

ister contemplate making provision for a car for the other branch of the commission? The question as to whether another official car should be provided for them is worthy of consideration.

Mr. GRAHAM. I was going to say I am surprised, but I shall not, because my hon. friend (Mr. Lancaster) has good sense, however, it amuses me a little to hear some person suggesting that we should have any more official cars.

Mr. LANCASTER. But this is in the interest of the public service.

Mr. SPROULE. You have an army of them now.

Mr. GRAHAM. I was criticised pretty strongly last year for giving the commission a car at all, but I may say that I agree with my hon. friend (Mr. Lancaster) that it would save a great deal of time and the commissioners would be able to do more work if they had a car on which the staff could be accommodated when travelling. However, it did not suggest itself to me and they themselves have not asked for it in their estimates this year. When the work increases it will be worthy of serious consideration that they should be fully equipped so that they can do their work with the least possible loss of time.

Mr. LANCASTER. We have the chief commissioner presiding over a branch of the board which is in the west with an official car and we have a co-ordinate branch presided over by the assistant chief commissioner which has not an official car when it is travelling on the public business. It seems to me it is consistent that if you give a car to one branch of the commission you should give a car to the other. I think it is a reasonable proposition and that the furnishing of this facility will enable the work to be done more expeditiously and the public served better.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose no haulage is charged for the Railway Commission car?

Mr. LANCASTER. The railways have to haul it free.

Mr. FOSTER. On what principle are the officials of the Railway Commission appointed?

Mr. GRAHAM. The secretary is appointed by the Governor in Council direct, and the other officials upon the recommendation of the chairman—perhaps I should say on the recommendation of the board—approved by the Governor in Council.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it on the request of the board that appointments are made?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes; they make a recommendation that such assistance is necessary.

Mr. LANCASTER.

Mr. FOSTER. As a matter of fact their recommendation is carried out?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, I think it has never been varied that I know of.

Mr. FOSTER. With reference to the vacancy on the board; I have been informed that this is a hard work commission and that its work is ahead of it. There does not seem to have been any excuse given for so long delay in filling the vacancy on the board. If so many commissioners are necessary to do the work they should all be there. Why this interregnum; is there any trouble within the Cabinet itself?

Mr. GRAHAM. If there were a man to be appointed from this vicinity I think I have my eyes on the one I want. We did not make the appointment right away after the death of Mr. Greenway, and some few months elapsed during which we were engaged in other matters and finding recently that the chief commissioner was going to the west himself I suggested we should not make any appointment until at least he would come back and give us his views. As I have said, if the selection were to be made from Ontario where I know most of the men, I would not have hesitated so long, but I want to consult the chief commissioner before the appointment is made and that is my reason for waiting.

Inspection—Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, \$28,000.

Mr. GRAHAM. We guarantee a certain percentage of the cost of the mountain section and of the prairie section, and Mr. Collingwood Schreiber has a staff under him all the time inspecting this work.

Mr. J. HAGGART. Have you a report from Mr. Schreiber?

Mr. GRAHAM. His report was placed on the table. In a few days I will include his interim report in the statement I shall make to the House before we take up the large item for the Transcontinental railway.

Mr. J. HAGGART. I would like to have that report before you make your statement.

Mr. GRAHAM. I will get a copy.

Mr. FOSTER. Months ago a statement was made that about 600 miles of the Grand Trunk Pacific west of Winnipeg had been finished and was in operation. Does that mean that the Grand Trunk Pacific is now in full possession of that 600 miles and is operating it?

Mr. GRAHAM. I believe it is still running as a construction road; we have not taken it over yet.

Mr. FOSTER. Is it being operated by the Grand Trunk Pacific or by the contractors?