

Mr. RHODES. The reason I ask is this. I should like to impress on the hon. minister the necessity of having a permanent station in Fredericton which would be a credit to the capital of the province, and the Intercolonial railway as well. If I were disposed to criticise, I would be inclined to say that the amount we are asked to vote is perhaps not quite sufficient.

Mr. GRAHAM. The business at Fredericton of course is not likely to equal that at Pictou and Amherst, and the size of a station must be regulated by the amount of business it is expected to accommodate. I shall endeavour to have a building worthy of the capital of the province.

General protection of highways, \$20,000.

Mr. GRAHAM. We are endeavouring to set an example in protecting the highways. We have put in gongs and other appliances at road crossings, subways and aqueducts, and are spending more money along that line every year. Last year we spent \$10,000, and this year we propose to spend \$20,000.

Mr. STANFIELD. Is the hon. minister picking out the worst crossings to protect?

Mr. GRAHAM. We are trying to.

Mr. LENNOX. I agree that there ought to be a great deal of generosity in the matter of protecting highway crossings, but I think that the suggestion just made should be acted upon. I think that the government should get a report as to the crossings that are most dangerous and most in need of protection, and not deal with them in a haphazard fashion. The government should employ two or three men if necessary to go over the whole road and report as to the crossings. The minister has said that in some cases he is putting in gongs, &c. That is a device probably better than nothing; but almost worse than anything else. He should aim at separating the railway crossings in some way from the highway in all cases possible at any reasonable expenditure. He knows that in many cases where you have to cross on the level, by the deviation of the highway a very little distance you can get a subway at very moderate expense. It is simply a matter of carrying sufficient strength across—certain beams across and perhaps building two cement piers or retaining walls, and does not involve any great expense. We should aim to have our government railway an example to other railways, until in Canada we shall have to some extent the same system as is followed in Great Britain of endeavouring to separate the highway from the railway. Twenty thousand dollars seems to me to be a very small vote for this purpose. Of course if the minister has no definite plan of judicious expenditure in the next year, there is no object in taking

a larger vote. But, for myself, I would be disposed to be very generous in this matter.

Mr. GAUVREAU. May I ask the minister if this amendment is intended to include an expenditure on the subway of Rivière du Loup station which is so much needed?

Mr. GRAHAM. I may say to my hon. friend from South Simcoe (Mr. Lennox), that I think his amendment is small. We have our maintenance of way engineer, Mr. Burpee, to make reports, and those works that he recommends we are taking up first. Personally, I would feel like spending twice this amount. Possibly, in the supplementary estimates, I may ask for more money. To my hon. friend from Temiscouata (Mr. Gauvreau) I may say that we are having a report made on the Rivière du Loup and Chaudière and possibly we expect to get some money this year for construction. I am waiting for that report every day.

Mr. LENNOX. Without instancing the case which has just been referred to, I may say that the minister will see what I had in mind. He will be harassed by members representing the different ridings, each urging the construction of crossings within his own territory. But if the minister orders first a comprehensive investigation, he will be relieved of that difficulty.

Mr. GRAHAM. The condition at Rivière du Loup and Chaudière is particularly dangerous. People going from the station have to cross the tracks. I have visited it and came to the conclusion that we ought to have a subway for the protection of the public.

Mr. RHODES. Last year, the department took up the case of the Victoria street crossing in the town of Amherst. Is that covered by this vote?

Mr. GRAHAM. By a similar vote last year?

Mr. - RHODES. Has the minister any data as to that?

Mr. GRAHAM. I have no data here, but I can get it.

Halifax, to increase accommodation at, \$82,500.

Mr. GRAHAM. The big item in this is for additional siding accommodation and remodelling the yards. The appropriation on this account last year was \$52,650. There has been a standing demand at Halifax for increased dock accommodation, and I desire to say a few words on the subject now, because the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) asked about it several