

been dilated upon by my hon. friend from West York, and the seconder of the address, has told us in a more recent utterance in the city of Montreal, that there is a great crisis in this country. And he has not only told us that, but he has told us that the members of the government know all about it. This is what he said:

Our American friends, declared the minister, are making tremendous efforts to crush this country. We, who are in office, know that they are leaving no stone unturned to crush this Dominion to both industrially and commercially. * * * There is a crisis at hand. Our American friends are endeavouring to make a slaughter market of this country. In consequence of this attempt, let us have a tariff that will protect our national industries and waterways, that will protect our national trade.

I do not know how this language of the Minister of Public Works commends itself to my hon. friend from Guysborough (Mr. Fraser).

Mr. FRASER. We have it now.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). My hon. friend (Mr. Fraser) does not agree with his leader that there is a crisis.

Mr. FRASER. That is not what I said. I said that I agree with the Minister of Public Works that we have it now—that is all he said.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). The Minister of Public Works said, let us have such a tariff as will protect. Well, if there is a crisis in this country and if the members of the government are so familiar with it as the hon. Minister of Public Works tells us, it is a singular thing that there is no reference in the Speech from the Throne, to so important a matter. Possibly, the member of the cabinet who is charged with looking after this crisis was not able to contribute his quota to the King's Speech, and no reference to it has been omitted. But, speaking seriously, I venture to suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that there is no doctrine of parliamentary government more thoroughly settled than this—that there must be political unanimity in the cabinet. Parliamentary government is degenerating into a farce if the Minister of the Interior can proclaim one doctrine in the west, and the Minister of Public Works can proclaim the very opposite in the east with regard to an important matter. And I will call the attention of my hon. friend (Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to an authority on this subject which he will not question. This authority is Mr. Gladstone, who said:

It is one of our first duties to decline to acquit any member of the cabinet of responsibility for the announced and declared policy of another.

Now, Sir, we have the Minister of the Interior, in language as distinct as possible, telling the people of this country that, if 23 per cent is not enough to keep the great industries of this country on a proper foot-

ing, then it is better for this country that those industries shall be closed, that our factories shall be shut up and that the operatives who are working in those factories shall go to the United States, while we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars every year in bringing people of a foreign race and different language into our North-west. But the Minister of Public Works, on the other hand, has taken the stand—practically the position which he took by a resolution which I moved during the last session—that this country should stand by its great manufacturing industries, the position that this country cannot afford to have its factories closed and to have our people going to the United States. We know well enough, from the census returns, the effect that the great industrial centres of the United States produce upon the population of our eastern provinces. We know that, so long as our own industries remain in their present condition, so long as they do not develop, they are not sufficient to keep the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, or even the people of Ontario and Quebec, from emigrating to the United States. I say it would be folly—and I agree with the Minister of Public Works on that point—to think of adopting a policy that would close these manufacturing industries and send our people across the line in still greater numbers, while we continue to spend annually an enormous amount of money in bringing men of different nationality and language from the two great races of Canada to fill up our North-west. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not presume to tell the government which of these two hon. gentlemen should resign—the Minister of the Interior or the Minister of Public Works. That is a point on which I would hardly venture to offer advice to my right hon. friend. I suppose it is a problem which is engaging his attention at the present time. But, if I might be permitted to make a suggestion on the subject, it would be rather on this line—that all the other members of the cabinet should resign and that my hon. friend, the Minister of Public Works, should remain in office and carry out the policy he has announced. But, perhaps I am going too far in making that suggestion. And if my right hon. friend thinks it is a suggestion that should not come from me, I beg that he will accept my most humble apologies for making it.

Now, Sir, I do not intend to say very much with regard to the census or to that most extraordinary paragraph in the speech which purports to deal with the census. I almost wish that my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright) could get leave of absence from the government for about two hours to do justice to that subject this afternoon. I know that my hon. friend appreciates that suggestion by the smile I see illuminating his countenance. I do not