

into this country. Let the Canadian manufacturers satisfy our people that they are able to supply them with such goods as they need at a lower rate than the American manufacturers, or even at a rate as low. The Canadian consumer is not altogether a fool. He knows what goods he is buying; he is going to buy in the cheapest market he can; and if the double protection which the Canadian manufacturers are enjoying at present is not sufficient to enable them to produce the goods that Canadians require, or to sell them at such a rate as will exclude all outside competition, then surely protection is a miserable failure. How much protection is necessary in order to make the protective system a success? In ordinary everyday affairs, as in political life, when we are dealing with any particular plan we want to adopt the plan that we can carry out successfully. Apparently it is impossible to afford sufficient protection to our Canadian manufacturing concerns to enable them to do the thing which they think ought to be done—that is to have Canadian-made goods bought in Canada. I am quite willing to buy everything that I can from Canadian manufacturers, but I still claim the privilege, if American manufacturers can sell to me more cheaply than Canadian manufacturers notwithstanding the tremendous protection enjoyed by the latter—of buying in the cheapest market. That is apparently what our manufacturers—the Re-construction Association as they call themselves—are anxious that we shall not do. Evidently they wish us to pay still more, to give them still more protection and to pay still higher prices for what they produce. There is no reason that I can see why Canadian manufacturers cannot manufacture the articles produced in this country generally as cheaply as the American manufacturers, leaving outside altogether the matter of the tariff. At any rate, surely the existing tariff and the present adverse exchange rate which makes still further for protection, should enable them to supply us with what we need at a reasonable price and do away with the condition which they are now lamenting when they say that notwithstanding that adverse exchange rate our imports from the United States are increasing instead of decreasing. If such is the case that is the fault of the Canadian manufacturer and not ours. I do not now wish to enter into a discussion of fiscal matters. There will be ample time for that later on, when we in this corner will probably have something to say about the tariff and about kindred questions.

I desire, however, to offer a few observations with regard to the amendment which is now before the House. We have heard a great deal about it, and the Minister of the Interior seems to think that if we cannot agree to every single word in the amendment, if we cannot agree to the dotting of every "i" and the crossing of every "t" we must vote against it. Sir, I must confess that I cannot grasp the reasoning embodied in that sort of argument. To my mind the amendment, stripped of its verbiage, merely calls for an election after the present session has run its course. I think perhaps that if some of the verbiage of the amendment had been omitted it would have been better. Personally I do not like so many preambles, because they sometimes weaken the effect of a proposition. I do not wish to criticize the leader of the Opposition, but I think the object aimed at could have been better accomplished with fewer words. It would be more satisfactory to ourselves in the long run and the public would be better pleased. In my opinion the gist of what we are voting on is merely whether or not there should be a general election after a full session of the present Parliament. That is a question which each of us must settle for himself. Each member must decide whether he believes in and should vote for that principle. Now I realize there is something to be said on both sides of this question, and perhaps we are a little too slow in this House to realize that fact when dealing with matters which come before us. This Parliament was elected on a war franchise, on one issue—to win the war. I have no desire to criticize the Government; I am not here for that purpose at all. I am prepared to support the Government whenever I feel that I can properly do so. I believe it to be the duty of every hon. member who is taking an independent stand to support the Government whenever he feels that its acts warrant that course. We should realize that the Government has onerous duties to perform and so long as it is in power I am rather inclined to get away from the merely party idea. No matter who is at its head we should support the Government as far as possible whenever we believe it to be doing right. Personally I am prepared to do that. I am willing to give the Government credit for everything it has done, especially during the war, and am not inclined to condemn it for all its acts since the war terminated, because I recognize it has had to deal with exceedingly complex problems. The Government