

The other day, I think it was yesterday, the honourable member for Rideau (Hon. Mr. Edwards) sang the praises of the new temporary Chairman of the Grand Trunk Railway Board. Well, God forbid that I should make an uncharitable remark against Sir Joseph Flavelle; but I could not help thinking that Sir Joseph Flavelle was very friendly to the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and that the honourable member from Ottawa was also very friendly to that bank. One would think since 1911 that only the friends of the Canadian Bank of Commerce were entitled to occupy any positions; and I say right now that the singing of the praises of Sir Joseph Flavelle by the honourable Senator from Ottawa reminded me of Messalina singing the praises and virtues of Cleopatra. When it came to forming this Government it was a friend of the Canadian Bank of Commerce who was entrusted with the key of the strong chest. He had not been a member of Parliament—no, not even a candidate. Sir Robert Borden looked amongst all his followers up to that time for one whom he could trust with the money of Canada, but not one of them would he trust. He looked in New Brunswick, which had been the home of Sir George Foster, who had been the Finance Minister, but on account of past history he was passed over. In Nova Scotia nobody was found. He did not look very hard in the Province of Quebec, or he would have found plenty of honest men there. But he looked in Ontario. He had some 75 followers in Ontario; not one of them would he trust. He went to Manitoba; Bob Rogers offered himself, but he would not have him.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: Who told you that?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: He went to Saskatchewan and Alberta, nay, even to British Columbia, and amongst all his followers, looking them all over, he seemed to have said: "I don't see any of you that I would trust with the key of the chest; I have to take a man who was a Grit as long as Laurier was in power; I have to take that Grit and make him Finance Minister." And who was he? He was the Manager of the National Trust Company, of which Sir Joseph Flavelle is the President. It seems all to work in the family: it is always some one of the Bank of Commerce connection; and to-day what is he? He is the arbitrator for this Government. He even sat in the House of Commons as member for Leeds. He has resigned his seat. At last he had some conception of the pro-

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN.

priety of not being paid and fed at public expense while a member of Parliament. I must say to his credit that he did not take his seat there; but he should have resigned that seat at the opening of the Session, or before, in order that the county of Leeds might have been represented as it is entitled to be. However, he is sitting to-day in the city of Montreal as an arbitrator to saddle us with the Grand Trunk, and his ancient chief, Sir Joseph Flavelle, is the Chairman of the Board.

Now, the other 14,000 or 17,000 miles of Government railway—who is operating them to-day? Mr. Hanna. Who is Mr. Hanna? He is a friend of mine, and I will not say a word against him, but at the same time he was the chief man of Mackenzie and Mann, as everybody knows.

Therefore what hope is there that this budget will not be much greater next year than it is to-day? There is no telling what expense we will be put to. The extravagance is something enormous; nothing seems to stop or stay this Government. To-day, when railroads cannot be given away in the United States, to think that we are buying them! I think the most charitable thing I can say is that it is a case of insanity, because it would be much worse if they knew what they were doing. We must be like our Saviour on the Cross, who said, "Lord, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing." That is the only explanation I can see; that is the most charitable construction that I can put on their conduct.

Now, I do not want to detain this House very long, but I just want to say—

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Well, honourable gentlemen can answer if any one of them wants to. Do not let that detain you; the Governor is not at the door yet; there is plenty of time.

Hon. Mr. BRADBURY: We are not through yet.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: If those honourable gentlemen who have less affection for the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Sir Byron Walker, Sir Joseph Flavelle, Sir Thomas White—they are all knighted now—if those gentlemen know that there is no use changing this Government, that any other Government would do the same thing, I would tell them that no Government can change as fast as the Bank of Commerce can. Why, right up to the last minute they were the pillars of the Laurier Govern-