

in future, so the people of Quebec will have nothing to do with public ownership. Everybody from Prime Minister Taschereau down is against it.

Let us look at Western Canada, where the seceder of the Address (Hon. Mr. Horner) comes from. They had a bright idea about public ownership out there too. Mr. Sise installed a telephone system in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan and was sorry that he ever did it. The customers were so far apart, and so many poles and so much wire were necessary in order to reach them, that the affair never paid. Then there was a move to nationalize the system and this was carried through. Mr. Sise was very glad to sell it, and if the purchasers had been good bargainers they would have got it for nothing, for it was no asset to the Bell Telephone Company. Is any honourable member from Alberta here who can tell us how much the province lost on the telephone system last year? The farmers need rapid means of communication, and so the necessary equipment was offered to them at a very low figure. I am told that the price they are charged for a complete pole, with all the wire and other paraphernalia, is thirty cents. Is there anyone here from Alberta to contradict that? And what has been the deficit? And who knows what the deficit has been in Saskatchewan? Of course that province is so big that it does not mind deficits at all, for it knows that the rest of the country will pay them.

In Manitoba they had another public ownership scheme. Banks would not give accommodation, would not lend money without security. Some people do not seem to realize that the banks themselves have no money, that they are but trustees for the funds of depositors and cannot lend money without some guarantee that it will be returned sooner or later. Well, the people decided they would have a bank of their own; so they established the Province of Manitoba Savings Bank. Citizens made deposits to the tune of \$14,000,000 and promptly borrowed that money back again. And the loans were made, not as they would be from an ordinary bank, but on long terms. The Prime Minister of this country did one good thing when he saved their money for those depositors, for otherwise they never would have had a dollar of it. When there was a danger that everything would be lost the Prime Minister called together the bankers—the very men who had been abused by the promoters of this bank—and asked them if they would take over among themselves, proportionately, whatever there was remaining of this bank

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN.

and give the people their money. Those horrible bankers who are being denounced for refusing to give accommodation to the West were the very ones who prevented the depositors of Manitoba from losing every cent of that \$14,000,000.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Was it not the Government of Canada which stood behind the banks and asked them to give the credit?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I am giving the credit to the Government of Canada. But the banks put up the money.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That was not very hard to do, on a Government guarantee.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I will give credit to anyone who helps people to get out of public ownership; because so long as they are in it they are in a bad fix.

Now take the T. and N. O. Railway. I had been all over northern Ontario before the railroad was there, and I have been there since. I know the country well. If ever there was a place where a railroad should have paid it was from North Bay to Cochrane. But again we see what public ownership has done. The Liberals of Ontario, under Hon. George W. Ross, had a bright idea in this case. Perhaps the right honourable gentleman to my left (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) started the thing.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I would have, if I had had the power.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: That railroad received from the Federal Government \$300,000 a year for running rights. The line was constructed through a rich mining and agricultural country. I speak from personal knowledge, for I laid out the township at the first crossing of the Blanche river. Besides the freight from mining and agriculture, the pulp industry afforded a substantial revenue. A train of from fourteen to sixteen cars loaded with paper left Iroquois Falls every night for North Bay, where it was broken up, some cars going east to Montreal, some south to Toronto, and some to the West. If that railroad had been in the hands of a private company it would have been a very profitable undertaking. But government operation! We have read in the papers that the railway management gave a ball and a dance—what they did besides we do not know. That is not the way to run a railroad. When I ran a railroad I can assure you we gave no balls nor dances.

Now I come to the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. I am pleased and honoured to have our distinguished leader