

to destroy the peace of the world. This tyrant commenced operations by attacking little Belgium, and later aroused the indignation and anger of nearly all civilized nations by ordering the sinking of ships, thus causing drowning of innocent women and children. In August, 1914, Sir Robert Borden—I do not think he waited for a meeting of Parliament—at once cabled to the Mother Country that, if it was necessary, the people of this country were willing to sacrifice their last man and their last dollar to help preserve the peace of the world and the existence of the British Empire. That is what has been preserved to us. That is what we have got. Our men were sent overseas, not for the purpose of gaining territory, but because the people of Canada believed that it was their duty to assist Great Britain in restoring peace to the world.

A good deal has been said by honourable gentlemen on the other side of the House about the War Time Elections Act, which was passed, I think, in 1917. I have not got a list of the ugly names they called it. I must say that that Act never seemed to me to be very unjust. What were the two principal objects which it effected? First, it took the vote from a certain class of people who were not sympathetic with the aims and ideals of this country and the British Empire. That some injustice may have been done here and there I am not going to deny; it is impossible to bring about any great change without some individual injustice; but surely it was not wrong to take the franchise from people who were not in sympathy with us. The other object of the Act—and I think perhaps more fault has been found with that—was to extend the franchise to the mothers, sisters, and wives of those who were fighting in France. Those are the two points to which the greatest amount of adverse criticism has been directed, and, in my opinion, the Government were justified in doing what they did.

I believe that Sir Robert Borden and his Government made very few mistakes. If ever a man was imbued with the interests of the Empire and of this country, and if ever a man sacrificed himself to his ideals, that man was Sir Robert Borden. I think that some of the criticism which was directed yesterday towards him was too small for the men who made it. I wish to offer my meed of praise to the Union Government, and to the men of the Liberal party, who upon the solicitation of the Premier joined with the Conservatives in

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER.

forming the Union Government. Some honourable gentlemen in this room were in Parliament in days gone by when, under the old party system, we fought harder and at greater length than we do to-day. They will remember that on many occasions we commenced sitting at 3 o'clock on Monday afternoon, and fought continuously until 12 o'clock on Saturday night, only stopping then because of the Lord's Day Act. Honourable gentlemen opposite were defending their beloved leader, and I do not think any one on either side of the House would say that he was not a most lovable man. When the crisis came, however, some honourable gentlemen, in adhering to their party principles, seemed to forget the importance of the crisis that was facing us. In the early days I was not so enamoured of Union Government as I afterwards was. Now, in the light of what has transpired, I am confident that Sir Robert Borden was right; and I want to give credit to the men from the other side who joined with him.

On Tuesday, in the House of Commons, a splendid tribute was paid to the Union Government by a gentleman who, judging from his name, never belonged to a Tory family. I refer to Mr. Mowat. The very name smacks of Liberalism. This is what he said:

I, in common with the Liberals on this side, have had pleasure in supporting this Government, and supporting it enthusiastically, even though it be unpopular. During war I do not want to support a Government merely because it is popular.

Since this session commenced, we have heard a great deal about the unpopularity of this Government and the remarks of Mr. Mowat appeal to me very strongly. He goes on to say:

I want to support a Government that does the right thing even if it is going to be unpopular. And what a number of unpopular things this Government has had to do!

One of the things the Government has had to do was to enforce Conscription. In my opinion, Conscription was necessary in order to properly carry on the war. I would say that every man should do his part. Mr. Mowat continues:

One thing after another, which would almost strain to breaking point the ordinary man, these men in the Government benches, heedless of party politics, caring not whether their actions might incur the disapproval of their supporters or constituencies, or what effect those actions might have in the event of an election, have day in and day out framed policies and passed measures—Orders in Council, if you will—that were bound to be