

Mr. DUFF: Did you say \$104,000,000 increased expenditures?

Hon. Dr. MANION: I mean one hundred and four millions of estimates which will have to be raised by guaranteed securities—\$20,000,000 of betterments, \$31,000,000 deficit on interest and so on, and that \$31,000,000 will probably be increased. In view of the heavy deficit, and in view of the present business condition, and the decreased earnings of the railways, in view of all that, the government felt, and I think properly, that \$104,000,000 was plenty to spend. It wasn't done with any desire to cut out capital expenditures in this constituency or in that.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I would like to add this statement to what the minister has said: so far as the railway company is concerned we had no difference of opinion with the government whatsoever; but certain circumstances confronted us, and we sat down together, jointly, and tried to meet them. As far as this budget is concerned, I am assuming my full responsibility, and all of our officers assume their full responsibility for it, and we are fully in accord with the minister.

Hon. Mr. MANION: The reason I mention this is because there were requests for vast amounts of money to be spent on stations, bridges, branch lines and so on. I have given the figure in the House—I got these amounts figured up—and they amounted to \$200,000,000 worth of requests. Those who do not get their branch lines or stations are feeling rather disappointed. You hear references in the House to Riviere du Loup station and others. I simply mention it, because I think the committee, as Members of Parliament representing the shareholders of this railway, and representing the taxpayers must appreciate the responsibility of the government, because they are responsible in a way just as the government is responsible for this vast amount of money.

Mr. DUFF: We also appreciate our own responsibilities, as well as the government. I would like to ask a question right there.

Hon. Mr. MANION: I hope you do.

Mr. DUFF: Certainly we should. We have just as much reason to be responsible as anyone else.

Mr. MACMILLAN: We have to pay for it.

Mr. DUFF: The Minister of Railways said this was increased expenditure this year. Along that line, Sir Henry, would you be good enough to give me the amount of the estimate made up similar to this last year?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: The net increase in capital expenditures is \$51,100,000.

Mr. DUFF: I do not mean that. You had an estimate similar to this last year. What would be the amount as compared with this \$104,000,000?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I will have to look that up.

Hon. Mr. MANION: I used the wrong expression when I said "increased expenditure"; what I meant was expenditures for which securities will have to be used. I should not have used the word "increased".

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: Mr. Duff wants a figure for last year comparable to \$104,000,000?

Mr. DUFF: Yes; and at the same time give me the amount of the deficit from last year which might be included in this estimate this year.

Mr. FAIRWEATHER: There is no deficit from last year included this year. There was a supplementary—

Mr. MCGIBBON: I would like to ask Sir Henry how many years he thinks we can go on spending \$100,000,000 a year and still keep these railways.