

Now, I think there is considerable advantage to be gained in clearing up that whole question, and in abolishing this perpetual debenture and limiting the liability to 32 years. Like the honourable gentleman from de Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Beique), I am not au fait of the figures which the members of the Canadian National Railway Board and the two Cabinets that have studied this matter had before them. That is a matter which might be examined into more carefully, but I believe that the Senate would be justified in giving credit to those administrations for having done the best they could under the circumstances. With these few remarks I agree to the Committee reporting progress and asking leave to sit again.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: Before the motion is put, I would like to have to-morrow an answer to the question put by the honourable Leader on the other side (Hon. W. B. Ross) as to whether there remains a class of securities which may demand practically the same treatment, or require the continuation of the book-keeping of the Grand Trunk Pacific and the old Grand Trunk Railway.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: May I also ask the honourable Leader of the Government to enlighten us as to the income of the Grand Trunk Pacific within the last year, so that we may have some idea of the transaction for which we are legislating. The matter is presented to us now in such a way that we have the whole future of this road to consider, and we must be careful. Can we not, therefore, get some idea of the future by looking back a little into past years? Let us have information on the income of those roads for a certain period of years; then we can see how they improve, and can form some idea as to what their earning power will be.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I will consult the Minister of Railways, and take the matter up again to-morrow.

Progress was reported.

SPECIAL WAR REVENUE BILL

FIRST READING

Bill 59, an Act to amend The Special War Revenue Act, 1915.

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of the Bill.

He said: We passed this Bill last Session unanimously, and I would suggest that we repeat the performance now.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Would the honourable gentleman mind telling us what it is?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Yes. The honourable gentleman may remember that it formed part of a Bill that was consequential to the Budget pronouncement. It deals with the stamp tax on receipts, which was removed; the excise tax on playing cards, etc.

Hon. W. B. ROSS: Yes, that was passed before.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And in fact part of it has been applied by Order-in-Council.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL No. 3

SECOND READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the second reading of Bill 58, an Act for granting to His Majesty a certain sum of money for the Public Service of the financial year ending the 31st of March, 1927.

He said: Honourable gentlemen, this is an amount to be placed at the disposal of the Canadian National Railways to the extent of \$21,000,000, and at the disposal of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to the extent of \$400,000.

The amount required was originally \$31,000,000. I think that was the amount asked last Session and adopted by the other Chamber. I do not know whether or not the Bill came to us and was adopted here. The sum of \$10,000,000 has been expended since then, apparently under a special Bill. The amount now required totals \$43,540,236.72; but against this sum there is a surplus in earnings of \$38,853,621, leaving a deficit of \$4,686,615.72. To this must be added the \$5,000,000 required for new equipment; \$9,313,384.28 for general additions and betterments; and the sum of \$2,000,000 for an addition to the Chateau Laurier. These amounts make the total \$21,000,000.

As I have stated, \$400,000 is for the purpose of covering a prospective deficit on the Canadian Government Merchant Marine.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

THIRD READING

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND moved the third reading of the Bill.