

THESSALON AND NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY—*Con.*

Lancaster, E. A. (Lincoln)—993.

This is a railway partly constructed and time is asked for completion, 993.

Macdonald, E. M. (Pictou)—993.

Complaints of the absence of Minister of Railways and sponsors of Bills being absent, 993.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Inquiry.—Mr. Macdonald, 4888.

Crothers, Hon. T. W. (Minister of Labour)—4888.

The government, while having given the matter some consideration, have not reached a conclusion as to what course we shall take and will not be in a position to reach such a conclusion until we have heard from all the local governments in Canada, 4889.

Macdonald, E. M. (Pictou)—4888.

I would ask the minister if he could tell us what steps, if any, the government will take in assisting the advancement of technical education throughout the country, 4888.

THE COST OF LIVING.

Inquiry.—Mr. Pugsley, 5377.

Foster, Hon. G. E. (Minister of Trade and Commerce)—5377.

I do not know that I could give him any more definite information as to when the report of the commission will be presented than to say that when the commission finishes their work they will bring in their report, 5378.

Pugsley, Hon. Wm. (St. John City)—5376.

I desire to ask my hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster) when we may expect the report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the high cost of living, 5376.

THE FARMERS BANK.

Motion for second reading of Bill No. 185.—Mr. Whitee, 4675.

Borden, Rt. Hon. R. L. (Prime Minister)—4802.

The Bill is in fulfilment of a declaration which I made last year and which I shall read because it will enable me to abbreviate very considerably the remarks which otherwise I would be obliged to address to the House, 4802. I am inclined to rest the action of the government not so much upon the analogy of an act of negligence in the courts as upon the analogy of a trustee, who, acting honestly although erroneously, commits a breach of trust, and who is nevertheless liable although he acted honestly, 4803. If my hon. friend thinks that all these incidents connected with the taking of the notes were regular, then I desire to

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express my most absolute dissent with him. These were simply fraudulent incidents in a huge conspiracy to evade and misapply the banking law for a fraudulent purpose; and the inquiry, which the commissioner declares was incumbent upon the late Minister of Finance and the members of the Treasury Board, would have revealed the existence of that conspiracy, and would have prevented all that loss, waste and desolation which eventually did result from the granting of this certificate. That is my conception of it, 4805.

Crothers, Hon. T. W. (Minister of Labour)—4726.

Commissioners report quoted and commented on, 4727-8. Letter of McCarthy and answer quoted, 4729. Other quotations and comments, 4730-6. I am prepared to say that if any case can be brought before this House where the trustee appointed by this House as Finance Minister acted as the Finance Minister did in this case, I will hold up both hands to reimburse every dollar lost. That is my position, 4736.

Demers, J. (St. Johns and Iberville)—4736.

Deals with remarks of Mr. Crothers, 4736-37. Report of commissioner quoted and commented upon, 4738-9. The failure of the St. Johns bank referred to, 4740. Gives reasons for opposition to Bill, 4741.

Devlin, E. B. (Wright)—4722.

History of bank given, 4722-3. The Royal Commission was asked for solely in order to establish at whose door the fault was to be laid for the failure of the Farmer's Bank of Canada, 4724. Cannot see any reason for recouping depositors, 4726.

Henderson, David (Halton)—4778.

Mr. A. K. Maclean and other speeches referred to, 4778-9. The downfall of this bank began when the certificate of the Treasury Board was granted. Everything was safe before that, 4780. The point to which I am going to direct my attention more particularly is this: Was the late Minister of Finance at fault, 4781-6.

Lamarche, P. E. (Nicolet)—4798.

Thinks the Bill unprecedented in Parliamentary annals, 4798. States reasons for opposition to Bill, 4799-4800.

Lancetot, Roch (Laprairie and Napierville)—4774.

Protests against injustice done to depositors of failed French banks, 4774-5. If the government would put the banks under the solitary obligation of reimbursing the deposits of the public, all that money would be deposited in our banks and would mean so much more help to our trade, to our commerce and to our enterprises of all kinds, 4776. Speeches of Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Sharpe referred to, 4777.