

"What we need the most, is food, munitions". He knows his business, he is a man from the old country, he knows what is going on overseas. Well, Mr. Speaker, I prefer taking the word of that honourable gentleman than that of these gentlemen here who say: "We want young men, more young men, and still more young men." Well, let them send their own sons across the seas!

I remember, Mr. Speaker, the fight made against the Laurier navy. I was a candidate at the time, and I had against me distinguished citizens, the most popular speakers, the strongest men, tribunes of great repute, I had against me, may I say, men whose slogan was: "cursed navy, down with the navy; accursed law, hateful law, iniquitous law, down with the navy." And several of our friends were defeated by means of such appeals; several lieutenants of Mr. Laurier suffered defeat as a result. Not I, they couldn't beat me, I cannot be beaten, but many have left their bones, many were the victims of such a campaign. Well then, Mr. Speaker, as I have said: how times have changed. They no more say: Cursed marine. Down with the marine. The day after the victory, they cried: Hurrah for the navy, long live the navy. And we saw entering this cabinet, men who had fought us most bitterly, men who had the most violently assailed that Naval Act, who henceforth accepted it, and instead of tearing the page of the Statute which contained that infamous law, that cynical law, that accursed law, as they used to call it, put a stop to all opposition, and have not protested since. You may be sure, they won't touch it.

I say to these gentlemen: Beware. Curses, like chickens, come home to roost. You have defeated us by running down the Naval Bill in every way, the people shall never believe you henceforth, the people will say: we have no faith in you; we cannot trust you; you have deceived us and if you have done so once, you may do so again. It's just like the drunkard: Once a drunkard, always a drunkard. They have no more confidence in you, and when I hear the hon. gentlemen state that the province of Quebec has not done her duty, that the province of Quebec has not given enough volunteers, I have the right to answer: if you only knew the heart of the people of Quebec, and if you could realize what a memory they have; if you did know that no one can lie to us with impunity; if you knew that we remember what you have done, when those who were opposing us

[Mr. Lafortune.]

boldly told us, Mr. Speaker: the children and the grandchildren of the members who voted in favour of this infamous law shall curse their fathers; that the children and the grandchildren would curse the members who had dared to vote in favour of that Naval Act—that we would be accursed by our own children, because we had followed the dictates of our conscience, because we had relied on our own judgment, because we had voted according to our convictions. These gentlemen told us that our children would curse us, because we had listened to the voice of conscience, because we had taken counsel with ourselves, and such was our reward. I say: no, our children will not curse us when they will come and kneel down in the parish churchyard, to pray and drop a tear; they will be grateful that their father had had the hear to do what a good citizen should do; use his own judgment, according to his conscience.

In those times, I tell you, it was mournful to hear these gentlemen say: Mr. Laurier has gone to London and has bought two old tubs that had been discarded, and were lying in the London dockyards, two old ships which are not worth the iron they were built of, those old tubs are valueless. However, they were very glad to have those two old tubs to protect themselves when war broke out. At any rate, the Laurier navy was a Canadian navy. In spending what was necessary to purchase those two ships, our assets were not reduced, we had the equivalent of the few hundred thousand dollars which the Government paid for them; to-day, when they are spending millions on millions, when they are ruining the country without any compensation, it seems to me I have the right to say: hold on! stop there! that won't do! leave us something for a rainy day, a crust of bread for the hard times to come, we will help as much as we can, but don't ruin the country utterly for the Empire's sake.

Mr. Speaker, I will now say a few words about coalition. I have always understood that a coalition scheme was a kind of partnership scheme, a partnership in which Liberals and Conservatives would join in to do business together. Well, when it is a question of going into partnership with anyone, you begin by taking stock, you look into the moral value of the association of your new partners, you examine the financial standing of the new associates, you try to find out the honourableness, the character of the fellows who want to contract with you. If one's moral standing is not good, I will not enter into