

was not then in the Treasury, or, if the stock was in the Treasury, there has been criminal negligence on his part to allow this stock to leave it.

Last evening, I was amused when I heard the hon. Minister say: Gentlemen, we put the gag on you, for it is rumoured on the street that you intend causing obstruction to this measure, and, consequently, if you mean to make any obstruction, we will gag you.

Mr. Chairman, had we not the right to do some obstruction? What are indeed the street rumours about this affair? The first one I heard was to the effect that the proposal made to this House was the most iniquitous proposal ever heard of in the political annals of any country, or even in Russia. The street rumours were that the intention was to haggle this affair, to impose upon the people a burden of over \$600,000,000 in order to favour a few friends, in order to use them much at variance, might I say, with public interest.

Such are the rumours we heard on the street.

Now they come here and say that we are attempting to make obstruction when we are trying to obtain information, when we are trying to be enlightened, to have the people of this country enlightened. I say no, Mr. Chairman, they cannot say that, and the Government have no right to impose this measure upon us without giving us some information. The protests we are making to-day, Mr. Chairman, are not due to the fact that we have any objection to the Government taking over this railroad, but the protests we make are that the Government have not the right to impose upon us such a Bill without previously giving us all the details we ask, without having previously informed the people of Canada as to the financial situation and the physical condition of the property we are taking over.

For my part, Mr. Chairman, I protest as forcibly as I can, and I say that this iniquitous measure should never be introduced or imposed upon the House, without previously submitting all the information that have been asked for and refused, without our knowing how it is that this stock which should have been kept in the treasury is now gone; why these moneys will be paid and to whom; why this stock will be handed over and in consideration for what services.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE (Mr. Rainville): I will call the hon. member's attention to the fact that he has spoken twenty minutes.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: I thought I had begun only at twenty minutes past three.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE (Mr. Rainville): I am prepared to assert that I was in my seat at a quarter past three; however, if the hon. member wishes to speak two or three minutes longer, I believe I can grant it.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: I will take advantage of these two or three minutes to record my protest against the Act which it is intended to impose on us and against the methods laid down. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wish to strongly protest against the Act which they intend to force through by means of a brutal majority, an Act to be forcibly passed under cover of the British flag. When I was a child, I have always been taught that the British flag was the living emblem of liberty and of fair play; never have I been taught that it could be used to cover, to shroud in its folds the misdeeds of a Government, of an unprincipled and moribund Government.

Mr. ETHIER (Two Mountains) (translation): Mr. Chairman, I cannot allow to be placed upon the statute books of Canada an Act so iniquitous in its conception and so disastrous in its consequences, from an economic and financial point of view, without protesting with all the energy in my power against the iniquity which the present Government is trying to perpetrate. Indeed this is one of the worst misdeeds of the Government since 1911, and especially since the beginning of this session. We need only go back to the 18th of May last to see that from that date, since the hon. prime minister has returned from England, its object has been to take away strip by strip, bit after bit, all the liberties that were guaranteed to us by the Constitution, before the present Government, elected under false pretences, came into power in 1911. We have only to refer to the conscription Act, to glance backwards, to examine the Act relating to the soldiers' vote, and we will find that the Canadian Northern Act, which is now before the House is the crowning piece of the present Government's efforts and conduct since May 18 last. I am opposed to the passing of this Act, and I am not the only one who objects to it. I am in pretty good company.

The hon. member for South Renfrew (Mr. Graham) in the course of the remarks he made upon this Bill's second reading before the committee, has laid before this House the protest of a group of high financiers in Montreal. I do not intend to again