

practical thing, it is a matter of raising money, and as long as we have governments that introduce budgets, we shall have members who do not quite agree with the Government in the way they raise the money. I am sure that we in Canada have followed the example, to a very large degree, of the old country in uniting all the members of the community for the common purpose of national defence. I had an early opportunity of indicating what was the view of the members of the party to which I belong in the province from which I come on this matter, and I took the line which was taken about the same time by my leader—I was fortunate in doing so—of proclaiming, so far as I was concerned, a truce to all party strife. In the old country nothing has been more marvellous, I think, in the history of the world than the way suffragette troubles, labour troubles and all other troubles have disappeared and the people have united for a common purpose. I do not make this remark except for the purpose of a practical suggestion which I wish to link on to it. I am sure the Government will give attention to my suggestion, but I do not know whether their attention will lead to its adoption. We have on one of our coasts at the present time a number of men in jail who are not ordinary criminals. They are in jail as the result of a labour dispute, and I cannot help thinking—and I offer the suggestion to the Government in all good faith—that it would be following the example of the old country in the matter to which I have referred, and following the example which has been general in our own country, if an appeal, which was made, I think, by my hon. friend from Nanaimo (Mr. Shepherd) when this matter was the subject of acute party discussion, were taken up at this present time, apart from any such party discussion, and an act of clemency extended to these men, who, I repeat, are not ordinary criminals. I cannot help thinking that men who got into prison under such circumstances as did these men would be better off with their liberty at the present moment, with a chance of using any fighting powers they have on the Pacific coast, than lying in prison and being a charge on the public authorities.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am informed by the Solicitor General that, with one exception, they have all been released.

Mr. CLARK: I must express my extreme gratification that the Government has anticipated my suggestion.

[Mr. M. Clark.]

With regard to the proposals of the Budget, I have said that war is a triumph of the abnormal, and, I might have added, of the extraordinary. I am bound to say that my hon. friend the Minister of Finance has met the extraordinary and the abnormal by very ordinary and very normal proposals. He has met this extraordinary state of affairs by a proposal to increase the debt of the country, which is not a new proposition, and by a proposal to increase the tariff. I do not think—and I should not be doing what I conceive to be my duty if I did not express myself firmly on this point—I do not think the Government has been happy in the way it has met this extraordinary crisis. As to the amount that is being voted, I do not think there is a man in Canada who will have a word of criticism to pass upon that, and if the Government needs to come back very shortly with a proposal to raise \$100,000,000, I do not think there is a man in Canada will have a word to say in criticism of that; but I repeat, I do not think the Government are happy in the way they propose to raise it. I question very much the wisdom of disturbing the fiscal conditions of the country at all in the way of raising the tariff for the comparatively paltry sum which the minister will raise by that means. In the disturbed condition which existed before the war, and which has been immeasurably intensified by the war, I very much question the wisdom of that.

With regard to the increase in the debt of the country, I do not think that perhaps could have been avoided. The debt of the old land is largely, almost entirely, the residuum of the wars of centuries, and I do not think that Canada possibly could have escaped increasing her debt. I would like to endorse at this point, however, the weighty suggestion which fell from my hon. friend, the junior member for Halifax (Mr. A. K. Maclean), that the Government should devote their utmost attention in every department to the most rigid economy in detail. That, if it be an abnormal suggestion so far as the House is concerned, is certainly a return to the normal on my part. I would like to endorse very strongly what fell from my hon. friend on that head.

With regard to the changes that have been made in the tariff, I think it is most unfortunate that the Government at this time should have had recourse to the in-