

spent, in order that the standard of this road and its equipment may be brought up to a higher point than it occupies at the present time. With regard to the statement the hon. gentleman made as to the Grand Trunk Pacific, we find on examining that statement that the total amount necessary to pay interest and some other items is \$9,376,844, but of that amount the Dominion Government has in any case to pay the sum of \$1,655,121, leaving us to provide in this particular instance the sum of \$7,721,723 to meet the interest on the bonds guaranteed both by the Dominion Government and by the Grand Trunk Pacific itself. So that according to this statement the country is providing about \$200,000 more than the amount necessary to pay the interest on those guaranteed bonds, including of course the bonds guaranteed by the province of Alberta and the province of Saskatchewan. In this case we are not taking hold in any way of the liabilities of the company, which are given as some \$20,000,000, of which the sum of \$14,000,000, I understand, is due to the Grand Trunk railway itself. I presume, therefore, from the statement that has been issued to the country, that the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Grand Trunk railway combined are in a position at the present moment to take care of those liabilities, amounting to \$20,743,132, so that as far as the Grand Trunk Pacific is concerned we have only to find the amount of money necessary to provide the interest on the guaranteed bonds. I found the other day, on reading the Montreal Gazette, that the President of the Grand Trunk railway system, in response to an inquiry, said:

The statements in the newspapers relative to losses on the Grand Trunk Pacific are very much exaggerated, even in the present hard times the loss on that property, after paying interest will not exceed \$2,000,000 for 1916.

If that statement of the president of the company is correct it places the Grand Trunk Pacific in a much more favourable position at the present moment than I thought they occupied. Of course, this is only a newspaper statement, and there may be qualifications in regard to it, but I think if that is really the position of the company we ought to be congratulated in finding that it is in a better position than it appeared to be. Now, with regard to the old question of the Supply Bill, it has been brought down so late in the session, and we have so little time to deal with it, that I do not know whether we can really discuss the question properly at this present

time. According to the statement of the hon. leader of the Government we find that for the Estimates this year we are passing a total of \$271,000,000, and from the statements made by the Minister of Finance we know that the country is being called upon to put up very large sums of money. The total debt charge, as stated by the Minister of Finance, will amount to \$580,000,000. At the end of March, 1916, we were carrying an interest charge of close upon \$24,000,000. This is a very serious burden for the country at the present time. As we know, everything is increasing in price, and the burdens on the people are increasing from day to day. We were fortunate last year in having good crops, and the business throughout the country has improved, but unfortunately we do not see any indication that the population of the country has any chance of increasing to any great extent; in fact, I think that if we were in a position to take a census of the people of Canada to-day we would find that our population did not amount to much over 7,500,000. That makes it very necessary for hon. gentlemen to consider the position in which the country is placed at the present time. Our public debt is increasing by leaps and bounds, as I fear it must continue to do, because we have to maintain our position and do our part in prosecuting the war which is now going on. As our public debt increases, the interest on that debt will also go on increasing, but our population is not increasing in a way that will enable us to distribute the burdens as we would like to see them distributed. The policy of the Government should be to retrench and economize as much as possible; but we have seen, by the action of the Government over the Bill that was brought in only last night, that they are not prepared to economize in the way that I think the country expects they should. It is easy for the Government to talk and tell the people that they should personally economize and do everything they can to save money, and increase the production of the country; but when they see the Government wasting money, and giving it away to their own particular friends whenever they consider there is advantage in so doing, I do not think a right example is set to the country at the present time. There are a large number of other matters to which I could refer, but as the whole question has been brought up so late in the session, I do not think it is advisable to take up the time of the House any longer.