

to keep one's courage up. The people of Canada spoke on a great issue, and they spoke with no uncertain voice.

Now, concerning the future. Time was when politicians conjured with a name; time is when men are moved by great facts and principles. I most heartily endorse the remarks made by the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Richardson) yesterday with respect to the independence of all members of the House of Commons. I go one step further and say that whatever other members may do, I believe it to be my duty to maintain clear, satisfactory relations between myself and my constituents on any measure which may come before this House. Nowadays, confidence in the policy of the Government as a whole should not be expected to necessitate the destruction of selfhood or independence on matters concerning which there is legitimate ground for difference of opinion. I hold myself free to withdraw from any party or any association of men when I am convinced in my own mind that by so doing I can better serve my country and so satisfy my own conscience, and I do not intend, either now or at any time, to lend myself to the support of any measure which I cannot honestly and conscientiously accept as in the best interests of my constituency and of my country. This may probably be regarded by many, perhaps on both sides of the House, as poor politics, but fortunately, Mr. Speaker, I have neither a political past to shield nor a political future to ensure. In my judgment, it is not the cry or slogan of Liberalism, or, for that matter, of Unionism, which will win when the people of the country are appealed to at the next election. I am satisfied that the people of Canada will bring both sides of this House to the three-fold acid test of their past, their personnel, and their programme.

I desire to offer a few remarks concerning two or three matters referred to in the speech from the Throne which have received but slight attention. First of all, I should like to direct the attention of the Union Government to the advisability of making some special provision in the Land Settlement Act that will meet certain conditions which I shall take the liberty of describing. I commend the policy of inducing as many as possible of our returned men to labour or work on the land. That is certainly most desirable and commendable. But, so far as the announced policy of the Government is concerned, I am not aware that any special provision is made for the future of men who may desire to enter upon agricultural life on a smaller scale than is provided for in the

terms which make for their future on the prairies. I come from a section of British Columbia where a large number of men gain a living on small farms; they are very frequently called "small farmers." Large numbers of men were recruited for the Canadian forces from the Fraser valley in the early and later stages of the war. That district was drawn upon for the 104th New Westminster, the 29th, the 47th, the 131st, the Forestry Battalion, and others. Very many of these men are coming back to their native province desirous of entering upon life in a new relation; some of them wish to resume positions they held before as farmers on a small scale. It is well known that in British Columbia, particularly in the Fraser valley, there is ample opportunity for men who desire to engage in the production of fruit, in the growing of vegetables for the market, in the raising of poultry and in the carrying on of other small industries which constitute a very profitable livelihood for any who give attention to them. I know that there is a large number of men who are looking for such a home and such a life. I do not suggest for one moment that these opportunities should be given only to residents of my own province. From all parts of the Dominion men will, I presume, seek the very best that Canada has to offer on the small farm proposition, and if they do so, they will naturally turn their eyes and their steps towards British Columbia, and in particular, the far-famed Fraser valley. That will be a matter almost of necessity, and our hope is that as a result of legislation which this Parliament will enact, ample provision will be made for the future of those men. You may, Sir, ask me: Is land available? Can men secure ten or twenty acres in that country? I do not hesitate to say that ten or twenty acres can be procured and are capable of producing as extensive and satisfactory financial results as a quarter-section of land in the Prairie Provinces. Owing to the former land policies of Governments, which policies I am not now disposed to discuss, the unfortunate fact is that there are in places large blocks of land which are held sometimes by corporations, sometimes by associations of men not so registered. But there is a considerable quantity of land now available, unoccupied, unused, which can be secured. It may be asked: Will not that land be held at a prohibitive price? Is it not likely that the owners will hold up the Government or anybody else seeking to secure land for this purpose? That is possible, but I do not think it is probable in view of the relief which the