

there should be stability in regard to the tariff. I represent a rural constituency in the West. Let me say to this House that the West is in desperate earnest in regard to the tariff. In the old days when the National Policy was formulated there was practically no West and no population in that country. There is now a large population in Western Canada and the people there feel that they have carried the burden as long as they feel they can afford to carry it. They feel that they must have relief and that they must be placed in as good a position as the farmers of the Western States in order that the country may succeed.

Let me say to you, Sir, and to the members of the Government, that there are no politics in the West. The West is not playing politics. I find that my old Tory friends in the West, now that partisanship has been set aside, are heartily in favour of low tariff. In the old days, because of party feeling, they co-operated with their party, but now that there is no longer party Government, but Union Government, they say: We are with you; take the tariff off. The West is united. I was delighted to hear the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Lapointe), for whom I have very great respect, tell this House the other evening that the province of Quebec is low tariff, or is willing to join in any effort to reduce the tariff. He spoke of Toronto as being the home of protection. I was wondering if Montreal is not almost as bad in that respect. I do not know what the feeling in Quebec is. I take it for granted that the hon. gentleman would not misinform the House—I am quite sure he would not knowingly do so—and that when he stated, as he did the other night, that there is a large section of the people in Quebec in favour of low tariff he believed it to be the fact.

In the three western provinces there is absolute unanimity in regard to lowering the tariff. Let me say in all seriousness to my hon. friend the Acting Prime Minister that I hope he will give earnest consideration to this question. I appeal to him—he is an old Liberal. The right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) is an old Liberal; they at least have no prejudice against low tariff. They, and the Government, are in a position to solve this very important problem, or to help to solve it, perhaps at the present time or in the near future. Let me tell the Acting Prime Minister, the Government, and this House that the people of the West are not playing politics. They care absolutely nothing about politics. They are heart sick of par-

[Mr. Richardson.]

tisanship but they are resolved on one thing and that is that the tariff must come down. Members who represent the West in this House, mostly behind the Union Government, I think I can fairly say, are reasonable men. They are not going to put a pistol at the head of the Government or at the head of the leader of the Government and say: "Stand and Deliver." If I interpret the feelings of my colleagues from the West accurately, and I think I do, individually and collectively, rather than do that they would prefer to efface themselves and retire from Parliament. We from the West are so obsessed with the problems that face this Union Government, with the colossal task that is before them in connection with reconstruction, that we would go a long way not to embarrass the Government, but on the contrary we would desire to assist the Government. But, the members from the West have not the say. I tell the Acting Prime Minister that I think he can deal on favourable and just grounds with the representatives from the West. But if the Government does not deal with the representatives from the West, who are reasonable, and who realize the gravity of the problem, then the Government must deal with the people of the West and the people of the West are agreed as one man and they are in no very friendly mood at the present time. They think that they have been made a football of between the parties for all these years and, if the resolutions they have passed and their deliberations indicate what their mind is, they purpose having justice.

In the name of Union, in the name of the unity of the country, I appeal to my hon. friend the acting leader of the Government and to the members of the Government, to weigh this matter seriously, to weigh it gravely in order to avert trouble and what may prove a division in the country, and to bring about a reconciliation as between the various elements in the country.

I said this afternoon, and I want to reiterate it here that the time has come when the people of this country, the different races and elements, must forget their differences. The war is over. I do not suppose it will ever be necessary again to resort to conscription. Perhaps happily there may be no great questions which will in the future divide the peoples of the country. I have every respect for the great province of Quebec. I know something of the French Canadian people, something of their kindness of heart, their chivalry, their magnanimity, and I believe now that the