

Knowles) had intended to speak on it, and being compelled to leave last evening, he did so with the understanding that the Bill was not to go on until Monday. The printed evidence has only been distributed and members have not had an opportunity of reading it, as it is somewhat voluminous. I think, in view of the suggestion last evening, that it should go over until Monday, it would be rather unfair to hon. members who are interested in this Bill if it should be taken up to-night.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is no objection, the order can stand.

Order stands.

SECOND READING.

Bill No. 131, to incorporate the Army and Navy Veterans in Canada.—Mr. Bradbury.

MANUFACTURE OF MUNITIONS.

MOTION TO ADJOURN HOUSE ON A DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

House resumed the debate on the motion of Mr. Macdonald for the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance.

Mr. D. A. LAFORTUNE (Montcalm) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with a great deal of attention to the arguments advanced by both sides upon the motion submitted to the House by the learned member from Pictou (Mr. Macdonald). This motion is certainly a most important one, if we may judge by the opposition offered by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) to this motion being discussed, you have examined this motion, Mr. Speaker; you have paid a religious attention to the arguments brought forward by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, and, in full justice, Your Honour has approved of the proposition submitted by the hon. member for Pictou and allowed the debate upon that question.

I fully concur in the remarks made by the hon. members on this side of the House. My hon. colleagues who have spoken upon this motion have perfectly satisfied me that they were absolutely right in presenting and in supporting this motion, I have likewise attentively listened to the arguments offered by the hon. members opposite; but however, they have not succeeded to change, in my mind, the opinion I have entertained on that question, from the very outset. The learned

member for Cape Breton (Mr. McKenzie) has brought forward in support of his thesis the most cogent and the most serious arguments and he has surely succeeded in convincing his friends of the propriety of discussing this question. In my view, the hon. members sitting on this side and who, naturally, do not share the views held by the hon. members opposite, have successfully confuted the objections raised by these gentlemen.

From the very inception of this war which broke out in August, 1914, our whole population felt plunged in the greatest anxiety; consternation because general and all were wondering if this war would not be of long duration; opinions were divided then as they still are to-day. Some were asking themselves, from the very start, whether we, the native born Canadians, should participate in this war and if it was Canada's duty to take part in it. A great number were of the opinion that it was her duty to assist in this war, and others held a contrary view. Opinions are not yet agreed on this point, Mr. Speaker. Even at the present moment, a discussion is going on in the press as to the wisdom of the present Government's decision to the effect that it was Canada's duty to participate in this war. That decision was censured by serious and distinguished men, by great speakers who cut a figure in the political spheres and by-the-way, with a decided advantage, who have held contrary views. The view which I held and still entertain to-day, is that Canada had done her duty and that we were not obliged, in any way, to participate in this war; that under the constitution which governs us, we are not bound to take up the Empire's quarrels, in the wars it may have to stand. We have done it; so much the better. I still contend to-day that it was not Canada's duty to do what has been done, but since it was thought proper, I shall not discuss the wisdom of that measure, and everywhere I have had the opportunity to give my opinion, here as elsewhere, I have made no secret of saying what I say to-night.

It was then contended that Canada should, as a colony, put forth a war effort. If that so, it brings me to another consideration. Has Canada done her duty? Upon this point, Mr. Speaker, I have no better evidence to produce than to use the expression fallen from the very lips of the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who has emphatically declared in