

shovel, spade, pick and barrow, taken at the nearest point of operation, and yet the hon. gentleman expects the country will agree with him in his wild animadversions upon the late Administration for not beginning railway construction at points which were for the time being inaccessible. The hon. gentleman has referred to the 134 miles of road built from Winnipeg westward. This is a very tender topic; one which I was surprised to hear the hon. gentleman mention. I would have supposed that he would have preferred the discussion of almost any other subject than this one. He knows that his colleague had located 200 miles of the road. The Syndicate have refused to accept the location. They said that it was bad. They set it aside, and chose a line for themselves. The eighty odd miles of road which he had built, they have abandoned. The Minister of Railways let a contract which paid so much more handsomely for ballasting than for grading, that I understand the contractor undertook to make the road bed with ballast. It was so well made that when the rains of autumn came, a considerable portion of it was under water, it can no longer be used; and there is now, a few miles from Winnipeg, a train frozen in the ice, and which has been frozen there since the early winter. There are some facts connected with this road which the House ought to know. We have a right to know whether the contractors were paid in full for a road built in this way. We have a right to know whether the Minister of Railways let a contract for the construction of a portion of the Pacific Railway upon plans and profiles so degraded that the road could only be used in the dry season of summer. I believe this statement is true. The Syndicate have found it to their interest to construct another line to Portage la Prairie and to abandon the line built by the hon. Minister of Railways. Who paid for the construction of this abandoned road—was it the Syndicate or was it the hon. Minister of Railways? What settlement has been made with the contractors of the second 100 miles who have not been permitted to go forward with their work? How was it the hon. Minister made such a mistake in the location of the road that the Syndicate found it necessary to abandon his line and to abandon all that has been done upon it? The hon. gentleman says that the Syndicate have now 134 miles built west of Winnipeg. I have good reason to believe that there is not one mile finished in such a way as to entitle the Syndicate to receive money or lands upon their contract, if that contract is strictly adhered to. Is it not a fact that a large portion of those 134 miles has been made by simply laying the ties upon frozen ground or on the ice? Is it not a fact that the road is neither graded nor ballasted