

could do before; it can fire that man. This measure is just one more assertion of supremacy; under it there is not a whit or shadow, not the remotest essence, of additional power given to the Governor in Council.

I suppose nobody can take objection to the Bill. Certainly there would be no sense in defeating it. Money has been collected from the hard-riden taxpayers merely to make a pile of redundancy in the treasury of the new bank. There is all the control over the bank that any man could desire. It is the same as before, and the principle of organization is not changed one iota. I cannot see, therefore, why those who agree with the principle of 100 per cent control in one form should have any very serious objection to the principle of 100 per cent control in another.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am glad to understand from the conclusion of my right honourable friend's remarks that he is going to accept the measure as it came from the House of Commons and to give it his support.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes, for third reading.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: When the original Bill was introduced, two years ago, the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister emphasized the fact that the bank was to be a publicly owned institution, not a privately owned one. Comparison was made with the Bank of England and the Bank of France, the assumption being that the Bank of Canada would not be state-controlled.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: A wrong assumption.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yet, when we looked into the Act, to see how the bank would function, we discovered that it appeared to be a half private and half public institution. The public were faced with the situation that all the capital was in private hands, and throughout the land there was considerable protest against the idea that a privately owned institution should control our currency and credit.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It did not control. No private parties controlled anything.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It was to be assumed from the statements of the founders of the bank that it could not be a publicly owned institution. Public opinion divided on this point, many people holding that it should not be publicly owned. I heard many discussions, even among friends who are interested in banking and financial institutions,

in opposition to the idea of a privately owned central bank. The leader of the Liberal party in the House of Commons made the statement, and he repeated it to the public, that he would see that this institution was publicly or governmentally controlled.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: As it was before the vote.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My right honourable friend has said that power and authority could be exercised by the Government. Be that as it may, to the public the whole institution appeared to be a privately owned institution, and from one end of the country to the other the people were discussing the merits of a privately owned institution as compared to one publicly owned. The present Government has made sure that everyone shall know what the institution is, and that the shareholders, the class who generally own an institution, are to be represented by the majority vote of the Government.

My right honourable friend has said that the power which the Government exercised under the old Act has not been increased. Well, the Deputy Minister this morning expressed the view that there was a greater safeguard or greater control.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The poor fellow had to say that.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I shall not go into details. One thing is sure: in appearance and in fact the institution will be a Government-controlled institution.

I quite realize that this form of central bank is not acceptable to many who from the beginning have thought that all kinds of people should be able to approach the institution for the purpose of securing credit. Two years ago they were disappointed, and they are disappointed again to-day, because it is not the function of the Bank of Canada to deal directly with the public. I need not explain the operations of the bank; we all know what they are. Nevertheless I believe that all who are interested in the principles of finance which we have always regarded as orthodox will be satisfied with the powers reposed in this institution, and that it will work for the best advantage of Canada.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: They have changed the colour of the smock.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: That is what they did in Italy, and they won.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time, and passed.