

Mr. STEVENS: Exactly what you have done for a month.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Shut up.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hon. gentlemen say "hear, hear". I ask, is not that exactly what the ministry is doing in this particular measure—what, by their attitude, has been taking place all through this debate? Let me read that sentence again:

Obstruction is, in reality, nothing less than a repudiation of the existing constitution of the country—

Is not that what hon. gentlemen opposite are doing?

Mr. STEVENS: That is what you are doing.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The constitution of the country requires that laws with respect to peace, order and good government shall be enacted by the Houses of Parliament, the sovereign and the people's representatives, and not by the governor in council; but hon. gentlemen opposite say no, these powers are for the executive and so they are striking at the very constitution of the country.—intensified to the point of denying the right of its parliament to exist.

That is exactly what hon. gentlemen opposite have done. They have intensified repudiation of the constitution to the point of saying, "We do not care whether parliament is in existence or not. We are to have all the money we wish, to spend as we please. We are to have power to pass whatever legislation we like, and parliament may go to blazes, so to speak, so far as we are concerned." That is the position of the ministry at the present time, "expressed in a conscious misuse of the forms and principles of procedure essential to the efficiency of parliamentary action." All through this debate, there has been a misuse of the forms and principles of procedure essential to the efficiency of parliamentary action.

Mr. BENNETT: Look at Hansard.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I say, therefore, that we have, in this statement of Redlich's, a true statement of what has been taking place, but applicable to the ministry of the day and its followers, who are prepared to let the powers of parliament be usurped by the executive and not to those who from the outset have been upholding proper constitutional procedure. Let me take the next paragraph:

Except within these rules, conventions and forms parliamentary work is impossible: without their protection there is no security that the political assimilation necessary for the sustenance of the parliamentary organism can be obtained.

This all but concludes the quotation which the Prime Minister cited as the one which should guide this House of Commons in its procedure. When this debate is over, when hon. gentlemen's minds are free from their present party prejudice, if they are capable of any reflection, if they have any regard for the constitution, if they care in the least for parliamentary methods of procedure, if they think that the constitution which has been the outcome of centuries of struggle in order to secure the freedom of the people, is something that should be preserved, let them read over what the Prime Minister himself has quoted to the house as a picture of what has taken place in this chamber in the last three weeks, and, in their heart of hearts, ask themselves to the actions of which party in this house that quotation applies. We, on this side of the house, have done our utmost during the course of this debate to endeavour, as members of a party, but primarily as members of parliament, to uphold the rights of this House of Commons, to uphold the constitution, and to uphold proper parliamentary procedure. We have come now to the last moment in which it is possible to say a further word in support of these great principles upon which all freedom in this country rests—security for the future as well as for the present. I appeal to hon. members, on this, the third reading of the bill, the last opportunity they will have of recording where they stand on these great fundamental principles, to forget their party prejudices and show by their votes that they regard as more essential than all else the maintenance of proper parliamentary procedure in all matters pertaining to control of taxation and expenditure by the people's representatives in parliament, and that they regard as more sacred than all else the maintenance of the constitution of the country, and of all that constitutional government seeks to secure.

Hon. C. H. CAHAN (Secretary of State): I have not taken any part in this debate which has continued for several weeks, because I have been convinced from day to day and night to night that the best answer which could be given to the addresses of hon. gentlemen opposite was to publish those addresses to the whole country and let the country judge.

I know something about the history of this country; with the exception of not having