

the period of the fishing season, the young men to whom I have alluded. In presenting the petition of those fishermen I am not pleading the cause of slackers. Eleven hundred of these young Acadians, members of the same families as those for whom I am now pleading, have already gone voluntarily to the war. Every one of the young men in the fishing fleet has a brother or a cousin at the front; those who have remained at home have done so in order to carry on the necessary industries of the country, and to keep up the production of food, which is just as vital for the Empire as it is for Canada to-day. I am not now opposing the law which is now in force. It has gone into effect, and the young men for whom I am asking consideration are willing to submit to it; all they wish is to be exempted until the fishing season is over. The Minister of Militia, when he made his statement on conscription to-day, said that the calling of men from the farm would be deferred as late as possible until the seeding was over. But how is he going to arrange for the necessary labour when the harvest time comes and the young men who in ordinary times have helped in that harvest are not available by reason of having gone to the front? In the case of the fishing industry we would like, as I already said, to have the services of the young men, who form such an important part of the fishing fleet, retained during the continuance of the present season. The season usually lasts until about the 15th of September, but if their calling up was deferred until the 1st of September these young men would then be willing to go as quickly as they could be sent to the assistance of their brothers and cousins. In addition to the petition which I yesterday presented to the minister from the people of Caraquet, I received the following telegram on the same subject from Shippigan:

Strict enforcement of Conscription here ties up fishing fleet with heavy expenses already involved; if no compromise by judicious selection locality and trade will suffer severely.

Signed: A. J. Trudel, parish priest,
A. D. Chiasson, merchant,
G. D. Leriche.

In dealing with the tariff question we should not only bear in mind the present needs of the country, but also pay due regard to future requirements when the war is over. We must be prepared for the future and put ourselves in a position to meet the conditions that will arise after peace is concluded. We should so place ourselves that when the munition factories are no longer operating we may direct the

efforts of the working people employed in them into other industrial channels, and so be to stand the transition period between the close of the munition factories and the opening of other industries. We must be prepared. For that very reason, we should also be prepared to secure the good will of other nations. Free trade, or low tariff, has been the basic principle of the prosperity of the British Empire. Her prosperity and happiness have been sustained by the freedom of her institutions which in turn have been sustained by the principle of free trade. Free trade creates mutual interest, and mutual interest creates good understanding between nations. Even nations on the Allied side have made a mistake during this war in seeking to effect an economic combination against the enemy countries after the war. While we are fighting for liberty and justice in the world, we are bound to win. We have done this from the beginning, we have done it voluntarily, as was so eloquently said a few days ago in this House by one of the greatest orators of the United States, Mr. Samuel Gompers. He said that Canada was not bound to enter this war, that Australia was not compelled to enter this war, and that South Africa did not have to go into this war. We have all gone into it voluntarily because the British Empire was exposed to danger. Canada, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand have gone voluntarily into this war because of sentiment and interest in behalf of the British Empire, and not because the British Empire imposed compulsion upon its daughter nations.

That sentiment of generosity towards our Crown was not created by blood and iron, it was not even by conscription; it was merely by the breadth of their love for the Empire that millions of subjects blended into one common soul, under the smile of Providence, to fight for the maintenance of British institutions, liberty and justice all over the world. It is in recognition of this sentiment that Canada to a man has gone freely and voluntarily to the help of the Empire, and that same principle of freedom and justice must be maintained during the war and after the war. Let us not make the mistake of desiring to establish again after the war protection against the nations which we are now fighting. That mistake may perhaps have been made at the Paris Economic Conference held two years ago, when, owing to the influence of the men favouring protection on the British as well as on