

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Now, I want it to be quite clear, as far as the hotel is concerned, that this is entirely a business proposition with us; nothing else was involved in it whatsoever.

Hon. Mr. MANION: I would like to ask you this question: Mr. Van Wyck, you say, thought this matter over, and Mr. Van Wyck was entirely in accord, and I would ask you whether he is not considered by the Canadian National Railways as the very best or certainly one of the very best hotel men?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I regard Mr. Van Wyck as a very competent, experienced hotel manager. Now, I do not know that I can add very much to it except simply what I have said.

Mr. POWER: The fact remains, Sir Henry, that seventeen rooms have been wiped out of the revenue producing items of the Canadian National Railways; am I right?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I think it is fifteen.

Mr. POWER: Fifteen rooms have been wiped out, and you are getting nothing in return.

The CHAIRMAN: They have not been wiped out; they are getting \$4,800 a year for them.

Mr. POWER: I would suggest that the \$4,800 would represent only a portion of the interest on the alterations, and there is nothing being paid in the way of rental for the other fifteen rooms. Of course, it is a matter of opinion.

The CHAIRMAN: That is just the way it strikes you at the moment.

Rt. Hon. Mr. BENNETT: I think it is only fair to say that I observe from looking at my papers that as long ago as October, 1930, the opinion now expressed by Sir Henry Thornton is borne out in these words:—

In conversation with Schofield our architect whom I happened to meet here to-day he informs me extent of alterations at Chateau fully explained to Prime Minister and accommodation to be provided represents his wishes. He was not informed of exact cost as we did not know ourselves what was involved and hardly do yet but he must certainly have had as much conception in his mind of cost as we ourselves because he was familiar with extent of alterations and said that while job should be done in good taste he did not want unnecessary money expended on it. As a matter of fact while we have not completed our estimates \$50,000 would be the very outside figure and Schofield thinks thirty-five thousand or forty thousand dollars a nearer estimate.

Mr. POWER: Sir Henry, in your letter to Mr. Manion which was read here the other day dated January 2nd, 1931, you said:—

I cannot see that anyone can criticize the railway company for providing suitable apartments for the Prime Minister of the country providing he pays a proper rate for the use of that accommodation.

Do you still abide by that?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Absolutely.

Mr. POWER: Do you think \$400 is a proper figure?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Having regard for all the circumstances that was what was fixed by the hotel department.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions?

Mr. DUFF: Sir Henry, in regard to the guests paying money to the hotel outside of what they pay for the occupancy of their rooms, can you give us any idea how much money on an average would be spent by seventeen guests occupying seventeen rooms in a month?