

the people. It seems to me that that is a simple evasion of the point at issue. If the Government has the courage it should have, and is really desirous of providing for equality of service; if the Minister of Finance is as anxious to win the war as he says he is—and I am sure he is—and is anxious to distribute the burden of war in a way that shall be equitable to all the people he and the Government will take immediate steps to introduce a measure for the conscription of wealth.

It is not I alone who am asking this. All the people of this country cannot be wrong. The labour organizations who represent a great body of thinking people in this land, and who have a right to be heard, demand that this thing be done. The assemblies of all the churches in this country that have met recently say that as a condition precedent to the conscription of men, it is only fair that wealthy men should be obliged to pay their share of the winning of this war. It is a simple proposition and it is easy to define.

I think my hon. friend from South Renfrew (Mr. Graham) well defined what could be done in this regard. I think the people of Canada should sacrifice as much as the people of Great Britain for they have just as much at stake. I think they should sacrifice as much as the people of the United States for they have just as much at stake. The wealthy should be made to pay their share just as the poor man is made to give his son. We all know the situation in this country. The wealthy are not the people who have large families. The wealthy people who have sons in Toronto and other cities have done well in this matter, they have sent their sons voluntarily and gladly to fight our battles but that does not alter the fact that it is the artisan, the mechanics and the plain people who have large families and it is they who will have to fight this battle and it is through their suffering and agony that it will be won. I could take the Minister of Finance, if he would come with me, to Toronto and Montreal and I think I could find for him 500 or 1,000 men in each of these cities who have more money than they know what to do with and who have no boys at the front. It is only fair that they should be made to pay for the support of the wives, mothers and dependents of those boys who are protecting their property at the risk of their lives.

How could this be done? I would suggest a very heavy income tax. We all know that in the cities and towns of Ontario they have had a municipal income tax which has practically been a dead letter. For the

purpose of winning this war every man in every town who has an income up to \$3,000 should be exempt, but above that amount and up to \$10,000, he should pay ten per cent to the Government of the country. From \$10,000 to \$20,000, he should pay twenty per cent and you could go up on a sliding scale. In every city a man might be exempt up to \$5,000, between \$5,000 and \$10,000 he might pay ten per cent, between \$10,000 and \$20,000 twenty per cent and as the amount of the income increases the percentage should increase. I also contend that it is high time this Government took action in regard to the way the people of this land, particularly the poor, are being oppressed by profiteers who flourish almost under the protection of this Government. We are lagging; we are behind the times. We are behind what they have done in Great Britain and we are not doing our duty. Why in the world should the wife of a soldier fighting at the front pay more for her bacon, flour, potatoes, bread and everything else she uses in her household than a woman in Great Britain? In this great, rich producing country why should that be and why should this Government allow it? I would say that as a measure of the conscription of wealth in this country the Government should immediately take over and control all the meat-packing and pork-packing institutions, all the cold storage plants, all the munition factories and all the flour mills. They should be fair to these men. They should find out what their investment is, they should pay them a fair rate of interest in their investment and whatever is made out of these ventures should be used in the interest of Canada and of the Empire in this war. I have been told by a gentleman who came from Toronto that he saw in that city 200 cords of green bacon stored in cellars. The same gentleman saw in Toronto 100,000 hides that were being held in order that the shoe manufacturers could sell shoes at the exorbitant prices at which they are selling to the people of this land to-day. Fifty-five cents per pound of bacon! A man cannot buy a decent pair of shoes for himself for less than \$8 or \$9 or for his wife for less than \$10 or \$12. These are important matters that should be taken in hand by this Government. It has been done in England and surely this Government has as much ingenuity and force as the British Government. I have a clipping here containing some remarks made by Lloyd George only a few days ago. This is what he said: