

whom the enterprise represents their life's work. These men will give to the undertaking their best thought and consideration, and their best efforts and labour. If the directorate consists of men who have no such interest in the undertaking as I have stated you are bound to have deficits, and they will go on increasing.

Mr. J. D. REID: The hon. member has just stated that the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company can go to the offices of the company and see every item of expenditure in connection with its operations.

Mr. CAHILL: At the annual meeting.

Mr. J. D. REID: At the annual meeting any shareholder can get information in connection with the expenditures from the company but at such meeting there must be first a vote of the shareholders before that information is granted. I would like to make this other point: Suppose a shareholder did go to the offices and ask for information, I am told the president would ask him for what reason he wanted the information. If he stated he believed there was something wrong, the president would ask him for the source of his information and the shareholder having the interest of the company at heart would disclose it. But you would not find that shareholder going to the newspapers with any information he received if it were going to injure the company. On the other hand, the shareholders of the Canadian Government railways comprise every citizen in the Dominion. While members of Parliament have treated us fairly—in so far as the disclosing of information is concerned—there are, in my opinion, good reasons why the outside public should not be allowed to go to the railway management and ask "What are you paying for this, and what are you paying for that?" I think even the hon. member himself will agree with me that—outside of this House at all events—there are Canadian citizens that would like awfully well to get such information, and for two reasons: One, in order to be able to disclose it for the purpose of injuring public ownership, and another for the purpose of creating trouble between the railway companies. They might even go so far as to try to get that information in the hope of using it to assist them in making some money in one way or the other. That is what would happen. The shareholders of a private company, as a body, will work for the success of the

enterprise, and the people of this country as a whole will work loyally for the success of the Canadian National Railways; but the disclosure to the public of such information as asked for to the whole public I am afraid would injure our national system.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): There is one thing evident in this country now that we have got public ownership going, and that is that the national railways are, for the first time, making the pace. It is surprising how the opponents of public ownership are prepared to criticise, and do criticise, this policy, and they present all the arguments they possibly can against it. It is evident, however, that the national railways of Canada—while they have been acquired, as has been stated here, as a matter of compulsion; we had to take them over, and I am one of those who are glad we have taken them over—are going to vindicate themselves. The deficits which now exist will soon cease to exist and we will get a better service in this country. As I said before the pace is being made to-day; and you will see running between Toronto and Ottawa, within a week or two, a national service given by the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Northern that will be the best thing in the way of passenger service that we have known up to date.

Mr. COPP: How about the service in other parts of Canada?

Mr. MACLEAN (York): That improved service will be extended all over, and the improved equipment is coming.

Mr. COPP: Why should it be confined to the territory between Ottawa and Toronto? What about the Maritime Provinces?

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Wait until you see. You have political administration of the Intercolonial railway.

Mr. COPP: The minister says not.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): You did have, and the hon. gentleman and his friends were those who made it.

Mr. COPP: Nothing of the kind.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): I know all about it, and I saw it at work in this House; I have been here too long not to notice it.

Mr. COPP: When did that administration stop?

Mr. MACLEAN (York): It stopped largely when the hon. gentleman's friend's went out of office.