

and this the people of Canada are not in a mood to support very much longer. I trust, however, that if such a commission is established it will make faster progress than the Minister of Customs has led us to understand this afternoon, and that before another year the Government will be able to bring down a programme which will be more acceptable to the country. It is to be regretted that Canada is put in such a position by a Government which has not the courage to take the situation in hand and declare in favour of a policy such as the requirements of the country to-day demand. I hope, however, for the best. As a Canadian, a Liberal and a free trader, I hope that the time will soon come when the Canadian people will not be afraid of trouble during an election. We have never yet had any trouble in Canada during an election; even the last election, which was supposed to be so momentous, which was supposed to be likely to cause trouble, was conducted more quietly than ever an election was conducted before. And to-day, under the grave situation which exists, if the Government, rather than wait and procrastinate again for another year or two, would say: Well, our Government is, after all, a Government appointed for the period of the war, as the Union members of it claim every day that they joined the Government only for the period of the war. The war has been over for six months, so now they talk of staying till after demobilization. Well, demobilization will be completed in the course of a month or two. Let the Government then, if they have not the courage to take the position which they know the people of Canada are impressing upon them to-day, dissolve Parliament and ask the people to pronounce upon the issue free trade or protection, because it is evidently the intention of the Government to procrastinate and give no hope to the people of this country by a change in fiscal policy.

Hon. C. C. BALLANTYNE (Minister of Marine and Fisheries): Before speaking in favour of the Budget, which has my heartiest approval and support, and which was presented to the House so lucidly last week by our very able Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White), I wish to pay my tribute to my late colleague the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Crerar), who a few days ago resigned from the Cabinet. I had not the pleasure of knowing him until he became a member of the Government, but I am very pleased indeed that I had the opportunity of becoming a colleague of his, and of form-

[Mr. Turgeon.]

ing the acquaintance of a gentleman of such high standing and integrity. As the Minister of Customs said this afternoon, Mr. Crerar entered the Government from a sense of duty and at a great personal sacrifice, and now he feels the necessity of again taking up his business and private affairs. It is true that the other members of the Government did not see eye to eye with him on the tariff, but for all that we fully recognized his sincerity, and he leaves the Cabinet to the regret of all his colleagues. Although he has stated on many occasions that it is not his intention to stay in public life, I, for one, sincerely hope that he will change his mind and remain a member of Parliament.

We have listened this afternoon and evening with a great deal of interest to the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster) and the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Turgeon), who have fully explained to the House their views on the tariff. The only criticism that any one would be justified in making of any changes in the tariff which the Government has proposed would be that, in view of our very large national debt, which in round figures amounts to two billion dollars, and the necessity of raising the revenue, no changes should be made in the tariff at all. I believe that the Budget as brought down will meet with the approval of the majority of the members on this side of the House, and will appeal also to a very large number of hon. gentlemen opposite.

I am a Protectionist Liberal, a believer in moderate protection. Before I strayed from the fold I did not find that my views were at variance with those of the majority of the members composing the Liberal party of that day, nor do I think that my views as a moderate Protectionist Liberal would be much at variance to-day with those of the majority of hon. members sitting to the left of the Chair.

Mr. MURPHY: Oh yes, they would.

Mr. BALLANTYNE: All I can say is this: We can only judge the Liberal party by the policy they pursued during the fifteen years they were in power in this country. I, for one, saw no tangible signs of free trade during that period. The manufacturers of this country were perfectly satisfied with the fiscal policy of the Liberal Government during those fifteen years, and I believe that if hon. gentlemen opposite were again in power and had the responsibility of office placed upon them, their policy for the future would not be very