

some progress to-night. If hon. members let this pass it does not deprive them of the opportunity of asking any questions which they have in mind. The hon. member will have all the time he desires and will have plenty of opportunity when the other Estimates come up, and I see no reason for his objecting to letting this go through to-night. When the Supplementary Estimates come up his right to ask questions will be unimpaird.

Mr. WHITE (Victoria): I do not wish to interfere with the agreement of the minister with the committee but I have two or three questions which I desire to ask and it is just possible I may not be here when the Supplementary Estimates are under consideration. I desire to ask the minister a question in regard to the Brudenheim branch. We had a promise last year in regard to this branch line but when the Estimates came down we found that no provision had been made for it. It will be remembered that the Canadian Pacific had applied for a charter to parallel this line and it was agreed that they would give support to the Canadian National railways and that the line would be completed last summer. There was nothing done about it and there has been nothing done yet. When the minister's Estimates were before the House on a former occasion he said that he would give the matter further consideration and that he would be able to give me an answer when his Estimates were again up for consideration. I would ask him if he has given it that consideration and if he can do anything this year. I might refresh his memory by saying that there are only thirty miles altogether and as he knows it would be a great advantage not only to the settler but to the railway as well. On that section of the line they are drawing ballast for sixty or seventy miles as far up as Edmonton. This projected branch has any amount of available ballast within six or seven miles of the mainland. The minister might get that information from his engineers and other members of his staff.

There is another matter to which I would like to call the attention of the minister and that is that the people particularly in the district east of Edmonton suffered very greatly last year from lack of equipment. They were unable to get their grain out, there was no way of clearing the elevators. As a result there was congestion in the elevators from Edmonton east and spring came before they could get that equipment.

[Mr. J. D. Reid.]

The grain is still there and the season has been so wet that they could not haul it out. The minister talks about moving coal from the West but if he can get the equipment his first duty is to move the grain. A large portion of the grain is yet with the farmers. They are unable to get it out as they have been too busy putting in their spring crops and they have suffered great hardships.

Mr. J. D. REID: Is that not the line that the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern between them are to build?

Mr. WHITE (Victoria): Exactly.

Mr. J. D. REID: I am afraid that, as far as I can remember just now, there is nothing in the Estimates for that work. We had arranged in the committee that one company was to build one part and another company another, but I have not anything in the Estimates during the present year. In reference to the equipment for grain, I agree that grain must come ahead of everything else in so far as equipment is concerned. This is one reason why I have hesitated to ask for coal or box cars. I am asking for all the equipment this year that is practicable for wheat business.

Mr. CAHILL: I know the minister wants to be reasonable, and if we were to pass everything but item 127, with the understanding that we could ask any question on that item we might allow the Estimates to pass.

Mr. J. D. REID: I have several large items in the Supplementary Estimates which will be laid on the Table to-night. There is an item of \$25,000,000 for the Grand Trunk and Canadian Northern railways. There are items for the Canadian National railways construction, canal estimates, purchases for railways, etc. I think any one of these items would cover everything that the hon. gentleman has mentioned. If I could see that it would make any difference I would not object at all, but I would ask the hon. member, so long as it does not interfere with his position, to allow these Estimates to pass.

Mr. CAHILL: But it does interfere with my position.

Mr. CALDWELL: As I may not be here when the Supplementary Estimates are taken up, I would ask the minister to take a note of my question and put the answer on Hansard.

Mr. CAHILL: I want to find out who the tenderers are, how the contracts are let and