

an opportunity of hearing what should be said on the subject by the Minister of Finance, who is particularly concerned in supplying one of the sinews of war. The reason given by the minister for his attitude is not a sufficient one for the Government to give to the thousands of workmen who are affected by the conditions referred to by the member for Pictou; it is not a sufficient reason to give to thousands of families, the heads of which are unable to find the money to buy coal and food and protect their children from the chill of winter. We were told, forsooth, that we should not discuss this question in the House because the Minister of Trade and Commerce had under his hand a Bill for the decapitating and disfranchisement of 50,000 of the Canadian people. That is not a sufficient reason for the Government's attitude; yet that is the only answer that was given from the other side of the House. In the forthcoming election I need no better argument than this to submit to the thousands of people in my constituency who depend for their livelihood upon their daily or weekly wage; when a question of vital importance to them was brought up in this House, the Government, led by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, put every obstacle in the way of the discussion of the matter. The minister says: to the dogs with food for the children; to the winds with the discussion of these matters; we have a decapitating axe to grind; we must cut off every power in this country that will criticise our misdoings; we cannot give you time to discuss this matter, because fifty thousand people have to be disfranchised, gagged, muzzled, we must have the time of the House for the discussion of that matter, not for the discussion of the matter brought up by the member for Pictou. Although I am accused of speaking frequently in this House, it is not often that I am thoroughly roused and stirred in expressing the views of the people. But when an old and respected parliamentarian like the Minister of Trade and Commerce says that we should not have an hour or two of the time of the House to discuss a matter of vital importance to the people, I feel that it is time the common people asserted themselves and contended that they should be heard in this House as well as the millionaires, the knights, the lords. Hon. gentlemen opposite talk in millions; they have more regard for the large amounts made by the lords and dukes who support the Government than they have for the needs

[Mr. McKenzie.]

of the workingman. But the time is not far off when the people will have an opportunity of passing judgment upon the conduct of this Government. No disfranchising Act that can be passed through this House will save the Government and the Minister of Trade and Commerce from the Bay-of-Fundy avalanche and tide that is approaching too rapidly for their own safety.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: What kind of an avalanche is that?

Mr. McKENZIE: It will come from both sides—there will be an avalanche from the land and a tidal bore from the sea.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: The bore is already here.

Mr. DAVIDSON: Will it be a smooth-bore?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. McKENZIE: I hear the piping voice of the sworn statesman. If he is looking for smooth things he had better consult his constituents on the question whether he will secure the nomination in Annapolis.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. McKENZIE: The Minister of Trade and Commerce said that we should be very careful not to encroach upon the rights of Great Britain in a matter of this kind. When the question of spending money over here is raised, regard must be had to Great Britain, but Great Britain is the whole Empire and the whole universe when we have to send men over there. We do not draw any line in this war; we are under the fold of the grand old flag—in Scotland, Ireland, England, Australia, New Zealand; it is all one Empire, one people. We have contributed, to the best of our ability, of the blood and wealth of this country, and we are still doing so. The Minister of Trade and Commerce says, with a flourish of trumpets and with that rhetoric which has made him famous: do you dare to suggest that Great Britain, although thousands of our men are fighting for her protection, should continue spending money in Canada in order to keep going the industries which the necessities of the war have produced and still call for? If that is the argument, then we must not ask any consideration at all from the authorities in Great Britain. All the sacrifices must come from our side; we must expect nothing in return.

The Minister of Finance has told us that what was to be cut off in the way of the