

sonally, he cannot help being a violent and truculent partisan in the House.

Mr. MACDONALD: What about yourself?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It is impossible for me to be a partisan, that is a matter of temperament. My hon. friend from Picton (Mr. Macdonald) has a great advantage over me in that respect, because he was born a partisan.

Mr. MACDONALD: I admit it frankly, you don't. You are not frank.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It is a great help to my hon. friend. It is a great help to a man to be born with a bias.

Mr. MACDONALD: Like you have, but you do not admit it.

Mr. GRAHAM: Some men are born with it, and some acquire it.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I am not arguing in a controversial manner. I think that both sides of this House, at this critical time, should take into consideration the conditions which surround this railway problem, the most important, next to the war, that we have, and discuss it in a businesslike manner, eliminating partisanship and political controversy altogether. It is too big a problem to be mixed up with the political situation—altogether too big a problem.

I have given all the reasons that moved the Government to take the course we have taken, and notwithstanding the strictures of the hon. member for Rouville I believe it is the course which will best meet the railway situation and will be a step forward in the policy of preserving for the people what the people have financed; and I believe that it is supported by public opinion throughout this country. I do not agree with my hon. friend for one moment that the press of this country has been chloroformed. On the contrary, the policy which we have adopted is a policy which has been advocated by the great majority of the press throughout Canada, not only recently, but for a considerable time past. The press of this country are a great public influence, and, so far as I have been able to judge, on the whole a great influence for good, and for progressive government. My hon. friend from Rouville might do a good deal worse than follow the judgment of the press. I do not know any better way of forming the judgment of a public man than for him to study assiduously

the editorial expressions of the press. They are good public men who are in charge of newspapers in Canada, and they know the trend of public opinion. My hon. friend is entirely wrong in casting reflections upon the press of the country. There has been a widespread expression of opinion since these proposals have been brought down, and they have met with general acceptance. I may say to the hon. member for Rouville that in Ontario, from which province I come, these proposals are received as embodying the proper policy to be pursued by the Government of Canada in connection with this most difficult question. I say to my hon. friend that he would make no headway in Ontario—I do not believe he would make any headway in the West—

Mr. GERMAN: Not with your arbitration attached to it.

Sir THOMAS WHITE:—in attacking the policy of public ownership which the Government has introduced. In answer to my hon. friend from Welland (Mr. German), I would repeat what has been said many times to-day, that in determining upon arbitration we are following the method which was suggested by the Drayton-Acworth report as to the number of shares which might be allowed to remain with the present owners and as to the earnings which might be attributable to those shares.

Mr. GERMAN: You are not doing that.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I know we are not doing it, but we are following the mode suggested by them in connection with that. And not only that, but we are following absolutely the proposal which was made in an amendment moved in 1914 by the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), voted for by the hon. member for Welland and by the hon. member for Rouville, and, so far as I know, by the entire Opposition. And if we had come down, as I have said, with any different proposals, they would have been opposed by hon. gentlemen opposite, they certainly would have been opposed by the hon. member for Welland, the hon. member for Rouville, and possibly some others.

I am sorry to have taken up the time of the committee, but I felt that, on account of the violent attack made upon this transaction by the hon. member for Rouville, it was due to the Government and myself that I should make answer. I said I did not desire to bring the question of the railway policy of the late Government into issue. We have threshed that out so many