

ency. I did that because I believe it is the duty of every member of Parliament at proper intervals to meet his constituents and give an account of his stewardship and give them an opportunity to meet and discuss public questions with him. A number of Ruthenians were present at one meeting I addressed. Among other things I said: "We can have no divided allegiance in Canada. The man who comes here and is admitted to Canadian citizenship, no matter from what country he comes, must be prepared to accept the responsibilities and obligations of that citizenship, and he should be protected in his rights of citizenship."

After I was through one of these settlers got up and said: "We come here with the desire to be Canadians. We want to be such, and, to use his own words, "We want to place heart to heart and good will to good will with the other people of this country." That is the spirit in which we can make these people into good Canadian citizens. Let us deal with them fairly and justly, and, if we do, I am sure we shall in the future find in them a valuable asset for our country.

I have already spoken at greater length, than I had intended, but I desire to say a word or two in regard to the amendment which has been introduced by the leader of the Opposition. I do not think he has been at all happy in the phrasing of that amendment, and personally I do not like to see in it any reference to the absence of the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) that would in any way be construed in the country or elsewhere as being directly or indirectly a reflection upon that right hon. gentleman. Nevertheless, I intend to support the amendment for the following reason. When the Union Government was formed it was formed for one specific purpose. There was just one issue before the country, and I worked in the interests of that issue because I believed it to be right. In this connection I shall repeat what I have said before, that under similar circumstances I would do the same thing again. There was, as I say, no other issue than this one before the Canadian people at that time. But now we are faced with a new condition of affairs in this period of reconstruction. We are spending vast sums of money and are embarking on great national policies of one kind and another, and I know enough of democracy to believe that the people of Canada should have an opportunity at this juncture of electing a new parliament and of expressing thereby their views and wishes on the important

[Mr. Crerar.]

questions which are clamouring for consideration at this time. I believe that it is the desire of the people that they should again be consulted and have these questions thoroughly threshed out in debate from one end of the country to the other. After all, Mr. Speaker, we are simply servants of the people, and it is our business to embody in legislation what the majority of the people require; and I submit that in the present state of affairs this Parliament has not a mandate from the country upon the many problems we have to face and solve. I am not speaking particularly of either the Government or the Opposition, but of Parliament as a whole. We are not qualified to express the wishes of the people on the vast issues that confront us because we were not elected upon those issues. The one and only issue upon which the present Parliament was elected has ceased to exist; it has passed beyond the horizon. We are now facing many great problems, and it seems to me only fair and right that the people at the earliest opportunity should be able to express their opinions upon them.

If we survey the past political history of this country we shall find that there has been a great deal in it that has not been elevating, or worthy of our country. I should like to see the members of this Parliament, and those who may succeed them, animated in their attitude to their duty by the splendid spirit of heroic sacrifice that animated our men overseas. If we can bring to bear, in the responsible and important positions we occupy as the law-makers of our people, the vision, the outlook, and the devotion that inspired our men to such heroic deeds, then I have no fear for the future of Canada. We have recently erected this building, with this noble assembly hall, as a fitting evidence of our deep faith in the future of our country, and I say again that if we, as Canadian citizens, seek only what is good and noble and honest and true, and look only for what is best, in one another, I have no fear for our future prosperity and welfare. If we do this we shall rear in this Canada a nation great not alone in the things that are material but in the character of its institutions and of its people.

Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Minister of the Interior): Perhaps the frequent references of the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Crerar) to my humble self, and, I fear, his very frequent inaccurate references to a speech I recently made, will justify me in departing from the determination I had