

mend the government for the course they have pursued in appointing this commission, and I trust the members of it will know how to deal properly with the question without allowing the American government to dictate to us as to how we shall utilize the power which is on our side of the line. Let the scenic beauties be protected to the fullest possible extent, but let it be done in the interests of Canada and not in those of the United States.

Next we have a reference to the interim report from the Transportation Commission. If there has been anything which has occurred in the political world during the past year or two which has confirmed the position taken by the leader of the opposition in the House of Commons when the question of the Grand Trunk Pacific scheme was under consideration, it is the character and nature of the reports which have been received from the Transportation Commission. The commission, according to their last report, regret that the government did not take possession of the Canada Atlantic Railway, thus making connections between Georgian bay and the maritime provinces via the Intercolonial Railway. This was the scheme propounded some years ago by the Hon. Mr. Tarte, when he was in the government, and it was fully approved of by the party led by Mr. Borden, in the House of Commons. Now we have the report of the Transportation Commission verifying and confirming the soundness of the position taken by the opposition at that time. The more one thinks of it, if government ownership is to have any place at all—I am not going to argue on that point now, because I am not altogether an admirer of government ownership in all its features—that is a scheme which should have been adopted by the government.

Next we are promised the Revised Statutes. They have been long enough at them; however, I suppose those who are doing the work are well paid, and the volume will be very handy when we get it. Next we have a promised amendment to the Railway Act. It would be folly to attempt to discuss that until we have the measure itself. Then we have an amendment of the Fruit Marks Act. If the government can make any amendment to that measure which

will prevent the frauds which are being perpetrated, it will be most acceptable to the country. It is really amazing that fruit growers and packers should so far forget their own interests as to face their packages with fruit of good quality and put inferior fruit in the middle.

Then we have a most important clause relating to the usury law. Our hon. friend, the Speaker, will no doubt be fully in accord with that. When he occupied a seat on the floor of the House he attempted to procure legislation to regulate the rates of interest. The iniquities perpetrated by usurers in the province of Quebec and in the city of Toronto have been of such a character that restrictive legislation is demanded. I did not exactly catch the remarks of my hon. friend who seconded the address, but I understood him to be in favour of free trade in money, and that he gave arguments why it should not be interfered with. I am perhaps one of those old fogies who believe, as I have believed from boyhood, that there should be a usury law, for reasons which I shall not take the time of the House to give now, but what has occurred lately convinces me of the need of some such legislation. I do not believe, however, that it would be wise to give the judge discretion as to what interest should be paid. My view is that it should be a simple law fixing a certain maximum rate which money lenders might charge, and if any higher rate is demanded, proof of the fact should deprive him of the right to collect any interest at all. That is the only way you can get an effective usury law.

We are told that it is intended to amend the Dominion Elections Act. We cannot have it improved too soon, judging from events of recent occurrence. If the government will act upon the suggestion made by the leader of the opposition in another place in some recent speeches, and have a Crown prosecutor independent of all parties to prosecute violations of the Act, there will soon be an improvement. It should be taken out of the hands of the judges. I do not care how conscientious and honest a judge may be, parties on one side or the other are sure to accuse him of doing wrong, and when we look at the conflicting judgments which have been rendered of late in Quebec and Ontario and Saskatchewan, one shudders at the differences of opinion and

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