

the "ability of the country to pay" is never raised; it is only raised as a "bogy" when it applies to the raising of money to be applied to ex-members of the C.E.F.

However, off-setting the pessimistic statements of ministers of finance—past and present—we venture to quote the bubbling optimism of the Minister of Railways and Canals, Hon. Dr. J. D. Reid, as contained in his speech given at the National Exhibition Banquet, Toronto. **Oozing optimism on behalf of the railway interests, the Hon. Dr. J. D. Reid stated:**

"Canada is a prosperous country. The value of our agricultural lands has increased 37% during the last five years. Our banks have very much larger deposits. Our post office deposits are increasing. With the advance we are making; with our natural resources; with our great future we have in this country, **let us not be pessimistic—let us be optimistic.** Let us carry on the good work and in the interests of the **railway companies**, and the country as a whole. **Do not let us be too hard on our railway systems. Give them a chance; give them an opportunity.** If you can't boost—don't knock".

Commenting upon the optimism of the Hon. Dr. Reid, Minister of Railways and Canals, we would draw the attention of the Premier, the Hon. Mr. Arthur Meighen, thereto, with the suggestion that it be placed in the hands of every Federal member of Parliament, **with the word "Veterans"** substituted for that of **"Railway Companies."** We should then have the Minister of Railways spreading his optimism in the following manner:

"Let us not be pessimistic; let us be optimistic. Let us carry on the good work, and in the interests of the Veterans, and the country as a whole. Do not let us be too hard on our Veterans. Give them a chance; give them an opportunity. If you can't boost, don't knock."

However, dealing with the ability of the country to pay the amounts required to discharge the country's obligations to the ex-member of the C.E.F., we have one suggestion to make, which as conditions exist at the present time, will not add to the present burden of the tax-payer:

We recommend to Parliament, that the extra surplus of \$15,064,500 accruing to the C.P.R. as a result of the increased railway rates, and which the Chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission, the Hon. Mr. Frank Carvell, thinks is rather more than the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are entitled to, be diverted from the Treasury of the Railway Company and used for paying the interest charges on