

firmed optimist. I believe that a war undertaken for the protection of self-government is one to which in the last resort the people of Canada will be prepared to devote their last drop of blood and their last dollar too. What I believe to be true of the people of Canada I believe also to be true of all the enlightened people of all the nations of the Empire and all the other nations with which we are allied at the present moment. I have the faith to look through the dark clouds that seem to hang over humanity as a pall and to see the silver lining to them. As I have read history, and as I look upon the circumstances under which we are at the present moment, I recall to myself for my consolation, as they are the support of my faith, the lines:

For God from evil still educes good,
And Freedom's seed still grows, though
steeped in blood.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): I do not rise to interpose in this debate other than for one single and simple purpose. But before I proceed to that I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to this House, how much I enter into the spirit of the closing remarks of my hon. friend who has just taken his seat (Mr. Michael Clark). In these days of comparative darkness and the approach of a struggle unparalleled in the history of the world, it is good for us, while acknowledging to the full all the seriousness of the conflict before us, to abate not one single jot or tittle of our hope and confidence in the ultimate triumph of the right. The feeling which prevails on both sides of this House and in all parts of this country is that, whatever may be said of other conflicts, in this we have no doubt of the righteousness of the cause we are defending.

What I rose to do was, not to say that my hon. friend who has taken his seat has made an unjust attack upon any portion of the commercial community, or the manufacturing community in Canada, but to say to him that, from the knowledge which I myself possess, his informants have scarcely put him au fait with the facts of the case in reference to the attitude of the sugar refiners. I have had very close communication with the sugar refiners for the last fortnight, and I think I know the course which they have adopted. I have no other disposition than to give my meed of praise to the stand which has been taken by the sugar refiners of Canada during the last three or four weeks during which this crisis has been

[Mr. M. Clark.]

upon us. The sugar refiners, not many in number in Canada, are in about this position, without going into details. They have a certain amount of raw sugars on hand which were bought when prices were normal. They have a certain amount of refined stock on hand which they have made and are now making from those sugars. Consequent upon the condition of things raw sugars are rising in price and will continue to rise in price probably for a more or less indefinite period. The whole situation is such as to make that pretty nearly a certainty if anything can be certain within a short range from the present. The sugar refiners of Canada have done this; they have in some cases not raised the price one single cent at which they sell to the wholesalers; in some other cases there has been a slight, but a very slight, rise in the price to the wholesaler. The wholesalers are under a certain arrangement with the refiners from whom they get their supplies, and the refiners are holding them to this arrangement, the purpose of which is to prevent the wholesalers from taking out more than they normally should from the refined supply and so exhausting the supply of sugar which at the present time, as far as refined sugar is concerned in Canada, is at an exceedingly low price compared with that in other countries. The wholesalers supply the retailers, and they again are exercising all through this country the power of restraint over the retailers, who are anxious to buy at the present price, being pressed by three different varieties of call. They are pressed for the normal call that the householders of this country have for sugar from day to day and week to week. That is the legitimate one. They are pressed by a call from the hoarders amongst the householders of this country who, whether in full or in semi-panic or for whatever other reason which appeals to them, are putting in stocks greater than are necessary for present and for nearly approaching consumptive uses. That, when spread over a large area of territory and a large number of householders and families, makes a very important factor in the distribution. These they meet by simply averaging about what was the normal call from these retailers' last year's consumption and keeping them as nearly as possible to that. Where they are asked for a hundred bags by a retailer they give him ten or twenty or thirty bags, according as that normal average is reached. That explains two of the different calls. The other is an insidious one, but still an im-