

when this House was sitting, to propose a credit to Italy of some \$6,000,000. Although the House was sitting, the Government did not think fit to bring that matter before the people's representatives.

But there are certain expenditures which I will point out as being improper and extravagant. First, the registration of the people, which was carried out in the month of June last, and which cost in round figures \$650,000. I do not believe that the usefulness of this work was at all commensurate with what it cost. In my province it afforded a Government—claiming to have eliminated patronage altogether—an opportunity to bestow upon political friends a certain amount of work; it put the people to a very considerable degree of trouble; but the information sought was only valuable if it was availed of immediately or within a few months at the outside. As far as I can see, no use has been made of the information so gathered.

The next matter in which I charge extravagance is the carrying on of the Canadian Official Record and the Bureau of Public Information. This Canadian Official Record is absolutely unnecessary. The Canada Gazette should be sufficient to convey to the people all the information the Government wishes to convey. It is quite true that the tiresome and long winded verbiage used in the Canada Gazette might with propriety be changed, and the paper itself might be put in a more attractive form, which would not cost much money. But this Canadian Official Record, what is it? What is its object?

Then there is the Bureau of Public Information. How I detest that Bureau of Public Information! We are British people and we do not need Government hand picked information. I wish to goodness the President of Privy Council—who is responsible both for the Canadian Official Record and for this Bureau of Public Information—would sit down next Sunday afternoon and read Milton's great work on political liberty, his *Areopagitica*, where he says: "Give me the liberty to know, to argue, and to utter freely, above all, liberty." And then I wish, remembering that once he was a Liberal, he would strike out of his Estimates and get out of his mind all this talk of Canadian Official Records and Bureaus of Public Information. We do not need pre-digested pap for the Canadian people. We have got our newspapers; we can read them. And let me ask very solemnly: What brought the German people right down to the jaws of hell, and had them bring a great portion of the

people of Europe along with them? It was the attempt of the German Government to control German public opinion. The Parliament, the Church, the press and the professorial chair all sang the same tune—Deutschland uber alles. There was no power of criticism; the people were taught that criticism of the Government was disloyalty to the State. We do not want that sort of thing in Canada. No greater tragedy could happen when we have overcome Prussianism on the field of battle, than that the spirit of Prussianism should creep into our British mentality and our Canadian institutions.

Passing from the President of the Council, we approach the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. The shipbuilding programme is one of the most profligate proposals for spending the people's money that has ever been proposed. Many hours, Mr. Speaker, might be profitably spent by this House in carefully considering the shipbuilding programme of the Government; but in the somewhat cursory examination of the Government's financial policy which I am obliged to make to-day, it is impossible for me to do more than state that in my opinion—and, I believe, in the opinion of a great number of responsible people in this country, irrespective of political allegiance—that the shipbuilding programme will prove a sink for the money of the people, and is open to the most serious objection on very many scores. It will involve the expenditure of millions upon millions of dollars of borrowed money.

Next I come to the housing scheme. The housing scheme has already been discussed in this House. It has met with serious and trenchant criticism, not only from those sitting on your left, Mr. Speaker, but also from those sitting on your right and from those sitting in front of you—and we note with a certain amount of pleasure that the group sitting in front of you is increasing day by day. I submit that it will be found that any work done under this scheme will be of very slight benefit to those to whom the State owes a great debt—the returned soldier, and may very possibly result in helping those who are very well able to help themselves.

My next criticism is the advance to Rumania. This will undoubtedly give a great opportunity for making money to certain of our protected manufacturers. The scheme will receive the approval of that class in the community. The proposal is this: they are to manufacture for a foreign market at good prices, and with a certainty of being paid for their wares and mer-

[Mr. McMaster.]