

friend, without my stating them, it would, in my judgment, be better to designate some other minister for that work; in fact, as this is a war measure, its proper administrator would seem to be the Minister of Militia, and should that hon. gentleman require any legal assistance, it can be provided in the Act that such should be furnished him by the Solicitor General.

Mr. BURNHAM: Will the hon. gentleman state why he objects to the Minister of Justice administering the Act?

Mr. MURPHY: I do not object, if the minister wishes to act. I am merely making a suggestion. Referring to the speech of the hon. gentleman from South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie), I may observe that in form and in tone that speech was as unexceptionable as any I have heard delivered in Parliament. I may say the same about that of the hon. gentleman from Lambton (Mr. Pardee); and, as I am in a generous mood, I think I would extend that compliment to the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Meighen). I desire to say further, with reference to the speech of my hon. friend from South Wellington, that I do not agree with his arguments and conclusions, save in one instance, namely, when he said that he did not believe that this Bill would be successfully enforced by a single political party. I share that belief in its entirety. The Government would do well to hearken to the warning contained in the speech of the hon. gentleman from South Wellington, because it is manifest that the Government alone cannot put this Bill in force. Mr. Speaker, let us rid ourselves of cant. This Bill attempts the impossible. That the Government knows this to be the case was hinted by the hon. Minister of Labour yesterday when he intimated that the operation of the Bill might be postponed. Is that not why it contains the provision that it is not to come into force until a proclamation is issued? It is not yet too late for the Government to be frank and courageous. Let them acknowledge that their action was hasty, and that it is better to yield before than after they have caused a disastrous cleavage in our national life.

More than once during this debate we have heard it stated that criticism that is not constructive is not helpful. Mindful of that, and responding to the Prime Minister's request for suggestions, I desire on my own account, and speaking for myself, to submit a constructive war-time policy to the Government. In the order in which

its features occurred to me, and from the point of view of necessity and the public good, I suggest that, instead of enacting this Bill, the Government should adopt the motion of which notice was given by my hon. friend from South Renfrew (Mr. Graham) on the 13th of the present month, and pass the necessary legislation to give it immediate effect, so that every moral and material force available in the Dominion and not yet reached would make its contribution as man power as done. Stop horse-racing, stop the publication and sale of racing forms, stop all games and sports conducted merely for raising gate money, close all bar rooms, pool rooms, billiard rooms and moving picture shows. Under the existing law make a national survey, showing who are engaged at productive or other necessary work, and those who are not. Give those who are not so engaged, who are of military age, and who cannot satisfactorily account for not being at such work, the option of enlisting voluntarily, or of doing necessary work for which they are suited, and if all the men and means required are not procured in this way then take counsel with the leader of the Opposition, and with the Premiers of all the Provinces, as to what further should be done. This course will involve no delay or avoidable hardship. It will impress the whole country with the seriousness and the good faith of the Government, as well as the gravity of the work the Government has in hand. It will be a guarantee against unfair discrimination of any kind. It will appeal to the people's sense of fair play and equal sacrifice. It will evoke the spirit of nation-wide patriotism. It will stimulate generous rivalry instead of prejudice and passion. It will stop national waste of man power and resources. And, in my belief, the response will exceed that which the most sanguine can expect. In any event, Sir, I make the suggestion in all sincerity, and in order to avoid the dangers to which I believe the Government's present course is leading.

In conclusion, I have a last appeal to make. On Parliament Hill there is a monument composed of two figures, those of Baldwin and Lafontaine. United in life, this Parliament wisely decided that in the nation's memory they would not be separated in death. There they stand, and for all time there they will stand, gazing into the distance across the Ottawa river and beyond the sky line of the Laurentian hills—two figures, the embodiment in bronze of a noble ideal, typifying the union of the two great forces in our