

ing my having to see that a certain gentleman was prosecuted and sent to the penitentiary.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Only one?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: There was another one but I forget what happened in his case. However, having regard to the volume of work done, the enormous amount of bonds issued, interest coupons, and so on, the showing was extremely satisfactory. There is nothing I have to say to my hon. friend (Mr. Robb) as to his own department, but the system should be brought up to date. The minister says that the board has been doing useful work and I think the House should have the benefit of any information that is available. I understand that reports have been submitted but I do not know whether they have been tabled. If not, I think they should be tabled for the information of the House. I am not sure, but I have heard that there was a report with regard to Montreal and Quebec harbours, with special recommendations in connection with these, and also with regard to the Vancouver Harbour Board and the Canadian National Railways. The one thing which to my mind is quite essential is a more complete financial control on the part of the country that supplies the money to finance the Canadian National Railways.

Mr. ROBB: I am glad my hon. friend approves of the suggested changes. I have had some reports from the board with regard to the harbours and I have read them all, I believe, with the exception of that on Vancouver harbour; I should like to read that one over. I have no objection to tabling these reports. I would not care to go to the expense of printing them but certainly they should be tabled. Regarding the question of consolidation, hon. members will be glad to know that only recently we have given instructions to all the officers of the different departments in the United Kingdom to the effect that they shall submit financial matters for the approval of the High Commissioner.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The ex-Minister of Finance (Sir Henry Drayton) made a statement with reference to certain changes that have taken place in connection with the audit system of the Finance department in comparatively recent years. Could the minister (Mr. Robb) indicate to what extent such changes have occurred? In the short time I have been here I have been rather alarmed at some disclosures which I hesitate to speak about, in connection with the defalcation of war bond coupons in the

Control of Currency branch and, I believe, some misappropriation of credit cheques in one of the Militia branches, in consequence of which action was taken by the department. In view of these things it is clear that at one time at any rate there was a rather loose system in the department. I do not want to be unfair, but I hope that the system has been improved, and I should like to know what changes have taken place.

Mr. ROBB: If the Public Accounts committee desire to bring before them the Comptroller of Currency they will find him an interesting and profitable witness. One never knows, of course, but so far as we can judge there is now pretty complete control, and the officials tell me that it is impossible for these irregularities to occur. It may be interesting however to know that not long ago an officer in one of the departments of the public service had to be prosecuted for forgery. We have therefore to be continually on the watch, for you cannot introduce any system that will make men honest.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That is true; but where there is only one audit system in such a department as that of Finance—

Mr. ROBB: There is more than one; there is a test audit besides.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): How often is the test audit made?

Mr. ROBB: I believe the Auditor General was before the Public Accounts committee yesterday and he said that in his judgment there was a careful audit.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: In fairness I ought to say that on the whole the officials of the department are very honourable and trustworthy.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I think so myself.

Mr. MARCIL (Bonaventure): Were most of these officials appointed by the previous government or by the Civil Service Commission?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Most of them were appointed either under the government that preceded the Borden administration or under the Borden administration itself. There is no doubt about that, and I make that statement for the benefit of my hon. friend.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): By whom were the defaulters appointed?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I could give that information but hon. gentlemen would not like it. I do not think that we should