

Laurier had been followed four years ago, and two years ago, we would not have had every seaport in Canada in a panic at the outbreak of war, and to-day we would not be depleting the British navy in the North Sea of cruisers to convoy our troops across the Atlantic. The Minister of Finance, referring to my right hon. leader, compared his hands to the hands of Lady Macbeth; but if this tariff legislation goes through, history will refer to the hands of the Minister of Finance as the Teuton hands that delivered the most ruthless blow against British trade that could be dealt in this crisis of British history.

The Minister of Finance wants to know what alternative proposals gentlemen on this side of the House have to make to his tariff. I give him one suggestion obtained from a source that should appeal to him: the legislation imposed by the German Reichstag to place a tax upon the output of war materials by the manufacturers of Germany. Other gentlemen on this side of the House have offered suggestions, but the Minister of Finance answers that they are totally inadequate and do not fill the bill. I presume then that all the people of Canada have to hope for is that if the Budget proposals of the Minister of Finance do not fill the bill, we may expect a further dose of this same treatment when this Parliament meets again. What is the situation? \$100,000,000 required for war expenses, \$180,000,000 or thereabouts required for capital and current expenditure, of which only \$120,000,000 is available from our present sources of income, leaving a balance against us of \$60,000,000. The Minister of Finance says: We must provide, and we propose to provide by an increase in the tariff, this \$60,000,000. A very worthy member on the Government side of the House gave this Government a slogan when it first came into office. That slogan was: "Dash away and spend the money." This Government has carried out that policy so well, it is going so fast down the toboggan slide in this matter of reckless and extravagant expenditure, that it does not wish to have the sensation of coming to a sudden halt on account of the unusual situation brought about by this great European struggle. When we on this side of the House offer suggestions along the line of retrenchment, of curtailment, the Government waves us aside with an airy wave of the hand, as if retrenchment were quite out of the question under the present

[Mr. Neely.]

regime in Canada. I doubt if there are very many hon. members who, since this war broke out, and indeed during the last year or two, have not had to adopt a policy of retrenchment as regards their personal expenditure. If that policy is good for the individual, I fail to see why it should not be good for Canada as a nation. Has it ever entered the mind of my hon. friend the Minister of Finance that he might have increased the revenue by a sweeping reduction of the tariff instead of by increasing the tariff in many instances. That suggestion, of course, is falling upon deaf ears. My hon. friend the Minister of Finance cannot listen to or hear any argument that is not along the lines of the proposals contained in his Budget statement. The people of Canada are not averse to paying their share of Canada's expenditure in this great struggle that means the freedom of every civilized nation in the world; but, if I am not mistaken, they will object very strongly to the tariff proposals of the Government by which, for one dollar that goes into the Dominion treasury four or five dollars will go into the pockets of the protected interests of this country. I would have been very glad had it been possible that this session of Parliament would have passed like the session of August last, in absolute unanimity so far as any partisan discussion is concerned; but if there is any blame for the division that has taken place on the proposals of the Minister of Finance, that blame must be placed where it rightly belongs, namely, at the door of the Government. The Opposition have been given absolutely no voice in the making of the proposals for increasing the revenue. As a member of the Opposition I feel that I would be derelict in my duty were I not to oppose as strenuously as possible the method by which the Minister of Finance proposes to increase the revenues of this country.

Before I conclude, I want to say a personal word with reference to 9 p.m. the constituency that I have the honour to represent. As some hon. members know, I represent a constituency that has perhaps as cosmopolitan a population as is to be found in any part of Canada. Of that population some hundreds of families are of German birth or German extraction. There is an idea in the minds of some of our good people in other parts of Canada that, in those German and Austrian communities in the West, there