

Government in any way to carry out that idea. I notice this, however, that during the last two months the Government has taken well to heart what happened in Halifax and Kent, and that there is in operation to-day a system of retrenchment and economy the like of which we have not had in Canada for many years. It is in the right direction and I am sure nearly everybody in the Dominion will wish the Government Godspeed in the work they are doing, until we get a balanced budget, as the honourable the Prime Minister has stated.

Now, there is one point in reference to the balanced budget on which I am not just clear. I imagine the Prime Minister must be right, and I certainly hope he is. But I was under the impression that during the past couple of years we had borrowed money for the railways—I will not say indirectly, but in such a manner that I doubt if it is included in the balancing of the budget. I hope it is, but I do not know of my own knowledge. My own impression is that it is not. If I am correct in my impression, I do not consider that it is a very well balanced budget.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I understand that with the deficit on the railways figuring in the debit column the budget will balance.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: You won't let the Supplementaries disturb that.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: I hope that is so.

Now let me deal for a moment or two with the branch lines. We all remember very well what happened the Branch Lines Bill last year. I supported the Branch Lines Bill last year, and I intend to support it again; at the same time, I am convinced that the subject was not dealt with in the best manner possible. I want to say, further, that this country cannot afford to go on building branch lines unless they are necessary and will pay for their operation and bring in some revenue. If I did not believe that the branch lines in the West, even those in the province of Saskatchewan, would not only pay for their operation, but would help to pay something in addition for the benefit of the whole system, I would vote against them. I do not believe there is a single branch line on the prairies that would not pay from the very start, and in addition help to make the main line pay.

If the Government is going to present the Bill again this Session, and wants to have it passed, it will have to see that its own followers support the Bill. Last year, while

no doubt it was the majority on the other side of the House who threw out the Bill, still they were helped very materially by members on this side of the House. If the Government wants to pass the Bill it had better see to it that its own members support it.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: What do you suggest they should do?

Hon. Mr. WATSON: Vote for the Bill.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: My honourable friend lived for a long time in the atmosphere of the House of Commons, and he speaks of followers. I do not recognize any followers of the Government in this Chamber.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE: The honourable gentleman himself has not been a very steady follower of the party of which he once formed a part.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: I do not think my honourable friend had better bring up that subject. If I were he I would leave it strictly alone. I have a streak of independence in me, and would not follow any party. My honourable friend has the right to do as he thinks fit.

What I want to refer to is this. The Liberal press from the Atlantic to the Pacific have been putting the whole blame for the throwing out of the Branch Lines Bill on my honourable friends opposite. I do not think that is exactly fair. I think honourable gentlemen opposite were guilty, all right, but I think there were others on this side of the House who were just as guilty. Of course, my honourable friend the leader of the Government here voted for the Bill—he introduced it—but unless I am greatly mistaken I think he would have liked to vote the other way. There are branch lines mentioned in the Bill—I have a list of them here—that I do not think should ever be built; and if they are built there are some that I do not think will ever pay half the operating expenses; and millions of dollars will be sunk for roads which every Government since Confederation has refused to build. It looks to me as though some of those branch lines were tacked on to the western lines that would be paying lines in order to get them through in blanket fashion.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: That is, last year's Bill.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Yes.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: You voted for it last year, did you not?