situation intervened the position might be different, but undoubtedly the hanging on to office by the Ross Administration, in 1902, and the scandals that developed during the next three years, constituted a load upon the back of the Liberal Party in this Province from which it has not yet wholly escaped.

In view of what you have said to me about your difficulty in carrying on even under the parliamentary conditions which existed during the past four years, I cannot but think that your difficulties will be greatly accentuated under the present conditions.