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NOTE

The following speech by Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, was delivered in the House of Commons on March 10th, 1915, in reply to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Opposition, who, the same day, had moved the following amendment to the Budget:—

"That Mr. Speaker do not now leave the chair, but that it be resolved:

"This House is ready to provide for the exigencies of the present situation and to vote all necessary ways and means to that end, but it regrets that in the measure under consideration duties are imposed which must be oppressive upon the people whilst yielding little or no revenue, and that the said measure is particularly objectionable in the fact that instead of favouring it, it is placing extra barriers against Great Britain's trade with Canada, at a moment when the Mother Country is under a war strain unparalleled in history."

It will be noticed that whilst Sir Wilfrid Laurier insisted on presenting this want of confidence motion, he did not even attempt to suggest any alternative proposals, thereby admitting his inability to do so. Is it not somewhat inconsistent, to say the least, for Sir Wilfrid in one breath to proclaim a political truce and in the next to bring forward an amendment designed to negative the attempt of the Government to meet, in the best way possible, the present situation?

LAURIER'S AMENDMENT MEANT NO AID TO BRITAIN FROM CANADA.