

and it was missed too. There was a certain Miss McAdam who was a stenographer in one of the departments. She patented a wonderful instrument of warfare: it was a shovel. On this shovel there was to be no handle, or the handle was to be detachable. But the peculiarity of this great invention of Miss McAdam's was that in this shovel, which was to be planted in front of our warriors when they were engaged in battle, there was a little hole in which they were to place the muzzle of their rifle—the Ross rifle, I suppose—and they could lie down behind this shovel and shoot the Germans. About \$40,000 was spent on that. Of course, that is nothing: still the honourable leader of the Government says there was no scandal. Well, if there was no scandal, it was certainly giving away the \$40,000, for those shovels were just like any others, except that there was a hole in the middle of them, and they had no handle. The honourable leader of the Government must have forgotten about that. Of course, there was not very much love between the leader of the Government and the then Minister of Militia. However, I do not want to become involved in family affairs.

The honourable leader of the Government in this House seems to have forgotten these little affairs. But surely neither he nor anybody else can have forgotten "Glad Hand" Allison—our friend Allison from Morrisburg, Ontario. Everybody has heard of him. We have all heard of the scandal about the revolvers, and the scandal about the field-glasses, and the scandal of the member of Parliament right here in the city of Ottawa who kept a drug store and who, notwithstanding the independence of Parliament, was selling bandages and what not to the Government. An inquiry on this subject was held in another place.

Then, to cap all—for I do not want to take up the time of the House in going into further detail—in another place Mr. Kyte, one of the members from Cape Breton, took a whole day in reciting all the scandals. Still the honourable leader of the Government says there was no scandal and that not one dollar in all those millions had disappeared. Signor Lignanti, one of the musicians in the orchestra of the Ritz Carlton—I cannot be sure whether it was the flute or the piccolo he played—received no less than \$50,000 for being a party to some transaction. Still there was not a scandal and in all that two billions

of dollars there was never a dollar challenged!

Then there was a stenographer and typewriter who was engaged in drawing up contracts; and how much do you think she received for this wonderful work? Five thousand dollars? Ten thousand dollars? Fifteen thousand dollars? Too low. Fifty thousand dollars? Seventy-five thousand dollars? She received \$100,000. They said: "Oh, my; but she must have been a fine typewriter operator to get so much money." I call that also a scandal.

Besides, there were some persons around Ottawa, fulfilling their parliamentary duties and drawing military pay at the same time. I call that a scandal. They ought to have been doing either one thing or the other.

But enough of that. I think that the honourable leader of the Government will admit that there were some scandals sometimes, and I do not wish to take up any more time on this subject.

But in the Speech from the Throne there is something that has been absolutely omitted—the most important of all the questions that are troubling not only the business men, but all the taxpayers of this country; there is no mention of the railway situation. The railway situation in this country, honourable gentlemen, is grave indeed. The honourable the Minister of Labour (Hon. Mr. Robertson) is quite familiar with this question too, and I know that he appreciates it. Now, I have thought out this matter carefully, and this is what I have to say about it. One-half the railways of Canada during the last period for which we have statistics have not paid operating expenses. It was stated the other day that the rates were too high. Well, if the railways are not paying operating expenses, surely the rates cannot be too high. If they are not high enough to pay operating expenses, who is going to cash the coupons on the debentures, and who is going to provide for betterments and renewals? This is, I claim, a most important question; yet there is no mention of it in the Speech from the Throne—not a word as to how we are going to solve this great problem.

It seems to me that the advocates of public ownership now realize that it has been a failure. In the United States it was realized that Government ownership was a failure—that the McAdoo scale of wages was such as would, if continued, drive the railways into bankruptcy; and the United