

Mr. KNOWLES. Will the hon. member say whom he means?

Mr. LENNOX. I mean the hon. gentleman who has just risen.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not think the expression 'cheap political capital' is out of order.

Mr. KNOWLES. He said 'contemptible.'

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. It is a matter of taste whether it should be used.

Mr. KNOWLES. I submit the hon. gentleman is out of order in saying my tactics are contemptible.

Mr. LENNOX. I repeat the remarks very deliberately.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not think the hon. member is justified in using the word 'contemptible.'

Mr. LENNOX. I am pleased that I used it and will withdraw it in deference to your remark, because I think it necessary—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. LENNOX. I withdraw the remark in deference to the chairman. I have not changed my opinion one iota. I shall ask the minister for more definite information as to the policy of the government in this matter. The minister has not said whether the government will construct it as a national work or have it constructed by an independent company.

Mr. GRAHAM. I thought I made myself clear. The government have not come to a decision as to whether they will undertake the work as a government work or let it by contract to some great company. They have come to the conclusion that they will immediately ascertain by practical means what the work is likely to cost. Later they will decide the best means to secure its construction.

Mr. FOWLER. How long are the straits open?

Mr. GRAHAM. I should say from the information I have gleaned that navigation might be assured for four months in the year. Of course the bay is open longer.

Mr. FOWLER. The Ottawa 'Free Press' announced the other day in flaming headlines that the straits are open for navigation only about two months. Was that an inspired article?

Mr. GRAHAM. Oh, no.

Mr. S. J. JACKSON. I do not think it is wise to confine this survey to the Pas route. I am of opinion that we can find a more satisfactory route from the main line of the Canadian Northern Railway, and that the survey should be commenced 100 or 150 miles south of the Saskatchewan river in

Mr. LENNOX.

the hope of finding a better line. I am told there is a high ridge 30 or 40 miles east that would give a better line than the Canadian Northern line from Erwood.

Trent canal—to pay damages to properties by flooding, \$100,000.

Mr. FOWLER. What is that for?

Mr. GRAHAM. Owing to the building of the Trent canal and the construction of various dams certain lands have been flooded. We have had a man going through there and trying to value the damages. He reports that it will be necessary to put \$100,000 in the estimates to provide for the damage that has been done to the property of various farmers along the line of the canal.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Why is there not more in for the construction of the canal and less for the buying up of this land?

Mr. GRAHAM. There is \$1,000,000 in the main estimates for the Trent canal.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. That is only a trifle you should put the whole thing in.

Mr. FOWLER. I would suggest that if you had acquired the right to flood these properties before you commenced it would have cost infinitely less than what it will cost now that the damage has been done.

Cornwall canal—repairs to break in bank west of lock 18, \$150,000.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Is it true that the department was notified upwards of a year ago by Capt. Donnelly that this bank was likely to give way? I have seen that statement made on the authority of Mr. Hiram Calvin.

Mr. GRAHAM. I never heard of it.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Would the minister look up and see?

Mr. GRAHAM. I will look into it.

Mr. FOWLER. I would like to ask the minister if he proposes to do this work by day labour or by contract?

Mr. GRAHAM. A portion has been rushed by days' work; for the balance we will advertise for tenders and award the contract to the lowest tenderer.

Carillon dam—dam across slides, \$40,000.

Mr. BLAIN. I suppose the minister will allow one item to stand so that any one who is not here to-night may have an opportunity of discussing any of these items.

Mr. GRAHAM. We will allow item 457—Carillon dam—to stand.

Item allowed to stand.

Miscellaneous.

Railway Commission—maintenance and operation of the Board of Railway Commissioners for Canada (exclusive of an amount of \$25,000 authorized by statute)..\$13,000 00