

in their judgment better to give their support in carrying on the affairs of the country. My hon. friend will perhaps allow me to say that similar conscientious motives have not permitted me to follow him, and I have remained true to my conscience and persuasions, faithful to the leader of the Liberal party. I came into this House eighteen or nineteen years ago, an ardent admirer of the true principles of British Liberalism, of which our leader was a successful exponent in this country until, in perhaps his greatest effort in that direction which was to make Canada still happier than it had been during the fifteen years of his administration, which was to make Canada the happiest country in the world, he was defeated in 1911 on account, as I have already said in this Parliament, of the false judgment of the people of Canada at that time. Peoples, like individuals, at times make mistakes. At that time the present Acting Minister of Finance considered that the majority of the people of Canada had made a mistake in not accepting the policy proposed by the leader of the Government of that day, and that if they had accepted it, Canada would have been more prosperous than it was when war broke out.

About four years ago when war was declared, I came to this Parliament with the intention of being heart and soul in the war and also with the intention of putting forth every effort in my power in the constituency from which I come. I am still of the same opinion, willing and determined to render every possible assistance to the carrying on of the war. It has never entered my mind, nor the minds of the people whom I have the honour to represent, that Canada should for one day cease to participate in this war with all its resources in men and money. In 1914, I was in favour of Canada's participation in the war under the voluntary system. I appealed to my people to support the noble cause for which our aid was asked. The people of my constituency, people of French extraction, if we take into consideration the conditions under which they are living, responded as nobly, gloriously and generously as the people of any other constituency in the Maritime Provinces or any other provinces. My people still hold the same views. During the last campaign I and others of the Liberal party were represented as being disloyal to the Crown, as not being in sympathy with the aims of the war nor with the maintenance of the British flag. I need not repeat that I, for one,

[Mr. Turgeon.]

believe that we in Canada are to-day fighting, not only for the relief of Belgium, for the cause of France and of the British Empire, but for the freedom of worship and language which we enjoy under the British Crown and which we could not enjoy under any other flag.

I must congratulate the Acting Minister of Finance on his Budget, and he will always hear from me when congratulations are in order. He has determined to raise the income tax. This tax which was introduced last session has been welcomed by the country. If the acting Minister of Finance will allow me to say so, an income tax has been urged from this side of the House for many years particularly since the war began and the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Clark) who has urged the Government with all his eloquence to impose this tax ever since the war began has always found in me a very humble and very sincere follower in this matter. It was my pleasure last session to suggest that the income tax should be made as high as it is in the United States, and I am proud to see that the acting minister has taken a step in that direction, and is placing the burden of war on the shoulders of those best able to bear it. I am sure that every true Canadian, millionaire and semi-millionaire, will generously pay the tax in order to maintain Canada's part in the war.

But there is one feature of the Budget that has been a disappointment to me. I am sure the people of Canada will be disappointed to-night. They expected that agricultural implements, at all events, would have been put on the free list. The failure to do so will be a great disappointment not only to the farmers of the West, upon whom the Allied armies and the civilian population of those countries as well as of Canada depend, but it will be a disappointment to the farmers of the East as well. The farmers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have been preparing all winter for a crop which should be double the largest they have ever had in the past if they were given the chance they expected. They were depending on free agricultural implements, more especially now that their farm help has been taken away from them. Hired help will be impossible to get in many districts this year, and agricultural implements and labour-saving machinery are all the more necessary. The Unionist press is continually telling us that tariff questions must be put aside until after the war. I say that it is simply because we are at war and because greater production is so imperative in