

Mr. LENNOX. It does not matter at all I think; this matter has developed in this way. Nominally the Grand Trunk Railway pay \$100,000; actually they do not pay anything of the kind. This money is not to go to the benefit of Canada generally but to a specific purpose, the improvement of the land adjoining this hotel property, the hotel garden; it is an extension of the benefits they will get. Virtually the money remains in the hands of the Grand Trunk Railway for the improvement and enhancement of their property. There is a great measure of consistency in the hon. gentleman's action in not passing it over to the credit of the consolidated fund but letting it go gradually as a reversion to the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

Mr. PUGSLEY. Carried.

Mr. FOSTER. I protest against that kind of finance. I am certain the Minister of Finance has never looked that through or he would not allow it. How are you to credit that to the commission account, is it a donation from the Grand Trunk Railway Company? It will not get into the public revenues of this country, neither will it be checked out from the public revenues. Here is a transaction where public lands are sold, \$100,000 received, and neither put into nor checked from the consolidated revenue.

Mr. PUGSLEY. I presume it will be placed pursuant to the authority of the statute by the Finance Minister to the credit of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, to be expended by them under direction of the Governor in Council. When the hon. gentleman says it has not come to the attention of the Finance Minister, he is entirely in error. The Finance Minister thought it would be the better way because if it went into the consolidated revenue in the ordinary course it might be devoted to other purposes. It is intended to keep this as a sacred trust to be handled only by the Ottawa Improvement Commission.

Mr. DANIEL. The minister states it will be paid over from time to time to the Ottawa Improvement Commission. I presume it will be paid in bulk by the Grand Trunk people but to whom? To the Department of Public Works?

Mr. PUGSLEY. To the Minister of Finance and Receiver General.

Mr. DANIEL. But it does not go into the funds of the country. Does the Minister of Finance propose to keep it in his own private safe, and hand it out from time to time to the Ottawa Improvement Commission? This is very loosely drawn up, nobody can tell what becomes of the money. The funds of the country apparently will get no credit from this amount, there is nothing to say when it will be paid over, nothing is said as to what will become of the money in the meanwhile and

I certainly think the matter ought to be dealt with in a more definite manner than it is going to be, because it allows this \$100,000 to be placed nobody knows where for an indefinite length of time.

Mr. FOSTER. I must again protest against that. When that money is paid, to whom will it be handed over?

Mr. PUGSLEY. I presume to the Minister of Finance.

Mr. FOSTER. To his private account?

Mr. PUGSLEY. No. It would be his duty, I presume, to put it to the credit of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, and that commission would cheque it out from time to time under the direction of the Governor in Council, without whose approval they cannot spend one dollar of the amount.

Mr. FOSTER. How will the debit and credit account of the country show that as being done? Will the Improvement Commission be chequeing against Dominion funds or against what?

Mr. PUGSLEY. They will be chequeing against this money, which is a special fund placed to their credit under authority of statute.

Mr. FOSTER. The more the minister looks into it the more he will see it is absolutely irregular. I do not think you can find in the history of Canada an example of money being used in that way.

Mr. PUGSLEY. The government thought that when it was proposed to sell a part of Major's Hill park the money should be devoted specially to the purposes of the Ottawa Improvement Commission and not credited to the consolidated revenue fund, where it might be used for other public purposes. The object the government had in mind is the extension and beautifying of the remainder of Major's Hill park right down to Nepean Point. I think it would be a proper exercise of the power of this parliament to require that the money should be placed to the credit of the Ottawa Improvement Commission, who will receive it clothed with the trust that it is to be devoted to the purposes of the commission and subject at all times to the control of the Governor in Council.

Mr. DANIEL. Does not the government give an annual grant to the Ottawa Improvement Commission?

Mr. PUGSLEY. Yes. I think it is \$60,000.

Mr. DANIEL. Then what is the objection to placing this money to the credit of the consolidated revenue fund and handing it over to the commission in annual instalments in addition to the \$60,000?