

themselves upon charity for their support. The Government should provide funds for their support, before the man is forced to enlist. He should have definite assurance, not simply a statement from some one that the fund is doing wondrous things for the soldiers and dependents. If a man is sent to the front by force, the question of the support of his dependents should not be left to charity, or in the hands of any committee, or left topsy turvy, so that he would not know where the support of his wife, his widowed mother or family would come from. Therefore I move:

That all the words of the motion after the word "that" be struck out and the following substituted therefor:—

That the further consideration of this Bill be deferred until such adequate provision has been made for the dependents of soldiers enlisted for overseas as will remove the necessity of raising money by public subscription for their support.

Mr. SPEAKER: If I had reference solely to section 54 of the British North America Act and rule 77 of this House, and, perhaps, to rule 40, as to the question of notice, I would feel disposed to rule the proposed amendment out of order. But in view of decisions which have heretofore been given in this House upon questions of a similar character, I have some doubt in my mind as to whether I would be justified in making strict application of the rules. I made reference to the doubt in my mind for the reason that I do not wish my decision in this instance to be regarded as a precedent, leaving it open to me to go into the subject more fully when I have better opportunity.

Right Hon. Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I hope my hon. friend will not regard me as wanting in respect for him if I do not dwell at any great length upon the observations with which he has favoured the House at four o'clock in the morning. Indeed, I think we would all have been very grateful to him if he had made an endeavour to express himself a little more concisely. I was not able to follow his argument in every respect. During one portion of his remarks, it seemed to be his conclusion that if this Bill should pass we shall not be able to get any more men, and I also understood his conclusion to be, that if this Bill does not pass we shall not be able to get any more men.

Mr. COPP: I said we would not get any more men under the voluntary enlistment.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: That is the way my hon. friend's remarks impressed me.

[Mr. Copp.]

My hon. friend's amendment is obviously a purely dilatory motion.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Intended as such, and intended as nothing else; and I desire to say that the Government does not propose that any such dilatory amendment shall stand in the way of the second reading of this Bill. In order to relieve my hon. friend's mind, I may also assure him that the Bill will be put in force.

With respect to his observations as to the Patriotic Fund, let me make one or two very brief remarks. The gallant men who are fighting at the front for Canada to-day are as well provided for, in every respect, as any men who are now doing battle for the cause of civilization and humanity in the Allied armies. It is customary in all countries, not only in Canada but in Great Britain, in Australia, in every dominion in this Empire, and in the United States, to make provision for certain matters which are not usually dealt with by the Government of the country. A magnificent example was afforded to us only a few days ago when, in a single week's campaign the people of the United States, by voluntary contribution, laid aside \$130,000,000 or thereabouts, for aid to their troops who were going to the front. We have done the same thing in this country, not only for our own men, but for the men of the Mother Country, the soldiers and the sailors who are fighting for the Empire. We raised, I do not know how many million dollars in Canada for the British Red Cross Fund. We raised pretty well up to a million dollars by voluntary contribution in this country for the sailors of the Empire who are maintaining their splendid vigil in the North Sea, and safeguarding the rights and the interests, not only of the Mother Country, but of the people of Canada, by their courage and sacrifice and by the toil and the hardship which they are enduring there. We have raised magnificent sums of money for the Canadian Red Cross Fund, for the War Contingent Association, for the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

There is no charity associated or connected with the Canadian Patriotic Fund. That Fund is an organization established for a national purpose by an Act of this Parliament to which my hon. friend himself gave his assent, which passed this House without question, and which has the endorsement and sanction of the people.