

the thought, the aspirations and the distinguished achievements of the great Canadian people. There is another thought that presents itself to me which may not be inappropriately associated with this subject, and it is that the rebuilding of this magnificent House of Parliament synchronizes, in greater part, with the heroic efforts of our soldiers abroad when they were writing glorious pages in the history of the Dominion and distinguishing themselves by their bravery, their prowess and sacrifices on behalf of Canada, the Empire and civilization.

The thought of war and the mention of battle suggests this other idea—that here, in this arena of the people, we strive one with another for the mastery, that we enter into combats not with mortal weapons but strive with intellectual rapiers, that one may win over the other. These struggles continuing down through the ages while the Parliament of Canada continues to meet and assemble in this stately building.

Having said so much by way of introduction I would like briefly to refer to some of the subjects touched upon in the speech from the Throne. So far as the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) is concerned, the speech did not seem to please him at all. He considered that it did not contain sufficient matter; he thought it was very meagre and that it constituted "a poor bill of fare." If I might indulge in a play upon words I think it was "a pretty fair bill." However, from the very start the leader of the Opposition found fault that there was not enough of the legislation intended to be discussed during the present session foreshadowed in the speech from the Throne. If I remember rightly, and if my knowledge is sufficient, I think it is not customary in our day to anticipate very much of the legislation to be submitted to Parliament in the speech that is placed in the mouth of the representative of His Majesty, because from day to day the facilities exist for expeditiously and easily placing before Parliament and the public the matters that may be decided upon by the Government for legislative action during any particular session.* Therefore I do not think any serious complaint can be made on that particular score, and so the objection referred to is not very tenable or very well founded. The whole attitude of the leader of the Opposition, having reference to the subject matter of the speech and the course of the Government, was throughout one of dissatisfaction and fault finding. The hon. gentleman seemed to have drawn

[Mr. McIsaac.]

his inspiration from the sensational headings of articles in the newspapers and to have supplied what might therein be lacking by drawing upon his own lively imagination.

The hon. gentleman declared and repeated that the present administration led by Sir Robert Borden was unpopular and it was therefore time that it should resign. Let me discuss that point for a moment. The word "popular" has a variety of meanings and I think that perhaps, using the term in its best sense, it will be found on analysis and on investigation that the present Government is a most popular one. This is a Government that did things not only during the war but in peace times. It has been, and is still, engaged in great projects that tend to promote the national interests regardless of whether they may be popular or not. The carrying on of war, I think all will agree, is not a very popular undertaking. When Canada became involved in war and when it became necessary to do everything that was possible to draw upon the resources of the country and to strain every nerve to see that our share in the struggle should be in the highest degree successful it was altogether likely that the Government would be obliged to do a great many things that the leader of the Opposition and a great many other persons would not regard as popular. But the measures adopted by the Government were for the national interests, were for the maintenance of our liberty, were for the safety of our country and our Empire, and generally speaking, for the preservation of civilization. In order that our share in the struggle should be as full, comprehensive and successful as it was possible to be, the Government of Canada, under the leadership of Sir Robert Borden did everything that could be done, and they succeeded to an eminent degree in their undertakings.

It seemed to me that in the course of his address the leader of the Opposition scarcely mentioned the word "war." One would almost think from hearing his speech that there had been no war at all within the last few years. Certainly one would scarcely gather from what the hon. gentleman said that there had been anything of the kind. I do not know exactly what the hon. gentleman's attitude toward the war was. For all I know it may have been one of benevolent or innocuous neutrality. There was nothing in his speech to indicate that he was at all deeply interested in the triumphant outcome of the war, and that he would be willing to make any sacrifices or to put forth