

The Two Underlying Motives, Injure the Liberal Party and Discredit the G. T. P.

The two ideas running all through this report are, first, to injure the Liberal party, if possible, and second, to discredit the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. The former Mr. Lynch-Staunton always remembered, the latter Mr. Gutelius never forgot. Mr. Lynch-Staunton has a right to be as strong a party man as he likes, but this Government has no right, knowing his past on this question, to ask the country to believe that he was an independent investigator. I doubt if in Canada you could find a stronger partisan than Mr. Lynch-Staunton. So strong was his partisanship, and so lightly did he feel the responsibility of his position as a commissioner that in the midst of his work he laid down his pen and went into South Bruce a few months ago to stump for the Conservative candidate. And, coming back in the bitterness of defeat, he again took up his pen and completed this so-called independent report. Sir, this Government does not believe that report.

Government does not believe Report of Investigating Commission.

I say the Government does not believe in this report, and the Government dare not act on its findings. I go further, and I tell the acting Minister of Railways that he is violating its findings every day. I go further still, and I tell the House that the Minister of Railways himself violated its findings at the very time that Mr. Lynch-Staunton was writing the report, and under his very nose.

Attack on Canadian Credit.

I said that this report was designed for two things: in the first place, to injure the Liberal party, and, in the second place, to discredit the Grand Trunk Pacific. What does that mean? If I were only here to defend the Liberal party, I could answer that it needs no defence in this transaction, as I shall show. I would not take up the time of the House or waste my own time and energy if it were only to defend the Liberal party; but I want to call the attention of the Prime Minister, who after all is responsible for this, that he, in accepting this report and spreading a synopsis of it, as it is being spread by the hundreds of thousands of copies, throughout the country, is doing a lasting injury to, and perpetrating a libel upon, the people of Canada. It was bad enough to have the report attack the Liberal party, but that might be called politics, in the sense that some people refer to politics as a game; but when it goes to the length of attacking, without any reason whatever, a great national undertaking, a great transportation company that has to go to the financial markets of the world to get its money, then such conduct ceases to be an outrage and verges on the criminal. And at what time is this done? It is done when the Government of Canada is getting ready to ask this Parliament to aid one transcontinental railroad with millions of dollars, while at the same time it is sending out a report calculated to keep another transcontinental railway from financing its great project in the money market of the world. When even the Minister of Finance of Canada finds it not any too