

distress; it is flying the signals right now and sending S.O.S. calls all over the country for someone to come to the rescue. I know what it is because I have been in these fights many a time. Sometimes I come out on top and sometimes not; but the combine never came out on top and it will not come out on top this time.

The time will come when we all in this House will have to show our colours and line up either with the people of Canada or the Atlantic conference; we shall have no other choice. I have a clipping here showing that South Africa is suffering under the same difficulty. Here is a little story, and I assure you it is right, to the effect that they are looking about for some way of escaping the irksomeness they feel in respect to ocean rates; they are in exactly the same position we are in. We expect to get recruits and reinforcements in our fight. You may recall, Mr. Speaker, how little Belgium undertook to challenge the marching hordes of Germany. It looked preposterous for her to stand up against such an onslaught of superior force, but her action challenged the admiration of the whole world, and the whole world rushed to her assistance, with the result that we all know. Our action is also going to challenge admiration. Not only that, but it will enlist the support of other countries that are situated just as we are in respect to ocean rates; there is no question about that. But even if they do not come to our assistance, it will only take us a little longer, that is all; and we are going to stay with it until we get results.

Just one word, and I will be through. There is only one move required. You may scoff at this, but you will recall, Mr. Speaker, how at the beginning of the war the British army was spoken of as "the contemptible little army," and I say in this matter you may scoff if you like, but we have a right cause, and it is only a matter of time until we get results. How quickly, will depend upon the opposition to the proposal. If you want to delay results oppose this move; but those who oppose it will have to take responsibility not only here but in the country. Results will be attained in a short time if we get the support of the Canadian Pacific, but we shall not get it at the beginning. First of all we have to show that we mean business; that we are right behind this contract, behind the principle of it. Hon. gentlemen may talk about changes being made, but every bill can be changed for the better without altering its principle at all. The Prime Minister has indicated, in order to satisfy the hon. member for Burrard (Mr.

[Mr. Motherwell.]

Clark), that he is willing to make a change with regard to the word "commodities," to which the hon. member objected on the ground that it might mean American commodities, commodities from Honolulu, Jericho or some other place. The Prime Minister indicated he would be willing to insert the word "Canadian," if that were thought necessary to show that Canadian commodities were meant. If there are any t's to be crossed or i's to be dotted, we will make these changes; but the principle of the bill stands. This government, like any other government, is always ready to make changes that will improve a bill so long as they do not interfere with its principle, and this government has indicated its readiness to do that.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Fort William and Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, if anything were needed to convince this House that the whole proposition which it is discussing at the present time was in the nature of a burlesque—

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Oh yes, I knew that would come.

Mr. MANION: My hon. friend is a good judge of himself. If anything were needed, I say, we have it in the speech of the hon. minister (Mr. Motherwell) who has just sat down. If I did not know that the minister is an absolute prohibitionist I might have come to the conclusion on listening to his speech that he had already taken advantage of the loosening up of the temperance legislation in Ontario.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MANION: There is this to be said about the hon. gentleman: While he is always entertaining, he is very rarely instructive. I think he can say less in more time than any other hon. gentleman in this House. I notice that his last remark was "One word more and I will be through." The hon. gentleman was through an hour before that, but he did not know apparently how to stop.

I notice that one of his statements—and I do not intend at this late hour to take up much time—referred to the signing of letters and editorials and other documents, and while he was criticizing people for not signing letters and statements, he was holding in his hand this statement which is a reply of the steamship lines engaged in the Canadian north Atlantic trade to the charges made by Mr. Preston. My hon. friend from Vancouver South (Mr. Ladner) very properly pointed out that this reply of the steamship lines was signed by the different companies. I