

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I suppose you have a public park in Halifax?

Hon. Mr. POWER—We have.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—How would you like to have a hotel built there?

Hon. Mr. POWER—It just happens that the fee of Point Pleasant Park is vested in the Crown for military purposes. It contains I should think about 200 or 300 acres, and I for one should have no objection at all to seeing an architecturally superior hotel located there.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I concur in the condemnation of this action on the part of the city of Ottawa and of the government. It is very regrettable that it should be done, but it is not necessary to accentuate that point. There is another phase of this matter that we should not lose sight of; I do not think the Grand Trunk Railway, at the present time, has money to throw away or burn. I do not want to throw any undue reflection on the Grand Trunk Railway; but it is well known that the railway system requires immense improvements to bring it up to the level of other Canadian railroads, say the Canadian Pacific Railway. They are behind in a great many things, yet here they are proposing to expend a million dollars in building a hotel. I do not think they should be encouraged in doing that. It is the duty of the Grand Trunk Railway to protect its railway system and supply facilities for the people of Canada who are using it, in recognition of the very large loans received from the people of Canada, which have never been repaid by the Grand Trunk Railway Company. That should be in the minds of the Grand Trunk Railway people themselves, instead of launching into this hotel project. Because the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have built hotels in Montreal, Quebec and other cities and have made them pay, is no reason why the Grand Trunk Railway Company should build a hotel in Ottawa. There is capital enough in Ottawa to build a hotel, and the citizens, if left to themselves, would have provided a hotel, perhaps not so grand as this will be, but quite sufficient for the purpose. The building of hotels in the

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Rocky Mountains, where there is no capital or enterprise to construct them otherwise, is another thing. The building of a hotel at Quebec was no doubt justifiable, but it is altogether another thing for the Grand Trunk Railway to build a hotel in Ottawa. A company in the financial position of the Canadian Pacific Railway may go into side transactions of this kind which would not be justified in the case of the Grand Trunk Railway Company in its present condition.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I do not think that it is fair that the statement should go abroad that the Grand Trunk Railway is in a bad state. The general feeling of the public is that the Grand Trunk Railway is one of the best systems in Ontario, both in roadbed and equipment. The hon. gentleman, for the sake of finding fault with the government, has made the statement that the Grand Trunk Railway is not in a financial position to build a hotel. That is a statement that should not go abroad uncontradicted. It is not warranted by the facts. So far as the location of the hotel is concerned, every one who visits Ottawa knows that there should be better hotel accommodation here. The hotel accommodation of the city is remarked by every one who visits the capital as being simply disgraceful. The hon. gentleman says the Canadian Pacific Railway were perfectly right to build hotels in the Rocky Mountains; but the Grand Trunk Railway should not build a hotel in Ottawa. Other railroads build hotels in the interest of the passenger traffic of their own roads, and if any arrangement can be made between the company and the government at which a first-class hotel will be built at Ottawa it is a very commendable object. It is a business proposition on the part of the Grand Trunk Railway, and we hope it will be successful and I believe it will. It is not a matter that has been sprung on the people of Ottawa or the members who have been here for the last few weeks or months. It has been discussed for years. Attempts have been made to erect a good hotel on a site owned by the late Senator Clemow, across the street from where this hotel is to be erected. A company was organized years ago for the purpose, but it was a failure. Ottawa was