

say, by a good deal of evidence, were to the effect that the Baie des Chaleurs Railway would be a good paying property, that it could be run to advantage, that it was in litigation, having been taken possession of by the sequestrators of Quebec, or was in some way in the courts under proceedings then pending, and, as a result, it would not be operated during the winter. Upon consideration we concluded that it would be a proper thing, under all the circumstances, to run the road for a short time, for the winter at least, and see whether or not it had merit, whether it would be a paying piece of property in connection with the Intercolonial Railway. We tried it under these circumstances with the result that the balance turned out to be on the wrong side of the account. We closed down the operation in the month of May.

Mr. FOSTER. When did you commence ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. In January, I think, on the 1st of January. It ran through January, February, March, April and May—five months, and at the end of May we handed it over having concluded that it would not pay.

Mr. BERGERON. Is it running yet ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It is not being run by us.

Mr. LEMIEUX. It is being run by the company.

Mr. FOSTER. Was any money paid out over and above the receipts for the operation and maintenance of the road ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I apprehend that the charge and expenses of operating were paid out of the Intercolonial Railway fund—I presume they were.

Mr. FOSTER. Does not my hon. friend (Mr. Blair) know ? Cannot he say whether that was done or not ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) might fairly infer from that—

Mr. FOSTER. Now, the hon. gentleman comes to a fair inference. I ask him a fair question, why cannot he give me a fair answer ? He “presumes” and “supposes” and “infers” and goes around and about and athwart the question. But why cannot he come on squarely and say, not what he “apprehends” but does he know whether any sums were paid out, and, if so, out of what vote ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I have no doubt they were.

Mr. FOSTER. Can my hon. friend tell me under what legal construction of the Act he presumed to take money which Parliament had voted for the running of the

Mr. BLAIR.

Intercolonial Railway and devoted to the running of an alien line entirely.

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. It is a road connected directly with the Intercolonial Railway.

Mr. FOSTER. But a man may live next door to the hon. gentleman without being related to him. A road may run parallel with the Intercolonial Railway, it may butt up against it and still be an entirely different road. I say the hon. gentleman had no more business to take money voted for the Intercolonial Railway and devote it to the running of the Baie des Chaleurs road, than he had to take \$18,500 of public money and use it to run a road in Russia. I would like to ask him if the sum of \$18,500 has been paid out, and, if so, was it paid out under audit by the Auditor General ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I have not followed the actual fact of the payment. I have said to the hon. gentleman that I have no doubt that it is paid, and if so, it has been paid on the strength of an Order in Council which was passed, and, of course, the responsibility of which we must assume. I take it that it was quite within our province in the exceptional circumstances I have stated relying upon being justified by Parliament in making these payments. At all events we have done it, and we ask Parliament to make the amount good by this appropriation.

Mr. FOSTER. Has my hon. friend the Order in Council before the House authorizing the running of the road ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I do not think that is on the Table.

Mr. FOSTER. Was it simply an Order in Council authorizing the Government to take over, or to operate for a certain length of time this road, or has there been an Order in Council passed appropriating certain sums from any source towards the payment of this amount. Or has the hon. gentleman simply paid it out of a credit and now asks Parliament to vote this sum in order to put the amount back into the credit ?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. I ask this vote so that the amount may be recouped to the Intercolonial Railway fund. As to the Orders in Council, they authorize the Department of Railways to take this road over and operate it for this limited period on the conditions I have stated. I would be very glad to bring the Order in Council down.

Mr. FOSTER. I fancy they do not raise the question at all as to whether that would eventuate in the Dominion having to pay a certain amount of money, but simply authorize the Minister of Railways to operate the road without mentioning whether he was