

they were five years ago, still I do not think there has been a harder time for men of moderate income, with large families to provide for, than during the last year. Still, the Government could not see any way of dealing with the matter. I should like to give the Minister of Finance a little advice, though I do not wish to criticise him unduly. He will make a great mistake if he allows this session to close without bringing down a proper and full measure of taxation which will make the burden of taxation bear equally upon all classes, rich and poor, great and small, according to their means. The time has come when we have to resort to greater taxation than we ever dreamed of, and it is better to resort to this taxation now, when times are good and when men's sympathies are in favour of patriotic movements and organizations. If it would be hard to enforce a fuller measure of taxation now, it will be doubly hard to do so later, after the close of the war, for instance, when times will be harder. The only thing that the minister could find it in his heart to deal with was the price of news print paper; that unfortunately for the manufacturer, he saw fit to place at about one cent a pound less than the cost of production. His reason for taking that action was that the public press was of such immense value in the way of the enlightenment, edification and instruction of the people that it should be specially favoured. Nobody has more respect than I have for a good, honest, truthful, upright paper that states the facts as they are. But the more one reads the public press—I refer more particularly to the Government organs—during the last six weeks or more, since the agitation for conscription was started, the less informed he was as to the real facts. That seems a rather strong assertion, but if any hon. gentleman doubts its truth, all he has to do is to compare what the papers have said about what was taking place in this House with what actually did take place. I have no desire to criticise the public press unfavourably. But I do say that the people look to the public press for information, for guidance, and for plain statements of facts. During the last six weeks the Government papers have come out with brave headlines to the effect that coalition was assured; that certain members on this side of the House had consented to join a coalition government; that the leader of the Opposition had resigned, and a whole mess of other stuff. It was to enable the newspapers to engage

[Mr. McCrea.]

in this kind of education and to give out this kind of information the manufacturers were compelled to furnish paper at less than cost.

I think it would have been wise if leaders of thought in Ontario had been more friendly towards the French minority in that province and had granted to them what was their just right. As an English-speaking Protestant, I should be ashamed to have it said that my own countrymen deprived their fellow men, who have just as good a right to their language as I have, of anything which was their right. They were the pioneers in this country; they were the people who saved this country to the British flag at a time when there were few Englishmen, if any, here to defend the country. I agree that enlistment has not been as great in the province of Quebec as it has been in other provinces. But we must remember that the French Canadians in the province of Quebec have had absolutely no military training. In time of peace, they had no drill halls, no military organizations. War is entirely new to them. The fact that they have not enlisted in greater numbers is not due to their being cowards or to failure to appreciate their responsibilities. The thing is new to them, and it takes time to educate people in respect to anything that is new. They have not had that education; they have not had proper persuasion; they have not had a proper appeal from their own leaders in the matter of enlistment. We had men who were capable of leading them, but these men were not sent to Quebec to carry on recruiting campaigns. Even if such men had not been available, we could have got Frenchmen from France, military men, well-trained, having a wide knowledge of warfare, whom the French Canadian would at least have been able to understand. Imagine French Canadians being placed under English officers whom they did not understand! I am not a military man, but we have had regiments in Sherbrooke. I have watched them—not in time of war—when they were out for their annual drill. Some young Frenchmen enlisted in those English regiments, and when they went astray in their drill because they could not understand certain commands given them by their English-speaking officers, instead of speaking to them kindly, the officers would talk to them in a manner that I myself would not like to express. Is that the way to appeal to French Canadians? Is that the way to make military men of them? The hon. mem-