

If a member of Parliament, as a member of Parliament, desires to know how much "A" is assessed for, I think he should know, but if he desires to make public information relating to the details of private business, I think he should move by way of resolution in this House, and lay a foundation setting forth fully his reasons for making such motion and the ground upon which it is made.

Mr. CARVELL: Suppose that I, as a member of Parliament, should apply to the minister to obtain the amount for which any firm or corporation had been assessed, would he consider that was purely confidential to myself, or would I be entitled to use it? I assure him that unless I could use it it would be of no value to me.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I stated that information would be supplied to a member of Parliament as a member of Parliament. When he gets that information, it is for him to use it in such manner as he thinks he is justified in using it, having regard to the responsibility of his position as a member of Parliament. There is a differentiation in my mind between giving information as to the amount of assessment and the details of a man's private business, which latter I do not think should be given. My hon. friend refers to one or two cases in which he received an answer from my department. The assessment for the second accounting period has not yet been made.

In one of the cases which he asked for information, there was no such company as my hon. friend named, and I suggested that he should see the Commissioner of Taxation. I do not believe there is an office in the Government that is more open so far as information is concerned than my own; it has always been my object to keep it so. At the same time, unless there are grounds for the charge that full information has not been supplied or that the assessment has been wrongfully made, it is not in the public interest that these matters which we have been discussing should be made public.

Mr. KYTE: I asked the Minister of Finance some months ago for the amount of the earnings and war tax of the Ogilvie Flour Mills company up to the end of the accounting period terminating August 31, 1916. The Minister of Finance about July 15 stated that the figures had not been worked out by the department. Can he supply the information now?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: The assessment on the second accounting period is now being made; we will have until September to make it up. The department is very busily engaged in going over the multitude of returns that have come in and it will be well into the fall before these assessments are settled. I think I gave my hon. friend some information with regard to the first year.

#### THE CANADIAN RAILWAY SITUATION. CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF RESOLUTION RESPECTING CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Consideration resumed in committee of the proposed resolution of Sir Thomas White (Minister of Finance) respecting the Canadian Northern Railway company, Mr. Rainville in the Chair.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: Last evening I stated that I could obtain at once some of the information that was asked for in addition to that already supplied to the committee. The member for Welland (Mr. German) asked for a copy of the trust mortgage securing the \$45,000,000 issue in 1914. Only one copy is available; that I now lay upon the Table. Some hon. member asked for a copy of the mortgage securing the issue of \$15,000,000 which was made last year; I lay that mortgage also upon the Table. The member for St John (Mr. Pugsley) asked for the official returns of the Government auditors. I have their monthly audit up to February last. I have not the audits made since that time, because it takes a couple of months to close up an audit in connection with a system as large as the Canadian Northern Railway system. I lay upon the Table this statement of the audit from May of last year until February of this year, inclusive. I think that is nearly all the information that was asked for, with the exception of an approximate balance sheet as of June 30 of this year. I have already laid upon the Table the balance sheet of last year; it is printed in the document now before the committee. I hope to have the balance sheet for the last fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, by the time the Bill is in the committee stage. I think that covers all that I was asked to obtain.

Mr. MARCIL: Has any information been asked for or brought down with regard to Model City, which Mackenzie and Mann are establishing near the tunnel in Montreal? Considerable interest is taken in this matter by the citizens of that city.