

National Trust company. This company has total assets of \$8,935,000. Then there is the Western Assurance company. This company has total assets of \$10,000,000, and they hold \$3,284,000 of government and municipal bonds. Then there is the British America Assurance company with assets of \$6,449,000 and holding bonds totalling \$2,022,000.

Then we have the bank of Nova Scotia, which holds dominion and provincial bonds to the amount of \$40,786,000 and also \$69,437,000. The bonds and debentures of the dominion and provinces held by these insurance companies total approximately \$250,000,000. I would suppose that three-fifths of that amount, or \$150,000,000, would be made up of dominion bonds and debentures and that of the balance one-half would be debentures of the prairie provinces. They come here like Calais burghers with a rope around their necks asking us to change the constitution of this country because they do not know how to handle their own affairs. What is behind it? It is the same thing as went on during the last war. There is considerable intrigue to bring about a union government in order that the rich may become richer and the poor poorer. I am absolutely against it, and my electors are against it.

We are being asked to vote several hundred million dollars in order to buy up stock of the Canadian Pacific Railway and bring about a disguised amalgamation of our railways. I ask the leader of the opposition (Mr. Hanson) to consider that. He never has the ear of the house as I have now. I have it because I tell the truth. There is nothing behind what I say; I speak openly. What have we here? There is to be repatriation of funds which never belonged to the Canadian people. What is going on? We have intrigue for a union government. It is just a case of these people being afraid to miss the bus. They are trying to take advantage of the war in order to bring about an amalgamation of the railways. We have Portage avenue in Winnipeg, Queen street in Toronto and St. James street in Montreal.

I have before me a number of clippings from the morning papers. There is one in the *Montreal Gazette* entitled "Party Lines Should Go." The next one is from the *Globe and Mail* entitled "National Ministry Imperative." Then the *Ottawa Journal* contains one entitled, "Mr. Hanson Again Urges National War Government." In the *Ottawa Citizen* we

find one entitled "Loyal Opposition Aid." Then there is the rottenest of all, the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the paper of Victor Sifton of the Sifton family, who is now master-general of the ordnance under the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Ralston), and he is the owner of the *Winnipeg Free Press*; he is the man who gives orders to his scribes and slaves to cast slurs upon the colleagues of the Minister of National Defence. All this in the name of patriotism.

I come back to the Great West Life Assurance company. This company holds a formidable amount of the debentures of the prairie provinces. You know that, Mr. Chairman, and you know also that the Minister of Mines and Resources is a director of that company. He boasts of that fact in the *Parliamentary Guide*. The figures are incredible. This company has total assets of \$167,000,000 and it holds bonds and debentures of the dominion and provinces to an amount of \$87,452,000. This company, of which the Minister of Mines and Resources is a director, have one-half of their assets frozen in bonds and securities of the prairie provinces. They now want to change the constitution completely; they want to undo what has been done in the past because of their inability to manage their own business.

Do you think that I am going to expose myself to a headache by attempting to analyse the silly figures that appear in these thick reports which are impossible to read? Moreover, those reports do not contain accurate information; they contain fake information. They do not tell us what is going on, they attempt to prevent us from understanding what is going on. This is the result of a work which cost this country half a million dollars, if not more. I am fed up with it. I think it is about time the Minister of Mines and Resources was appointed president of the Great West Life Assurance company. We will then all subscribe toward getting him a satchel with which to go to Winnipeg.

There are two other ministers I wish to mention, the first being the Minister of National Defence. I was very fond of him until he went to St. James street. He is a very likeable man, full of amenity. He is a brilliant lawyer although he has no appeal to the masses. As I say, he is a most likeable man, but I was here a long time before he was. And when I was fighting Bennett I was not receiving \$200 a day in fees from the