

duty to express their opinions and to respect their convictions. By good fortune it so happens that their convictions and mine are identical both against the increase in military estimates and for the continuation in office of the present government.

Mr. ARMAND SYLVESTRE (Lake St. John-Roberval) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I cannot let pass this debate on the armaments question which, to my mind, is of capital interest to Canada not only for the present but for the future, without explaining clearly my own position and the course I intend to follow.

I must say first of all that I am, have always been, and will always be, a Liberal. As I see it, we may at times have different opinions on matters of public concern; but for all that we are not rebels, we are not insurgents, we have not lost faith in those whom the voters have put at the head of the nation's affairs.

So, with regard to the motion of non-confidence, as it is worded, I am entirely opposed to it and I shall vote against it because it condemns the general policy of the Liberal party.

I hold that Liberal policy alone has reestablished our equilibrium, that Liberal policy alone has brought renewed confidence to the country, and set up an orderly administration in the place of the disorder that was rife under our Conservative predecessors.

Mr. Speaker, since 1919 there have been eleven elections held in my province: six provincial and five federal. I have always taken an active part in each one of them. I have even had the honour of being a candidate on four occasions; and up to the present time I am here solely as the representative of my constituents. Since I have always been in the thick of the fight, I know that my electors have put their trust in me because I have always fought with all my might against militarism and imperialism, in any and every shape or form. Hence I do not believe I would be justified in changing my attitude this evening.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. SYLVESTRE: That is why, with the deep conviction acquired through my experience in public life, I find myself under the necessity of stating that I am opposed to this sudden and unforeseen increase in the military forces of this country. In the light of my own experience, and what knowledge I have gleaned from books on the history of all wars, I am convinced that such a policy is chiefly to the advantage of those who

[Mr. Verville.]

produce and supply armaments and munitions, people who are guided by self-interest alone, heartless, pitiless men who strive merely to increase their fortunes; and who, on occasion, wear the mask of patriotism and unhesitatingly lead their country to ruin so that they may garner further riches. We saw frequent examples of this, Mr. Speaker, during the last war which laid waste the entire earth.

That is the reason for my objection to armaments; and I believe that, on this point, my constituents will back me up.

I notice, however, that a large amount is being voted for the development of aviation, both civil and military, in our country. Aviation is a new science which exerts a powerful attraction on youth; unfortunately I must state, without hesitation, that so far our people have not received the fair treatment they were entitled to. I have tried myself to find a place in aviation for young men of talent who seemed to me fully qualified for that calling. The door was closed in their faces simply because of their insufficient knowledge of English. I hope that this time Quebec will get its fair share; that the necessary steps will be taken to found flying schools in our province, with competent instructors who speak and understand the French tongue. Then our young men who are desirous of entering this new career will be able to obtain the necessary knowledge and training to qualify. It seems to me that if a mechanic is competent, if a man is a good pilot, the language he speaks, whether French, English or any other, is of secondary importance; in Quebec our young men should be in a position to learn a trade which should be taught them in their mother tongue.

While I am on that point let me say that after an absence of five years I notice, on coming back to Ottawa, that during the five years of Tory rule there has been built up in Ottawa a powerful hierarchy, which includes the heads of a great many departmental branches, men who are not in sympathy with us and who connive with a majority on the civil service commission to deprive our people of their due rights. It is my duty to raise my voice in protest, so that the dissatisfaction that is evident all around us will not spread further still and the day come when it will be too late to correct the evils that exist to-day.

So, Mr. Speaker, for the reasons I have given I intend to vote against the motion of non-confidence. Like the hon. member who spoke before me, and like all the voters in my riding I have the fullest and most