

Mr. HARDIE: Could not the minister tell us whether or not the railway companies have suggested that they will pay a portion of this rail line? There must be something in their report.

Mr. HEES: That is all in the report that the railways have given to us and we are considering at the present time.

Mr. CHEVRIER: How much will it cost to build the railway, Mr. Minister?

Mr. HEES: I think I would sooner wait until we have considered this matter fully and have come to some conclusion on it.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Well, might I ask this question, will legislation be introduced at this session?

Mr. HEES: That is what was forecast in the speech from the throne.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we are getting a little off centre here. You are dealing now with page 7, investments in affiliated companies.

Mr. HARDIE: I think these questions properly come under this item, and the Northern Alberta railroad.

Mr. GORDON: Do you want me to say anything about it?

Mr. CHEVRIER: I wish you would.

Mr. GORDON: My position is quite clear. It is that at the request of the government, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canadian National Railways have made a reconnaissance of the routes of railway into Pine Point, and we have also given collateral information as to the economic possibility of a railway line.

That report has been made to the government and the government is considering it. Therefore there is nothing more I can say about it. The report is in the hands of the government.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Have you considered both lines from Waterways north, and from Grimshaw north, both alternative routes?

Mr. HEES: Yes. Both these routes have been considered.

Mr. FISHER: Would you indicate how satisfactory the cooperative arrangement has been that exists here with the Northern Alberta railways between the two railways?

Mr. GORDON: It is a joint operation, 100 per cent. We have no difficulty at all in reconciling our mutual interest in that particular operation.

Mr. FISHER: So, projecting the thing ahead, it would probably continue to be satisfactory wherever the extension should go?

Mr. GORDON: That is why it would be dangerous to discuss this. There has been no decision made as to how that line is going to be operated.

Mr. CHEVRIER: Can you say whether the Northern Alberta Railways operated jointly by your railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway, will make a capital contribution to the cost of the construction of this line?

Mr. GORDON: The minister can tell you whether we said it or not. It is not for me to say because the report is in the hands of the government and I cannot comment on it.

Mr. HEES: I would not want to make a comment at the present time about any of these matters. They are all under very active consideration by the government at this moment. When we have reached a conclusion, then I shall be glad to make a statement.

The CHAIRMAN: It is pretty hard to expect the minister to tell us.

Mr. HARDIE: That is the same answer I got last November.

Mr. HEES: You are getting closer to the final answer.