

something which would justify rejection of the measure, the Senate says Amen to the action of the House of Commons, which has the principal control of the public purse. The present Bill covers expenditures for the year ending to-day. I think it is quite proper that before we start another fiscal year, as we shall to-morrow, we should have this Bill passed.

I am quite sure that my honourable friend has enough confidence in the members on both sides of the House of Commons to abide by their judgment. The measure was passed there in fifteen minutes, after but a brief inquiry or statement made by the right honourable leader of the Opposition, I think, suggesting that the Government had followed a course which apparently had been denounced by the Liberal party when it was in opposition. That was all. I am quite sure that if my honourable friend were to ponder over the Bill for a week he would agree it should pass. Perhaps he would settle with his conscience by saying, "On division," but I doubt whether he would make even that reservation.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: My objection is not at all on the ground suggested by the honourable leader. We are continually receiving bills, at opportune and inopportune times, with the request to put them through without consideration. This is a special type of bill, and I agree with what the honourable gentleman has said about it, but that does not affect the principle which I am urging should be maintained, that this House should receive legislation in time to give honourable members an opportunity of considering it. We should not be expected to vote blindly on any matter. I am not questioning the bona fides of any item of the Bill, but am objecting to our being asked to pass the measure before we have had an opportunity of even seeing it.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I may say, if the Senate will allow me, that I have been a member of this Chamber for more than thirty-nine years. On a good many occasions in that period the Senate has protested vehemently against receiving the Supply Bill within perhaps an hour or half an hour of the time announced for the arrival of His Excellency and the giving of the Royal Assent. Of course the Senate has a right to say it will not pass any bill after such a brief consideration, and that it will take a day or a week to discuss it, if necessary, but it has always happened that the Supply Bill was put through before the bell rang to call in honourable members to meet His Excellency. I have heard more than thirty times the same objection which is now being raised.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. BLACK: I have heard the honourable gentleman make the same objection himself, with regard to almost the same type of bill.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The objection was not sustained, though.

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN: I have run through the Bill now. I do not think the honourable senator from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) is right. In what is by far the largest item of all there is nothing based on any previous legislation. No authority was given for it at all. It appears to amount to this. The Dominion is writing down, really cancelling, debts incurred by the province of Manitoba in respect of adjustment of indebtedness of those farmers who had to be moved from drought areas, to the extent of the comparatively small sum of \$804,897; and the Dominion is doing similarly with respect to the province of Saskatchewan, but to the extent of \$17,959,606.51, the limitation being that the sum is not to exceed in the aggregate the amount the Dominion has advanced to the province by way of loans for relief. We can make up our minds that the whole sum will be contributed, even to the 51 cents. The reason I call special attention to it is that, the amounts being so gigantic, surely some question of policy is involved. I do not know just why the Bill went through the Commons as it did.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: May I interrupt my right honourable friend to say this? My memory now allows me to state that the principal criticism—if it may be so termed—made by the right honourable Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons was that Alberta had not received the same treatment as that given to Saskatchewan. That was the main criticism from the other side, if criticism may be inferred. The answer of the honourable Minister of Finance was that Alberta had not asked for the same treatment.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Alberta would not need any Social Credit if she got an amount approximating what Saskatchewan is getting; she would be in good shape, I should think. We are a long way from the day when the Hon. Edward Blake, I think it was, strongly supported by the Hon. David Mills, took the ground that financial arrangements between each province and the Dominion, as stipulated by the terms of the British North America Act, were part and parcel of the whole Confederation plan and could not be altered by the Dominion Government. For that position both those distinguished men