

country. I hope that the Government will aid them in securing for Canada the manufacturing of lines that possibly have not hitherto been established in this country because of certain conditions which no longer exist. By doing all that can be done in that direction, I think we shall be accomplishing a great work, not only for Canada but also in the interest of the empire.

Hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I do not rise to oppose the Bill. War is war, and war measures must be taken, and we do not oppose the policy of the Government. But we reserve the right to criticise it at the moment, and later on to condemn it. When the Government was called upon to face the situation which exists to-day, it is the opinion of many in this country, and of myself in particular, that it should have aimed higher at gathering taxes for the war instead of loading the taxes on the wage-earner, the salaried clerk, and the ordinary citizen. What do I mean by that? This: that the men who draw thousands, tens of thousands, and hundreds of thousands of the country's wealth every year, should have been made to pay their share towards the defence of the country in which they are making their wealth. The Government should have seen to it that men who are drawing large dividends—rightly so, legitimately so—should pay their fair quota towards the defence of the empire, by putting a tax on their dividends—not a tax on their wealth, not a tax on their property, not a tax on their industry, but simply a slight tax on their emoluments and profits. Can any one deny that that is a fair proposition? We have banking institutions all over this land paying large dividends every year, anywhere from five to one hundred per cent some of them; we have insurance companies paying large dividends, anywhere from five to thirty and forty per cent; we have large railway companies bonused and subsidized by the Dominion Government paying as high as ten per cent, with bonuses on a tremendous capital; we have all kinds of institutions paying large dividends, and to whom do these dividends go? Do they go to the workman in the street earning \$1.50 or \$2 a day? Do they go to the man in the mill, whether it be a saw mill, a foundry, or an agricultural establishment? No, these dividends do not go to the wage-earners who get one, two, three or four dollars a day. Do they go to the salaried clerks, and shop girls

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.

throughout the Dominion of Canada? No. They go to the wealthy class. I have no objection to a man being wealthy, but what I say is this; the Government should have sought to get a piece of that wealth from the men who could afford it, instead of shouldering the tax on the poor working wage-earner, and salaried officer. We of the Liberal party are supporting the Conservatives in this move on account of national necessity; and if it were not for national necessity we would hear much more. The Minister of Finance and his Government have made a mistake in loading the tax of this war upon the shoulders of the poor, and they will hear more of this later on when the time, the propitious time, will come. I hold that reasonable tax should be levied say on dividends paid of eight, ten, twelve, and twenty per cent in all those institutions, which exist by Federal sanction. What would it be to put five or ten per cent on the dividends declared by such institutions? It would be so easy to declare; and so easy to bear. For instance the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on a capital of three or four hundred million dollars declares a dividend of ten per cent with a bonus. The Government should simply say: 'we want ten, twenty-five, fifty per cent of that dividend,' and the same with the banks, insurance companies and all other companies that come under Dominion charters or Dominion legislation. It would be the easiest matter in the world to collect that money; and who would feel it? Nobody. The rich should not object to contribute a few dollars during seven or eight months of the war to aid in the defence of the empire. But when you put a tax on sugar, the wealthy man with a small family may use a pound of sugar where the wage-earner and the working man uses five and ten pounds. Out of the five millions of revenue which the Minister of Finance expects to derive from the tax, ninety-five per cent will be paid by the poor working man. Is it fair to put five millions on those who are to-day furnishing the men who are going to the front, many of them leaving behind them their wives and children?

Some Hon. GENTLEMEN—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—Is it fair for the Government to-day to put a tax of five million dollars on the poor when they could as easily have got it out of wealthy corporations of this country? We vote for the budget, but we vote in spite of our common sense and sense of justice, but the