

Mr. OLIVER: I beg your pardon, I did not know that.

Mr. CROTHERS: I will not detain the House any longer. I sincerely hope every hon. member will vote in favour of conscription. Conscription is the only logical action to take; it is absolutely necessary unless we are going to allow our men at the front to be bowled out. It is just possible that it may not be necessary to put conscription into force as recruiting is reviving, as the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) has mentioned. Conscription is in force in the United States; it is in force in every country in Europe, and it is necessary to have it here unless we are going to break down and be compelled to bow our heads in shame before the civilized world.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (North Cape Breton): Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Labour commenced his speech I really thought he was serious and was going to deal with a serious question in a serious manner, as ministers of the Crown are expected to deal with the business of this country in an enlightened and serious manner. The minister did not go very far into his speech when I was reminded of the old Scotch divine who spoke only Gaelic, and who was rather unexpectedly called upon to preach an English sermon. This divine took as his text: "The Devil goeth about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour."

Mr. CROTHERS: That is a chestnut. Give us something fresh.

Mr. McKENZIE: I am glad there are other nuts besides the one the hon. member is rubbing. This Scottish divine, in his Presbyterian way, divided his text into three parts: Who, the devil, he was; where, the devil, he was going; and what, the devil, he was roaring about. Those were the questions which suggested themselves to me when the Minister of Labour was on his feet. He tells us that we shall be known by our fruits. If that test were applied to the minister he would be a wanderer and a stranger on the earth, and nobody would know him. He would certainly be like that accursed fig tree at the root of which the axe was placed, and which bore no fruit henceforth for ever.

Mr. KYTE: He is already marked.

Mr. McKENZIE: The minister said at the start that he did not want to delay the House and would only speak for a few

minutes. I am not complaining about the time he took, but if he would only pass around a little brief saying that he was going to read the speeches of the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition on the war we could look these things up for ourselves and save the expense of having them duplicated on Hansard. It would have taken him about the same time to read the 119th Psalm, and we should have had no objection to his reading that in preference to the speeches of the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition, because in reading those he was simply repeating facts the truth of which nobody questions.

He also told us that everybody hated a quitter. Perhaps so, but it depends upon when he is quitting, and how. To judge by the physiognomies of hon. gentlemen opposite when the Minister of Labour sat down, I think they preferred a quitter to one who kept on threshing old straw and beating the air. Is there anybody in this House, or in this country, who says that we are not in favour of Canada's participation in this war? Is there anybody in this House or out of it who takes a different position to-day from the position we took on the 14th of August, 1914? When the war broke out hon. gentlemen on this side of the House were in favour of Canada taking part in it and standing by the Mother Country, of which we are all so proud; that was the position we took in August, 1914, and that is our position to-day. But the Minister of Labour talks to us as if we were a kindergarten class, and tells us what our duty is and what we ought to be and do. We on this side of the House know what our duty is just as well as the Minister of Labour and those who sit around him, and are just as loyal and determined to carry on to the end.

The Minister of Labour speaks as if the leader of the Opposition had departed from the attitude he took at the beginning of the war. Nothing of the kind. Anything that was said by the Prime Minister or the leader of the Opposition in the war session of 1914 must be read in the light of conditions existing at that time. We had then a voluntary system. For nearly fifty years nobody in this country had ever thought of compulsory service, and nobody ever said anything about compulsory service in the war session of 1914. Everything that was then said in regard to the force we expected to put in the field and the support they should receive had reference to the voluntary system; that was the system under which we intended to fight. To suggest that the leader of the Opposition would have any-