

although I am in favour of economy I believe that a great institution like the Canadian National railway cannot afford to have a shabby place in any of these great centres.

An hon. MEMBER: What about Toronto?

Mr. FORKE: Take the city of Toronto. Would you like to see the Canadian National Railways, office there located on some back street, or on the back street in any other great city? I would be even more ambitious than that yet.

There is another question that looms up in my mind. It has been before the House, and it is perhaps looking a little too far ahead, but this is perhaps a good time to mention it. We have been trying to work up a trade in exporting cattle to Great Britain. I am going to express the opinion that just so long as we trust to the shipping companies to export our cattle the trade will not be a very great success, because the shipping companies are so few and they amalgamate so easily that I believe the rates will be fixed at such a point that only a few cattle will cross and perhaps the trade will be killed altogether. I think the day is not far distant when it may be necessary to take the merchant marine out into real deep water and sink them. I believe it will be possible in the not distant future for the Canadian National Railways to have a line of steamships just as the Canadian Pacific has to-day.

Mr. DUFF: Proper steamships.

Mr. FORKE: Proper steamships that will carry cattle. I would not say go into the business of having any big steamship line, but they could rent or build just sufficient to demonstrate to the people of this country at what rate cattle could be carried across the ocean at a profitable figure. Otherwise I do not believe the trade of shipping cattle to the Old Country will ever amount to anything. That may seem rather ambitious to suggest of an organization that has a large deficit every year, but I believe in having courage and I believe this is a time for courage. The only way we can make the railways pay is by making them a going concern with ocean traffic and business offices everywhere where trade could originate.

Coming back to the commencement of my remarks I would be rather sorry for the Minister of Railways were he not built exactly as he is, but I see that he is standing up fairly well under the ordeal. I know there is a suspicious look about this \$2,000,000 transaction about which we can get no in-

formation, but I am inclined to think that the real trouble is that it has got on the boards a little too early and the minister cannot divulge all he knows. We will simply have to preserve our souls in patience and make up our minds that the government is going to get in great trouble when we get the facts if everything is not all right.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I was pleased to hear the minister make the statement that the rents from the Yonge street building recently acquired will cover the investment. I was going to ask the minister, does he hope to carry this item to-night?

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is his idea—that the committee sit till what hour?

Mr. LAPOINTE: Four o'clock.

Mr. GRAHAM: I am not trying to bulldoze the committee at all. I had hoped to get this item through to-night. I was going to take up the merchant marine, but the leader of the Opposition was going away and asked me to keep some railway item, which I intended to do, on which he could discuss the subject. This is an item of some magnitude, and I thought perhaps we could get it through to-night and reserve some other item on which there could be a general discussion.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If my hon. friend did that he would, I think, be doing something that never has been done in this House before. This is the main item on which the great bulk of the discussions necessarily takes place. There are a great many other items that could have been brought on. We have all the items, for instance, from 116 to 122 inclusive, and then we have the items from 123 to 140 with some omissions.

Mr. GRAHAM: Some are through.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not think my hon. friend had any very great hopes than the item would go through to-night.

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes I had.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I can tell him it will not. We can put in the time just as well as he can.

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend is talking as if I had made a threat. He must be bad natured to-night.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: The Minister of Marine and Fisheries said four o'clock, and I did not hear any contradiction from my genial friend.