

armament for the defence of our territory, and with this view I fully agree, and I intend supporting the government. I think the time has come for us to consider our defence requirements, and that we should not merely rely upon England and the United States for our protection but that we can and must defend ourselves.

Let us not repeat the mistake of 1911. At that time a movement was started in the province of Quebec which brought about the downfall of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. I may say that this movement which broke out in 1911 in the province of Quebec was the immediate cause of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's defeat. What happened? Once Sir Wilfrid Laurier was no longer in power there came that fateful hour for Canada in 1914, and we had not then at the head of the government a man like Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who could have actually assumed the leadership of the Canadian people. Our leaders in this country were rabid imperialists, men who at once, without consulting parliament, without consulting the country, plunged Canada into the war of 1914-1918; and these are the same men who later on, in 1917, applied conscription.

The statements by our Prime Minister at Geneva and elsewhere, as well as those he made in this chamber, convince me that there is a determination to avoid repeating the mistake of 1914, and that, in fact, when the country is called upon to make a decision, it will not be the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the government who will make it. The Prime Minister has pledged himself upon his honour to consult the House of Commons, and it will rest with the whole country to determine whether we shall participate or not in a conflict. That is what all the provinces of Canada asked for, that is what my own province urged, and that is the reason why I am ready to give a vote of confidence in the government.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other remarks to add. I do know that an overwhelming majority of Liberals in this chamber will follow the counsel given us by our political leaders and I believe that such a course will be conducive to Canada's welfare. Hence, I will, for these reasons, give my support to the government.

Mr. T. J. O'NEILL (Kamloops): In rising to speak to this motion I wish to call attention to the fact that most of our time in this debate has been taken up with talk about war, rumours of war, preparations for war and matters of that kind. I do not consider that a discussion such as we have had for the past four days serves any good purpose.

We are only delaying the work of the house, and accomplishing nothing. Some of the subjects that have been brought up relate to former resolutions. One of these was the first clause of a resolution introduced by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth), as follows:

That under existing international relations, in the event of war, Canada should remain strictly neutral regardless of who the belligerents may be.

In the absence of any armaments how could we enforce that neutrality? It is all very well to say that we should remain neutral, but if we have no armaments to enforce that neutrality we would not be neutral very long.

Another matter to which I wish to refer is in connection with the motion of the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas), that:

—in the event of another war involving Canada's active participation, every agency, financial, industrial, transportation or natural resources, shall automatically be conscripted for the duration of such a war, and that a penalty be imposed for the violation thereof.

I say here and now that I am opposed to any form of conscription, whether it be man power or anything else. If we have the proper conditions existing in Canada there will be no occasion to conscript people; if the country is attacked they will protect the country themselves because they have something to protect. It is not necessary to conscript wealth or to conscript industry; that cannot be done very well, but what can be done is to impose such taxation on the wealth and industry in the country that there will not be any profit made out of war. That is quite possible, but I do not believe conscription can be enforced, and I am not in favour of conscription, because there would occur something like what happened when there was an attempt in this country to reduce interest rates. Interest rates were reduced, certainly, but they were reduced on deposits, and you still paid as much to draw money as you did before. That is what would happen if you started to conscript. Men who had one hundred head of stock would have them all taken, but a fellow who had one hundred thousand head would probably have plenty left after you got through conscripting. I am not in favour of conscripting anything at any time, but if you do conscript the man power, then you should provide by some means that there would not be any profit made out of the slaughter. It is a deplorable thing to make a profit out of slaughter.

Let us look a little further into this resolution:

—that a penalty be imposed for the violation thereof.