

the approaching election, the Government of Canada will continue a vigorous participation in the war, they might properly consider questions of lesser magnitude. Were they satisfied that the leader of the Opposition and his followers are as determined that Canada shall continue to do her duty in this war as are the leader of the Government and his supporters, they would probably rest content with a peace time election, for their chief concern would be attained whatever the result, and the extension or restriction of the franchise would not be of so much importance. But they are not so satisfied. On the contrary the evidence seems conclusive, as well concerning the attitude of the leader of the Opposition himself, as that of his chief supporters, that for Canada's effective contribution in the winning of the war it is essential that the Government be sustained. It is well known and everywhere admitted that Sir Robert Borden and all the supporters of the Government will, to the last ounce of strength, sustain our brave men fighting, while all the anti-war elements in the country will be ranged up behind the leader of the anti-war Liberals, himself encouraging their attitude, at least to the extent of refusing to denounce it. If the Government is sustained the war will proceed with renewed vigour; if the Opposition win, our participation in the war will virtually cease. Is there any doubt about that? Does any sane man believe that the leader of the Opposition could or would vigorously prosecute the war, relying chiefly for support upon men avowedly opposed to it, supplemented by all the anti-British, pro-Germans, slackers, and all those Liberals more partisan than patriotic, in the country? Water cannot rise higher than its source. Can any one of clear vision imagine the leader of the Opposition, the hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux), and the hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald), reviewing a battalion for overseas, the hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Verville) being standard bearer, and commanded by the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Gauthier), who boldly tells us his constituents are ready to rebel rather than obey the law, and that he is ready to lead them?

Mr. L. P. GAUTHIER: I never said that.

Mr. CROTHERS: On page 2662 of Hansard the hon. member (Mr. Gauthier) said:

Before resuming my seat I shall be very frank with the House. I want to make a few remarks in the name of my people. This is one of the most solemn hours of my life. It may be the last opportunity I shall have of addressing the House of Commons and my country. I say to the

Mr. Crothers.]

Government, if you press this measure through, my people, declaring that this Government has no mandate, will use the very Bill itself to fight the matter out. We acknowledge that in this fight there will be pain and suffering. We may have to go to the direst consequences. My people are willing to go to the limit if you impose upon them such a piece of legislation; I believe they are right, and I will do as they intend to do.

Mr. GAUTHIER: Is that rebellion?

Mr. CROTHERS: That means they are prepared to rebel rather than obey the law. The leader of the Opposition accepted, with apparent approval, that statement from one of his leading supporters—at least we have heard from him no expression of reprimand, disapproval or repudiation. He is willing to receive in silence any influence such perfidious utterance may bear him.

But has the leader of the Opposition himself shewn any burning anxiety that we should earnestly participate in the war? It is true he has asserted in this House and elsewhere that he is in this conflict to the end. But one may safely predicate what a man will do to-morrow from what he did yesterday. This war cannot be won by honied words or cheap and sonorous phrases. Deeds avail rather than words. "By their fruit shall ye know them." Instead of doing anything to strengthen us in the conflict, his conduct since the beginning of the war has tended to encourage the enemy. He has never lost an opportunity of declaring to the people of Canada and to the world that everything done by the Government, whether in prosecuting the war or otherwise, was all wrong. Everything proposed by the Government is villainous in his eye. Since the war session of 1914 I do not remember him to have expressed approval of a single thing done by the Government. Did such conduct on the part of the leader of the Opposition tend to strengthen our hands in the great struggle?

I well remember his declaring in this House in 1910, "If England were in danger, yea, if she were even menaced, I would go upon every platform in my native province and urge my compatriots to shed their last drop of blood for the preservation of British liberty." Noble sentiment! But when the testing day came, where was he found? Sniping, faultfinding, obstructing, preaching bi-lingualism, encouraging disunion and opposing conscription.

Both England and Canada for the last three years have been menaced and in danger, but what real anxiety has he shown for the preservation of British liberty or Canadian safety? None whatever. In this conflict a