

Sir HENRY THORNTON: We have not yet undertaken to run it.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What is the exact position?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: The exact position is this, that we have interested private capital in the construction of that line. Now, just precisely what arrangement we will make I do not know, because it has not yet been made.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: That will run from where to where?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: From O'Brien to Rouyn.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What mileage?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: About 50 miles.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: So that the exact arrangement is an open book yet?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Quite.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: All you have done is interest private capital in the building of it. Have they started work already?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: I do not think so. No.

The CHAIRMAN: Next page, 24, "Improvements."

Mr. HARRIS: Mr. Chairman, just before we leave this page, I asked some time ago with regard to an opinion which was given by Mr. Ruel of the legal department some time ago regarding the Regina Hotel, and the opinion that was filed was one by Mr. Chisholm dated the day before I asked for the information. I understood there was a written opinion by the senior officer of the legal department, at the time negotiations were first started, that is, before any particular work was done in Regina. That was the opinion I asked for, not the opinion of Mr. Chisholm. I just wondered if I could get the original opinion.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Of course, the opinion of Mr. Chisholm would be the opinion of the legal department. My recollection of the way that was settled is that Mr. Ruel was to come here and discuss the matter, the legal aspect of it, with the committee.

Mr. HARRIS: Is there any objection to filing the original opinion of Mr. Ruel

Sir HENRY THORNTON: None at all. I think it was a written opinion, it is just barely possible it may have been a verbal opinion given me.

The CHAIRMAN: If you have it, you will present it?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes, certainly, but I think we will have Mr. Ruel here tomorrow.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, may we pass on? Does any member desire to ask anything further? If not, we will just go on to page 24. If we can go on to this page we will finish with the expenditures. Page 24 reads, "Improvements on leased railway property during the year 1924."

Mr. STEWART (Humboldt): There is a footnote to that page which I think needs a little explanation to make it clear.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean, "expenditures on properties leased from one system company to another are included in this account."

Sir HENRY THORNTON: That is purely to keep the books straight.

Mr. HARRIS: Can you make any general statement as to how much you think this item is going to be increased?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: The general statement I made before will apply with equal force to this page.

Mr. HARRIS: In the course of one year it jumps almost 25 per cent, that is, from \$4,625,329.16 to \$5,860,651.08.

[Sir Henry Worth Thornton, K.B.E.]