

must at this time be a considerable amount of disaffection. Speaking on behalf of this portion of the population in my constituency, I want to say that, since the outbreak of this war, a war which has indeed touched the feelings and rent the heartstrings of many of our people, whether of English or of German birth, in every possible way, from the moment of the outbreak of the war, they have conducted themselves as true and loyal citizens of this great Dominion of Canada. I cannot speak too highly or too generously of their thrift, their integrity, their high class of citizenship. If under the circumstances they have not sent their sons to the front—and they cannot be expected to do so—no class of our population has responded more liberally to the call for assistance for the families of those who have gone to the front than has the German population throughout the various districts of the West. While it is not to be expected that this class of our population should hold the tie of British connection as strongly as do those who are Canadian or British-born, yet I believe that every one of these citizens would shoulder arms to-morrow if any foreign foe were to attack the coasts of Canada. That is as far as we can expect their loyalty and patriotism to go in this, the first era of their residence in this country.

I have spoken somewhat longer than at the outset I proposed to do; but, in conclusion, I want to say that, in voting, as I propose to do, for the amendment of my right hon. leader, I believe that I am voting not only in the best interests of the great mass of the people of Canada, but for the shortening of that terrible struggle that is costing Canada and the Empire and the Allied Nations so much of their best blood and so much of their wealth. I am voting for this amendment, because I believe that the proposals of the Government are a direct blow at the financial strength of Britain at a time when every fibre of her energy is necessary to prosecute the greatest struggle that the world has ever seen, and, we hope, will ever see—a struggle which in our hope and judgment can have but one result, namely, the vindication of the principles of democracy the world over.

Mr. EUGENE PAQUET (L'Islet) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I heartily congratulate my hon. friend, the member for Humboldt (Mr. Neely) on the brilliant address he has just given. I shall endeavour to answer his arguments by examining the important question of the budget.

The salient fact of the fiscal year of 1912-13 is the unprecedented business expansion in Canada.

During the fiscal year of 1910-11 our trade amounted to \$769,482,000.

During the year 1912-13, for the first time in our history, our trade reached the handsome figure of \$1,085,000,000. In every case, the statistics revealed the steady advance of agriculture, industry and commerce; but with the closing months of 1913 Canada and the other civilized countries witnessed the opening of a trying period for industry and trade.

In July 1914, according to the hon. Minister of Finance, a marked change for the better was felt. The most powerful nations suddenly began to make war on one another, with all the murderous resources furnished them by modern science and skill.

As the hon. the leader of the Opposition has remarked: "This war is a conflict between liberty and despotism." Serbia, Russia, France, Belgium and our Mother Country are fighting for the cause of right and justice. Without being constrained to do so and instantly, in an outburst of patriotic solidarity, Canada proffered her food products, her gold, her brave soldiers, who to-day are shedding their blood for the cause of civilization and mankind.

While the Germans have been guilty of atrocities, have committed cruelties never heard of before in the history of civilized nations, ever since the war broke out; while this mighty nation tramples under foot the most solemn treaties, the soldiers of Canada are fighting for the fundamental principles of civilization.

As the hon. member for Laprairie says: "We are only a self-governing colony, and, unlike other nations, we are not forced to fight for the preservation of our sovereignty."

As a young nation acting our part in the Empire, we champion the cause of liberty and of Gallic culture.

The French of Canada are fighting the destroyers of temples, the murderers of the aged, of unarmed and defenceless priests; the foe who violate and mutilate helpless innocence.

German militarism has brought on this frightful war, a war so horrible that it staggers mankind. We must destroy this plague.

As the Archbishop of Montreal has said: "It is the duty of every one of us to give England our loyal and generous support."

Our people will not fail to do so. The