

anxious to exploit it if they are given the necessary transportation facilities. The hon. member for South Oxford (Mr. Sutherland) startled the House the other night by stating the tonnage obtained from a single acre in his constituency. Of course when the hon.

gentleman mentioned that it 10 p.m. came from limestone it cleared up some doubts that might have existed in the minds of hon. members. From these gypsum deposits alone I have no doubt that an output equal to the figure my hon. friend mentioned may be expected within a brief period once the railway goes in there. From Vernon south to Kelowna this line traverses the very cream of the fruit growing district of British Columbia. New orchards are being planted every day. The orchard owners of that country have been subjected to a series of bad years and they have not been able to dispose profitably of their fruit. This year also I am afraid they will suffer very heavy loss, and anything that will help them in the way of giving them better facilities is surely something to which this House should give serious consideration. The district running east of Vernon which is tapped by this spur of fifteen miles, runs through a section which contains the famous Coldstream ranch, where there is one of the best orchards in Canada. Further on it reaches the town of Lumby, which is situated in perhaps the best dairying and mixed farming section of that part of country. Back of Lumby lies a tremendous area of timber land and a great traffic is now being worked up there in ties and telephone poles. The line from Lumby to Vernon will be kept busy for a large portion of the year transporting wood products alone. I have had prepared and presented to me an estimate by the board of trade of that country in which the belief is expressed that once the line is completed, traffic amounting to a million dollars will flow over it the first year. This line can certainly be regarded as one which is capable of financial development. I sincerely believe that in the course of a very few years it will be found to be one of the best feeders of traffic for the Canadian National and that it will pay for itself handsomely.

Mr. CLARK: How far is Lumby from the lake and from the nearest railway station?

Mr. MacKELVIE: Lumby is fifteen miles from the nearest railway station and it is four miles further to the lake.

Mr. MARLER: It is the same old story—discussing these estimated costs about projected lines. As soon as a line is proposed for Nova Scotia those from that province say it is essential. Perhaps it is and perhaps it is not. It is the same thing when we come to British Columbia. The line is said to be essential. Perhaps it is and perhaps it is not.

Mr. POWER: Who should know whether or not it is essential, the people from the province concerned, or somebody else?

Mr. MARLER: We should know whether it is wise or whether it is not wise to spend this money, and with the information that is before us it is utterly impossible to determine whether it is wise or not. That is the whole question.

Mr. POWER: The hon. gentleman seems to have some objection to the people from the provinces concerned stating that the roads are essential. He claims that they are not essential and he states himself that he does not know whether they are or not.

Mr. MARLER: Certainly I do. I know very little about these roads. I think the information should be put before this House so that hon. members can determine, on the information of competent engineers, whether the proposed lines are necessary or not.

Mr. CASGRAIN: Does the hon. member say that the engineers of the Canadian National are not competent?

Mr. MARLER: The engineers of the Canadian National Railways do not appear before this House, nor does Sir Henry Thornton—no one appears before this House. We have nothing but the shortest possible reports on these subjects, and we sit down here and vote millions of which we are trustees, nothing more nor less.

Mr. POWER: The right hon. leader of the opposition, a friend of my hon. friend from Montreal, states that he is quite satisfied with the information brought down in this particular case.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, I did not say that.

Mr. MARLER: It is not material to me whether the leader of the opposition is satisfied or not. The fact that he is satisfied is no indication that I am satisfied.

Mr. JACOBS: It is a good Conservative country through which this line passes.