

Council, and that the ships when built be under the control of the Governor in Council, without any control by Parliament whatever. We on this side of the House say that that money should be expended with the approval, with the sanction, and under the control of Parliament, and that the ships when built shall be under the control of Parliament. There is to my mind a very clear cut and distinct issue between the two parties. The Government, I might say with malice aforethought, at any rate with positive intention, have introduced this Bill so that the money shall be expended and the ships controlled by the Governor in Council, because, as I have stated, and as the right hon. the Prime Minister has not denied, he can do under the Naval Service Act with the approval of Parliament what he can do under the Naval Aid Act without the approval of Parliament. I for one, coming from the province of Ontario and being the descendant of a man who fought for responsible government in this country, am willing to abide by the result of that issue at the polls in the province of Ontario, and I am also willing to submit to the people of the Dominion of Canada the issue as to whether public money shall be expended simply by the Governor in Council or whether it shall be expended with the approval and under the supervision of the people's representative in His Majesty's House of Commons in Canada. My right hon. friend says: If everything that can be done under the Naval Service Act can be done under the Naval Aid Act and vice versa, then why not vote the money under the Naval Aid Act? I say: We refuse to vote the money under the Naval Aid Act, because under that Act the money when voted and the ships when built will be under the control solely and only of the Governor in Council. We say: Under the Naval Service Act the money when voted and the ships when built will be under the control of the representatives of the people. That is one reason why we are opposing this Bill. We are opposing it on this further ground that we believe and the people of Canada believe, irrespective of the very modified contradiction which my right hon. friend made a moment ago, that the Nationalists of Quebec are dominating this Government on this proposition.

What is clause 5, the last clause of the Bill to which by grace of the closure we have now glided? Clause 5 says:

The said sum shall be paid, used and applied and the said ships shall be constructed and placed at the disposal of His Majesty subject to such terms, conditions and arrangements as may be agreed upon between the Governor in Council and His Majesty's Government.

Mr. GERMAN.

What is the agreement? Why has the right hon. gentleman or his Minister of Naval Service not told us what agreement they intended to enter into? When in the history of legislation in this country has a government ever come down to parliament with a proposition of this character, wherein an agreement was to be made between the government and some other corporate body, without informing parliament what the agreement was? What is to be done with these ships? The right hon. gentleman does not know himself, because he has stated different propositions on different occasions, and hon. gentlemen supporting the Government have followed his lead.

Mr. LALOR: Put them on rollers.

Mr. GERMAN: Any ship which the hon. gentleman gets he can put on rollers and take over to his planing mill. It appears to me that, before a clause of this kind is approved of by this committee, we should know what agreement the Government is likely to enter into. Is the Government to bring this agreement down to Parliament and ask Parliament's approval of it? Not at all. When this clause is passed, the Governor in Council can enter into any agreement with His Majesty's Government for the disposal of these ships in any way they see fit, and Parliament will have no control over the ships or the money. The money will have gone out of our hands and we shall have to trust this Government, which the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Meighen) says is an insane Government. The hon. member for Portage la Prairie says it is an insane Government, because he says that no government but an insane government would do exactly what this Government has done to-night. Therefore, if no government but an insane government would do what this Government has done, then this Government must be an insane Government. I know that hon. members opposite repudiated the hon. member for Portage la Prairie once, and they will probably endeavour to repudiate him now on this question. His opinion, however, is so strongly reinforced by the facts surrounding the situation that I might say that it stands approved unanimously.

I have in my mind a situation in regard to this Bill and its clauses which I desire to place on 'Hansard.' I desire to place on 'Hansard' the amendment which I have proposed and the one which I intend to propose now, which emphasizes the fact which is and which always has been Liberal doctrine in this country, and which I hope to Heaven will always remain Liberal doctrine in the country, because it is the only sound doctrine under which the Government of Canada can be carried on. It is