

purpose of carrying on the war and providing recruits for our army, and that it would continue for the duration of the war and a reasonable time thereafter for demobilization.

Demobilization has not yet been completed, and so far as I am concerned my contract has not expired. Therefore, regardless of what may have been my opinions in 1917, and regardless of

10 p.m. what my opinions may be today, on economic questions I am not going to take any action which would put this Government out of power while the soldiers are on the ocean coming back and before they are demobilized, and which action would probably, if carried out to its logical conclusion, bring on a general election while this great movement is in process.

I have no fault to find with my hon. friends for bringing up the motion as they have done; that is their business. I have been in this House long enough I think to know the political game pretty well, I have supported governments and I have been in opposition, and I realize the situation. If my friends wish to bring this up at this particular time, it is not according to my views of good political strategy, but, that is their affair, and I realize they are not asking my advice, and I am not tendering it. But the motion having been brought up I am perfectly prepared to face the situation, and I do not think there will be any question that everybody on this side of the House will be prepared to take the same stand exactly, and to vote upon this matter simply for the reason I think very largely that it would be little short of a crime to bring on a general election in Canada under present conditions.

It is all very well for my friends to say, "Well, accept the amendment." Let us get down to earth for a moment. I tell my friends, and they know very well, that this Government could not accept it, and when they say, "Accept it," they are simply asking this Government to do something which is impossible; it could not be done. Therefore it means a vote, and a vote which, if the amendment carried, would mean the resignation of the Government and a general election. I am not prepared to take that responsibility to-night, the members on this side are not taking that responsibility. Further, I do not believe there are more than two or three on the other side who would assume such a responsibility if they knew that was going to be the result.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I have stated my views, perhaps somewhat frankly, and I propose to stand by this Government until the soldiers are home. When that time arrives it will be up to me, the same as it will be to every other man in this country, to do exactly what he has a mind to do. I am making no promises of what I will do; I believe that sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, and when that time arrives I am absolutely free to take any course which I consider in the interests of the country and in honour to myself.

Mr. FRANK S. CAHILL (Pontiac): Mr. Speaker, I wish to say a few words in support of the resolution. We in this country with abundant resources have struggled against the tide of protection for more than forty years, and we have fought a losing fight. Protection was inaugurated about forty years ago, and since that time we have been losing in population at the rate of two hundred thousand people per annum. Instead of having as we should have had fifteen million people in the Dominion, at the last census we had only about seven million. That was largely due to the protective tariff, which induced the people to go into the cities, the manufacturing centres, at the expense of the rural districts.

When the Liberal Administration came into power in 1896 and advocated their low tariff policy, they at the same time inaugurated a system of immigration, and they were able to get a very much larger number of immigrants from the British Isles and from the United States than had ever been attracted to this country before. We gained in population from 1901 to 1911 1,835,000 people and in the preceding ten years we gained only 530,000 people. During the 1901-11 period we gained that number of people largely from the British Isles and the United States, and they were mainly people coming to settle on the land. But again in 1911 and after that period our immigration fell off and our people quit settling on the land to any extent.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there has been a good deal of talk in this country by the protectionists for some time past about the production of wealth. Well, the production of wealth in this country comes largely from the land.

The wealth of the nation is created for us in our magnificent land, timber, fishery, and mineral resources, but the only producer of wealth is labour. If you exhaust the timber resources and do not replace