

alike, with equal unanimity. It was known when those Bills were presented that the Government intended to borrow the money and spend it for war purposes, and that the amount would be added to our consolidated debt, and for any man to criticise the Government at this time because the debt is increasing is almost equivalent to saying we are doing too much in our time in carrying on the war to the maximum of our ability. If the money is not being spent properly, if there has been extravagance, if we are not getting one hundred cents on the dollar, or as nearly so as possible, the hon. gentlemen have the right to examine and criticise.

Mr. PUGSLEY: That is the only ground on which we criticise.

Sir HERBERT AMES: But to condemn the Government because these figures are growing from month to month is not a fair way of treating this question. The people of this country have responded magnificently in furnishing the moneys necessary to carry on the war. I had the privilege of speaking in New York and Washington recently on the part Canada is playing in the great war, and I assure you that the admiration of the American people for what Canada is doing in this war exceeded all expectations. They admire us not only for the men we have sent and the sacrifices we have made, but for the magnificent way in which the country has financed itself. At the commencement of the war we were under the impression that the only place to borrow money was in England. Almost all our funded debt was held there, a mere bagatelle being held in Canada, and the only loan we had floated in the United States was for purely domestic purposes, and we soon ceased to get money in that market. Since the beginning of the war, knowing we could not borrow money in England, and that we could not get money in America for war purposes, we have had confidence in our own people and have had no reason to regret it. It will always be a proud page in the history of Canada that when the Minister of Finance asked for \$50,000,000 he got \$100,000,000; when he asked for \$100,000,000 he got \$200,000,000, and when he asked for \$150,000,000 he got \$250,000,000. When this war is over perhaps two-thirds or more of our funded debt will be held by our own people, and if our securities grow in value as we expect they will it will be our own people who will benefit by that, and if anything goes wrong we will bring no one down but our-

[Sir H. Ames.]

selves. So I think the country has reason to congratulate itself, and particularly have we reason to congratulate ourselves and the Minister of Finance on the magnificent way in which we have gone through the last year under conditions which have never been equalled in the history of Canada, or in any other land until this great war came.

Mr. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who has taken his seat has told the House that he did not intend to speak on this occasion. Apparently, as the Government was worried over the way things were going, my hon. friend was put up to get them out of a difficulty, and it was very fitting that he should be selected for that task. For I remember in the year 1911, when the Conservative party found themselves in difficulties in the province of Quebec, and thought their only hope of salvation lay in an amalgamation with the Nationalists, it was the hon. member for St. Antoine (Sir Herbert Ames) who was chosen to make the necessary arrangements between the Conservative party and the Nationalists in order to bring the party home to victory. My hon. friend, of course, was also the party who furnished the money on that occasion. It is only natural, then, that to-night, when the Acting Prime Minister seems worried and his colleagues beside him, that my hon. friend should be put up to get them out of their difficulty.

My hon. friend began his address by pointing out to the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Michael Clark) that free trade in England was about at an end, and he spoke of certain legislation. I have not followed the legislation of the Old Land as closely, perhaps, as some other hon. gentlemen, but I fail to recall a single piece of legislation that has been introduced in the British House of Commons since the beginning of the war for the purpose of doing away with free trade in Great Britain. The hon. member for Red Deer gave a very able exposition this afternoon of what Great Britain has accomplished under free trade, as compared with what the Central Empires have done under protection. After the experience the British trader has had, and he is the cleverest trader in the world, of the value to Great Britain of free trade in this war, I do not think he will ever depart from the policy that has made Great Britain the greatest commercial nation upon the earth, and has enabled her to finance not only her own share of the war, but to help her Allies as well. Of course, there was a conference in Paris, and something was said there about trade