

the control exercised over industry, not by industrial managers so much as by promoters and financiers. We believe the interlocking of directorates is one of the factors which on the one hand enables bankers to control industries, and on the other hand enables industrialists to control the banks. It is our view that in that connection there is room for much in the way of reform.

I come next to the control of credit. Liberalism believes that credit is a public matter, not of interest to bankers only, but of direct concern to the average citizen. It stands for the immediate establishment of a properly constituted national central bank, to perform the functions of rediscount, and the control of currency issue, considered in terms of public need. A central bank is necessary to determine the supply of currency in relation to the domestic, social and industrial requirements of the Canadian people; and also to deal with the problems of international commerce and exchange.

Then, as regards our national finances we believe now, as we always have, in the necessity of a balanced budget. It is our view that the aim of every government should be the balancing of its budget. We would seek to effect that end, as we did in seven out of the eight and a half years we held office, by retrenchment of public expenditures, by reduction of principal and interest on the public debt and by increasing revenues through the encouragement of trade. We believe a reduction of the cost of government in Canada could be effected by a careful inquiry into the whole of the costs, federal, provincial and municipal. The whole structure should be overhauled and simplified. We believe further that there should be a reduction in the burden of interest and taxation. There is room for much to be done by way of refunding of the public debt and of lowering of interest rates which, at the present time, constitute a great burden upon the state.

The Liberal party believes that the present crisis has been made an excuse for the usurpation of the rights of parliament and the assumption of autocratic powers by the executive. Liberalism stands, as always, for the principle of a free parliament, and for the supremacy of parliament. To this end it would repeal the legislation enacted by the present administration, which deprives parliament of its control over expenditures, and taxation, and invests the executive with unwarranted arbitrary powers, as for example: legislation permitting the executive to enact measures by order in council for peace, order and good government, and legislation provid-

ing the executive with a blank cheque for expenditures of any kind.

In that connection may I remind the house of what was said only a few evenings ago. The statement was made that up to the present time, in its term of office the present administration had in one way or another spent over \$115,000,000 for purposes of relief. Some of it has been for direct relief, some has been given as aid to provinces, and some loaned to provinces. With the exception of \$20,000,000, every bit of the \$115,000,000 has been spent by the executive under orders in council on blank cheque account. Parliament has had no control over those expenditures, has known nothing of them until after they had been made. This great sum of money, \$115,000,000, is equal to the total moneys paid out of the consolidated fund of Canada to run the whole dominion for the year immediately preceding the war. That gives some idea of the extent to which we have had taken away from us in this parliament the rights of the people's representatives to control expenditure and taxation.

Liberalism believes that under the excuse of the present crisis the rights of the individual have been violated. Liberalism stands, as always, for the British principle of free speech and free association, and to this end we would repeal section 98 of the criminal code, and end the present practice of arbitrary deportation.

Finally Liberalism stands for electoral laws which will ensue a true parliamentary representation of the Canadian people, and such legislation as may help to reduce the cost of electoral campaigns.

I might have added in this connection a word as to our position with regard to inter-imperial and international relations, but I think the house is familiar with our policy in that regard, which aims, as hon. gentlemen well know, at seeking to further wherever possible those courses in international relations which will make for peace and goodwill among nations, and promote friendly intercourse between them. We would seek to further the League of Nations in its work.

There is one word I should like to say in conclusion. I feel that this is a time when men ought to speak their minds, particularly in regard to the problems with which the country is faced—and not only the country, but with which the world itself is faced; and that if there is anything in our belief which we regard as important it should be publicly stated. Much has been said this afternoon by myself in criticism of those who are supporting the present resolution; I have felt