

stitutional matter to have the admission of Manitoba confirmed. That is altogether different from this retroactive legislation.

In this instance the courts of the country have declared that the imposition of indirect taxation by the legislatures of the several provinces is and has been unauthorized, that it was illegally effected; that it was as much illegal as if I, passing on the street, put my hand in another person's pocket and took out his pocketbook. The only difference would be that if I took the pocketbook I would be subject either to civil action for the return of the money or to criminal action for violence and robbery upon the public highway. But the provinces were able to protect themselves from civil action by refusing petitions of right to allow civil actions to be brought against them. They exercised the prerogative right of the crown in refusing, in many cases, to allow such action for the return of money they had improperly and illegally exacted from those who had made the payments. Here the government asks parliament, by passing the address, to confirm the validity of all that illegality, and asks the parliament of the united kingdom to pass such legislation as will give such confirmation as will undoubtedly validate all this past illegality, and allow the process to continue for the future. I suggest you will not be maintaining due regard for the reputation and probity of this parliament if you ask the parliament of the united kingdom to enact such retroactive legislation.

Mr. J. H. BLACKMORE (Lethbridge): Mr. Speaker, at this time I do not wish to quarrel with the first part of the resolution, but with the second part I have a quarrel. I am deeply concerned with certain words appearing in that part, namely, the words "prescribe the terms and conditions upon which any guarantee so authorized shall be given." Those words are capable of a wide variety of interpretation, and as they stand are capable of taking away from the province accepting the agreement all the power that is worth while which the province possesses.

Mr. FINN: To what section does the hon. member refer?

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am referring to section 2, line 5, and the words "may prescribe the terms and conditions upon which any guarantee so authorized shall be given." We must be constantly watchful that our liberties be not taken from us in an unexpected moment. So much of the management of the world is accomplished through secret diplomacy, and so many of the decisions which make or mar our happiness in life

are made behind screens, so to speak, that the ordinary man on the street is rendered completely helpless either to express or to form an opinion.

As an instance of this may I read an article which, when I read it on my way to parliament, astonished me. I read an extract from *New Democracy* of January 1 to 15, 1936, under the heading *Dynamics of Education*:

An article in the *New Age* of November 8, 1934, entitled *Gold, History and Liberty* set me studying the history of the agitation leading to the second Reform Act of 1832. It was amazing to learn in the article that "The true facts of that tremendous historical occurrence known as the passing of the second Reform Act 1832 have been deliberately suppressed by successive governments, and that standing orders have been given to the permanent officials in government departments to take the utmost precautions by means of the government secret service that none of the real facts connected with the passing of the second Reform Act shall ever be published in any history or book of historical reference, whether the same is intended for school boys, university students, or professional historians."

It was in this article that I learnt for the first time of the existence of a permanent government official receiving a salary of £1,200 a year and pension—

Mr. DUNNING: Is it true?

Mr. BLACKMORE:

—known as historical adviser, whose miserable degrading duty consists in advising the government of the day how to evade and suppress historical truth in the interest of the professional politicians.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have told where I got the article. I have exercised extreme caution, which I propose to do in all my speaking before this house, to tell the people where I get the information, and let them argue with the authors and not with me. This comes from an extract from *New Democracy*, January 1 to 15, 1936.

Mr. DUNNING: Who takes responsibility for it? Does my hon. friend?

Mr. BLACKMORE: The author is Doctor Joyce B. Mitchell, and the extract is from a series of three articles on *Social Credit Dynamics*.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Does my hon. friend himself believe to be true the statement he has read?

Mr. BLACKMORE: I have no reason for doubting the truth of this statement, and inasmuch as I have never been connected with the British government the question lies open to my mind. I point this out merely to show how exceedingly careful we need to be lest we be trapped by forces which are working in secret.