

Mr. GRAHAM: We are trying to make some progress. If we are going to get through any time this summer we shall have to work a little later than we have been doing. But I am not trying to force the committee to do anything.

Mr. STEVENS: Why not bring on any one of these dozen smaller items? We could have passed a string of them. There are fifteen items here more or less unimportant, but this is the \$73,000,000 item.

Mr. GRAHAM: They are all important, but I am not going to quarrel with my hon. friend.

Mr. STEVENS: My hon. friend cannot quarrel with me.

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend from West York said that this item had never been put through before so quickly. It was put through in thirty minutes last year.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Last year we were told that the government did not know anything about the business. We agreed. We were very sympathetic. We gave them no trouble at all. But now they are supposed to know something about it and we are finding out things we never knew anything about before.

Mr. GRAHAM: I would point out that last year they were my hon. friend's own estimates, or practically his own, and he had such confidence in them that he did not wish to have any light thrown on them, and so did not ask any questions. I think we might discuss this item a little longer to see if there is any further information that my hon. friends want and then we could go on with some of the other items.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If we are going on with anything else I think we should go on with it now. We sat last night till three o'clock.

Mr. GRAHAM: Do not blame me for that.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not know. I think we should blame the government for it altogether.

Mr. MACDONALD (Pictou): Blame it for everything.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I should like to know whether we are going on with this item or going to take up some of the other items, or whether we are going to adjourn.

The CHAIRMAN: There are other members to speak on this vote.

[Sir Henry Drayton.]

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Does the government desire that we should go on with this vote to-night?

Mr. GRAHAM: Go on for a little while, it is only 11.30.

Mr. STEVENS: Why not let this stand and call some other item?

Mr. GRAHAM: I am not objecting to that, but we want to make some progress, that is all.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think you would make progress by taking up another item. I would like definitely to know what the government's idea is? My view is that we will make more progress by letting this item stand. The minister will find he will make more progress by letting this item stand.

Mr. LAPOINTE: That is a threat.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: No, it is not a threat. It is a mere statement of fact because we might get some information in the meantime from the minister. For example, the minister might wish to bring down the extract from the minutes of the meeting of the directors. We might even find out whether the matter had even gone as far as that. If I remember rightly the minister told us that he could not say that anybody knew anything about it except the president and the solicitor; he did not know that it had come before the board even. Perhaps we could find out about that. Then I had a very disquieting statement made to me to-day with reference to Toronto. Perhaps we could find out if that is true or not. That statement is to this effect: That the company were buying not only the corner of King and Yonge streets but they were also buying the Home bank and had already been committed to that purchase. I do not know whether there is a word of truth in this statement or not but I would like the minister to find out.

Mr. GRAHAM: I can tell my hon. friend now.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That there is not a word of truth in it?

Mr. GRAHAM: In the first place the government expropriated the corner. If there was going to be a large building erected there in the years to come that might influence the policy decided upon, but there is no question about that now. The whole thing is the result of propaganda. Not a day passes but we are called upon to deny some rumour. I believe a paid propaganda is being carried on. Some rumour is spread in a corner one day, in another corner another day, and in