

easy to get money in the old land, when many of our industries are almost trembling on the brink and finding it difficult to carry themselves over what is called the squeezetime; when railway earnings are dropping off; when the banks are saying: 'Hold on;' when the times are hard and all our great industries are having their difficulties, this report is sent throughout the world, when it must have the effect of injuring those who are having a hard time to struggle along with their enterprises.

Staging the Report.

What is the first thing that happened when this commission got started? Just a few months had elapsed when despatches were sent throughout the country telling of what wonderful disclosures this commission were making. These items of news were given to the press, sent to the financiers of the old land, sent to the United States, saying that the Canadian people had expended large amounts of money in extravagantly building a transcontinental railroad. What thinks the Government of a commission that starts its work that way? A few months later, despatches a little stronger than before were again given out to the press, and again placed in the hands of the financiers of the old land, to whom the Grand Trunk Pacific at that time was appealing for money. Even that was not strong enough, and a little later these despatches were sent out again. There are only two bodies who knew what was in that report, or what was being put into it: One body was the commissioners, and the other was this Government, and they can take the credit or the blame, whichever they wish. This is what happened: Mr. Lynch-Staunton—

Mr. BORDEN: Does my hon. friend say that the Government knew the contents of the report before it was presented and signed?

Mr. GRAHAM: That is not what I have said.

Mr. BORDEN: Not what you said?

Mr. GRAHAM: No. I said there were only two bodies that could possibly know, but I am not charging the Government with knowing. I can understand a member of the Government having a chat with these men, and maybe finding out about it, but I am not charging the Government with that. I am pointing out that this report was partisan from start to finish, and I am showing how the commissioners went about their work. I will not bring the Government into it, if it does not thrust itself in. But, if it were wrong for the Government to do anything of that kind, it was tenfold more wrong for the commissioners, who were hired by the Government. I say, Sir, that these commissioners could have had that report ready months before they presented it, had they so desired. But that would not have answered the purpose of having the scare-headline articles sent out to the press, from one end of Canada to the other, and sent to Europe as well.

When that report was brought in, what happened? There was handed out, type-written, what purported to be a synopsis of this report, and it was given to the press. They would not let the members of the press gallery use their own judgment as to what the report