

sequences. I need hardly say that this action was taken reluctantly. I need hardly say that the closest examination was given to ascertain where these capital obligations had been created and what they represented. It is a matter of satisfaction to believe that within the time limited there will be no liability upon this country. And if there is, the four per cent consolidated debenture stock of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company empowers its holders on default to take possession of the system. It is a very distinctive kind of security, and it was upon that security the banks made their advances in order that if business improves within that time not only might the money be available for commercial purposes by rediscounting, but the fullest opportunity would be given during that period of time for the railway company to readjust its financial position.

The only other matter that remains to be discussed is that having to do with honours and awards. I had not thought that I would take up so much time in my efforts to answer so many matters brought to the attention of the house at the beginning of the session. In view of the fact that it is within a few minutes of six o'clock I would ask your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and conclude on the matter of honours and awards after recess.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

After Recess

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, there are two matters I should mention before taking up the question of honours and awards. Yesterday the right hon. gentleman referred to a statement made by me in Montreal upon my return from Great Britain in which I had indicated that Canada could not experiment with hours of labour and rates of pay. What I was dealing with, of course, was the question of export trade, and while I did not at that time, I did later state that the question of hours of labour and compensation and matters of that sort had been settled by a conference called by the League of Nations, and that the provinces had been charged with jurisdiction in that regard.

It has been said that the law has not been enforced by the provinces, and a reference to the order paper will show that it is proposed to ascertain to what extent the laws with respect to hours of labour and compensation have been observed in Canada by the prov-

inces. The extent to which the sweating process may have obtained in the provinces is a matter over which the dominion has no jurisdiction. I endeavoured to point out at some length that experiments could not be practised by a country in our position. The all-important matter to which I did refer, and which does not appear in the report, was that we were a debtor nation, and that while a creditor nation might do almost anything it pleased, being under no necessity to consider matters external to its own country with respect to credit, currency, stability or matters of that kind, the Dominion of Canada, being a debtor country, was compelled by the very nature of things to give consideration to them to an extent other nations did not find necessary. This is true especially of the great republic to the south of us, which is a creditor nation.

I desire also to make some observations with respect to what was said yesterday concerning my remarks in Toronto. I do not think that the right hon. gentleman could have done it purposely, but the fact is that he misrepresented the situation. Although I remained silent while the right hon. gentleman read what I was supposed to have said that evening, upon looking at Toronto journals I find that the statements made in the paper from which he quoted were, as I knew, completely inaccurate. I took the trouble to inquire of one who was sitting not far from me at that gathering as to what had taken place. I did give credit to George Brown for having assisted in bringing about confederation. I said that shortly after confederation he had left Macdonald and then I pointed to the position of the Liberal party led by Mr. Blake, to the building of the Canadian Pacific, and the rounding out of the confederation by extending it to the Pacific slope. I think upon comparison of reports appearing in Toronto papers with that read by the right hon. gentleman it will be seen that an injustice was done to me in that particular. Newspapers having to make summaries quickly, in the very nature of things one who speaks with rapidity, as I usually do, is on the following day likely to find himself reported somewhat at variance with what he said. I fancy the right hon. gentleman himself must have observed that frequently. It is not that the newspaper reporters are not fair, but it is due to the inability to compress into a few sentences an address which may have taken thirty or forty minutes to deliver. I make this observation only because I have always endeavoured to pay full tribute to those who brought about