

we have to create it ourselves." Being the humble representative of a rural constituency, I do not claim to be a creator but, as representative of the people, my first and only thought is their peace and happiness.

Mr. Speaker, I regret the incident that occurred at the beginning of my speech. I wonder how the words spoken by me could have been construed as an attack upon one of the honourable members. I am not a lawyer, but a humble country doctor and notwithstanding my knowledge of medicine and neurology, I am unable to do any kind of mind-reading, and I ask those who know me—there are several here—why should I be blamed for entertaining a thought that I never had?

Mr. ALPHONSE FOURNIER (Hull) (Translation): Mr Speaker, I hope that in the course of the brief remarks I intend to make on the matter under discussion, I will not be interrupted on a point of order especially if it is raised by a member of the party to which I belong. I have great respect for the opinions of all those who spoke before me and all I ask of my colleagues is to respect mine. Before I proceed any further, I am bound to say however that the speeches I heard induced me to select my leaders; that selection I made a long time ago, but I am convinced that my country would be well advised to ignore the advice or the policy suggested by the honourable members for Portneuf (Mr. Gauthier), for Quebec West and South (Mr. Parent), for Laval-Two Mountains, (Mr. Lacombe), for Vancouver North (Mr. MacNeil), for Rosetown-Biggarr (Mr. Coldwell), for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) and other members of the C.C.F. party. In the best interests of my country, I think I should follow the advice given us by the members of the present government who, in the past, have given sufficient proofs of their devotion to their country and of their knowledge of Canadian international politics.

For the past two days, the object of this debate seems to have shifted. I have always been under the impression that the motion that the house go into committee of supply and the amendment to that motion called for consideration of the increase in defence estimates. I find, however, that many members who spoke on that question have not limited their observations to that increase but have considered the matter from the point of view of Canada's participation in foreign wars, of the sending of expeditionary forces and even of effecting direct contributions to the mother country. To one who knows that for forty

[Mr. Gauthier.]

years a nationalist movement has been organized in the province of Quebec for the purpose of throwing Canadian politics into confusion, especially when the Liberal party was in power, that shift in the discussion is no surprise.

Twice we have contributed to imperial wars since confederation. First in 1899, when a Canadian contingent was sent to the Transvaal to take part in a war which many people thought unjust. I have often wondered, in pondering over history, if the leader of my party was not yet at that time imbued with that colonial spirit which made it compulsory to take part in the imperial wars. As soon as that contingent had departed, the nationalist movement came into life under the leadership of very brilliant men, in the province of Quebec, with the result that, in 1911, the Liberal government which had decided to build for our national defence a few ships, some cruisers and torpedo boats for the protection of our coasts, had to face a furious attack on the part of the nationalists.

In that election, the Liberal party lost 25 seats in the province of Quebec. The Canadian navy in that province and the reciprocity treaty in the western provinces were the main issues during the electoral campaign. The slogan in the western provinces was: No truck, no trade with the Yankees.

When these 25 members took their seats in the House of Commons they were determined to vote against any participation in imperial wars. The following year, the new government voted a direct contribution of \$35,000,000 to help the British navy. I do not think that more than three or four of the 25 members which had been elected to prevent Canada of helping or taking part in foreign or imperial wars voted against this contribution of \$35,000,000. And then the same men who advocated in the province of Quebec that exaggerated nationalism announced that they were admirers of the empire and that they had become imperialists.

I was in Ottawa when war broke out in 1914. Parliament was summoned immediately, two or three days later 50 millions were hastily voted and Canada was engaged in an imperial war. Our contributions to the great war increased ever since and they finally led to conscription. Our contribution to the great war and conscription have been used as an argument by those who criticize now the increase in the defence estimates. I do not blame them because they seem to confuse the expressions "increase in defence estimates" and "participation in imperial wars."