

that the families of our soldiers at the front be reduced to living on charity, that they be obliged to knock at the door of public charitable institutions; that matter can well await settlement for a year longer, but it is of importance that Mackenzie and Mann should be granted at once \$60,000,000 or more.

To those who have increased the national debt, the sufferings, the hardships which the city and country workmen have to undergo are of no consequence; neither is the burden of taxation they have had to bear for several years past. The only important consideration for the moment is to please Mackenzie and Mann.

As to State ownership of railways, under the present conditions—as I have just said it, I do not wish it to be understood that I am against such a scheme. I say that providing a system of State ownership which brings no returns or does not make both ends meet would be a most criminal thing to do.

If, on the other hand, a railway system can be made through any machinery whatever to give good returns or meet its expenses, I say it is the Government's duty to take it over and have the public get the benefit of it.

In France, Belgium, in Switzerland and in England likewise—I might also mention Germany, but I must not do so for fear of offending some touchy people in this House—when it came to instituting State ownership, the matter was taken up by the various governments of those countries along lines quite different from those followed here. I am prepared to say that the great majority of the people of this country are against the system which the Government intend applying to the Canadian Northern. I may say, by the way that I know that the Prime Minister has recently received a stern resolution from the Trades and Labour Council of the city of Toronto, and I know that the city of Montreal, which I represent, has also protested on the same grounds.

Some one mentioned here, to-day, the names of the business men who signed that statement recently published in the press. Among those names was quoted that of my friend, Mr. Ainey, one of the Montreal city controllers, and it may have been inferred from that that he was a business man, or the head of some big concern or of a powerful financial institution. Such is not the case. He was included because he represents a large city; they wanted his name to appear along with those of eminent citizens

[Mr. Verville.]

of this country, so as to show that there was only one class opposed to this legislation, but all classes of people were averse to it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I very much doubt that the Minister of Finance will be able to float in the United States the loan which not only one class opposed to this legislation, but all classes of people were averse to it.

Formerly we heard the cry: Have nothing to do with the United States. It rang loud enough in our ears in 1911. We should not be overanxious, Mr. Chairman, for I believe that, after the war, the considerable amount we shall be owing to our American neighbours across the line, will probably open our eyes and we must not then be so touchy at seeing the stars and stripes waving at various points along the frontier.

There is no reason to fear mentioning certain things which are actually a menace in the minds of our rabid imperialists; they also know of them, but they do not mention them; and should anyone dare refer to them, he is charged with being a disloyal subject of His Majesty.

Mr. Chairman, I have not yet reached my time limit, I believe, but I will not exceed it, although in 1913, when the Government—whose worthy committee chairman you are—applied the rule we are now made to endure; the right hon. Prime Minister then granted me I remember, an extra twenty minutes. I do not intend to go beyond the limit, for the subject has been fully threshed out, but I wish to protest in the name of the city of Montreal, which is not the least in the Dominion, I desire to protest on behalf of all classes of its people. I wish to protest on behalf of the working men who will be called upon to pay their full quota; I want to protest in the name of those who, as the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe (Mr. Gauthier) has so well put it last night, are now indebted to the amount of \$300 per capita.

The hon. member for St. Hyacinthe protested in the name of the numerous families of his county; have I not the right, also, to think of the numerous families in my own constituency whose rights it is our duty and our right to safeguard? I know that it will not prevent this Bill becoming law and that the people shall just the same be obliged to bear that burden for our big capitalists, for those good nabobs who will go on junketting trips across the seas and who will heartily scoff at those poor Canadian people who are so efficiently contributing towards protecting their millions. We