

*The Address—Mr. Mutch*

But I suggest seriously that the war effort itself is suffering in a major degree in at least some parts of Canada by virtue of our inability as yet to figure out a way to deal with this situation. I do not suggest that there is an unwillingness to deal with it, but I maintain that we have been incapable of dealing with it up to this point and that we require to do more about it, and to do it now, if we are to sustain our proud boast that we are getting the maximum of effort from our people.

One other matter, and I shall close. We had in Canada in pre-war days a degree of sectionalism which thwarted the best efforts of the finest minds that have been engaged in the problem of governing Canada for the past twenty years. I am happy to say of my own knowledge that to a large extent that narrow sectional attitude has been dissipated throughout the period of this war. I come from the west, and for seven or eight years I have stood with good humour all the jokes with respect to the desires, idiosyncrasies and peculiarities of the people of the west. In return I have made various retorts, pungent or otherwise, depending upon the degree of intimacy, which have been endured with good humour. I suggest to the administration, because it is a matter of great concern to them, that to proceed with a measure for the lessening of the representation of western Canada, and particularly of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, in this house during the period of the war is to invite the resurgence of a bitterness which has largely evaporated during the last few years. It is likely to accentuate every nasty insinuation which has ever gone on the record, and which is in the process of being forgotten. Although we believe that our contribution in the war is as good as anyone's, as I have said before, we do not ask for our contribution a quid pro quo in the matter of the distribution of the things which come out of the war, except in so far as it is in the general interest of the war effort. Our people ask no more than that. But we cannot go home—I question if anybody from Manitoba or Saskatchewan can go home—to our people and convince them that they are anything but step-children in the family of Canada if, at a time when by every single word which is said in this house and in every act which is passed in this house or by order in council our lives and the lives of our children are affected, this measure of restriction is to be applied. We do not feel that we are overrepresented. There are some who may question the quality of the representation.

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

[Mr. Mutch.]

Mr. MUTCH: My hon. friend may find it out. Perhaps there are some who question it, but there is hardly anyone who believes that we are overrepresented; in view of the fact that almost every other section of the dominion has, at one time or another, perhaps for lesser cause than exists to-day, been able either to fix its representation or enhance it. I do not want this to sound like an attack; I do not intend it to be such. But it is not good enough to say that some well-established practice that has existed for a period of years is one of those sacred necessities which we cannot disturb in a time of war. To me that is hooey. We think a way can be found to suspend it and to protect our representation in this period until such time as those thousands of our people who are serving either overseas or in other parts of Canada can come back and we can get in the prairies that representation of population which is relative to the natural home and habitat of those people. We desire, and I think most of us demand, that the matter be left for the period of the war and a reasonable period of adjustment afterwards.

Mr. J. G. ROSS (Moose Jaw): I wish to take a few minutes of the time of the house to bring forward some ideas which I should like to have the government consider before they proceed with legislation, or before the budget comes down. First of all, I want to say a word with regard to trade. To-day in the House of Commons, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Ilesley) rose in his place and, I think, convinced everybody of the difficulty that Great Britain and other parts of the empire are having in an endeavour to pay, partly at least, for the commodities that Canada is sending forward to that country to help them in the war, and to help us through them. Therefore I say that to have any tariff whatever against Great Britain at this time is absolutely ridiculous. To put anything in the way of allowing Great Britain at this time to ship goods into this country to help to pay for the commodities that she is getting from us is too foolish, and I hope that the government, during this session, will see to it that tariffs are entirely wiped out between Canada and Great Britain.

I wish to say a word also about trade with the United States of America and with any other country in the world that wishes or is willing to deal with us on a free-trade basis. In my opinion, during this war the industrialist of Canada has proved that in the war effort he has carried out he is the equal, if not the superior, of any industrialist in the world. We have found, in looking into the production of munitions and supplies for