

the House—probably more so than many on this side. Why he consented to take up this matter in this House is more than I can understand, unless it is from a strict sense of duty under his oath as an attorney, not as a senator, to present the case of scared politicians in the House of Commons. We have it on his own statement, his own frank and candid statement, that this is the remarkable reason for his amendment. It is on page 1285 of the report of yesterday's Senate Debates. The reason, he said, for bringing up the amendment of this Bill was that, although it was discussed privately among members of the House of Commons, Ministerial and Opposition, they did not bring it to a head, and they were forced out of court by Sir Robert Borden's motion of closure.

There are two points in that. It is a straight condemnation of that un-British act of muzzling the representatives of the people and preventing them from protecting the interests, rights and liberties of the people. Here we have the honourable senator from Middleton telling the Senate of Canada and the country that the reason this provision, which he considers necessary, and which the entire Government to-day considers necessary, is introduced because members of the House of Commons were prevented from introducing it owing to the closure being put upon the discussion in that House. That is from one of the best legal-minded representatives of the Government on the floor of this House.

I was not satisfied with that admission which the honourable gentleman made in the course of his remarks. It was not heard by everybody. I thought it was a most serious admission to make. When I want information I am not backward in asking any member for it; and, according to my usual custom, although there were cries on this side of the House not to interrupt, I did persist in interrupting and got from the honourable gentleman from Middleton the following answer:

Hon. Mr. Cloran: Do I understand the honourable gentleman to state that this amendment was not put before the House of Commons owing to closure?

Hon. Mr. Belcourt: That is what he said.

The honourable gentleman from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt) heard the statement, but I venture to say there were some honourable gentlemen who did not hear it. In the meantime, the honourable gentleman from Middleton did not answer. (Reading):

Hon. Mr. CLORAN.

Hon. Mr. Cloran: I want a straight answer to that question. The honourable gentleman has said that owing to the closure this amendment was not allowed to be put in the House of Commons?

That was a straight question, and what was the fair and candid answer given by the honourable gentleman from Middleton?

Hon. W. B. Ross: I say if the Bill had not been under closure the amendment would have been offered.

What do you think of that? What does the honourable leader of the Government think of it? What does the Prime Minister think of it? What will the country think of it? This amendment was not put before the House of Commons because the closure was put on the Bill. Where is your freedom of speech, freedom of discussion, freedom of action? We have been threatened with the Kaiser. We do not want him over here; we have some just as good as he is, right here in Parliament. We have had more kaiserism right here in the Canadian Parliament than was ever attempted in the Reichstag of Germany. We have had it right here, and we have it to-day; and there is the proof of it from one of the ablest and most upright supporters of the Government in this House or in the country. This amendment which is taking up the time of the Senate has not been dealt with by the representatives of the people in the lower House because of the closure put on by the Government, through Sir Robert Borden, and the same Sir Robert Borden is looking around the country for a good Liberal to join with him. Any liberal respecting the traditions of his party will never join hands with a Government or a Prime Minister of that kind, who inflicts such dastardly things on Parliament. He will look around Canada and will find no Liberal worthy of the name, respecting the traditions of the party, having at heart the welfare and the unification of the country. Will he find a Liberal to join, as he calls it, a union or coalition Government? Not one. Why, the Government to-day is in a state of decomposition. Some of its limbs have been worn out and have dropped off, and the majority in Parliament supporting that Government has been reduced from 48 down to 20, sometimes down to 8. That Parliament is in extremis, in the agonies of constitutional death. That kind of Parliament and that kind of Government are forcing this kind of legislation on the free, independent people who desire the welfare of the country, the unification of the people,