

Hon. gentlemen should keep in mind that the right to file a claim in respect of any portion of that unpaid balance already exists. There is a statute under which a claim may be filed, and though the character of the claim may not be distinctly within the purview of the statute, if it is filed and there is no bona fide dispute, the claim will be taken care of.

Mr. BOIVIN: As I understand the Solicitor General, this \$21,262,000 will all be taken care of out of the \$45,000,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I did not say that. I said that the \$21,262,000 will have to be paid before the \$45,000,000 is paid out. I do not suppose any person cares whether it comes out of the \$45,000,000 or the \$58,000,000; all the creditors want is to get their money, and an understanding can be given that before the \$45,000,000 is paid out this \$21,262,000 shall be paid. Whether it comes out of the \$45,000,000 or the \$58,000,000 makes no difference.

Mr. BOIVIN: I can understand that the contractors want their money, and that it makes little difference to them whether they are paid out of the \$58,000,000 or the \$45,000,000; but the people of Canada are putting up the \$45,000,000, and I think it does make a difference to them to know whether that \$45,000,000 is to be used in paying off old debts or in new construction. I think the committee is entitled to know what portion of this \$45,000,000 is to be used in paying off the debt of \$21,262,000.

The Solicitor General, in 5 p.m. answering me a moment ago, said, quite obviously, that this amount of \$21,262,000 owing to contractors would require \$21,262,000 to pay it off. I quite understand that, but if the \$21,262,000 is to be taken out of the \$45,000,000, that leaves only \$23,000,000 odd for new work; and when you deduct the cost of financing this \$45,000,000 loan only about \$20,000,000 is left for new construction.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The hon. gentleman admits that from the point of view of the creditor it makes no difference whether this \$21,000,000 odd comes out of the \$45,000,000 or the \$58,000,000; and he looks at it from the point of view of the public. Let him reflect for a moment. If it all comes out of the \$45,000,000, there is that much more left for the same purpose in the \$58,000,000, and if it all comes out of the \$58,000,000, there is that much more left in the \$45,000,000. If a part of it

comes out of one and a part of it out of the other, that is just as broad as in either of the other events.

Mr. BOIVIN: If the Solicitor General can assure us that the \$58,000,000 can be raised with as much certainty as the \$45,000,000, his argument is good; but I claim that the first clause of this resolution—and consequently of the Bill—and the heading in the blue-book are misleading, because they tend to show that this \$45,000,000 is going to be used for new work when really it is going to be used in paying off old debts.

Mr. GERMAN: The Solicitor General says the \$21,262,000 is included in the statement of 'Requirements to complete.' If that is so, this is the most peculiar statement that I ever saw placed before a deliberative body. On pages 26 and 27 of the blue-book will be found a statement of receipts available for construction, betterments, equipments, etc. That statement shows what has been expended by Mackenzie and Mann on their lines up to date; a total of \$305,853,832.06. Another statement on the same page shows what they have received in cash subsidies from the Dominion and provincial Governments, from municipalities, and in the way of securities guaranteed and otherwise; a total of \$223,407,641.98. At the top of the next page it is stated that the expenditure for construction and equipment is \$244,670,169.24, less a balance due to Mackenzie and Mann for past work of \$21,262,527.26. I will ask the Solicitor General why, if this \$21,262,000 is due contractors as he claims, it is put down as being due to Mackenzie, Mann and Company, although I suppose that they being the principal contractors the amount is principally due them, and from them to the sub-contractors. On page 10 of the blue-book there is a statement headed 'Requirements to Complete,' showing that the Canadian Northern Pacific railway requires \$23,647,492; the Canadian Northern, \$15,042,896; the Canadian Northern Ontario railway, \$18,251,991; Canadian Northern Tunnel and Terminal Company, \$5,995,734—the Solicitor General says they have bonds covering that—rolling stock, equipment for transcontinental, and maturing equipment notes, \$27,441,086; betterments, \$10,000,000. None of that money is required to pay for past work. The money is wanted for work to be done in the future. The amount totals up to \$100,379,099, and for the life of me I cannot