

that in the condition in which he finds the country to-day he ought to touch the poor people as lightly as possible with taxation. I speak on behalf of the honest yeomanry of that part of the country from which I come—sturdy, firm, hard-working people who are willing to work if there is work for them; coal-miners and steel-makers, fishermen and lumbermen, all ready and willing to work and scorning to look to any one for assistance if the opportunity is given to them to earn an honest living. I am not going to say where the difficulty comes from; all I can say is that, when our Tory friends were in power before, those conditions were abroad in the land. When they were not in charge of the affairs of this country, we had peace and plenty and abundance of every kind. When they came back to power, this locust came back with them. Whether they are to blame for it or not, I do not know; but, as the blind man of old said: "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." All we can say is, that, whereas we had good times without them, with them we have the locust and the pest and the bad times. I would suppose that the hon. gentlemen who have wrought with those difficulties and troubles have made conditions for the poor workingman such that he cannot feed his children, and that he has to cut down his expenditure on their food and clothing and shoes. Hon. gentlemen opposite should try to steer clear of making any further exactions on the people by way of taxation. If there were any way by which this could be done, I would expect that the humane and sometimes good-natured hon. gentleman who is Minister of Finance and who is absolutely responsible for this condition would take that course. Some of us, when we get into difficulties, would be glad to share the responsibility with and to blame other people. It is very natural to put the blame on some one else. If we go back to the first man we believe there was, when he was questioned about his shortcomings, he said: "This woman whom thou gavest me"—she is the cause of all the trouble. From that day down, it has been natural for human beings to blame some one else. I am glad to find that we have in the Minister of Finance a man who would not only not blame his wife, but would not blame any one else in the world for any pitfalls into which he might stumble. He scouted the idea of consulting the Prime Minister or any other member of the Cabinet. He said: It was I myself, first, last and all the time; and if there are any mistakes, they are mine,

and if there is any glory, it is mine. That is the position of the minister, and I wish to bring home to his doorstep the fact that he should not place upon the shoulders of the workingman, who in my county gets two or at the most three days' work a week, a tax when he goes to the store on Saturday night with his little earnings to get food and supplies for himself and his family; that he should not stand at the door of that store with his ultimatum: Before you go in, you must give me something ranging from thirty-five to forty per cent of the little money in your pocket, and with the rest you can buy what you like. That is a rather hard and somewhat humiliating position for the good physician, as he calls himself, of this country to be in, under the conditions that prevail at present. If that course could be avoided, it should have been done by the hon. minister.

The Finance Minister says that he will require \$100,000,000 to carry on this war. We shall be glad to assist him in getting \$100,000,000, or double that amount, if he so desires. There will be no obstruction or objection on this side of the House. If the hon. minister had stopped there and borrowed that money, and was taxing the people only for the interest on it, he would not be obliged, as I said a moment ago, to stand at the shop-door watching those people and taking the money out of their pockets as they enter. All he would have to do would be to impose this stamp tax, this direct taxation, from which he would get more than sufficient to pay the interest on the borrowed money, and to form the nucleus of a pension fund which could be speedily increased when occasion arose. That is all that would be expected of him, and that amount the people would certainly pay. He goes on, however, to gather more money and to levy heavier taxes. The hon. minister tells us this is a war tax. It is more than a war tax; it is a matter of policy, as can be seen from his own speech. This raising of the tax is put forward by him and his Government as a thing that should be done, for the purpose of popularizing themselves in the country. In his speech which he delivered the other day, he said:

We believe the tariff increases which we propose not only will be effectual in producing greater revenue, but will be strongly effectual in stimulating Canadian industries and agriculture and relieving unemployment.

There is the question of policy. When this jaded horse, as I may call the people