

have in a few weeks time, it is only fit that there should be in every mind in Canada the splendid efforts and worthy endeavours of those pioneers in settlement and in government who have given us the house in which to-day in this country we dwell.

Then we come to the question of control. When I moved in this house the other day for public ownership, the Prime Minister made the following objection. He said that in the first place this is against the experience of the world. Well, I am not so very certain that the experience of the world is a safe guiding factor at this time. If he is going to go by the experience of the world in regard to control of banking institutions, is he going to go by the experience of the world in regard to those crazy dictatorships which are being set up in every country in Europe? I suggest that we should preserve for the Canadian people full control over credit, over currency and over note issue; that is the proper course to follow, instead of taking the experience of some crazy nations of Europe which have gone wrong in matters of finance as well as in matters of government.

Then the right hon. gentleman repeated the point with regard to political control. I think Sir Thomas White has answered that, and I think I have answered it sufficiently. He went on to say that under this legislation the profits accrue to the people. Mr. Speaker, under the bill as drawn up at present we have a capitalization of \$5,000,000 and an interest rate of four and a half per cent, which means an ostensible profit of \$225,000. But may I point out, as I did once before, that when you support this legislation you support the transfer, in the first place, of \$70,000,000 worth of Finance Act gold which at the present moment belongs to the people of the Dominion of Canada, to a privately owned, profit making corporation. In the second place you are going to transfer later on \$40,000,000 worth of bank gold, less the amount the banks require for external obligations; that is to be transferred to a privately owned, profit making corporation. Then, on the day this bank opens its doors for business, you are going to create \$63,000,000 worth of new, three per cent securities; you are going to hand these over to this new, privately owned, profit making institution, and the taxpayers of the Dominion of Canada every year will have to pay \$1,800,000 in interest. Bigger than all these things, however, is the sovereign control over note issue, which belongs to parliament and to the people, and you are handing that over to a privately owned, profit making corporation under the legislation which we are asked to support at the present time.

Our resolution with regard to public ownership has been rejected. Our resolution with regard to public control has been rejected, and this afternoon I submit in the strongest possible way that this government, repudiated and rejected, inferentially if not actually, by the people, has not a moral right or a moral mandate in the eleventh hour of its life to pass this legislation, which will bring about a complete transformation of the financial organization of the Dominion of Canada. I say the government have no right to do that on the basis of private ownership without first of all having the principle of private ownership endorsed by the free will of the Canadian people. So, Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I am endeavouring to give expression, in the first place to those who believe in the principle of public ownership, and in the second place to those who believe without debating the merits or demerits of public ownership, that a rigid, definite and well defined public control is necessary in regard to this institution. Therefore I submit the following amendment:

That the bill be not now read a third time but that it be referred back to the committee of the whole with instructions that they have power so to amend it as to provide that the Bank of Canada shall be either,—

- (a) Government owned and controlled;
- (b) Government owned; or
- (c) Government controlled.

That is seconded by the hon. member for Quebec South (Mr. Power). Under this amendment, when the bill is referred back to the committee of the whole, we will have the right to reconsider sections 9 and 17, which deal in the first place with the principle of public ownership and in the second place with the principle of public control of this bank. When I review this legislation as it now stands I am reminded of a quotation from the 32nd chapter of Isaiah, as follows:

The instruments also of the churl are evil; he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right.

But the liberal deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand.

Believing as I do, Mr. Speaker, in public ownership and control of this great national financial institution I am pleading with this house this afternoon to devise liberal things, and so far as we on this side of the house are concerned, by liberal things we shall stand.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Just why once more, in dealing with a matter of profound importance to the Canadian people, it is thought desirable to interject a note of pure politics into the discussion on the third reading, Mr. Speaker, I cannot