

will be satisfied with such an arrangement. The people of British Columbia were satisfied, as far as my observations went, with such a proposal. The people of British Columbia also claimed that there were products that they required at times from the West Indies. We are working up a trade between Canada and the West Indies. These vessels, at some particular time, might possibly not have a full cargo for Halifax or St. John, and they could bring sugar and other products to eastern Canada. On the other hand, they could take a cargo to the West Indies and on to British Columbia and thus help at both ends in building up a trade between western and eastern Canada. That was my idea and my suggestion to my colleagues after I had discussed the matter fully with the British Columbia people.

Now, what was done about these vessels? For the last three or four years it has been almost impossible to get vessels built. To start in and build vessels now would cost three times as much as it would under normal conditions. What I recommended to the Minister of Railways and my colleagues was this: There is a transportation company called the Canada West Transportation Company, in which many of the heads of that large corporation, the Canada Steamship Company are interested. The Canada West Transportation Company gave an order for twelve vessels of exactly the same dimensions as these two vessels that were ordered in British Columbia. I recommended to the Minister of Railways and Canals and my other colleagues that a contract should be awarded for the construction of two vessels on exactly the same lines and on the same terms as those of the Canada West Company. In other words, we said: There is a contract that has been awarded by this company for a dozen vessels, and we will give you a contract on the same terms and at the same price. In that contract the terms were stated, a bond was to be given as to completion, and so on. The British Columbia people were complaining of the freight rates charged by the three great railway companies. They claimed that the freight rates between British Columbia and eastern Canada were almost prohibitive on products of a cheaper kind.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: How long were you in British Columbia this time?

Mr. REID: I think I was there eight days. I gave them one answer which I am glad to say is, I believe, coming true. I said to

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

those to whom I was speaking: If you will just have a little patience this Government will do two things; they will give you transportation by vessel between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and they will give you a government-owned and government-operated railway on which they will control the rates, and then you will get justice if you have not received it heretofore.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: They will call you a false prophet in a short while.

Mr. REID: Then you cannot have confidence in the Canadian Northern Railway Bill going through. I say it is going through, and when it does my prophecy that we would have a Government-owned and government-operated railway will come true.

Mr. A. K. MACLEAN: By this Government?

Mr. REID: By this Government. It was not with the consent of the hon. member; it was by this Government and by the members sitting on this side, and they are entitled to the credit of the Canadian Northern Railway Bill going through and of the people of Canada having a railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific owned by them.

Mr. CARROLL: But will not the Canadian Northern railway be subject to the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission just the same?

Mr. REID: Certainly.

Mr. CARROLL: They will make the laws regarding the freight rates.

Mr. REID: But the Railway Commission is under the jurisdiction of this Government.

Mr. PUGSLEY: You have always said not.

Mr. REID: The Railway Commission is under this Government, and they will do justice; if they do not we will remedy it.

Mr. PUGSLEY: I thought they were appointed for ten years.

Mr. REID: The people of Canada will in a few days have a railway owned and operated by them—

Mr. PUGSLEY: For which they will pay mighty dearly.

Mr. REID: —in spite of the opposition of the hon. member for St. John, although he was throwing up both hands for it a