

Engineer? These men should be above suspicion and this state of things should not be continued.

The Premier says that \$30,000 a mile is a low cost of a road and compares it with the cost of the C. P. R. and C. A. R. But the \$65,000,000 of stock issued by the C. P. R. was sold at 45c on the dollar. The stock taken at par is put against this road for which cash was paid and we are told it is a cheaper railway than the C. P. R. But with the C. P. R. stock taken at 45c on the dollar you have to divide the cost as given by 2 which brings it down to less than what is asked for the Temiscaming Railway.

Then this report does not contain satisfactory returns. For instance Engineers construction \$1,356,000, ties \$65,000, rails, switches and frogs, \$326,000. That is not a return which would explain the expenditure to the people. The whole of that expenditure should be given in detail just in the same way, as the public accounts of the Province. The quantities of earth and rock excavated and how much was paid for removing it should be stated so that it could be compared with the Engineer's estimates for construction. These figures should be given separately in sections of 10 miles and details should be given as to every person who got money out of that road and what it was paid for. The whole report is extremely unsatisfactory.

Now I have compared the financial record of the Premier with that of Mr. Hardy showing that in four years the ordinary expenditures of the province have been increased by \$1,000,000 resulting in a deficit between ordinary revenue and ordinary expenditure of \$600,000 in the past year and a deficit in the current year of over \$1,000,000. During that time he has wasted \$1,700,000 received in bonuses in timber sales and also added \$1,000,000 to the railway debt—that is Premier Ross' financial record.

Then as to the Educational system of the Province. The whole thing from the Universities down to the common schools requires re-organization. We have children going from our schools who cannot spell or write decently. In every town and village in the province there are springing up commercial colleges established to make up for the deficiencies of our common schools, while as against High Schools we have the growing use of private proprietary schools.

We have in the whole thing that machine system which the head of a great university once told me leads to the cultivation of fads. Perhaps owing to this central examination system we have that growing feeling of self assertion so conspicuous amongst the young people of this province—that feeling of absence of regard for their duties to their fellows. We have of course many men who have distinguished themselves after graduating from our provincial schools and colleges, but I contend that they have distinguished themselves despite our educational system and not because of it. Then in connection with the Treasury Department and the Attorney General's Dept. we have another matter which I must speak upon and that is the defalcation in the succession duties. That shows the utter absurdity of the investigations of the much vaunted financial commission. These defalcations commenced in 1896 and I say Sir, that the absence of any prosecution against Mr. Macdougall is not out of regard to him but because the Government dare not expose their own dishonour. Why, Sir, no bond even was taken until April 1902, just prior to the discovery of the defalcations. That bond is not paid and I understand that the company refuses to pay it on the ground that the Government was aware at the time of these defalcations.

Mr. Gibson: Do you say the action of the Crown prosecution of Mr. Macdougall is not being continued?

Mr. Matheson: I did not say so.

Mr. Gibson: Well how do you put it?

Mr. Whitney: Nine out of ten people believe that; they cannot help but believe it by what they see.

Mr. Matheson: I have no animus against Mr. Macdougall. He did what many men have done before him—used funds which he should not have touched and the result I have no doubt is that his present condition is such that perhaps a prosecution is not justifiable.

Mr. Gibson: I would think so.

Mr. Matheson: But at the same time when he was first arraigned that was not the case. Compare the course of Mr. Macdougall's case with that of Callaghan. (Applause) I must do the Attorney General justice. I believe he is anxious that his own record should be clean, but I say that there are two points in which he has failed in his duty. One was in not prosecuting Returning Officers or at