

clever flashes by which he wants to make the House believe that we were always passing Orders in Council, that we were always just as bad in passing Orders in Council as we are now, and he got some of his friends to laugh and say, "What are those Opposition fellows talking about? This was always the way; there is nothing new." That is the opinion the hon. minister flashed on the screen and which his friends were pleased to see, but such is not the case at all.

It is quite true that Orders in Council have been passed every year which had their basis in the statutes, but they were entirely different in their significance from the kind of Order in Council this Government has been passing for the last few years. It is quite true that every contract made by the Government is ratified by Order in Council—even a contract for carrying the mails, say, for a distance of only four miles. All these contracts, it is true, are made by Order in Council, but they have their basis in the estimates and in the statutes which govern the various departments. But the Orders in Council with which we find fault are the substantive enactments, having practically the same force as statutes, and which go very much further than the every-day Order in Council which is necessary to the carrying on of departmental business. I want to make it clear to my hon. friend that I quite understand this flash he has just given us, when he suggested that we were always just as bad and that the Government are but carrying out a well established practice.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I should be very sorry, indeed, to put out the light of my honourable friend with a flash or with anything else. I want to assure him again that the Orders in Council that have been passed and that will be passed by the Government in office are, so far as I have any knowledge of them, just as firmly rooted in the authority of Parliament and in the statutes as any Orders in Council passed by any other Government since Confederation. Does my hon. friend mean to say that any Order in Council passed by this Government did not have its authority primarily in the statutes? If it did not, the Order in Council would have no effect, and the proper method of attacking it would be in the courts of this country. Some have resorted to that, but not with conspicuous success, and I venture to advise the leader of the Opposition, when hereafter he attacks Orders in Council passed by this Government as having no basis in the statutes, to con-

fine himself to the free-and-easy forum of Parliament instead of going to the courts of the land.

Mr. BUREAU: With his usual ability, the minister has slid out of it. Just now he read me a lecture on Orders in Council, and said that more Orders in Council were passed under the old regime than by this Government.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I said before the war.

Mr. BUREAU: My hon. friend's multiplication table cannot be the one I learned at school, in the figures that this Government has not passed more Orders in Council under the War Measures Act than were passed by any other Government. The minister challenges my leader for doubting the legality of some Orders in Council, and he advises him to attack them in the courts. What a farce! We saw in Calgary what they thought of the courts; they trained their guns on the courts there. It is surely the climax for this Government to talk of respecting the orders of the courts, because experience has shown that the Government only goes to court when it expects to get a favourable interpretation, and that when an unfavourable interpretation is given, the guns are trained on the courts. Coming to the Bill, section 5, as the hon. member for Shelburne and Queens has pointed out, does not limit the power of the Governor in Council to making regulations only with respect to things mentioned in the Bill; and the minister has not answered that objection. It would surely be better to define more clearly who shall be entitled to make application, and who shall be entitled to receive a loan. Section 2 defines "Entrant" as follows:

"Entrant" shall mean any person occupying Dominion Lands as an entrant under the Dominion Lands Act.

If it is desired to advance money to a man who has not got a patent but whose application for a patent has been recommended, we should include in the definition the words "having a recommendation for a patent." The Bill provides that the men are to deal with the bank, but I see the department is to make regulations by Order in Council with respect to the manner in which applications shall be filed and dealt with. Does my hon. friend mean that he is going to pass regulations directing the agents in certain cases to deal with applications in only one particular way? To whom are the instructions to be issued as to the manner of dealing with these applications? To the agent? As I understand the Bill, the man desiring an advance ap-