

Are the four ministers from the province of Quebec inspired by militaristic or imperialistic ideas? It would be a repudiation of all their past, a surrender of the political ideal they have extolled and preached for the last 35 or 40 years. Would it be possible to believe that these men, who have attained the zenith of their political career and—some of whom are in their declining years, would come before the parliament of their country and deceive their faithful supporters? If it were true, I would lose all confidence in human organizations. Do you think that they would come before the parliament of their country to say openly: "Let us vote 14 million dollars" while they would be whispering to us: "Do not say it, but it is for the purpose of sending an expeditionary force to fight in England"? There are people who go on repeating that our public men have debased themselves on the point of making utterances before the parliament of their country contrary to their own views. I am one of those who would abandon their own party if I thought that the present government could be so insincere. There are some people and representatives of certain organizations who are now going through the length and breadth of our province and are advising the people as they have done before, but they will have to admit, as they have done in the past, before crowded meetings, that they have become reconciled with the former leader of the Liberal party. Why did they make their peace with him if they were right before? I sincerely believe that it is not the members of the present government who are insincere but rather those who, in the hope of getting the upper hand in our province, neglect none of the means which might make them succeed, and stoop to all kinds of stratagems for the purpose of misleading the people. I am convinced that I express truthfully the sentiments of the population of our province.

Now, as I want to cover the whole question, I must say that I have received a resolution passed by the junior chamber of commerce of the city of Hull, in which they express their opposition to the construction of a drill hall in our city on the ground that they have asked for the construction of an auditorium, and that the building of a drill hall would interfere with their plans for a recreation centre. I am told that the same organization held another meeting a few days ago at which some young men denounced in the most violent terms any kind of participation in the wars of the empire. I sympathize with the young people of my city and of my constituency. I am just as opposed to any participation in the wars of the empire, but when

they say that the increase of the military appropriations is equivalent to participation in war. I cannot agree with them.

I have not yet heard of a supporter of the present government who is going to vote for the amendment of the honourable member for Vancouver North. I do not think there will be any. Either to-night, to-morrow or Monday we shall have to vote for the amendment or for the motion of the Minister of Finance. The Liberal party is going to give its unanimous support to the main motion and will vote against the amendment. Then, when we go into committee of supply, those who are opposed to the increase in the military appropriations will be free to make their objections; it is their right. I repeat that I respect their opinions, as I want my own opinion to be respected. If the supporters of the government are displeased with its policy, they are at liberty to vote against it.

After listening to the speech of the Minister of Defence, I wondered if he could add anything to what he said. Will he be asked to give the names of the ships we are going to purchase? What other details could be asked for? Has he got to tell us the number of buttons on each uniform? Shall he have to tell us the colour of the brick to be used in the construction of the drill hall? We must not stoop to such trifles, and since we have in the past given our confidence to men who are better informed than we are, since we have praised these same men, and told the people of our province that they are the great public men of our country, they must to-day retain our confidence. Is it because you do not see the question from the same angle that you are going to withdraw your support from them? Are the people of the province of Quebec going to say that their four ministers do no longer enjoy their confidence? They would not be justified in doing so.

In so far as I am concerned, in my capacity as member for the constituency of Hull, I shall vote in favour of the increased appropriations, but I shall oppose any kind of participation in foreign wars.

Mr. H. E. BRUNELLE (Champlain): Some hon. members were perhaps able to come to a quick decision as to our necessities in regard to armaments. I confess that I took considerable time to study the proposition from every angle, and that I found it very embarrassing. But after all there are only two views; there is the imperialist point of view, which means that Canada's welfare is of necessity connected with the welfare of the empire or of the British commonwealth of nations, and there is the Canadian point of view—shall I call it the "home-made"