

The attack upon this Budget has signally failed; and it failed because it was fundamentally unsound. The speech of my hon. friend from Halifax, which he had ten days to prepare—and I should like to know the perplexities of mind that he experienced in preparing that speech—was a case of special pleading. I have often heard that the duty of an Opposition is to oppose. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe it. I say it is the duty of an Opposition to oppose in a proper case; and I say that this is not a proper case in which the Opposition should oppose. I have disposed this taxation in such fashion that the people of this country regard it as equitable and just. I have placed taxes upon luxuries; I have taxed liquors; I have taxed tobacco to the utmost it will stand, and there is a point beyond which you will diminish, and not increase, your revenue. I have imposed taxes upon the financial institutions of this country. I have imposed taxes which will fall the most heavily upon those in this country who are best able to sustain that burden; and I have had to fall back upon the tariff in order to raise the larger part of the money required to enable us to do our duty in this crisis. Mr. Speaker, I hope I shall not be taken as disrespectful to the Opposition. Nothing could be further from my thought, but sometimes it has been borne in upon me that the debate upon this Budget has been trivial in character. War on a scale unprecedented in all history; some fifteen or twenty million men engaged; the Germans and Allies facing each other upon a front resting upon Holland and Switzerland in the West, and extending from the Baltic to the Carpathians in the East; and there is now proceeding before our very eyes one of the greatest operations in the world, one of the most spectacular, one of the most dramatic—the forcing of the Dardanelles.

What is the expenditure of Great Britain to-day, and how is she facing it? The expenditure of Great Britain herself in this great contest is no less than ten million dollars a day; ten million dollars a day with a population of forty-five million. The expenditure of Great Britain is ten million dollars a day; and Lord Kitchener is raising an army of one and a half or two million men. We in this country are raising troops and equipping them and forwarding them with the utmost despatch possible with our limited facilities. Why have we limited facilities? Why? I have never heard any expenditure seriously criticised in the House except the expenditure of the Militia Department. If the Militia Department had not been starved, if the organization had been better maintained, we should have been better able to bear the strain so suddenly imposed upon us in August last. We should have had more equipment for the troops, more clothing and ammunition, and we should have been in a much better position to take our part in this war. But there was no vision in the criticism of hon. gentlemen opposite, and where there is no vision the people perish.

#### THE PEOPLE ARE PREPARED TO PAY.

The real question is: are we to do our share in this war or are we not? We have taken the people of this country at their word. They say send one contingent, send two contingents, send three contingents, send every man that wants to go. But I want to point out that war is made not only with men, not only with armaments, not only with munitions, but it is made with money. The people must be prepared to sacrifice not only blood, but treasure. If not, where is the Imperial spirit? And the people of this country are prepared not only to send money, but they are prepared to pay the reasonable measure of taxation which this Government is imposing.