

of Canada as a whole. He suggested as one means of solving the debt problem, as I understood him, the consolidation or co-ordination of the two great railway systems, the traffic over which he said had fallen off materially in the past few years. I do not intend to go into that matter at this time, but while he was speaking I wanted to ask him if there was not another important step which could be taken to relieve the debt burden of the West. In my judgment, which is supported to some extent by what the senior senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. McMeans) said a moment ago, one of the chief troubles of the Prairie Provinces in years gone by has been altogether too much government.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: And, though I bow to the superior knowledge of others who take a different view, I believe that too much government is one of the great troubles of the West to-day. My honourable friend the junior senator from Winnipeg alleged, in part correctly, that the bad condition of the West was due to the fact that the East had pressed this, that and the other thing upon the Prairie Provinces, had lent them money, built railroads, and so on. But my honourable friend must realize that in 1905 the people of the Prairies made a great demonstration of desire for the creation of two new self-governing provinces. There is no need of going into facts and figures to show what those two new self-governing provinces have cost the people of the West in years gone by and are still costing them as a result of—shall I say?—hare-brained legislation, as some of us view it. I think my good friend the junior senator from Winnipeg should perhaps point out that it would have been a good thing for the Prairies to have been told in 1905 to extend the boundaries of Manitoba to the foothills of the Rockies and have one province there governing the Prairies. Had that been done, millions of dollars would have been saved to the people of the great Northwest.

Hon. Mr. BALLANTYNE: Why did they not ask for the Hudson Bay also?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: They asked for a lot of things that we do not need to go into this afternoon.

Our sittings of to-day and yesterday have reminded me of the frailties of human nature and particularly of those differences which go to bring about wars. Among members of this House there are as pronounced dif-

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK.

ferences of opinion on certain all-important questions affecting Canada as are perhaps to be found among people of other lands, where differences concerning their national interests are carried at times to the point of causing stress and even war. I am going to speak for just a few moments on the question of war. First, last and all the time, within the bounds of honour and reason, I am unalterably opposed to war and believe that, within those bounds, Canada—yea, and the British Empire—should exert every means possible to keep clear of war. But I cannot agree with some, whom I have heard described as frenzied patriots, who say that we should keep out of war at all times, nor do I think the great majority of Canadians would subscribe to that view. Within the past five or six weeks we have had a demonstration throughout the British Empire of what loyalty and patriotism to the Empire mean. In my judgment that demonstration, so far as its thoughtfulness was concerned, was more pronounced than what we saw in August and September, 1914, when the Great War started and Canadians in substantial numbers believed that they were to all intents and purposes involved and were no longer neutral, since Great Britain was at war. I am altogether in sympathy with those who claim that we should not engage in war under any circumstances, or that Canadians must never again go overseas to take part in a war on foreign soil, for I think I know from experience a little about the misfortunes of war. But may I draw this brief analogy? I think the most enthusiastic member of a humane society, a man or woman who would always go to the assistance of a dumb animal in trouble, would, if his or her children were in danger from a mad dog, without hesitation take desperate and drastic means to put that mad dog out of the way. To my mind that analogy applies in respect of this question of war.

Canada and Canadians want no more war, but for the protection of things which we were thinking about five or six short weeks ago, the stability and continuity of the British Empire, our love and pride of race—yes, we were thinking about those things—tens of thousands of Canadians were in their hearts ready to stand firm. Considering the remarkable changes that have taken place during the last few years, when we have seen the Treaty of Versailles torn into shreds and thrown to one side, with certain nations apparently relying upon the view that might is right and getting prepared by every means at their command to assert and prove that might is right, are