

ber for Parry Sound (Mr. Arthurs) the other day referred to the French Canadians. I think you, Mr. Speaker, were in the Chair and heard what that hon. gentleman said. Would you, if you were the father of one of those boys—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. McCREA:—be willing to have him go to the front?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. McCREA: I ask you, do you think the mother of any French Canadian boy would like to have her son go to the front under an officer who speaks of the French race so disrespectfully as the hon. member did the other night in this House?

In order to carry on our part in this war, we require men and money. But good management is just as necessary. Having regard to the turmoil and quarrelling amongst the members of the Cabinet, I ask whether we have had the good management that is essential to the proper carrying on of the war? I say: No. What this Government should do and what it will have to do before it obtains the confidence of the people is to go to the country and find out what the people desire. If the people approve this Government as it is now constituted, I for one will be only too pleased to support it in every possible way. But at the present time, this Government cannot be expected to have the confidence of the Liberals, and I do not believe it has the confidence of the Conservatives. Many leading men have told me that they have no confidence in this Government, and I believe that is the general feeling throughout the country. In any case, what is required is men, money and a powerful combination not of politicians, but of men of strong views, with courage to enforce their views and to go about the winning of this war as they should do, instead of squandering and wasting money like water as this Government has done so far in this war. There has been waste and extravagant expenditure of money in every direction. At this time you have to appeal to the people of this country for more money and to impose further taxes, and if you show them you are going to spend that money honestly, uprightly and fairly, you will have the confidence of the people, but you cannot obtain it in any other way. When the business affairs of the country are going along in a normal way people do not take very much notice, but when you touch their pockets

and you call upon them to pay out their money by direct taxation, you cannot squander their money; you cannot fool the people; you must spend the money rightly and properly. That in my judgment, is what should be done. I am sorry to have to criticise, but I think the case demands criticism. This is a time when we need men and money, but we also need business-like management, and that it what we do not have at the present time.

Mr. DUNCAN C. ROSS (West Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, the measure now before this House has, as it should, aroused the intense interest of the people of this country, and I feel I would be failing in my duty to the Riding I have the honour to represent if I gave a silent vote on such an important question. I shall endeavour, as was suggested by the Prime Minister, to make my remarks as short as I can in conformity with my duty, and I shall also, I hope, maintain the high tone which has characterized this debate since its beginning.

In the first place I am in favour of the principle embodied in this Bill and of giving this Government or its successor,—preferably the latter—the power asked for in this Bill. My reasons amongst others for doing so are these: As I understand this measure, it is not conferring upon this Government, nor would it confer upon any other Government greater power to compel military service than it has under the existing Militia Act. As a matter of fact, this measure limits those powers in some respects, while in others it extends them in a more reasonable and more profitable way than is provided for in the Militia Act, in that this measure gives the Government power to mobilize the man-power of the country, not entirely for military purposes, but for military, commercial, industrial and agricultural purposes.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Will the hon. member be good enough to point out where in the Bill that appears? I can find no such provision.

Mr. ROSS: If my hon. friend from St. John will permit me to proceed with my remarks, if he requires any enlightenment—and I do not think he does—I shall endeavour to give it to him. In order to make my position clear to the hon. member for St. John and to the other members, it will be necessary for me to some extent to place before the House the provisions of the present Militia Act, as I understand them, and to contrast those provisions with