

BUT HE CANNOT WIPE IT OUT.

My right hon. friend has suggested my motive in increasing the preferential rate. I wonder if it would be out of order if I suggested his motive in moving his amendment? I may be wrong, but I have a very clear idea as to the right hon. gentleman's motive in introducing his amendment. Let me ask my right hon. friend if there is anything upon his heart, or his conscience, that induces him to move this amendment? I would ask my right hon. friend to take the drama of Macbeth and refer to the sleep-walking scene in the fifth act, in which Lady Macbeth, looking upon the hand stained with the blood of King Duncan, says: "All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten that little hand." My right hon. friend the Prime Minister, acting upon the prescient advice of the Admiralty, two years ago introduced into this House the Naval Aid Bill, whose purpose was to assist in the naval defence of the Empire. My right hon. friend obstructed and killed that Bill. I say to him now—I say it with great respect, I say it without any imputation except upon his statesmanship, certainly not upon his loyalty—"that all the amendments, whether relating to the British preference or otherwise that he may move now or at any other time, will never obliterate the memory of the action which he took in connection with the Naval Aid Bill."

In conclusion, I desire to make a somewhat deliberate statement. I say to my right hon. friend that there are two ways in which it is possible to oppose effectual participation by the Government in this war. Firstly, such participation may be directly opposed. This has not been done. Secondly, participation can be opposed by opposition to measures, such as our fiscal proposals, necessary and essential to the carrying on of the Government of this country, the fulfilment of our contractual and other honourable obligations, the maintenance of the credit by which we are enabled to prosecute the war. It is obvious that we cannot prosecute war abroad unless we are in a position to carry on our affairs at home, pay the interest upon our public debt and preserve our financial credit in international markets. The policy of the Opposition as exhibited in their criticism of this Budget would not permit this to be done. As to their attitude upon this war Budget at this the most critical period of the Empire's history, I pass no further comment than to say that the people will know, appreciate, weigh and understand. They desire this Government to carry on this war with all its heart and all its soul and all its strength. This is what we propose to do. This we conceive to be our mandate from the people of Canada. If the right hon. the leader of the Opposition doubts whether we have this mandate, let him say so. My right hon. friend may rely upon it that we shall not fail to take all necessary measures to ensure that Canada continues with the will of its people to carry out its whole duty to itself and the Empire.