

It will be observed that the Prime Minister does not make that statement. It is made by a gentleman holding a responsible position under the Government; but the Prime Minister takes the responsibility of placing that statement before the House on the authority of this official, and therefore

I am compelled to hold the Prime Minister responsible for that statement. The statement is that the Government, owing to the character of this book, is justified in using any measures open to the authorities to prevent its circulation in Canada, and that such prevention would be in the interest both of the troops themselves and of the Canadian public. The attempt is made by Surgeon-General Fotheringham and the Prime Minister to create the impression that this book is printed for the purpose of libelling the Canadian forces in England. There is no such purpose in the book, either directly or indirectly. The book is for the purpose of calling to account the Government of Great Britain for permitting the destruction, in the manufacture of alcohol, of grain required for food, a subject that is surely entitled to be criticised in any free country, a matter of public administration in regard to a matter of grave public interest. That criticism, I am credibly informed, is not subject to prohibition in England, in Great Britain, in the United Kingdom. There the book is freely circulated. But in Canada it is made subject to the censorship. Just to give the House the character of the book, on page 4, under the heading "The Shadow of Famine," the writer says—

Mr. EDWARDS: I rise to a point of order. Is it competent for the hon. gentleman to quote from a book, the circulation of which has been prohibited in Canada? By placing an extract on Hansard he is circulating the contents of a book which has been prohibited in this country.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Without having had an opportunity to consult the authorities, I should say that the point of order is well taken.

Mr. OLIVER: If I may speak to the point of order, I would say that I claim the privilege of Parliament. Under that privilege I claim the right to read this book. I claim there is no prohibition upon the reading of this book by a member of Parliament within the walls of Parliament.

Mr. EDWARDS: If the point of order is well taken, surely the hon. member cannot discuss it.

Mr. GRAHAM: The hon. member has not read anything from this book yet, so far as I have heard, and he cannot be called to order until he has done so.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: There can surely be no objection to discussing the point of order. What is the purport of the order of the censor in reference to this book? Does anybody know what his order was? I suppose it was that this book was not to be circulated. But that certainly should not prevent a member of Parliament discussing the book, or the wisdom of the act of the censor. How can the point of order be sustained?

Mr. EDWARDS: I take precisely the same view as the junior member for Halifax (Mr. Maclean). I would say that the hon. member for Edmonton was quite in order in criticising the censoring of this book, and I only rose to a point of order when he undertook to place on Hansard the contents of a book which had been prohibited in this country.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: This prohibition does not extend to Parliament.

Mr. EDWARDS: Does my hon. friend suggest that a member of Parliament is above the law of the land?

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: No, the censor can censor newspapers and censor Hansard, but surely he cannot prohibit discussion of any matter in Parliament.

Mr. EDWARDS: That is not the point. My point is that the hon. gentleman has no right to place the contents of this book on Hansard, when the circulation of the book has been prohibited in this country.

Mr. C. A. WILSON: Parliament has full control of Hansard, and it is up to the Debates Committee or the Government, whichever is the proper authority, to prevent any particular issue of Hansard being circulated, if that is desired. But certainly we have the right to discuss the action of the censor. We have also the right to let this matter be placed on Hansard, and then it is for the government to decide whether this particular issue of Hansard shall be circulated or not. I have often heard the Prime Minister intimate that certain things should not be reported in Hansard.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: The censor is not empowered, under the Order in Council to prevent Parliament from speaking. That is one thing, and preventing the circulation of a book is another and an entirely different