

that it is merely to defer the discussion of the question raised by the Prime Minister. There is plenty of time to discuss it before the term expires, while we deal with something that is more important to Canada and to the boys in the trenches. I am not going to say that the finances of Canada are in an unhealthy state. Canada has powers of financial recuperation, has resources, has virility in her people, has energy, courage and ability to carry her through any financial responsibility that may be placed upon her by reason of this war. Nevertheless, the fact remains that at the present moment we are incurring very heavy financial liabilities. And rightly so. But the question arises: Should we not, at this time of what may be called artificial prosperity, take advantage of the situation to more nearly pay our way as we go during this war? Why should we leave all the expense of this war to be borne by posterity, by the men who come back from the front, and by the sons and grandsons of these men? Why should we not, at the moment, look about us and see if there do exist sources on which the people of Canada can draw in order to meet the expenses of this war. There is not a man in this House who will not agree with me in his own circle of acquaintances there are men who are able to pay and who are not paying according to their ability.

Income Tax.

The hon. the Finance Minister (Sir Thomas White) said the other evening that the time would come when an income tax would be imposed. The time has come now when something ought to be done along the line of securing from those best able to pay their full share of the financial burden of carrying on this war. That has not been done in its entirety. You ask me what I would do? I do not intend to keep the House more than a very few moments, because I discussed this question at great length some two weeks ago; but this I do say—that the men enjoying large incomes ought to be taxed on those incomes. It has been said that those receiving smaller incomes and those with small deposits in the banks have become alarmed. There is no need of alarm on account of any action that I would propose or on any action that this Parliament would take. No person understands better than I do the necessity and desirability of financial stability, and of doing nothing which will interfere with the financial progress and commerce of the country, because to do that would be to interfere with our financial status at home, and make us a burden instead of a help to the Allies. But, there are in this country many men who are not contributing their share. The poorer men and poorer women of the country are contributing their share. There is not a man in this House, there is not one man of ordinary means, who is contributing at all in comparison to what the washer-woman is contributing who pays fifty cents to the Patriotic Fund, and there are many of them. I do not minimize for a moment the splendid contributions that have been made to the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross and other worthy objects. Many Canadian men and women have risen nobly to the requirements and have contributed liberally. But there are still sources that ought to be tapped, and this Parliament will not be doing its duty if it ends this present session without devising means by which every man, and every woman, in Canada, who is able to contribute, is made to contribute his or her full share towards the cost of carrying on this great war. There are men who receive large incomes from mortgages and other securities, and on these incomes they are not paying one farthing towards this war.

Large Incomes should be heavily Taxed.

True, they are paying some small amount to the municipality, which is given authority to collect such a tax by provincial legislation. But I say again there are men in Canada with large incomes, drawn from sources which relieve them absolutely from contributing one farthing for the carrying on of this war—and you will find them in every community. They do contribute to the Patriotic Fund—all honour to them—but in most cases, if a well-graded income tax were imposed, we could afford to let

them keep all they give to the Patriotic Fund, and we would gain a thousand fold by adopting the other method of collecting. I would not impose a tax on the man of the ordinary income. Heaven knows he has all the troubles he can carry now, under the high cost of living, in keeping his family. But men who enjoy the larger incomes, I would compel to pay into the coffers of this country in order that we might borrow less and approximate more nearly our income to our expenditure as we go along. We are mobilizing men. That is proper, absolutely right. But if we quit with the mobilization of men, our duty is half performed and we are not doing what in us lies to make the issue of this war a success for the Allies.

Transportation.

I spoke the other evening of several things. Allow me, without wearying the House, to mention one or two. First, the transportation facilities of Canada. To win the war, as the Prime Minister has well said, is the transcendent issue in the Dominion of Canada. Nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of our transportation facilities being so efficient that our produce of the farm and from other sources can be carried with all speed to the place of embarkation. No matter who criticises or who does not, this Parliament will be responsible if we do not see that the railway companies of Canada are equipped with the rolling stock to carry the crop of 1917 to the seaboard. The fact that the heads of the companies or the Board of Railway Commissioners give as a reason why that was not done that they had not rolling stock, will not excuse this Parliament for not seeing to it that they have the rolling stock—and differences can be settled afterwards. Then, when we get the food to the seaboard, we only have it partially to the Allies and to our boys at the front. To-day the British Government, through the Imperial Munitions Board, is manufacturing ships all over Canada. This is proper and right; but I opine that, even if all the shipyards of Canada are busy, we in Parliament ought to sit down and devise a scheme whereby ships for the carrying of Canadian produce for our own boys will be built, and built without delay. That should have been done months or even years ago. It is useless for the farmer in the West or in the East to raise immense crops; it is useless to cry "production," unless we devise a scheme by which the products of Canada can be taken to the point of consumption across the sea. The discussions that have taken place in the press during the last few days of certain reports indicate to us that we have a work to perform along other lines in the matter of food production at home. I submit—and I want to give the Government full credit—that during the past few weeks they have started out along a line that the people of Canada have been discussing for a year or more. A food controller has been appointed; a fuel controller has been appointed. I am not going to criticise because this was not done before, but we seem to be working without concentration of effort, every man for himself. Some scheme should be devised by which all this would be co-ordinated and all would work, one with another, to attain the best possible with the minimum of expenditure.

Winning of the War Main Object.

I could discuss natural resources as I did the other evening, but I do not want to detain the House. But I do want to impress on the House that the winning of the war being the chief object, the great thing in view of all Canadians, of all lovers of the liberty which we enjoy, is that we should devote our energies to first things first; and I submit that the question which I have outlined in a very few words comes before the discussion of the extension of Parliament. If the winning of the war is the great object which we have in view, I ask the Government to accept this motion; to defer further discussion of the resolution for the extension of the parliamentary term and to bring in legislation along the lines which I have suggested. Let us get it on the statute books of Canada and proceed to operate under it. I may