

ments to produce greater crops than they have ever had before. I hold no brief for the farmers, because they have the same right to defend their country as the labouring men or any other class in the land; but this demand for men has come at seeding time, just when such a demand is most inopportune, if we want to produce the results which every hon. member is anxious to have produced. In my constituency there are a number of exceptional cases, for instance, where the son is the only man on the farm who can be depended upon to render effective service, or where the boy is the only son of a widowed mother, and the success of the farm depends upon him, or where a boy is the only one available for work on the farm, his parents being in poor health. I regret very much that there was not some exemption made in the regulations so that such men might be exempted. I hope from time to time, the Government, as these matters appear before them, will feel justified in making such exemptions as will meet the demand. I have perhaps spoken longer than I intended to do, but I wish to say this in conclusion. We may differ in this House as far as the Budget and other legislation are concerned, as to how it will bear on the weak or the strong, the rich or the poor. I was, however, extremely gratified the other day to meet an old friend of mine who had just returned from the front, having been honourably discharged. That gentleman said to me: "There is one thing, Mr. McCoig, you can depend upon, and that is that a man who is a private will receive in old England the same treatment and kind attention at the hands of the officials of the hospitals that a man of high standing will receive." He said: "I received a wound in the jaw, and I was compelled to go into a hospital in England. I was taken into the Duchess of Connaught's hospital on the Astor Estate. I had to have about half an inch removed from my lower jaw. That operation was prepared for, and I am glad to tell you that eminent physician, Col. Mewburn, was in charge of the hospital and took charge of my case, and he is a brother of Major-General Mewburn, the Minister of Militia. He gave me the same attention that I would have received had I been a colonel or a general. I am glad to tell you also that the Red Cross nurses extended their kind and sympathetic assistance." He said to me that, after he had been discharged, he went to the city of Detroit in which his brother was a practising physician, and there a number of American

physicians examined his wound and pronounced the operation one of the greatest they had ever examined, and they commended and congratulated the officials of the British hospitals on the noble work they were doing. I am glad to be able to refer to this case, because I believe it is the desire of every member of this House to give every encouragement possible to that noble organization of Red Cross nurses who have rendered such great service from the beginning of the war up to the present time.

Mr. M. R. BLAKE (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, we are at war, and with the proverbial tenacity of the British bulldog, we are quite prepared to hang on until we have brought it to a successful termination. The big thing that confronts this Parliament, and which it was elected to deal with, is the prosecution of the war; how best that can be done is what should concern us to-day. We can well recall for a moment the old song:

We don't want to fight but by Jingo, if we do,
We've got the ships, we've got the men,
We've got the money too.

The determination of our boys to fight has been impressed upon the Hun more than once. There is probably no part of the line the Huns hate to attack more than the sector that is held by the Canadians. We have got the ships. The British navy is keeping the foe from our shores. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries in this House has told us that every shipyard in the land is occupied with a ship, and he promises to keep them all full; we are going to keep on building more and more ships. The hon. member for St. Antoine (Sir Herbert Ames) is somewhat afraid lest the United States will attain mercantile supremacy, but I say it is not within the bounds of possibility that this country should be possessed in the not far distant future of sufficient ships to carry her own lake and ocean tonnage. I believe we can do that, and probably just as well, if not better, with the present minister at the helm of the Marine and Fisheries Department than any one else we can find. As to men, we have a lot and are getting more. Our men are producing food, making munitions, and fighting the Huns. They are rushing to the colours so fast that the Minister of Militia and Defence is beginning to look somewhat grave from his increasing efforts day by day. It will not be very long before we shall have our five hundred