

Mr. STEWART: And I suppose, when they demonstrated the feasibility of the route, then you would incorporate it in the National Railways?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If it were a good thing I would let them have all the profits out of it.

The CHAIRMAN: You are quite safe in that offer, I think.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: If they can make money out of the Hudson Bay road, the money would be all theirs.

Mr. KYTE: A large delegation from the west came here some time ago, and the business men in the west asked the government to build the railway and they would furnish the money to build the terminals, shipping piers and elevators and would look after the shipment of grain themselves.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I think they only said they would build the elevators.

The CHAIRMAN: Would they operate the road and finance the deficits that would result?

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: A gentleman from Manitoba has written me once or twice about it, and I suggested that if he had a concrete proposition to make, it would be considered.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I would not try to sell it; I would give it away. I do not like the idea of taking on any more obligations, the end of which we do not know.

Mr. STEWART: There is a very important point upon which I think I should get some information; it was that point upon which I asked Sir Henry Thornton a question.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Try again, and we will see what we can do.

Mr. STEWART: There is an opinion very frequently expressed in eastern Canada that further investigation is necessary. Sir Henry Drayton has said that western Canada is convinced in this matter, and I do not think investigation would convince them more thoroughly, unless it brought out prominent facts, and a good many of those. But I say I have heard that opinion expressed very frequently, that further investigation is necessary. That is, eastern Canada seems to have that in mind and bases its arguments upon the fact that the feasibility of the line has not been proven. Now, whose is the responsibility to carry on these investigations? There would be no opposition on the part of western Canada, so long as they were convinced that such an investigation was not for the purpose of holding up the road. Do you expect the provinces which are thoroughly convinced about it to undertake a thorough investigation to convince the rest of Canada, or has this Federal government sufficient responsibility and interest in it to do that, or has the Canadian National Railway Board the responsibility in that respect?

The CHAIRMAN: Sir Henry Thornton has said he thinks they have no responsibility.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: I would say if there is an investigation to be made, it is the business of the Dominion Government to do it, on the authority of Parliament.

Hon. Mr. STEWART: Would you make that investigation before you gave instructions to the Canadian National Railways with regard to it?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: You might do it through the Canadian National Railways; they would be the appropriate agents.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it is understood they would not make such an investigation unless they were asked to do so.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: With such an important question of policy involved, affecting the people of Canada as a whole, I do not think it is within the province of the Canadian National Railways to instigate a proposition of that