

CAN THE COUNTRY PAY?

This is a question which should be answered by such men as Sir Thomas White, ex-Minister of Finance, or Sir Henry Drayton, the present Minister of Finance, for the Dominion of Canada. However, both these eminent authorities have made statements indicating the inability of Canada to bear the cost of financing even such re-establishment plans as were submitted by the G.W.V.A. to the Parliamentary Committee on re-establishment, estimated to cost less than four hundred millions of dollars.

Before the Parliamentary Committee Sir Thomas White stated, "He did not believe, having regard to the financial position of the Government, **so large an amount could be raised by means of a loan.**"

Notwithstanding, the opinion of Sir Thomas White, the \$300,000,000 **Victory Loan** to which he referred in his address before the Committee, **was oversubscribed \$465,000,000**, from which we may conclude that the judgment of Sir Thomas White may not be as accurate as the Parliamentary Committee would have the ex-service man believe. The ability of Canada to raise hundreds of millions had by no means been exhausted at the time when Sir Thomas gave it as his considered expert opinion, **that so large an amount could not be raised by means of a loan.**

In response to a question Sir Henry Drayton stated that if Canada were required to raise the money to take care of the re-establishment proposals, as submitted by the G.W.V.A. before the Parliamentary Committee, estimated, as stated, to cost less than \$400,000,000—**That Canada would be like an orange sucked dry.**

Just how far these eminent financial authorities may be correct, it is hard to say ; the average layman, or simple-minded tax-payer would naturally hesitate to challenge the statements of **Financial Wizards**—we will merely content ourselves with pointing out that the **Dominion Railway Commission** experienced no difficulty in providing channels through which the railway companies (privately owned and Government owned alike) could **extract hundreds of millions of dollars annually from the pockets of a cheerful public.** We would also remind Parliament that the capitalized value of the increased Sessional Indemnities, **granted by members of Parliament to themselves** runs into millions of dollars ; also that millions more have been granted to Shipbuilding Interests, as subsidies or Compensation. In connection with these **specific cases**, which impose a heavy burden upon the public **the question of**