

they regard it as expedient to take in to consideration the reproduction cost of the Canadian Northern Railway system shall not include therein the increase in value, due to the war, of labour, materials, equipment or of any property.

That all the words after "Fund" on line 38, page 2 of the Bill, be struck out.

Mr. KYTE: It will be a dark chapter in the history of this Parliament that will record the incidents of to-night. Vastly the most important piece of legislation of a civil character that has come before Parliament in many years is attempted to be disposed of in a manner that must impress the people of this country with the fact that the Government which is in control at the present time are seeking to shut off as much as possible discussion of this important measure. During the present session of Parliament we have witnessed a lobby such as was never before known perhaps in the history of the Dominion. We do know that interests friendly to and in the employ of the company that will be the beneficiary of this legislation have appeared by their agents, and have canvassed and imprecated members of this House in support of this legislation. Not only that, but they have endeavoured to becloud the real purpose which they have in view by advocating at the same time a national government. Conscription, national government, and the relief of the Canadian Northern railway, are the three policies of the Government at the present time. The Canadian Northern railway interests think this is a good occasion to come before Parliament, and under the guise of Empire-savers, under the guise of savers of this Government, advocate the entrance into Parliament of Liberals in order that they might have their interests protected by a union government. Lobbies of this kind are not unknown in the United States, and I believe this is the first time that a really concerted effort on the part of big interests has been put forward in this country for the purpose of influencing Parliament. In the Congress of the United States a few years ago, the Southern Pacific railway sought to influence the legislators of the Republic in a manner similar to the demands being made upon the legislators of Canada at the present time, and the following was written of the Southern Pacific lobby:

The most pitiable and at the same time the most disgusting spectacle that now offends the national capital is the Huntingdon lobby. The list of paid lobbyists and attorneys now number twenty-eight, and their brazen attempt to influence Congress to pass the Pacific Railroad

[Sir Thomas White.]

Refunding Bill have become the disgrace of the session.

This great political machine was much more efficient than Tammany's or any other machine that ever existed, because it was non-partisan; it dominated the Democratic organization as easily as the Republican. Political manipulation is reduced coldly to the exact principles of science and business. It made politics a matter of scientific corruption and perfect organization, and by this means it secured astonishing results.

The Minister of Finance in the course of his observations this evening referred to Sir Donald Mann as a supporter of the Liberal party, the inference being that Sir William Mackenzie, the other paramount partner in the combination, was a supporter of the Conservative party. So I suppose it is designed that each of these two gentlemen shall influence the political party of which he is a supporter.

The Government has embarked upon a policy of conscription, in connection with which appeals are being made that all party strife shall be set aside for the moment, and the energies of this country, so far as our resources of men are concerned, shall be employed in the great struggle in which we are engaged at the present time. But it is rather extraordinary that while the Government are imploring the people of all classes to set aside party strife and join together for the purpose of promoting the interests of the Allies, they are not unmindful of the obligations which they owe to certain interests in this country. They hope under the cloak of the conscription policy, under the influence that this great question would naturally have on the minds of the people, to be able to smuggle through legislation of this iniquitous character. It reminds one of a German cruiser disguised as a hospital ship coming within range of a passenger vessel and destroying the helpless women and children who had taken passage on the ship. The Government think that by putting forward a conscription law, while the minds of the people are entirely occupied with the issue, they can pass legislation such as this through Parliament without comment and without opposition. While they might reasonably hope to smuggle legislation of this nature through Parliament under ordinary circumstances, how can they attempt to pass it through Parliament by means of the closure, which has been introduced in this House this evening?

The Drayton-Acworth report, referring to the stock which it is proposed this country shall buy, says:

The property investment of the Canadian Northern Railway system is stated in the bal-