

to vote, how much will go to such persons? I do not know, but there will be some.

There is not a word in the Speech from the Throne about the famous Canadian Northern Railway commission and its findings. The Canadian Northern railway was a property which was mortgaged away over and above what it was worth. It was like buying a house worth about \$10,000 and mortgaged for \$25,000. Would the honourable gentleman from St. John give a premium or an equity in such a case? Still the commissioners, sitting in the city of Toronto, found in their wisdom that the Canadian Northern railway was worth \$10,000,000 and they added \$800,000 just for good luck and good, full measure. Now, nobody can deny these facts. We had to take it over because it was supposed to be hopelessly bankrupt. Still, they found an equity of \$10,000,000 for the stock, though it was not even water; it was nothing but froth. There is no mention of this in the Speech from the Throne, but we have to pay the piper all the same.

A great deal has been said about the Prime Minister being on the other side. Well, I hope he is having a pleasant time, but he does not seem to be. He must hold what the lawyers call a watching brief, which means sitting in court, looking wise, and getting paid for it. You have not heard that he has ever yet said a word at that conference. But he says the delegates are taking too long. I do not object to his saying they are taking too long, because, forsooth, there he is and others are seated in the conference, and, as you know, the weather is not always very pleasant and to be out in the street while others are deliberating on the fate of the Empire, including our country, is not a very pleasant thing. Therefore, he thinks they are taking too long. But they have found something for him to do: they have asked him to go and preside over the Bolsheviki on Princes Island in the Black Sea. We have not yet heard of his going; the Bolsheviki won't go, and respectable people won't go, so there is nothing to preside over. Instead of coming westward, he is going eastward. If those ministers are in Europe, all attending to our business, what is Lloyd Harris doing? I thought he was fixing everything; but, according to the last report, he has not fixed anything—and on top of that you want to add that all these ministers are there. It seems to be a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth, and I think the

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sooner they return home the better it will be.

A lot has been said about Canada being a nation. There is no use in going over that old story. Canada is a colony. I know Canada has been called a nation by very illustrious public men, but let us come down to earth for a minute. When did Canada declare her independence? There never was a revolution that I heard of; Canada never seceded, either by way of war or otherwise; therefore she is not a nation. Let us recognize at once that she is a colony of the British Empire, and stop kidding ourselves. If we are not a nation, how can we ask to be admitted to the Peace Conference? It is a conference of nations. We can only go there hanging on to the coat-tails of the great English statesmen who are our masters. It is true that we have a certain amount of autonomy in this country, but it is limited by the British good will. Honourable gentlemen will remember what happened in the case of the Supreme Court Act. For six months that Act was under consideration, and the judges were walking the streets here, not daring to sit upon the bench, because that Act had been reserved for the sanction or veto of Queen Victoria. We are not British citizens—we are British subjects; and the Prime Minister of this country and the leader of the Opposition and the whole House of Commons—I leave it to any constitutional lawyer—have no more influence over the decisions of the Imperial Parliament than the wildest Indian of the Northwest, the dirtiest Eskimo in the Arctic Circle or the darkest kaffir in South Africa.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER: What is the difference between a British citizen and a British subject?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I am delighted to have the opportunity of answering that question. I was afraid that I would bore the House if I followed that further. A British citizen is a man who pays taxes and is on the list and votes. One British citizen has more power than all our politicians put together. Why? Because, in a close election, he can elect a member of Parliament who may decide for peace or war for the whole Empire, Canada included, and we have no say whatever in the matter—and I say that it is time that we had.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: What do you propose?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: I will tell you. I dream of the day when there will be an