

lation had occurred. At the beginning of the war some very enthusiastic person started to raise a fund to buy hospital ships. After this movement had gone along for awhile it was discovered that it was all nonsense, that there was no necessity for a hospital ship. The whole thing was the inspiration of some very worthy person who thought it would be a good idea. Then we had the idea propagated all over the country of getting up a subscription for machine guns. The newspapers proceeded on this question, and demands were made upon the public. Everybody who suggested that this was a matter that the Government ought to deal with, just as much as the supply of rifles, was pilloried as disloyal and guilty of all sorts of crimes and misdemeanours. A tremendous amount of money was collected all over the country and sent in to Ottawa and every now and then you hear of some municipality which wants to know what has become of the money. These movements were promoted by a species of hysteria, and that is what actuates similar efforts in a great many cases. It is a step in the right direction if the Bill is intended to prevent things of that kind. But when you say that:

It shall not be lawful to make any appeal to the public for donations or subscriptions in money or in kind for any war charity as hereinafter defined, or to raise or attempt to raise money for any such war charity by promoting any bazaar, sale, entertainment or exhibition, or by any similar means—

—unless the charity is exempt from registration or registration takes place under the Act, you are going too far. In my own part of the country, where battalions have been formed we have had the wives and relatives of the boys holding entertainments and making appeals to provide comforts for them and help them along. There was a Highland battalion raised in our province, the distinctive mark of which was the wearing of a feather in the bonnet, and in consequence of that the Blue Feather Club was organized. In every hamlet and village from which a few boys had gone they had entertainments and gatherings for the purpose of raising money. That is a sentiment that you could not interfere with, but it will be an absolute prohibitive thing to say to a number of people in a small place who want to get together to do something for the men who have gone to the front that they would be liable to a penalty unless they registered. Are a few people in some distant part of the Dominion, who desire to meet together for that

purpose, to be held up until they apply to Ottawa to be registered or to secure permission to hold their entertainments? I do not know who is responsible for the drafting of them, but a great many of the Bills which have been presented to this House in the last week or two are Bills which require a great deal of changing before they can be deemed to be fit or proper legislation.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Might I call my hon. friend's attention to the definition of the word "charity" which I think he has overlooked?

Mr. MACDONALD: The remarks I made were made in view of the definition of "war charities."

Sir THOMAS WHITE: It means any fund, institution or association.

Mr. MACDONALD: I will give you an illustration of the trouble we will have in Nova Scotia over the Blue Feather Club or the Red Feather Club. Technically, it would seem to be a club organized for the purpose of raising money, and it would come within the meaning of the Act. This measure is not well drafted. We know what the intention is in so far as it concerns the idea of regulating the inauguration of wholesale funds which are the development of some idea not based upon any proper consideration of the whole circumstances. That is one thing. That is what I think is the intent of the Act. But, we do not want every pie social and tea fight in the Dominion to be deemed illegal unless the promoters of those entertainments obtain registration under this Act. Yet, that is the way the Bill is drawn. Take the Bill in regard to the War-Time Elections Act which was introduced yesterday. I do not hesitate to say that that proposed legislation, in the way it is drafted and presented to the House, is a disgrace to the man who wrote it, considered as a piece of parliamentary drafting. It presents an elaboration of all the language which can be applied to create the greatest possible difficulty. The whole Bill ought to be redrafted in order to get at the real intent.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I do not agree with my hon. friend that this Act applies to every local attempt to raise money, owing to the definition of war charities. The definition is:

Any fund, institution or association, whether established before or after the commencement of this Act, having for its object or among its objects the relief of suffering or distress, or