

who enlisted on the other side. They probably wanted to go to the war, and like intelligent people they enlisted where they got the best pay. They did not enlist for the sake of getting the vote, they were not asking for the vote. These men have never seen Canada and have no interest in Canadian affairs. They are interested, as British subjects, in winning the war and they did not enlist for the purpose of getting the vote. They may vote wherever they are placed by the machine. Does that indicate that the Government believe that the people are behind them? They tell us that they are the only true and loyal people, that they are the only people who can carry this war to a successful issue. They say that the people of Canada are behind them. Yet they resort to these methods.

Mr. MORRIS: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. McCREA: No sir; I am talking now. The next matter brought up in this House probably had nothing to do with military matters, that was the question of the formation of a coalition Government. The Government wanted somebody to join them and take the curse off their shoulders, the Canadian Northern Railway Bill. The Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) in this House on different occasions stood up almost with tears in his eyes—I was not very close to him and my sight is not good, but from his trembling voice I think he had tears in his eyes—and deplored the fact that when they came into power they inherited a terrible load of woe in the railway system. Probably there is something in that, that railway construction had been overdone. But I ask if the fact that we have had more expenditure on railways, which in some cases paralleled each other, than was really justified, is a reason for passing legislation to place a value on stock that has no value according to the report of a Commission appointed by this Government.

Mr. CURRIE: I think the rules of the House are being transgressed.

Mr. McCREA: I think I am as near my subject as you were. You talked about yourself, saying you were at the front when other people said you were hiding.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman should come back to the subject.

Mr. McCREA: I am nearer to it now than he was; he spent his whole time talking

[Mr. McCrea.]

about himself. During the discussion of the Canadian Northern Railway Bill, the Minister of Finance read out a list of the directors of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. I do not know what connection the Canadian Bank of Commerce has with the Canadian Northern Railway Bill, but he read that out. I wish to say that I am not now and never was a director of the Bank of Commerce, but if I was, that would not be a justification of my voting to rob the people of this country to reimburse either the Canadian Northern railway or the Bank of Commerce.

This Franchise Bill disfranchises about 50,000 people ratepayers property owners, naturalized citizens, many of whom have taken the oath of allegiance. If I understood the Prime Minister rightly, he intimated that for such of those as were naturalized and had taken the oath of allegiance and had always behaved well, some way of qualifying might be found. I was wondering if they would take the oath of allegiance to the Tory party instead of to the King, it would not be a better qualification to give them a vote at the present time.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: It is worth taking into consideration.

Mr. McCREA: The Canadian Northern Railway Bill, whatever the award may be, whether it is one dollar or \$30,000,000, is just so much money stolen from the people of this country, and the Quebec and Saguenay railway is very much in the same category. This franchise Bill proposes to enfranchise all the female relations of soldiers, whether the soldiers are alive and voting for themselves or whether they are dead. I think every fair-minded man would say without hesitation that the wife or sister of any man who has lost his life at the front should have the right of voting; but I do not believe that the women whose sons or brother are at the front are much concerned about voting. I have one son at the front, and he is not one of the rear guards in London either; he is in the front line in France and has been since May. I trust he is still living. He has a mother at home.

Mr. DAVIDSON: What is his view on conscription?

Mr. McCREA: I do not know what his views on conscription are, but if he is like his father he is in favour of all just and fair measures, and I think he is likely to