

ing in purple and fine linen; much more does he eclipse the Babylonian product in other respects. The ancient prodigal had some regard for property and civil rights, and only took the share that fell to him after a proper division of his father's property. Our prodigal of the Borden fibre, scorning such trammels of scrupulosity, would take the whole business. The Babylonian product had also some regard for public opinion, for he carried on his ravages in a far country. Our prodigal had no such compunctions; he carried on his performance in broad daylight and in the market places, absolutely oblivious to the demands and exactions of higher things. The Babylonian artist fed his swine in a field, undoubtedly at a respectable distance from the haunts of men. Our modern artist gathered his Gadarene herd of political insatiabiles right around him so that the high court of Parliament is not immune from their incursions. Still more did our distinguished prodigal outstrip and outclass his prototype of Babylonian days in the manner in which he dealt with his father, confiding old Canada. Where does our unfilial spendthrift leave his father? He leaves him absolutely penniless, standing at the corners of places of public resort, such as railways, stations, customs houses, banks and post offices, begging for coppers, his estate squandered to the four winds of Heaven, and the spendthrift son an absolute bankrupt. It now remains to be seen what the end shall be. Our prodigal cannot say, "I will arise and go to my father," for he left his father penniless and homeless; there is nobody to dance, and no fatted calf to kill. But I have reason to believe that in the very near future the elder brother, as represented in the intelligent Canadian electorate, will find a place for the unrepentant prodigal on the high shelf of political forgetfulness, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.

Mr. H. BOULAY (Rimouski) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to discuss any of the statements just made by the hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. McKenzie) or of his other charges which have been contradicted again and again by previous speakers on this side of the House. In beginning I must say I do not share the views expressed by the hon. member for Laprairie-Napierville (M. Lanctôt) in his speech of Tuesday last, as regards our cash contribution for carrying on the present war. However, I am proud to see that the French

[Mr. McKenzie.]

Canadians are flocking in by thousands at the call to the colours, and flying to the aid of not only Belgium, France and England, but of the civilization of the entire world, menaced by that horde of modern barbarians calling themselves Germans, worthy descendants of the Ostrogoths, the Visigoths and even of the Huns, who were in the Middle Ages the scourge of that portion of Europe. But as to our cash contribution, I am dubious whether we are not really doing more than our share, whether we have the means of furnishing so much money, and if the advantages we would gain thereby could recompense us for the enormous sacrifices we are now making, a pecuniary sacrifice which I consider out of all proportion to the resources of our country. We need not only courage and the ambition to serve; we need, at the same time, to be sure we possess the means requisite to that end. It appears to me that the upkeep of our soldiers once they have landed in Europe, should be altogether chargeable to the country we are assisting. The contribution of blood is more burdensome than that of money, but we are inclined to contribute the former all the more willingly that our sons are willing and proud to sacrifice their lives to defend that civilization so fearfully menaced. However, I am not prepared to say that I will oppose the proposed vote of 100 millions, for the greater the cost the greater the sacrifice appears, and we hope that our ancient motherland of France, as well as our new mother country, England, will be so much the more grateful the more painful the sacrifice will be for us.

We are about to debate a question of great importance to our country from the financial standpoint. During the month of August of last year fifty millions were voted. The public treasury, or Canada as a whole, was drained of millions for the defence of the Empire and of Canada. This sum, enormous in proportion to the financial resources of our country, is in great part already spent, and to-day we are asked to vote double that amount—one hundred millions. We are asked to make another enormous pecuniary sacrifice. We are again ready to do so. We are asked, besides, to make the greatest sacrifice that could be asked of a man—the sacrifice of his blood, of his life, the sacrifice of our brothers and sons for the defence of the Empire and of Canada—We are prepared to make it. By thousands, from one end of Canada to the other, our youth have rallied to the flag.

Yet while we are asked to make the most