

it to see what the Bill says; we do not have to accept the dictum of the President of the Council (Mr. Rowell). I will not do it, anyway.

Mr. McKENZIE: Read section 23, so that the Committee may know what it contains.

Mr. BUREAU: This is section 23:

With the approval of the Governor in Council and upon any location sanctioned by the Minister of Railways and Canals, the Company may from time to time construct and operate railway lines, branches and extensions, or railway facilities or properties of any description. A copy of any plan and profile made in respect of any completed railway shall be deposited with the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada.

The Acting Prime Minister, in his remarks this evening, either departed from his usual custom or tried to put up a little bluff on the Committee and to scare us from discussing this Bill. I resent the imputation cast upon members on this side that they were opposing the Bill because they were opposed to public ownership. So far as I am concerned, that is absolutely false. I happen to be against public ownership. I stated on the second reading that I was against it; that I was in favour of private ownership and public control. I am just as good a patriot as the Acting Prime Minister and I am as loyal as the President of the Council. My loyalty is not on my lips alone and is not for political purposes alone. I am loyal because I have no other country but this country, because I have no love to send across the ocean or to give to any other part of the world than Canada, where I stand the eighth generation. It makes me sick when I hear the Acting Prime Minister appeal to our loyalty to pass this Bill. Are we to sit here as dummies to prove our loyalty? Are we to take for granted everything that comes from the Government? No, not when we remember the fight of 1917; not when we think of how this Government came to power and how it is holding itself in power. Instead of being rebuked because we criticize legislation that is brought down, we should be congratulated. No men who can be influenced by outside interests when they discuss public measures here should accuse others of being prompted by any other interest than the interest of their fellow-countrymen. When I get up to speak in this House I get up to speak my mind and discuss questions as I conceive them, and no power on earth shall prevent me from doing so; it is the only liberty left to us on this side of the House. We may be mistaken, but when we are mistaken we

are honestly mistaken, we are not mistaken as the result of calculations or as the result of machinations which might bring to us some benefit or even the hope of benefit. I am not going to discuss the relative values of public ownership and private ownership. The Acting Prime Minister tried this afternoon to describe those who did not share his opinions as private ownership people, as people dangerous to the country, as disloyal people. But I have stated my position, and am not ashamed of it. When men in Parliament have no more right to think for themselves and to express their views, it is high time we dissolved Parliament. We shall be on the eve of Bolshevism when that comes.

The Acting Prime Minister tried to bemoan the policy of his predecessor. He said that when he came to power he found on the door-step of the Department of Finance two dirty babies. That may have been.

Mr. E. LAPOINTE: We find more than that.

Mr. BUREAU: If he had been logical he would have fired the nurse who had not taken care of those babies. He would have said: I am going to change this; I want clean ones; let us clean this baby and make it as it ought to be. But what does he do? He tips the nurse and says: I am going to do better; I am going to give you better treatment; I am going to increase your wages—but I do not care about the dirty baby; let him rot in his dirt. If I came home and found my children not properly taken care of by the nurse, I would fire the nurse and get a better one. Now, I will be candid:

This was, I think, only a bluff on the part of the Acting Prime Minister—pulling the wool over the eyes of the people. The Government know that they have before the committee a poor Bill, a Bill that they cannot explain, a Bill that contradicts itself in a good many clauses—I will not say in every clause—a Bill that we did not oppose because it was vesting in a company power to administer Canadian Government railways but which, ever since it was brought before the House, we have been trying to word so that the company can be properly administered. This is not a question of deciding policies. We are saddled with these railways; they have to be administered, and we have given the best of our time and ability to framing a Bill which will give the best results in administering and operating those roads. What we have been afraid of, and rightly so, has been that