

evidence under oath in this very building that all lines west of the Great Lakes brought in \$8,000 a mile gross earnings, on the average, whereas all lines east of the Great Lakes brought in \$11,000 a mile average.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Will the honourable gentleman permit me—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I am only commencing.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: It has been demonstrated in this House—and I think the honourable member from Assiniboia (Hon. Mr. Turriff) produced the facts and stated them once for all—that there is not a branch-line railway in the province of Manitoba or the province of Saskatchewan that is not a paying branch. It is on those branch lines that the freight originates, and everyone knows that all these lines are paying. The trouble is with the Transcontinental line, which was built by the honoured leader of the honourable gentleman, and all these other main lines. It is not with the branch lines, for they originate the freight, from which the honourable gentleman and his people in Quebec are to-day reaping the benefit and upon which they are living, and it is building up the port of Montreal and the province of Quebec. Why does the honourable gentleman make such a statement after he has been contradicted in this House time and time again and the facts have been brought down and it has been proven beyond any question of doubt that those branch lines of railway in Saskatchewan and Manitoba have paid from the very day they were laid down and the first engine ran over them? The honourable gentleman has made the same statement time and time again in this House. I wish the honourable gentleman from Assiniboia (Hon. Mr. Turriff) were here. He had the facts before him at last Session, and the honourable gentleman from De Lanaudière (Hon. Mr. Casgrain) never dared to contradict them; but now he rises and says the province of Quebec is paying for the railways in Saskatchewan. The province of Quebec is paying to-day for the city of Montreal, which has reaped the benefit of all those rates on freight that is brought there by railways in which millions of dollars of the money of the people of Canada have been invested. Now, let us have an end of that sort of thing. And let me tell the honourable gentlemen this, that—I regret very much to say so, but it is such statements as those made by the honourable gentleman, who occupies a very prominent position in Canada, that reach the West—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I hope they do.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: And when he tells the people of the West that sort of thing, it stirs up that difference of feeling between the East and the West which has been accentuated to such an extent that it is almost putting Confederation in danger. I trust that the honourable gentleman will bear these facts in mind when he rises to make a speech in this House, and that he will have a little regard for the people of the West and not harp, harp, harp upon the Province of Quebec and what it is paying and all that sort of thing, because it is not founded on fact: there is no foundation for it, and the honourable gentleman is doing a great deal more harm than he ever dreams of. I do not desire to interrupt the honourable gentleman when he is making a speech—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: It does not look like it.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: But I cannot sit here and listen to such a statement without voicing to a certain extent my protest against any stuff of that kind.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Thank you. I made a statement which has not been contradicted. I said that Mr. E. W. Beatty, before a Committee of the House of Commons, had declared that all lines west of the Great Lakes were bringing in a gross revenue of about \$8,000 a mile, and all lines east of the Great Lakes were bringing in \$11,000 a mile. Now, if on one part of a railway you collect \$8,000 and on another part of that same railway you collect \$11,000 per mile, and there is a deficit on the whole, where will you look for the deficit? Is it where you get the most money or where you get the least money? That is what I would like to know. If you are going to look where the deficit is—

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Will my honourable friend permit me just one word?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Will my honourable friend tell us where to find the deficit? In the province of Quebec we have 500 persons per mile, and in the prairies they have only 120. We have people to buy tickets and travel and to provide freight.

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Will the honourable gentleman tell me this? The Government, of which he is such a very strong supporter, introduced a Bill last Session to build more lines in the West—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: That is where they were wrong, and I voted against them.