

a success of the system. Canadians can make a success of anything they put their hands to; they made a success of the great war, so far as their part in it was concerned. I have faith in my country to deal with this question. Men are going around saying and it is being said in the newspapers, "You cannot trust Canadians to nationalize railways or telegraphs." What I deplore is that we have not got results yet in connection with the Grand Trunk. I hope that results will come soon, but whether they do or do not, I do not want to see any more of the indecision and delay that has taken place since we took over the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific. We have the Intercolonial, the Canadian Northern, and the Grand Trunk Pacific, and we should have had them unified even without the Grand Trunk. If we are not going to have the Grand Trunk right away, let us go ahead and nationalize the lines we have. Let there be no more of this delay, because in the meantime our chief rival is the great Canadian Pacific, and while we are doing nothing in the way we should do they are getting ahead. A little more of that inattention will make the people distrustful of our roads. Let us at once unify the roads we have. Let us take up the unnecessary tracks all over the country and put them in new settlements where they are required. Let us have a national system of railways just as soon as we can, and ask the people to patronize their own roads and their own telegraphs and make the national system the enormous success it can be made.

Mr. CANNON: Where will the Government get the money to buy the Grand Trunk?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: It does not need any money; I am sorry for my hon. friend. I think I floored the present member for Shelburne and Queen's (Mr. Fielding) when this railway question was up twenty-three years ago. I told him then, when they were putting a Bill through this House to allow the Canadian Pacific to increase greatly its capitalization, which was a crime against the country then, and it is more so to my mind to-day: "I will get you the whole of the railways in Canada on the undertaking of one dollar, "—and, you could have got those railways on that undertaking. It is not a money proposition, but a substitution of securities, with a revaluation in connection with that substitution. So it does not require any money.

Mr. CANNON: What about the Canadian Northern?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: It cost us something to take it over, and we had to get the money. I would have done it some other way. I was not responsible for that, but the payment was justified, to my mind. It got us out of a difficulty, and we got the railway. We will have to give an undertaking to the Grand Trunk, in the way of an annual charge. You cannot do things without money. You cannot govern a country without money. You have to get the money for your budget.

Mr. DEVLIN: I attribute to my hon. friend, having heard him for years advocating public ownership, the present public ownership of our railways. Can he give us any reason for the great deficits we have had since we have taken over the railways?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN: We have had great deficits, as they have had in the United States, because of the war. We have not had an opportunity of putting economic administration into force, and that is what I am trying to preach here to-day.

Now I come to the Budget. Our debt is enormous. In England, too, the question to-day is, how are we going to meet the Budget? There is only one way to meet it, and that is by saving. The Government of the day must tackle these questions on the line of economy. When we give an account of our stewardship the people of this country are going to ask us, "What did you do with our money? What savings did you effect?"

I have no interest in ascertaining whether Canada is one of the galaxy of nations, but I am interested, and the people of this country are interested, to know how we are going to meet our budget. And the way in which we can meet it is by cutting down expenses. In Britain to-day they are reducing expenses, particularly in connection with the army and navy. Only a fraction of the navy is to be left, and the Prime Minister of England, as appears in the papers this morning, had to apologize to the gallant men who comprised the personnel of the navy for the fact that they had to go because they could not be maintained. I say, Sir, that we have to go through our budget with a fine-toothed comb and cut down our expenses, and we must cut down the expenditure in the different departments of Government. We may have to increase our budget on the whole because there are some new things we have got to do for which money is required, but for the present