

Canadian National Railway is deposited in a bank for a specific purpose, namely, to enable somebody else in Paris to get \$2,000,000 from that same bank. Now, is that wrong?

Mr. GRAHAM: I think that is correct.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Of course it is correct. In other words the system is paying the money to finance this deal.

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Now, let us go a little further. It has not yet been determined whether the railway keeps the property, or whether some other company gets the property, or whether some syndicate is to be allowed to have it. Am I right in so understanding the minister?

Mr. GRAHAM: No.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Then what is the fact?

Mr. GRAHAM: As I said a few moments ago, the property is being taken over by a syndicate, a representative of which leaves here in two or three days for Paris to complete the arrangements.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Who composes the Syndicate?

Mr. GRAHAM: I would not care to give the names or the details until the arrangements are completed—a reputable body of men having no connection with the Canadian National Railways.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Well, Mr. Chairman, we are putting up \$2,000,000 for a syndicate—

Mr. GRAHAM: No.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We are going to use our \$2,000,000 for the purpose of securing some property which Sir Henry Thornton thinks is a good one. Surely the committee has the right to know who are interested in this syndicate; surely we have a right to know with whom we are dealing. There cannot be any mystery about it: it has been in the papers. What is the mystery?

Mr. GRAHAM: No mystery.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Then if there be no mystery, why cannot we get the facts?

Mr. GRAHAM: There is no mystery, but my hon. friend knows as a business man that this syndicate does not want its name to be published broadcast until the arrangements are completed. In the meantime we hold a mortgage on the property to its full value.

[Sir Henry Drayton.]

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Why should there be any secrecy about it? Is it because there is to be a difference in price?

Mr. GRAHAM: No.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Is it because there is to be a commission here or a commission there?

Mr. GRAHAM: No.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If there is nothing of the kind; if everything is open and above board, why can we not be told who the syndicate is? I should think these patriotic gentlemen ought to get the honour of having their names stated as having helped out Sir Henry Thornton.

Mr. GRAHAM: I do not think they did it for patriotism. I think they have made a good business deal.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: On what terms did they get it?

Mr. GRAHAM: They took it exactly at the cost to the gentleman in Paris—no commission.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Who is the gentlemen in Paris who is handling this \$2,000,000 for us?

Mr. GRAHAM: Mr. A. Aronovici.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: Who is Mr. Aronovici?

Mr. GRAHAM: He was a former agent of the Great Eastern Railway and is now agent of the Canadian National Railways for the continent.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I see. Is the syndicate composed of New York gentlemen? The minister made mention of New York.

Mr. GRAHAM: New York.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: So that a New York syndicate is going to look after this a little later, and my hon. friend, I take it from what he says, will not tell us anything more about it than that? Now I want to ask my friend if he can give me one reason why we should not get the facts. The money is paid. Mr. Aronovici in Paris has got the money. Why cannot we know for whom he has got it?

Mr. GRAHAM: My hon. friend knows that if he were in my place he would do just as I am doing. In a transaction of this nature with a syndicate there is certain financing they have to do, and I do not think it is fair for my hon. friend to ask me, I do not think he expects me to tell him, the names