

the city at sixty and sixty-five dollars a month. Does the Government wish to teach economy to the working men of the country? I venture to say, Mr. Speaker, that the working men of Canada and their wives have a bit of very careful calculation to do every week of their lives in order to make ends meet. The farmers are a little better off, with present prices, than they used to be in this country; but even farmers are not extravagant people. With the exception of an automobile, which is often as useful to them in their business as it is for their pleasure, I do not know that there is any luxury to speak of going into the farm houses of the country. The farmers have no expensive carpets on their floors, nor have they any antique furniture. They are a very frugal and careful people, and they need to be, with their income.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when one has dealt with these several classes in the population what is there left? There are none but the profiteers left; and I would suggest to the Government, as I have done before, that in dealing with the profiteers it is not their duty simply to teach economy but to enforce it as well. They ought to enforce economy on the wealthy people in the country, and they have right at their hand a means of doing so. If the wealthy people are spending more money than they should, then I trust no hon. gentleman opposite me will ask that question, which has been so often directed at the head of my hon. friend from Marquette (Hon. Mr. Crerar): "Where shall we get the revenue?" Get the revenue that the rich are wasting, if you are sincere in preaching economy.

Production is of course important. President Wilson, in a message he sent to Congress lately, put a whole volume of politico-economic wisdom into two little sentences. He called the attention of his own people to the fact that the war had taught the United States that in order to sell you must buy. I commend that piece of political economy to my hon. friend the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Meighen): In order to sell you must buy. International trade was never conducted, and never will be conducted, upon any other principle. You do not always buy directly from the nation to which you sell, but there is always a certain relationship between the amount you buy and the amount you sell. The other piece of politico-economic wisdom which Mr. Wilson gave the American people was this. He said: "Restriction of trade always means restriction of production." So that when public men in this Government tell

[Mr. M. Clark.]

the people to produce, and yet keep up restrictions upon the commerce of the people, they are following a course of absolute contradiction in economic principle.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as somewhat of an old parliamentary hand, and at the same time a politician without any personal ambition, I have been interested, as I am sure large numbers of Canadian people have been, in watching the clash that has been going on in the country and that has been brought into this House, between the aspirations of political youth, and the grim, I might almost say, barnacle-like, tenacity of political veterans. And in watching this fight I must say that I was very proud last night of the leader of what, for want of a better term, I venture to call the National Progressive Party of this country. It must have been noticeable to every one that, with the advent of the member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar) upon the floor of the House, the discussion livened up and the debate in regard to the discussion of political principles was lifted to a plane a little higher, I venture to think, than that on which it had been before his intervention.

The very fact that the leader of this party has been able to interest the House in its principles and policies is the best evidence we can have that the party and its policies are interesting the country and that the by-elections which resulted in the return of my friends to this House were by no means accidents.

The Minister of the Interior followed the example of, I think, the seconder of the Address (Mr. McGregor), the hon. member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt), and others, in what appeared to be an endeavour to fasten the title of "class" to this little party. With what has fallen from these gentlemen about the impossibility of any one class permanently ruling in this country, I am in absolute agreement. I believe that the only logical, effective method for men who enter into the activities and the public life of the country is for them to combine upon a common policy in which they sincerely believe as being a policy which will redound to the public good, in which good all ought to participate, and that they ought to so combine absolutely irrespective of the accidents of class. I am in absolute agreement in that with what I understood to be the attitude of the hon. gentlemen to whom I have referred.

I do not quite agree, however, with the Minister of the Interior in tracing class policies to the origin of a given policy. I think it is largely an accident that for the moment those who support the platform of