

That is what he said. I thought he was talking for the Opposition—he an able business man and a member of the Government. I can pay him the tribute that he is a very able business man. In another place there are other able men, such as the new Prime Minister, and this is the position into which they have brought our country, that every day of the year, according to the honourable leader's own statement, we must take a million good Canadian dollars and carry them over to the United States to pay for what we buy from them over and above what they purchase from us. I blame the Government for that, and I charge them with very bad administration. The Government deserves blame for putting the country into such a state that our currency is depreciated. Our dollar was worth only 86 cents yesterday; that is the latest quotation. I say the Government must be blamed for having allowed the country to come down to such a state of affairs, and one reason why this Government should be driven from office is the adverse trade balance which the honourable leader of the Government quoted yesterday. He cannot deny it. There can be no argument about this. We heard the honourable gentleman make the statement, and everybody is aware that it is because of the way in which the Government has administered the affairs of this country that we are in such a bad position to-day. The honourable gentleman's remarks in deprecating the adverse balance would have been an excellent speech coming from the Opposition.

But let us discuss other things. I said a moment ago that the Government majority has been decreasing. It was about 70, I understand, in December of 1917 after all the soldiers' votes had been counted: What is it to-day? We shall know, I suppose, in a few days. I believe it will not be one-half of that. They talk about the duration of Parliament and when the Government will appeal to the people. Why, it may be ascertained by a simple rule of proportion: if the Government majority has been reduced by so much in three years, in so many months the Government will go down because they will not have a majority. Unless we are mistaken, the results in East Elgin and West Peterborough are not very encouraging for them.

However, let us pass on to another matter. The honourable leader of the Government said, and I was much amused at hearing the statement: "Honourable gen-

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tleman, we have spent two billions of dollars and never has the expenditure of one dollar been challenged." The honourable gentleman got away with that statement. Now, to be absolutely parliamentary, I will make my comment in Latin: "Audaces fortuna juvat." But really and truly the honourable gentleman must have forgotten something. There must have been just some little scandal in connection with the two billions. Has he forgotten about the horses the Government bought? Does he not remember the horse that was exchanged for two ducks and one drake? That is not a big scandal, but it is a scandal, you must admit. And then what about the painted horses? And what about the horses that qualified for the Boer war, which had taken place some fifteen years before? If the honourable gentleman did not remember the horses, he must surely have remembered the appointment of a legal gentleman of very high attainments, Sir Charles Davidson, to make an inquiry into the wrongdoing in connection with the purchase of those horses and also to investigate the actions of one Nova Scotia member of Parliament—his name, I think, was Foster. Anyway, he defeated Sir Frederick Borden and came up to Ottawa. He was given \$50,000.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Seventy thousand.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Seventy thousand, I am told, but I will make it easier and say \$50,000. That was an amount given him for the purchase of horses and not accounted for. He said he had bought plenty of horses, but when it came to an accounting he said that the man who had the receipts had gone to the United States and he could not get at them at all.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: He was well punished.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Well, he deserved it. But it was a scandal. Yet the honourable leader says that there was absolutely no scandal in connection with the expenditure of those two billion dollars! I think Mr. Foster had to retire from the House of Commons. But there was almost a scandal in the fact that it took Sir Charles Davidson two years to make a report. By the time his report was presented all interest in those transactions had been lost; the horses were probably dead by that time, and nobody cared.

But there was another little incident that surely ought not to have been missed,