

It should not be possible for ministers in their rooms to fasten obligations upon the country, involving the future credit and honour of the Dominion, and Parliament at the same time deprived of all opportunity of expressing an opinion on the merits of the transaction. I have only to instance the agreement between the Grand Trunk Railway Company and the Government, which has just been consummated, to give a glaring illustration of what I mean. The people of Canada, within the past fortnight, have been placed in the humiliating position of being forced to witness the discussion and acceptance in England by the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway Company of an agreement of the terms of which they themselves are still in entire ignorance, notwithstanding that they are the other party to it. Rights and privileges accorded the English stock and bond holders have been denied the representatives of the people in both Houses of this Parliament, with respect to the largest single financial transaction in its history. When we of the Opposition, to the utmost of our power, urged the Government, in the matter of this agreement, to accord to Canadian taxpayers the same rights that were being reserved to the English investors, we were told that this could not

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