

acquired in Halifax some years ago, and when they intended to make use of it?

Mr. GRAHAM. There are plans under consideration for building a freight shed at that end of the city, and a new wharf, and I think a flour shed on the wharf. But the plans are not yet completed, and we have nothing in the estimates this year. We have a large capital account and we are going as slowly as possible in order not to unduly increase it.

Mr. CROSBY. I think the people in Halifax were willing that the department should acquire this property, but they expected that the department would use it. They expected that within a reasonable time some construction would take place; it was understood that a flour shed and a new wharf would be built. I think the time has now come when the work should be carried on. Can the minister give us some definite intimation as to when this work will be begun? I think the property was acquired six or seven years ago.

Mr. GRAHAM. I understand that the front part of the stone building is now occupied by the Cunards under lease, and the other part is occupied by Halifax merchants, and the whole is in use. I understand the property was bought only a short time before I became minister. It was offered cheap; the government thought they would eventually need it, and they took advantage of the opportunity and purchased it. We require it, and we intend to go on and utilize it. But I do not think it was bought with the intention of immediate use.

Mr. CROSBY. Does the minister mean to say that they bought it on speculation, and they are going to keep it for some time? If that is the intention, I am sure it will not meet with the approval of the people of Halifax.

Mr. GRAHAM. Nobody could buy it from us.

Mr. CROSBY. If the Railway Department is going to keep it in the shape they have got it now, we would like to have some use made of it. We don't want the Railway Department or anybody else to come into Halifax and buy up a valuable piece of water front, and hold it without making some improvements. I understand the minister to say that he does not know what they are going to do with this property, they have made no plans; he has not made up his mind what he is going to do with it.

Mr. GRAHAM. I think my hon. friend has rather overstated what I said. We bought the property because it was a good thing to buy, and we will need it. The department has of course considered sev-

eral things in connection with it, but at the present time we have formed no plan, and we are not asking this year for any appropriation.

Mr. CROSBY. Then I will ask the minister something easier. I would like to ask him how much accommodation there is at the round-house for locomotives, and how many they can put in there? I would like to ask the minister if it is intended to do the same amount of work in that shop as has been done in the past. There is quite a large amount of ground although the roundhouse does not seem nearly as elaborate as I would like to see it. I would like the minister to give me some idea of how many locomotives can be stored in the round-house at one time?

Mr. GRAHAM. The roundhouse at Halifax will be used for repairs just as other roundhouses are. There is a car repair shop there as well. Arrangements were made some years ago for the construction of central shops at Moncton, where all the heavy repairs could be done. The board is carrying out that plan which was adopted by the then management and approved by parliament. The roundhouse at Halifax is like the roundhouse at other places and the same kind of work is being done there.

Mr. CROSBY. Will all cars that go into Halifax be repaired there? We are not jealous at all of Moncton, nor are we jealous of any other place, but we feel that we should have what belongs to us and we do not believe that a locomotive or a car should be taken from Halifax to any other part of the Intercolonial to be repaired.

Mr. GRAHAM. I do not think I can add anything to what I have said. The road is under the management of expert railway men who know more than I do about where these things ought to be done. A very large amount has been expended at Halifax for giving exceptional facilities for shipment, and we have made provision for these heavy repairs to be done at Moncton. I cannot say how big a hole there should be in a boiler before it will go to Moncton rather than stay in Halifax, but we must leave it to the management to look after these details.

Mr. CROSBY. That answer will hardly satisfy me. I am quite satisfied that the minister is going to leave things to the board which he does not want to deal with himself, and take things to himself that he does not want the board to interfere with. While there has been a considerable expenditure at Halifax I am proud to say that with the exception of acquiring the roundhouse site, you have got pretty good value for your money. There has not been any evidence of any money being squan-

Mr. CROSBY.