

is a basic principle, we cannot give money for expenditures unless we have the information.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Unless they have the information they cannot give it.

Mr. FOSTER. That is it exactly.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No one can object to that.

Hon. JOHN HAGGART. I understood from the hon. Minister of Railways (Mr. Emmerson) that the location of part of the Grand Trunk Pacific line had been deposited in his department. The terminals of the different routes have been deposited in his department for a long time.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No.

Mr. HAGGART. And his reason for not bringing down the information to the House was that it required the approval of the government before expropriation work could be done on that particular part.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. No.

Mr. HAGGART. Surely we are entitled to that information. The minister's answer to the House was that he was not going to open it up for speculators from one end of the country to the other in order that they might purchase land at probable locations of the Grand Trunk Pacific. The answer to this was that the information has been furnished to individuals in his own department already. If that is so, why has the House not been placed in possession of the information?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (South York). And why does the general public not have a show too?

Mr. EMMERSON. I stated to the House, and now I repeat, that plans had been deposited as respects the proposed terminals at Fort William and Port Arthur and also on the Pacific coast. That information is in the department. If my instructions were carried out, and I think they were, it is information that is under seal. I can say to my hon. friend that I even have not seen those plans and that they are under seal until the matter can be taken up. The reason given, I think, is a very good one that the information should not go out until the matter has been decided, until it has come under the consideration of the Minister of Railways and his colleagues. Until then it cannot be furnished and I think that on the ground of public policy and public interest it would not be wise to have the information given.

Mr. A. C. BOYCE (Algoma). I am somewhat astonished in view of what I know to be the facts—

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. If my hon. friend is to make a speech on the subject,

I would say to him that we will move the House into supply shortly and he will then have an opportunity to speak.

Mr. BOYCE. I am prepared to move the adjournment of the House.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It would be preferable for the hon. gentleman to make any remarks he wishes to make when the House is moved into supply.

Mr. BOYCE. My remarks are entirely along the lines of those of the gentlemen who have preceded me, and I would rather give them now. I will not take long.

Mr. SPEAKER. The more usual course is to wait until the House is moved into supply.

Mr. BOYCE. I was surprised to hear the Minister of Railways in view of what he has placed on record and of the historical facts in connection with these plans. I had the honour of moving before the House for a return of these plans early in February. The motion duly came on and the Minister of Railways informed me that it was impossible, having regard to the provisions of the Act, I think section 122 of the Railway Act, as revised in 1903, to place them upon the table of the House, because although he admitted that such plans had been deposited in the department and therefore he knew that plans with reference to Port Arthur, Fort William and the Pacific termini had been deposited in the department they had not, in accordance with that section of the Act which differs from the section of the Act as consolidated in 1888, been approved of by the department. The answer the hon. gentleman gave to the House was that he was not going to make these plans public to this House, because it would encourage speculation. I had been informed before making that motion, and I have verified my information since, that at that time copies of those plans showing the intentions of the Grand Trunk Pacific with regard to Port Arthur and Fort William had been issued from the Department of Railways, were being handed about and were being used by speculators. I thought, therefore, that it was an extraordinary matter that the Minister of Railways should come down to the House in reply to a motion for return and say forsooth, that it would encourage speculators if these plans which were deposited but not approved of were laid on the table of parliament, but they could be handed out by the back door to speculators in that part of the country and elsewhere. I think the situation calls for an explanation at the hands of the hon. gentleman and I trust that he will explain as fully as the circumstances require.

Mr. EMMERSON. I am certainly surprised at the remarks of the hon. gentleman.