

rior stated that the land grant for this railway had all been patented.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. This last spring has been very wet in the Northwest, and any one who is familiar with the lower Saskatchewan knows that for many a mile on either side the country is flat and boggy. It will require a great deal of work to get any road in good condition, more especially in a very wet spring such as we have had in the Northwest. No new railway in the Northwest was in a good condition this year.

Mr. HERRON. Has the government arrived at any policy yet with regard to the building of this road? Are they going to build it themselves, or let it out to a corporation?

Mr. GRAHAM. The one definite policy the government have arrived at is that this road will be built, and built immediately, by somebody. To ascertain what the probable cost of the road would be is the first necessary step, whether we shall build it ourselves or let it to somebody else. For that purpose I am having a party organized to start out very shortly to make a survey from the Saskatchewan river to the Hudson bay, to Fort Churchill probably, possibly, to some other point on Hudson bay. But before I take any steps in that direction we will have to have a survey made to see what it is going to cost, whether we build it ourselves or whether we get it done by somebody else.

Mr. LAKE. When will the parties start out, and how long will it take them?

Mr. GRAHAM. A survey party will be organized instantly. They will be away from here shortly after we are. This road is going to be built by somebody and built immediately.

Mr. LAKE. Would the minister let this item stand until he can give us the information in regard to the condition of the railway to which I referred just now, and in regard to which I asked for information? Unless that bank is completed, and I understand the whole country has to be drained, it will not be possible to get to the Pas.

Mr. KNOWLES. I object to allowing the item to stand. Whether the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) is of that opinion or not, in my opinion the people of the west want the preliminary survey and the location of the route effected at the earliest possible moment. I extremely regret that as a representative of the people the hon. member would be a party to the delaying of the matter by having the item stand. More than that, I think it is not fair to say the vote is only for the making of a preliminary survey, because it is not only

for acquiring the information which is essential, but likewise to locate the line which is to be built. As the Minister of Railways has said, the first step to be taken in the construction of the road by the government or by a company is to make the survey and locate the line, and the Minister of Railways says that is being done this year. I trust the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) will withdraw his objection and will not insist on allowing the item to stand, causing further delay. I also wish to respectfully correct the impression in the minds of the House that the banks of the lower Saskatchewan or the country in the vicinity of the banks is of a marshy nature. I have given some little study to this, and I might say there are 70 miles which are of limestone formation to the north of the river, which is the best formation on which to construct a railway.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The hon. member does not know that the railway approaches the river from the south.

Mr. LAKE. The hon. gentleman's remarks about holding this item up are absolutely unfair. He knows that perfectly well and knows that he is trying to make a little paltry political capital out of it.

Mr. KNOWLES. I rise to a point of order. The hon. member should not say that I am trying to make cheap political capital.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. I do not think that is out of order.

Mr. LAKE. The hon. gentleman is perfectly aware, no one more so, that to ask this item to stand for another day will not affect the date on which the item is passed by the House, as all these items must be collected into a Supply Bill.

Mr. GRAHAM. My hon. friend surely does not mean to hold this item as a hostage until I bring down the information? This has nothing to do with the Canadian Northern Railway Pas line.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. The greater part of the Pas line is fit for any sort of traffic, but there is no railway in that part of the west which has not been softened up by the heavy rains in this wet spring.

Mr. LAKE. If the minister will give the information I will ask him for it on going into Supply.

Mr. LENNOX. I do not wish to delay the item, and I hope the hon. member for West Assinibola will not think I am doing so. I think it is utterly contemptible the tactics some hon. gentlemen seem to adopt at times for the purpose of making cheap political capital. There should be a sense of honour among gentlemen that will not, for the mere petty advantage they can make in that way, utterly misrepresent what another member says.