

Minister of Public Works (Mr. Monk), who appeals to those who have, apparently at least, remained faithful to him. This is what he said:

I sincerely believe that those who oppose the naval policy of the Government cannot accept a proposal which under the circumstances is but a way to assure the adoption of a policy which they condemn.

This is the position into which this Parliament and the country are brought by the firm determination of the right hon. the leader of the Opposition and his followers in their efforts to safeguard the liberty of speech and other rights of minorities. Hon. gentlemen opposite say it is a gift to Great Britain. It was a gift at first. Later, we have been told that it was a loan. If I meet a man in the street who is a Conservative, more particularly one of the followers of my friends opposite from the province of Quebec, and ask him what he thinks of this Bill, he is induced by newspapers like *L'Evenement* to believe that this contribution of \$35,000,000 is the end of everything for naval purposes; that, after that sum of money is paid there will be nothing more done for the Empire and he glories in the fact. That is the education which is given him by the French members on the other side of the House. If I tell him that it is only a beginning, he says: No, I know this is going to be the end of it; *L'Evenement* has told me so. He goes further than that; he says that the province of Ontario and the provinces of the west are going to pay four-fifths of that amount, and that therefore he will get off very easily. If my friends on the other side of the House will not tell the people of this country and the members of this House what it means, I shall do so. It is \$35,000,000 paid for the opening of the door to Imperial federation; the people of Canada are not prepared to pay \$35,000,000 to open the door to Imperial federation until their voice is heard. The leader of the Government has told us many times that we cannot stay in the position in which we are—that we have to get representation for contribution. On this side of the House, and with the majority of the people of Canada behind us, we say that we are willing to contribute to the assistance of the Empire, as far as our means will allow us to do, without quid pro quo of representation which could only be to the great detriment not only of Canada but of the Empire. As I said some time ago, the disintegration of the Empire, if it were to be accomplished under such conditions, would not be done by Canada. Those taken first into Imperial federation would be the first to get out of it. It would come from some of the other sister nations who would not allow themselves to be interfered with

by Downing Street rule. There are men in this country who are not prepared to say that Canada shall go blindly into Imperial federation, and that she should pay \$35,000,000 for it without receiving any authority from the people. It is not the amount of money involved that I am concerned about. If \$35,000,000 could do any good to Great Britain, it would very willingly be given by members on this side of the House. It is not the amount in cash that Great Britain wants. She wants the expression of the loyalty of the people of the sister nations and the devotion which will make them ready in the future to render any sacrifice for the maintenance of her principles and to spend, when emergency requires, not \$35,000,000, but the last dollar and the last man to protect her against any flag under the sun.

Once introduced, this guillotine would not be used for this purpose alone. There are other purposes for which it could be exercised. I for one, as one of the minority, have reason to be doubtful—I will not say of the honesty of purpose, but of the intentions of the Government, by the experience which we had last session. It is a Government of centralization in this matter, centralizing every sister nation in the Government of Great Britain. We had enough experience of this last session, to put the people of every province on their guard. This Government is imbued with the spirit of centralization; and therefore by it provincial rights are in danger in this Dominion of Canada to-day. We had this experience last year when subsidies were given to certain provinces without due consideration and without respect to the constitution. When the question of giving the province of Manitoba a subsidy with extent of territory was before the House, the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) introduced an amendment begging the Government of the day to wait for six months, not to pass that legislation but to leave it in abeyance, and to call a conference of the premiers of the different provinces in order to discuss the question of subsidies. It was not a question of the amount of money. The point involved was that the money should be distributed on the basis of justice and in accordance with the terms of Confederation, that is each province to receive an amount according to population. And I supported the amendment of my hon. friend from St. John to that effect. But that amendment was carved away, and no conference has taken place ever since. When the measure was introduced here by the leader of the Government, my hon. friend from St. John fought hard to have this money distributed according to the terms of Confederation. And had it not been for the Senate exercising its authority and performing its proper functions in the protection of the minority, the