

ands of electors, people who had faith in solemn declarations made to them. Who won? That is a question which the Senate cannot answer—who won? We want to know who won, and it seems to me the best way of knowing it will be to ask the government, whenever it pleases, and in the form it pleases them, to squarely lay down their cards on the table and say 'This is our policy.' We cannot say who won but we have a fair idea as to who was duped. It amuses me very much to hear some gentlemen in this chamber and in the other House speak of the Nationalists imposing their views upon the opposition. It has even been said by the hon. gentleman from Lanson that the amendment moved by the hon. leader of the opposition was a Nationalist amendment. It seems to me that my hon. friends, in attempting to abruptly separate their fortune from that of the Nationalists, have made a most unprecedented move. Since the Roman times 'repudiation' has not existed in our code of law. They entered into wedlock with the Nationalist party. They want to repudiate that alliance. Well, they will have to go before the court which married them, the people of Canada, who will settle the conditions of the separation. It may be said by some that there is no very great necessity to give any solemnity to the divorce, as the goods and chattels of the community can be easily divided. The Nationalists could withdraw with what they brought in, their ideals, and the Conservatives with what they contributed, their thirst for power. I only know of two real Nationalists, Messrs. Bourassa and Lavergne, among the leaders. They are the gentlemen who furnished the ideas and ideals. The others were shams. Messrs. Bourassa and Lavergne could take back with them their illusions and the Conservatives will be satisfied with power.

I conclude by reaffirming what I said in the beginning—there is no urgency, there is no mandate. Let us go our way undisturbed by the clamours of the jingo press. We are a young people with an immense territory to organize and develop. Our expendi-

ture on public works and railways goes on constantly increasing. European nations have no such obligations. We are spending very large sums of money for our militia. We have voted a Naval Act under which this country may establish, on both oceans, a ship-building industry for commercial shipping and for the building of the necessary crafts for the defence of this country, on a moderate scale. This country is blessed with the ideal happiness which comes to a peaceful and law-abiding people who have but one friendly neighbour and who fear no assault from any one—a people thus able to give all its time and best efforts to the arts of peace. Canada's best protection against assault from outside rests in its determination to deal fairly by every one and to submit to arbitration any question which cannot be settled by diplomacy. Let the jingo element which wants to inoculate this happy land with the microbe of militarism remember that most of its inhabitants have fled from Europe to escape the crushing burdens of militarism. Why should this country hasten to load itself with the curse of exaggerated armaments? I recognize our duty to ourselves and to the empire. All Canadians are ready, at all times, to help Britain in time of stress, but I do not believe in plunging into heavy naval expenditures through pressure from the outside. I commend the suggestion of the right hon. the Prime Minister made in January, 1910. He then believed in an emergency and in making a contribution, but when speaking of the naval service he said:

I say to my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, so far as my words have any weight with him: 'Go on with your naval service. Proceed slowly, cautiously and surely. Lay your proposals before the people and give them if necessary opportunity to be heard.'

These will be my last words: Let us proceed slowly and cautiously. It is the duty of the Senate to stop or adjourn hasty or dangerous legislation. If threats of reprisals could affect our course our usefulness would be at an end. Fiat justitia ruat cœlum.