

the Government to-day to make an appeal to the people of this country. My hon. friend the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) has faith in the Canadian people and we are asking for an appeal to them which will be refused, I am sure, by the supporters of the Government. We can trust the people. If we do not do so we have no right to be here.

There is great unrest in the country, especially amongst the returned soldiers. What are the reasons for that unrest? One great reason is that many of our men came back from the front in poor health with very little means of subsistence and since their return a great number of them have had to be supported by their relatives. They spent months and years in the trenches at a dollar and ten cents a day, whereas in this country lots of people have made millions of dollars. The war has impoverished many and has enriched certain classes. What we need in this country is a large influx of immigrants, not artisans—immigrants who can engage successfully in the great industry of agriculture. These new comers should be drawn from the rural districts of the old country and not from the cities, of whose denizens we have had too many in past years.

What must be termed the great calamity of the present century is the ambition of some people to make too much money. We have been fighting for the cause of humanity and to ameliorate the condition of the smaller nations. To-day in Europe widows and orphans are stretching out their hands to the United States and Canada asking for bread and clothing. The currency of those countries has been so much debased that it is worth very little at the present time, and thousands of these poor sufferers are actually in need of the necessities of life. It is really too bad when realizing how many thousands of men have been sacrificed in the recent great struggle that we are taking such little interest in their poverty-stricken families. Now that the war is over we must forget class feeling and antagonism and go to the rescue of the nations that are so greatly in need of assistance, especially those that we reckoned as our allies.

There is something wrong with our commercial system when it is possible for such great sufferings to occur without the means of redress. Foch has said that "equality of gold should follow equality of blood," and in this sentiment I concur. It is rather amusing, Mr. Speaker, to hear some of the great financiers of this country calling upon the Government to cease borrowing money

—to hear them preaching economy and hard work by all classes. I remember not very long ago reading an expression of some such views by Sir Edmund Walker. I wonder if this is the same gentleman who advised the Government not to borrow money when we were buying the Canadian Northern railway. Lord Beaverbrook has called upon the women of the world to give up their gold in order to save the country. These also are noble sentiments. Are these people sincere? I hope they are, but they should at least be prepared to practise what they preach.

It is very timely to ask the question, what is wrong with the country? The more we inquire the more we learn that the National Policy of the present Government has not given satisfaction. There is unrest and dissatisfaction abroad, and an appeal to the country will permit of an unmistakable and unequivocal expression from the people. Therefore the amendment before the House is very timely. By appealing to the people we shall show our confidence in them and we must not fail to respect their views. The popular verdict will be for the advantage of Canada. The present Government seems to entertain a fear of the people at the present time, and does not want an appeal to the country. That in itself seems to suggest that there is something wrong. Let us appeal to the people at once. Let us ascertain what they think of the high cost of living, and whether they are not in favour of reducing the present high taxes on the necessities of life, the imposts on clothing, boots and shoes, farming implements and so forth.

In conclusion let me say that I shall vote for the amendment in the hope that by its means we shall be able to appeal to the people and ascertain what their views are on the vital questions of the day.

Mr. PETER MCGIBBON (Muskoka): I would like at the outset to join with other hon. gentlemen, even at the risk of being a little tiresome, in congratulating the mover (Mr. Cronyn) and the seconder (Mr. McGregor) of the Address upon their notable contributions to the debate. The effort of the mover was, I think, worthy of that great relative of his, who for so many years adorned the popular Chamber and whose voice was so successful in the past in shaping the policies of one of the great political parties. The hon. member for London (Mr. Cronyn), in moving the Address, brought to his task a great deal of ability, a great deal of study, and produced a finished effort creditable alike to him and to his great relative Hon. Edward Blake.