

any project of a union or national government, I was interrupted by the hon. gentleman from Prince Edward Island. I proceeded just the same. I said that, in spite of the fact that we are at war, we can make jokes occasionally, and it is not necessary to have long faces all the time.

I have fought against national government and I am fighting it now because I know very well that, as soon as there is no opposition, the sky will be the limit in matters of expenditure, graft, and so on. I do not say that the ministers themselves graft, but I say that they protect people who do graft. I can tell them what is being done at St. Paul l'Ermite at the expense of either England or Canada. Nobody knows who is responsible, but the war expenditure was supposed to be \$5,000,000, and now it is \$25,000,000. People are stealing every piece of material they can find there, and the foremen close their eyes. It is a scandal. I do not say that to denounce the government; I say it to denounce the scandals themselves, and it comes from a Liberal. The leader of the opposition was not astute enough to do that himself. He probably knew of what was happening; everybody knew of it; but he continued to praise those men, saying that they were marvellous men, high calibre men.

And now, what are we to have? We are supposed to have a union government; with Arthur Meighen; with a gentleman from Vancouver; with Stewart, the controller, the head of the Tories in Nova Scotia; all these people will come in, and when they are in they will stab our chief in the back. That is the programme, and I wanted to bring these matters to light in a very clear and unequivocal way, in order that there shall be no misunderstanding or mistake about it.

I have stood firmly for the Liberal party all my life. My father did so, when he was elected with Sir Wilfrid Laurier in 1896, when he denounced those who tried to stand in his way when he wanted some progress for his own constituents or for the country in general. I am true to the traditions of my grandfather, who voted against confederation because he found in it disguised unification. I am true to the traditions of my great-grandfather, who voted for the ninety-two resolutions, and who also gave his seat of Rimouski to Baldwin when he was defeated in York. Those were the Liberals of other times. When my father was fighting his way into parliament there were very few Liberals in the province of Quebec, and the propaganda they were using were the speeches of Blake, Cartwright and Mills, both in English and translated into French. That was the

Liberal food which was being given to the people of the province of Quebec. I wonder what those great men of the past would say if they were here to-day. I am sure they would say: "Pouliot, you are right. What you are saying now is most unpleasant for you to say, but it is your duty to say it in order that the country may not go to the dogs."

I was born a British subject—

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bradette): I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but his time is up.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Go ahead.

Mr. POULIOT: My father was a British subject, and a loyal British subject. My grandfather was a loyal British subject and so were all my ancestors from the time that Canada was given away by France to England. Now that our king is the king of Canada, I am proud to be a loyal Canadian subject, and my son and grandson, like me, will be loyal British subjects.

So far as those gentlemen of whom I have spoken are concerned, I consider them so small that I shall pay no more attention to them. On the other hand, my interest in the state is supreme, and I think it is my duty, not only as a Liberal but as a good Canadian who is true to the best British traditions, to speak my mind freely in this house in order that the members who did not know what was happening behind the scenes might know it now.

Mr. RALSTON: Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to detain the committee for very long. I regret that my hon. friend (Mr. Pouliot) has seen fit to make a vicious attack upon me. He is quite entitled to do that if he sees fit, but it does seem to me that it is not entirely consistent with the professions of friendship he has made, a friendship which I have endeavoured, during my period in public life and all the time I have been in this house, to maintain with him.

I do not propose to permit the discussion of the resolution before the committee to be delayed by any personal references on my part. I consider this resolution to involve the most serious matters with which this country has had to deal since confederation. At the time of the debate last session to which my hon. friend referred, exactly the same situation existed. I was dealing then with an appropriation bill of \$700,000,000 and was endeavouring to get the house into committee to consider it. I did not think it necessary at that time to beat my breast and proclaim my loyalty to my leader. I think I have endeavoured to show that by my actions during my lifetime