

told the nation that America had found it is no use waving a neutral flag in the teeth of a shark. It is an eloquent and true saying, but it is also true that it is no use waving platitudes from copy books in the teeth of a wolf at the door. The Prime Minister says he is taking no chances. Let us be quite sure. We once had a Government of which men said its motto was "Wait and See." Are we better off, or are we worse, with a Government that sees and waits?

I think these extracts give a very clear idea of the purpose of the book. I notice that the report of Surgeon-General Fotheringham placed before the House by the Prime Minister has no good foundation but that it is an attempt to justify an action taken by the censorship under the authority of the Government for which there was no authority at all.

Mr. MORPHY: Does the hon. gentleman pretend to say that there is nothing objectionable in the book?

Mr. OLIVER: I do not say there is nothing objectionable.

Mr. MORPHY: Does the hon. gentleman find much that is objectionable in the book?

Mr. OLIVER: Not to me. But I can easily understand that it is very objectionable to the distillery trade of Canada as it is to the distillery trade of England.

Mr. MORPHY: I refer to the reflections upon the Canadian soldiers.

Mr. OLIVER: There are no reflections in the book on the Canadian soldiers—absolutely none made and none intended. To make it quite clear that there is no authority for the suppression of this book I will read the sections of the Order in Council which describe what constitutes objectionable matter that would bring it within the terms of the Order in Council.

Mr. EDWARDS: Mr. Speaker, I would call your attention to the fact that there is not a quorum present.

Mr. SPEAKER: I direct the clerk to take down the names.

The deputy clerk having taken down the names:

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member (Mr. Oliver) may proceed; there is a quorum present.

Mr. EDWARDS: Might I ask you, Mr. Speaker, how many constitute a quorum?

Mr. SPEAKER: Twenty, including the Speaker.

Mr. OLIVER: I would like to read the terms of the Order in Council under which

the prohibition of the book is supposed to have taken place.

Whenever in this order the expression objectionable matter is used it shall be construed to mean and include:

(a) Any information with respect to the movements, numbers, description, condition or disposition of any of the forces, ships or aircraft of His Majesty or any of His Majesty's allies, or with respect to the plans or conduct or supposed plans or conduct of any naval or military operations by any such forces, ships or air craft, or with respect to the supply, description, condition, transport, or manufacture or storage of war materials, or with respect to any works or measures undertaken for or connected with or intended for the fortification of any place, or any information of such a nature as is calculated to be or might be directly or indirectly useful to the enemy, and

(b) Any photograph, sketch, plan, model or other representation of any naval or military work or any dock or harbour work, of such a nature that such representations thereof are calculated to be or might be, directly or indirectly, useful to the enemy, and

(c) Any false report or false statement concerning the causes or the operations of the present war, and

(d) Any report or statement intended or likely to cause disaffection to His Majesty or to interfere with the success of His Majesty's forces or of the forces of His Majesty's allies by land or sea, or to prejudice His Majesty's relations with foreign powers, and

(e) Any report or statement intended or likely to prejudice the recruiting, training, discipline or administration of any of His Majesty's forces or the operation or administration of any Act or Order in Council concerning National Service.

(f) Any report or description or purported report or description of the proceedings of any secret session of either Senate or Commons of Canada held in pursuance of a resolution passed by such Senate or Commons except such report thereof as may be officially communicated through the Secretary of State of Canada, and

(g) Any report or description or purported report or description of the proceedings at any meeting of the Cabinet of Canada, and

(h) The contents of any confidential document belonging to or any confidential information obtained from any government department or any person in the service of His Majesty.

I submit that there is nothing contained in those sections that warrants the prohibition of the circulation of this book. Yet, notwithstanding that fact, the circulation of the book is forbidden or prohibited under penalty of the imposition of a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment for any term not exceeding five years, or both fine and imprisonment. I submit that such penalties should not be invoked except in case of infraction of the laws as laid down, and when the Government undertakes to bring within the range of this punishment actions that are not offences under the law, the Government is taking a position