

While the ordinary man who posts a letter pays \$7,000,000, the man who rides in a railway train pays \$3,000,000. The principle of direct taxation is sound, but this is not the way I would do it.

What are the facts? We want to be fair in regard to these questions. Any man who knows anything about the postal system of Canada knows that the great business houses of Canada, the banking institutions, insurance companies and other great corporations, pay the largest proportion of the postal revenue. I venture to say that not 50 per cent of this postal tax will be paid by the ordinary man in Canada; it will be paid by the large corporations such as the banks. I have one bank in my mind now which is paying out \$150,000 a year in postage. These are the institutions that are going to bear the burden of taxation in this as in nearly all other matters. That goes to show how unfair the criticism from the opposite side of the House on this question has been. If these gentlemen had taken the advice of their ex-Finance Minister they would not have found themselves in the awkward position they are placed in to-day, on account of their unpatriotic criticism of the present attempt to handle a difficult question.

I cannot close without referring to another matter which affects my own province, that is, the question referred to by the hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) and the hon. member for North Oxford (Mr. Nesbitt). During their speeches both of these gentlemen condemned the construction of the Hudson Bay railway.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I desire to correct my hon. friend. I did not condemn the construction of the Hudson Bay railway.

Mr. NESBITT: I did.

Mr. BRADBURY: Perhaps I had better qualify my statement. The hon. gentleman objected to the expenditure provided for the Hudson Bay railway this year.

Mr. PUGSLEY: Of \$5,500,000.

Mr. BRADBURY: He advised the Government to cut the \$5,000,000 estimate down to \$1,000,000. His friend behind him went one better and said:

The first item I am going to speak about is the expenditure on the Hudson Bay railway. I know that my hon. friends on this side of the House promised to build that railway, but I have come to the conclusion, or almost come to the conclusion, that political parties are justified in certain instances in not keeping promises which they should never have made.

This kind of reasoning is exactly what caused this war that is going on today. My hon. friends while on this side of the

House had this virtue, that while they promised to start the Hudson Bay railway they never did. They sent out surveyors and got reports on the road which, however, did not assist the late Government in keeping its pledge to complete this road. But the fact is that they did not have courage enough or honesty of purpose enough to implement the pledges they had given to the people because they had pledged themselves in 1908 that if they were returned to power the farmers of the Northwest could take their grain to the Hudson bay ports within three years. That was a distinct pledge given to the people of the West, and I say they did not have honesty or fairness enough to implement that pledge. My hon. friend says they did not start the building of the road; but they did start to build a bridge across the Saskatchewan which cost a large amount of money, and the road was in that condition when the Conservative party came into power. I shall quote what the hon. gentleman did say, I want to be fair:

When we come to the Hudson Bay railway and the terminals at Port Nelson, while I have always been in favour of the construction of that railway, yet we ought to pause, and instead of proposing to expend, as the Government is doing, \$5,000,000 during this year on that railway and terminals, the Government, in fairness to the people of Canada, ought to cut that amount down to the sum of not more than \$1,000,000.

That is his proposition. But I find that the hon. member for North Oxford was a little stronger. When Mr. Sharpe asked: "Did they not let the first contract?" my hon. friend from North Oxford said:

Not that I know of. At any rate did not build any of the road. The Government are asking this year for a vote of \$5,500,000 for the Hudson Bay railway. The hon. member for St. John (Mr. Pugsley) the other evening said that that could be cut down to \$1,000,000 without hurting anybody. I say it could be absolutely wiped out, and that if the Government of the day would pull up the rails and sell them to somebody else for whatever they would bring, they would earn the lasting gratitude of the people of this country. In my judgment the Hudson Bay railway has no more chance of earning money than Stefansson would have if he built a railway upon one of those islands where he is lost. They do say that there are some fish in Hudson Bay.

This, Mr. Speaker, coming from a man who occupies the prominent position in his party that my hon. friend does, the man who was sent to Ontario during the reciprocity pact discussion to tell the manufacturers that they had nothing to fear—"We do not intend to reduce the duties, you are all right"—sent there by his leader, a man chosen for the most im-