

the first great war, and it is to the credit of the government and of the Canadian people that we passed through the recent war without any serious accusations of dishonesty in connection with the billions of dollars which were spent for the successful prosecution of the war. Also let it be remembered that our money is worth more than it was in 1919. It is not fair to make such representations to working people as one hears from some members of the opposition, and I do not believe that our friends of the Conservative, the C.C.F. and the Social Credit parties, in their quiet or more sensible moments, believe some of the things they say.

Mr. MacNICOL: The Conservatives are always sensible.

Mr. MITCHELL: I shall comment on that in a moment. What my Conservative friends want, for reasons best known to themselves, is a complete lifting of the price structure.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): Nobody ever said that at any time.

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend is probably sorry that he said it.

Mr. SMITH (Calgary West): It never was said.

Mr. MITCHELL: I shall take my hon. friend's word for it. I see that an hon. member representing another group, the member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis), is ready to jump on me. His party thinks you can maintain a stable price structure and at the same time increase wages out of all proportion to what they should be in conformity with that structure. Some of the younger men who spoke this afternoon have no personal knowledge of what we went through after the last war, so that there is some excuse for their ignorance. But I recall how the working classes suffered through the almost uncontrolled inflationary movement which took place particularly in the year following the ending of the first great war.

Mr. JOHNSTON: You are getting up pretty fast now.

Mr. MITCHELL: That may be true. My hon. friend is doing his part in that direction, too. I do not need to remind hon. members that it is not too easy to say the things I am saying at the moment, but I think that if all of us said them it would give leadership in this country.

Mr. JOHNSTON: We would be called to order if we said what you are saying now.

[Mr. Mitchell.]

Mr. MUTCH: The hon. member is out of order. We are not in committee.

Mr. MITCHELL: I am not going to take the position that you can protect the living standards of the farmers and working people without some measure of control. It is the privilege of those who take the opposite point of view to express it, but in that regard I think I know what makes the clock tick.

In connection with this dispute in British Columbia, all we asked was that these several factories which manufacture the necessary containers for the fruit should be reopened. I sometimes wonder what would happen if the farmers took a leaf out of some people's books and went on strike themselves. To my mind it is absolutely indefensible under the circumstance of this dispute. A concession on the part of the men's leaders of the kind proposed would in no way jeopardize their position; it would at least give public opinion, particularly in British Columbia, a different idea of the ability and the leadership of those who are supposed to be leading the men in the present dispute.

I might also remark that the location of this dispute is three thousand miles away over the mountains, in British Columbia; I have to be continually in touch with the provincial government, and it is difficult to administer a department when you have disputes, at the moment, from one end of the country to the other. For that reason I am inclined to agree with my Social Credit friends about the merits of decentralization: one should be right on the ground in order to face up to the difficult situation we have in British Columbia at this time. Let me, in conclusion, again suggest to the leaders there that they make this necessary concession to the defenceless farmers of that province.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I understand I am not allowed to say anything in withdrawing the motion, but after listening to the last speaker I think anybody would be in order. I want to express thanks to you, Mr. Speaker, and to most of my colleagues, private members of all parties, for the cooperation they have given in the discussion to-day.

Mr. SPEAKER: As it was mentioned by the hon. member for Fraser Valley, according to *Beauchesne*, second edition, section 250, it is the custom for the mover of a motion such as this to withdraw it when the debate is over.

Mr. MacKINNON: He did that.

Motion withdrawn.