

reconstruction of the tariff policy I am doing what is absolutely right.

I have endeavoured in my remarks to place before this House the serious financial situation with which this country is confronted. I have pleaded for economy, and I have advocated with all the force I possess the removal of the duties on agricultural implements, not only as a measure of justice to the agricultural interests in this country, but as a war measure. I have endeavoured to show that without a return to sound economic principles a most menacing future is before us. I have not painted the future in too dark colours. I have unbounded confidence in the ability, strength, industry and intelligence of the Canadian people. The future is not bright; the hill of difficulty is before us, but I believe that we can win through if we are a united people.

We on this side of the House have felt a great deal of pleasure this session. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because we have found some things which we had anticipated would occur have not happened. We had heard of a celebrated white horse. We had heard that this white horse was given to kicking, to rearing and biting. The horse was brought out, though not with the consent of the whole House. It required the united efforts of twenty-one men to bring that horse out of the stable. When the horse came out, we were pleased to find that it was a much maligned animal, that its behaviour was a great deal better than we had been led to suppose. Instead of rearing and kicking at us, the only kicks it gave were side kicks directed at the Minister of Justice; and it breathed kindly words about the gallant 22nd battalion. We found that this horse was not nearly such a vicious animal as we had thought he was.

There is something else that has delighted us in this House. That is the spirit of union which has been shown by members on the other side. We reciprocate those feelings. We believe that this nation will fall if divided; but we do not believe it will fall, because we believe that it will not be divided. We have a difficult future in front of us; we have a long hill to climb, but we believe that that hill can be climbed; we believe that, with unity, with the spirit of courage and perseverance, the difficulties which confront the Canadian people can be overcome.

[Mr. McMaster.]

Sir HERBERT AMES (St. Antoine): Mr. Speaker, we have, for the past hour, been listening to an address which reminds the older members of the House of ante-bellum days, when the good old discussions on the relative merits of tariff and free trade were frequent every session, and when a large part of the time of members of the House was taken up in considering which system was the more beneficial for the people of Canada.

I think we were all pleased this afternoon when the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. A. K. Maclean) announced that there would be no tariff changes, not that the Acting Minister of Finance has not been asked to make tariff changes, because requests have come to him to make alterations in the tariff, but the Acting Minister of Finance, as the mouthpiece of the Government, believes that this is not the time when non-essential questions that are likely to divide us should be thrown into the arena of this House.

I have been waiting for an amendment to be moved by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) inasmuch as I have presumed that, after spending an hour in elaborating an idea, he would test the will of the House in respect to his proposals. He has not, however, seen fit to do so, although possibly an amendment along the lines he suggests may yet come from the other side. I trust it may not. I feel that it would be very much like what Hindenburg at present is trying to do, namely, to drive in a wedge between the point of contact of the allied armies.

An hon. MEMBER: It cannot be done.

Sir HERBERT AMES: The line has bent, but has not broken, overseas, and I think I can assure the member for Brome that if he endeavours to make an attack upon the point of contact where he thinks the two forces can be forced asunder, he will make a mistake so far as this side is concerned.

Now, I am going to ask hon. members to come back to the subject matter that was presented so earnestly and so ably this afternoon by the Acting Minister of Finance. I think we need, upon many of the matters that he has laid before us, the very best counsel, the very deepest thought, the very closest consideration; and I trust that we may not be diverted from the great issues which he has laid before us to-day. I was in this House when the Budget speech in the early part of 1914 was delivered, and I could not refrain from contrasting that occasion when I heard the