

May I say to honourable senators—and in this I shall be supported by those who know the facts—that many of the municipal governments of this country are unable to solve without assistance the existing financial problems. The unemployment conditions last year created a situation which it will be difficult to surmount. Many municipalities that have spent money, in conjunction with the federal and provincial governments—much of which money could have been saved—will be unable to meet the interest charges on their bonds. The result will be higher taxation and a general dislocation of municipal affairs, and the federal and provincial governments will suffer in consequence. I appeal to my fellow members to support a policy of strict retrenchment.

I must say that in my opinion the report made to the House by my honourable friend from Sydney (Hon. Mr. McLennan) is sufficient for the purposes of the committee. I was pleased to read that report, but I submit that it is not necessary to make of it another bluebook. Since Confederation there has been an expenditure for bluebooks that is totally unwarranted. Canada is the only country in which such a practice is followed. In England the bluebooks that are published under the authority of the Government are not given away, but are sold. If you want to get one you must go to Marylebone Street or to Paternoster Row, and you will have to pay the price that is set for it. The same thing is true in France, in which country official publications are reduced to the lowest possible number. But here we publish tons of printed matter, which we spread all over the country. My honourable friend from Grandville (Hon. Mr. Chapais) and I, who, like poor migrant birds, travel about the rural districts of Quebec, often see copies of bluebooks in some of the old general stores that still survive. Once more let us set an example to the rest of the country so that the people will say that at least the Senate has made a move in the direction of economy.

Hon. SMEATON WHITE: The report of this committee represents about the only effort that has been made to compile, for the use of the coming Imperial Conference, valuable information on Canadian trade. I think the honourable senator from Sydney (Hon. Mr. McLennan) and his colleagues are to be congratulated upon the work they have done. Their report is not very long, and I think that the proceedings should be published, at least in English.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX.

Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, it strikes me that if we adopt this motion we shall be departing from a long established rule of the Senate, that unless committee proceedings deal with some outstanding matter and publication is essential, they are not printed. If we print this evidence we shall be establishing a precedent. I greatly appreciate the material that is contained in the evidence, but, after all, most of the facts stated are of a statistical nature and they will be, no doubt, compiled on a much larger scale for the benefit of the conference. Therefore, I feel that we should not order the printing in this instance.

Hon. G. GORDON: Honourable senators, I agree with many of the remarks of the honourable gentleman from Rougemont (Hon. Mr. Lemieux), for no one believes in economy more sincerely than I, and particularly at the present time. But I remember that some years ago, in a discussion in another place, my honourable friend was a very enthusiastic supporter of the project to build what is now the National Transcontinental Railway. I heard him make an eloquent speech in which he attempted to justify the construction of that road, and I can still picture him as he said that in a short time we should require four, and even five, transcontinental railroads.

Hon. Mr. LEMIEUX: I fear the honourable gentleman is mistaking me for the Hon. Mr. Blair.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: No; I remember the occasion. That was the time when economy should have been practised. We all know now that the National Transcontinental should not have been built for at least twenty-five years from now, if even then. A large part of the heavy debts that the honourable gentleman has referred to are attributable to the premature construction of that road. The printing item that we are considering would mean an expenditure of possibly \$300 to \$400, and in my opinion we should not refuse to order the printing after the good work that has been done by the committee of which my honourable friend from Sydney (Hon. Mr. McLennan) is chairman. If the information was worth getting, it is worth publishing, and I think the motion should be adopted.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON: May I ask the honourable gentleman from Sydney (Hon. Mr. McLennan) a question? Has any of the evidence been printed already?

Hon. Mr. McLENNAN: No.