

forest, the fisheries, the mine, or the manufacturing industries—for the general advantage of the people. I appeal to all members of the House to drop politics and to unite to make Canada a great country, worthy in peace of the place our boys made for her in war.

Lt.-Col. CYRUS W. PECK, V.C. (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, in rising at this late hour and in this depressing heat to address the House I feel that I have some apology to offer, but I wish to explain my position and will do so in the briefest possible way. At the outset, I wish to welcome back to the House the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) from his labours at the Peace Conference. I congratulate him upon the position that he attained at that conference and upon the ability and the dignity with which he represented us in the council of the nations.

I cannot agree with some hon. gentlemen in this House that he should have remained at home. The important part that Canada played in the war, the vigour and chivalry with which she entered the conflict, her unselfish determination to prosecute the war to the uttermost, the glory of her arms on those historic battlefields, all demanded that her leading statesman should be consulted upon the conditions of peace. Therefore, it was most fitting that the man who was foremost in Canada, not only because of his position as Prime Minister and as a first citizen of Canada from the beginning of and throughout the whole war, but foremost because of the fact that it was his unflagging zeal, his unswerving fidelity, his inexhaustible patience and his lofty patriotism that had managed to keep a Government together at all times, a Government whose chief business it was to support our armies in the field and to employ its whole energies in winning the war—I say it was fitting that this man should be the one who should sit amongst the leading statesmen of all countries, and deliberate upon the vast problems that were to be considered and the future status of the world. It will always, I am sure, be a matter of pride and satisfaction to him to remember that he was at the head of our Government when Canada emerged from her swaddling clothes and took her place in the world as a nation of first-class importance.

I now wish to pass on with all possible rapidity to a discussion of the Budget. I would not detain the House except for the fact that I have professed certain ideals

[Mr. Arthurs.]

throughout my life, and now in our system of politics there has to come a time in the House when we must vote one way or the other, and I want to explain why I am going to vote as I intend to do.

I notice some people have been thinking that too much money is being spent on the returned soldiers. I simply want to say, in passing, that I do not think enough has been spent upon them. We should spend more money in gratuities and pensions and things of that sort, and while we have the Soldier Settlement Board, a very good thing, and one which I wish to give all the praise I can, we should endeavour to settle the soldier in other walks of life. I want to tell the House from my experience of these men during all the grim years of war, that now in our time of trial the one we shall have to rely on is the returned soldier, and I prophesy that he will be the great balance wheel regulating our Governmental machine now that the lean and grimy hand of Bolshevism is clutching at the reins of Government. I cannot be made to believe that our soldiers who have been fighting for four years to uphold law and order in Europe are going to come back and tear it down in Canada.

As for the Budget, I regret that I do not like it. I have been a free trader all my life, and with me that is a matter of conviction. It is nothing that I can cast off as one casts off one's garments in Ottawa in the hot summer days. It has been the conviction of a lifetime, and I have not come back here after four years of war to dissemble my views before my fellow countrymen. I am strongly in favour of free trade. In considering the Budget, I wish to discuss two questions. The first one is: What was the attitude of the Government when it appealed to the people? I think I rather agree with the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Calder) that the tariff was not an issue when the Government appealed to the country. In this regard, I disagree with the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. M. Clark). At the same time, I think everybody will agree that the tariff was not a very important issue in that election, because the great, paramount and all-important question was the winning of the war, and we cannot expect a Government to do more than live up to its promises. As regards the hon. member for Red Deer, I always admire the stand he takes—and I think his robust eloquence in reference to this matter of free trade stands out in singular contrast to the boring platitudes of politicians in this country.