

Minister of Canada or by the premier of any province, then let them take their responsibility and put their objections in writing, and let those objections as well as the resolutions adopted be published, so that the people in each province will know where the responsibility rests.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BOURASSA: There must be cooperation between the federal government and the provincial governments, first, to make the present laws work better than they do. Look at that matter of the coal monopoly. Is it not three or four years ago that the order in council was passed prohibiting the importation of Russian coal? I took the liberty of denouncing it, but I am sorry to say that not one of my Liberal friends supported me publicly in the house, and the reason given to me was that they were afraid that they would be condemned by the bishops of the province of Quebec because the Conservatives of Quebec were claiming for the Prime Minister the title of the saviour of religion. I took the liberty of pointing out that the only religion involved in the case was that of Senator Webster and his monopoly. How long did it take to get action, and how long is this amalgamation of coal companies into one, directly or indirectly, openly or secretly, under Senator Webster to continue? They are making enough profit in a week's time to pay the \$10,000 fine which has been imposed upon them. It is the same with the monopolist here as it was with the sellers of contraband whisky in the United States, the pirates on the high seas; they made enough from the sale of their cargoes to be able to stand the loss of one cargo out of ten without impairing their previously ill-gained profits.

If there must be cooperation between organized political powers, federal, provincial and municipal, we cannot expect this parliament to give a general direction to the country at large, to appeal to public conscience, to take strong measures—strong measures are needed, but I shall not discuss them to-night—unless you make sure that upon certain points at least all parties will agree and will not denounce each other. Can that not be done? All parties united during the war to induce Canadians to shed their blood and ruin their country in a foreign quarrel. I shall not discuss that either, but surely the need of assuring the victory of one set of nations in Europe over another was not a greater or more pressing duty on the people of Canada than the assurance of the life of their children and the future of their country. There was

understanding and more than cooperation between the two parties at that time. The constitution was overridden and parliament was prolonged in order to carry on the business of war and increase the number of Canadians who would shed their blood upon the battlefields of Europe. Why cannot something of that nature be done in order to save our country and preserve the lives of some of our boys? Cannot the parties cooperate in order to remedy some of the economic and financial disasters which arose from that war? It is not only the huge war debt of \$2,500,000,000 which we are transmitting to our children without having paid one cent, but think of the debts piled up by the provinces, by the municipalities and by the corporations, all because of the folly of the war. I was glad to hear the Prime Minister denounce this afternoon the mistake we made when we sold our wheat at higher prices than it was worth. I came back from Europe in 1922 and advised my friends, some from the west, that a crisis was coming, that the people of Europe would not be foolish enough to go on paying tribute to us to the extent of two or three dollars per bushel of wheat, and the same proportion in the case of other commodities. I told them that those countries were preparing not only to supply their own needs but if possible to make us pay back some of the ill-gained profits which were derived by us during the war.

I am an old timer and a believer in old things. I believe in the law of permanent justice administered by an all-providing God rather than in the laws of a short-thinking humanity. The crimes of one generation are always expiated by the next. That may seem cruel, but it is one of the mysteries of life. I do not ask the adhesion of anyone to my views. I respect the views of all those who thought that we were right in entering the war; but whether we approve or disapprove of that war, there is one thing sure, the contribution of Canada was imposed upon our people without, as the Prime Minister has said, their realizing what the consequences would be. They are now reaping the results. Are we not to do something in the way of cooperation between men of good will in this parliament to remedy some of these dire results? I do not ask you to break the bonds of party; I do not ask you to renounce your fealty to any of your leaders or to any of your ideals; I simply ask you if you do not have sufficient breadth in your minds and sentiment in your hearts as Canadians to look for what is common to all of you. Even at my age I am optimist enough to believe