

expense of their transportation back to their native land, and of their re-establishment in civil life. The Government has made provision for a war gratuity, deserved if ever anything was deserved by those heroes of Canada who have done so nobly on the battlefields of Europe. I mention this only to call attention to the fact that our expenditures for this year are inevitably going to be on a war scale. This discussion should, I think, proceed in the light of this and of the other facts I have mentioned.

I was interested, as I think all hon. members were, in the address of the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster), but I submit to the House, that while my hon. friend is in order, his amendment is out of place; that it is in substance and in fact a want of confidence motion; that if adopted would mean the defeat of the Government on a vital measure, namely, the provision of supply. The amendment should be voted down.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE (North Cape Breton and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I do not purpose, at this stage, addressing the House at any great length. The amendment which has been moved upon this side of the House has been very fully and clearly discussed by the hon. member for Brome (Mr. McMaster). Every phase of it has been as well put and as well supported by facts and figures as could have been done by any one. For that reason, it would not be proper for me to endeavour to duplicate the work of my hon. friend. The training which you, Sir, and I have received in our profession is that when a thing is once well done, when an argument is once well put, it should not, in the same case, be put the second time. For that reason, I shall leave well enough alone—a good Tory injunction.

I am very much surprised at the attitude taken by the leader of the Government (Sir Thomas White) in regard to this amendment. I would like to ask him and other hon. members who are interested in the tariff, and who have to say to their constituents and the country generally whether or not they are satisfied with the present condition of the tariff. When you go back to your constituents, is it an answer to them to say: "Why, the leader of the Government from his seat in the House told us that if we voted for this amendment it would be a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and consequently, we had to vote it down." The hundreds of thousands, aye, millions of people in this country from the Atlantic to the Pacific who

are after the Government and after improvement, do not care very much whether that Government is sustained or not. They want relief; they want the right thing done. I appeal to hon. gentlemen in this House who are better acquainted with the history of government in the Old Land than I am, whether governments have not been defeated in the Old Land on a vote of want of confidence and turned out of office on scores of occasions, resulting in the necessary reform being brought about. So long as the supporters of this Government always obey the crack of the party whip we shall never have reforms in this country; for I should like to see the motion from this side of the House, which the hon. gentleman who leads the Government would not pronounce a motion of want of confidence if it was likely to be supported by his followers. That is an old cry; it has no significance. I ask the Acting Prime Minister, or any of the experienced parliamentarians sitting behind him, in what form a resolution should be introduced into this House that would have for its effect, if carried, the putting of the Government out of power, which would not cause the Acting Prime Minister to run into this little hen-house of "Want of Confidence."

What the people of this country are looking for is action, reform, the bettering of conditions in this country, so far as it is in the power of this Parliament to bring that about. We have heard a great deal said in this House condemnatory of the party system. It is not party that is the curse of this country, but the hanging on to power. And when we arrive at the stage when hon. members of this House will put the interests of the people first and the love of power second, we need not be very much concerned which party is in office. It would appear that no matter what aggregation of supporters you get behind this Government, the same nostrum will do. When they are afraid of their toes being trampled on or of being disturbed in their seats, as the ants will fly when a stone is upturned, the same argument is made as was made by the old line Tory government. The people of this country ought to know that the crack of the whip that was good in the days of the old Tory Government of Sir Robert Borden is equally good in the days of this so-called Unionist Government. I have just had placed in my hand Bourinot, an authority on Parliamentary procedure, who lays down the principle (P. 424):