

the French side, it was decided to wage economic war against the Central Empires after the war. That decision has given the Kaiser and Prussian plutocracy the chance to make their people feel that after the war they will have to fight the allied nations to maintain their economic existence. Let us not repeat that mistake to-day. Every nation will be welcome to the principles of justice and equality all over the world through democracy. We are talking and writing of democracy these days, yet we have been on many occasions introducing Prussian methods into this country. While the exigencies of war compel a certain centralization of authority, and an apparent lessening of democracy, we must at the same time be on guard against this tendency holding sway after the war is over.

There is another tendency which exists in the present Cabinet, and which existed, I may say, in the late Government. As my right hon. leader said, this is the same old Government; there has been some new blood introduced into it, but it is the same Government. To-day we see our friends who have left our side and gone over to the other side proclaiming the very doctrine that they fought against until the last day of the last session of Parliament. On the other side of the House every hon. member who rises to speak on behalf of the future success of our armies seems to take pleasure in saying that they have no consideration for the constitution of Canada. The other day my dearest friend on the other side, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Carvell) whom I regret not to see in his seat to-night—a friend with whom I have co-operated ever since we have been in Parliament together, who has had no more sincere and devoted follower than his humble servant the member for Gloucester—said that if it was necessary to win the war to puncture the Constitution he was prepared to do it. My hon. friend was not prepared to do it during last session or previous sessions. I am sure that the Acting Minister of Finance was never in a mood to transgress the Constitution. Yet the Constitution was transgressed when the Order in Council was passed taking from the provinces the right of issuing securities and putting control in this matter into the hands of the Federal Government. My hon. friend the Acting Minister of Finance and all the members of the old Government know that when I criticize this action of the Government it is not a new inspiration with me. They know that for the last ten years I have always been advocating the

[Mr. Turgeon.]

maintenance of every clause of our Constitution.

I find it almost incredible that certain gentlemen from the western provinces who have deserted the Liberal party have deserted also their belief in the principle that provincial rights should be maintained—a principle which they advocated so eloquently and so forcibly when they were at the head of affairs in their respective provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. No condition created by the war could possibly justify the course taken by the Government in this respect. Conferences of representatives from the provinces have been held in the interest of production, and good results have been obtained from them. Why was not a conference held in this case? I do not say that the Federal Government should not be able to control, as far as possible, the borrowing facilities of the different provinces, but I do submit that the matter should have been discussed at a conference with the premiers of the different provinces. The Confederation which was brought about by the efforts of such great men as Sir John A. Macdonald, Brown, Howe, and others, will last as long as the British Empire lasts, but only by providing that every principle embodied in our constitution is respected can we have absolute harmony and absolute agreement between different races and creeds within our country.

Reference was made during the last election campaign to the province of Quebec. I do not represent a Quebec constituency, but I am a native of that province. When I left college I went to another French section of the community, and have devoted my lifetime to extending the principles which brought about Confederation. The French Acadian people in our part of the country have lived in harmony and happiness ever since Confederation. When I hear it said that the people of Quebec have not been loyal to the Empire in this war, I feel sometimes that I cannot but resent the suggestion as much as if I were still living in that province. I feel on the subject as a Canadian, if not as a Quebecer, and also as a citizen of the Maritime Provinces, where the French minority receives, I must say, generous treatment at the hands of the majority. If any nationality in the Maritime Provinces has declared special devotion to British institutions, it is the French-Acadian population. I affirm that my admiration for British institutions is not surpassed by that of any British-born in this country. I am here as a Canadian, as a Frenchman, as a Catholic, protected