

whatever. While I am on my feet, may I ask my honourable friend to read to the House the statute under which the recent Reciprocity Treaty was authorized to be signed? It is signed, although, I believe, the Government had no statutory authority.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: It was done in virtue of the general policy expressed in the House of Commons.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Ah! but there was no statute.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: There was no statute.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Is that not defying Parliament?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But next week, or the week after, a resolution will be submitted to both branches of Parliament for approval of the convention. So it will be followed by enabling legislation.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Very good; but you did not have that enabling legislation when you signed the convention. You deprived Parliament of its power in a sense far more direct than it could possibly be in the case to which my honourable friend is referring, because there the authority preceded the exercise of the power, whereas in this case it is subsequent.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My right honourable friend knows very well that when we negotiate a treaty it is signed, but it must be ratified by Parliament.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Yes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Now we are coming to that ratification.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: This ratification was before.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No; I think my right honourable friend is wrong. The ratification can take place only after Parliament has voted for it. The Senate of the United States cannot ratify, because they have deprived themselves of the power of ratification by giving full authority to the President.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: To the Executive.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My right honourable friend has alluded to the amendments which in the Speech from the Throne are announced to be made to the existing legislation respecting the Canadian National Railways, and has asked in what form those amendments will be. Well, I confess I cannot satisfy his curiosity to any extent before

the legislation is brought down. I would draw my right honourable friend's attention to the statute which we passed, Chapter 33, 23-24 George V, assented to on the 23rd of May, 1933, an Act respecting the Canadian National Railways and to provide for co-operation with the Canadian Pacific Railway system, and for other purposes. My right honourable friend will remember how much interest was shown by everybody at that time, not only within the precincts of this Chamber, but throughout the country, in the effort to reduce our expenditure on the Canadian National Railways, which amounted to virtually \$1,000,000 a week, or more than \$50,000,000 a year. We had great hopes that the arrangement provided for in this statute, by which the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways were to be brought together in order to co-operate and to abolish competition in many directions, would bring about a better financial situation. I desire to draw my right honourable friend's attention to the fact that our legislation of 1933 has been a profound disappointment, not only to myself, but, I am sure, to him and all the members of this Chamber who are within hearing. The organization which was set up under this Act hardly worked at all, and was not even completed by its creator, the late Government. So the measure foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne will be an attempt to bring about an improvement in conditions, something which apparently could not be accomplished under that Act. That is all I can say for the moment.

I should have liked to speak to-day of international conditions, to which allusion is made in the Speech from the Throne, but shall not do so, as I am sure my right honourable friend will find occasion to lay before us the views recently expressed by him, on this side of the line as well as in the United States, in regard to the very serious situation that we are facing. When that occasion arises I may be able to give my own views on the subject.

We are undoubtedly moving towards better times, but apparently the burden of maintaining the existing situation has been so heavy upon our public finances that we are not yet out of the danger zone. The condition of the people throughout the land may be improving, but there remain many serious problems to be solved by the Dominion, and by the provinces and municipalities. I hope that we shall find a way to maintain our whole financial fabric unimpaired, so that we may show the world that Canada, a young nation, has been able to weather the tempest and keep its flag flying.