

duties and who have carried them on during the past four years, have not given their full time, energy and attention to the purpose for which they have been appointed, that statement has no foundation whatever and that criticism is wholly undeserved. I know personally of the time and devotion that they have given to this work, of the high and earnest sense of public duty with which they have approached it. I know further, that if the members of the Purchasing Commission had seen fit to do what I more than once urged them to do, namely to give a succinct and clear statement to the people of this country of the economies which they have made in purchases since they were first appointed in 1915, the proposals which are now presented to this House would be received with very much greater favour than has been apparent this afternoon. I, myself, have from time to time, discussed with Mr. George F. Galt, Mr. W. P. Gundy and Sir Hormisdas Laporte what the War Purchasing Commission has accomplished in economies and in saving of the funds of the public treasury during the past four years. I did not realize the full measure of their effective effort until casually I was told of it, sometimes; and I urged the members of the commission to prepare such a statement to be laid on the Table as would describe in suitable terms what had been accomplished in that regard. These men have been thoroughly devoted to their public duty; they have served without remuneration, and any reproaches which I have heard this afternoon are, in my judgment, absolutely and wholly undeserved.

I desire to associate myself with what the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Rowell) said with regard to the services of Mr. W. P. Gundy, a most earnest and devoted man who gave splendid service on this commission during eighteen months of this war, who was whole-hearted in his work and whose death is a very great loss to the country, not only in the work which he was carrying on as member of the commission, but in respect of the ideals and aspirations which as a good citizen of this country he always endeavoured to put forward and to uphold. I recollect very well that a few weeks after Mr. W. P. Gundy, who was a very able business man and whom I had never met before, was appointed to this commission, had come here to undertake his duties, he approached me one day and told me that he was not only intensely gratified but greatly surprised at the exceedingly efficient organization which had been built

up in the period before he became a member of the War Purchasing Commission.

We submitted to the commissioners as they were in September, 1918, the question as to making the commission permanent, and we asked them to set forth their views with regard to the matter and to put forward to us proposals which they would recommend in case the commission were to be a permanent one. The members of the commission at that time were Sir Hormisdas Laporte, Mr. George F. Palt and Mr. W. P. Gundy. I think I might, with advantage, read to the House some of the purely business considerations which they presented to me in a memorandum strongly advocating the continuance of the commission. They furnished this memorandum, of course, with the desire and intention to be relieved themselves from the duty of serving further upon the commission, and therefore, there was no personal interest which could have affected their judgment in the slightest degree. As a matter of fact, Sir Hormisdas Laporte has remained here discharging the duty of commissioner at great personal inconvenience, and more than that, great personal loss during the past five or six months. The disadvantages in the existing system, by which each department makes its own purchases, are according to their view these—

My colleague the Minister of Immigration tells me that there is a very important Bill to which the attention of the House should be directed at once with a view to its being assented to this afternoon. I would therefore ask that this debate be adjourned to be resumed again this day, if the House will consent.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned.

IMMIGRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

BILL TO AMEND THE ACT PASSED THIS SESSION.

Hon. J. A. CALDER (Minister of Immigration and Colonization): In the Bill which was before this House amending the Immigration Act certain persons who advocated the overthrow of government, the destruction of property, and so on, by violence were in the prohibited classes. The matter has been inquired into further and the law officers of the Crown have advised that the section as it stands does not really cover all that was intended.

Mr. D. D. McKENZIE: I have no desire to obstruct the minister but would he say in what form this legislation comes before the House?