

experience goes, and I have been as active as the average member, I think our people have been splendid.

One only needs to go to the most remote homestead, to the little schoolroom, and present the needs of the Patriotic Fund, to find that the poorest homesteader in the West is ready to respond in a way which makes one feel that the last dollar of Canada is behind this fight, and the spirit which I find there I am sure prevails everywhere. There is no desire to stint the Government as to money; there is no desire to stint the givings of our people for the purpose of the Patriotic Fund, Belgian relief, Red Cross work, or the taxes for the enormous undertakings which the Government is carrying on. But I should be false to my own sense of duty if I did not say that at this time the air is full of rumors as to what is being done with the enormous amount of money that is being voted by the Parliament of Canada. It goes without saying that the \$150,000,000 which we have already voted is a mere drop in the bucket compared with what we shall have to vote if we are going to raise anything like half a million recruits. It is important that some one should do what I am doing, and I might as well do it as any one. It is important that it should be impressed upon the mind of the Government that while the people will give, and give freely, of their last dollar for a war in the objects of which they believe, they have grave suspicion about the road this money is travelling—some of it. I was glad to hear the Prime Minister state this afternoon that it has been discovered that there are horses in Western Canada, and there are horses galore in Western Canada. It would have been as well if all the horses had been taken from Western Canada if it would have spared us the discovery of those one-eyed Equine Methuselahs which were recruited in the province of Nova Scotia.

Mr. MACDONALD: And in Ontario as well.

Mr. CLARK: I think the most antediluvian horse was found in Nova Scotia. I have very little appetite, Mr. Speaker, for this class of politics; very little appetite indeed, and I do not know that in the midst of a war our people have a keen appetite for it, but when things like those that were exposed last year in the Public Accounts Committee, are pushed under their noses, they would not have been human if they

did not ask themselves this simple question: Is the Government making the best use of the enormous sums of money which Parliament has voted for the purpose for which it was voted, that is, for the purpose of terminating this war at the earliest possible moment? That question is being very widely asked. I would be the last man to approach Parliament with rumours, I would be the last man to approach Parliament with statements which were not authenticated facts. I quite realize that there must be inquiry into all these matters and I am sure that the Government realizes it too, and I have not the least doubt that their attitude towards the appeal I am making now will be precisely what it was last year, and that they will hail an investigation; that they will hail the fullest possible inquiry as to the way in which these appropriations are being used. They would be unwise in their own interest, as well as unwise in the interest of the Empire, if they did not hail such an investigation.

As far as we on this side of the House are concerned, our attitude is unchanged. While we believe and endorse to the full the policy of the Government we do not by any means pledge ourselves to support the details of that policy, nor do we mean to condone for one moment any diversion to the private pockets of individuals of the public funds that should be given to the killing of Germans and the termination of this war. With this reservation our attitude is to-day what it has always been, one of hearty, thorough, and sincere support of the Government in providing the last man and spending the last dollar that Canada can afford for the legitimate purposes of this war.

I am going to claim, before I sit down, Mr. Speaker, that from the time the first shot in this war was fired until the present moment, there has been no citizen of the British Empire, there is no citizen of the British Empire at this moment, of whom the whole Empire has more reason to be proud, of whom it is more proud, than my right hon. friend who leads the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). With not a drop of British blood in his veins, he has never ceased to be an admirer and supporter of British institutions and an exponent of the highest statesmanship which has guided the destinies of the British Empire whether in the old land or in the new. From the beginning of this war his attitude has been that of a man who was impressed with the