

Bay railway the leader of the Government must assume just as much responsibility as the leader of the Opposition, because preceding the last election the leader of this Government pledged himself to the people of Canada that if he were returned to power he would build the Hudson Bay railway; and as an hon. friend reminds me, he said that he would build it much faster than the Liberal Administration would.

Let us take the case of the National Transcontinental railway. It is too late to discuss the question of the advisability of building that railway. The people of Canada decided that question in the election of 1904, and they decided it very largely in its favour. When my hon. friend the Minister of Finance brings back those stale arguments about what the original cost was supposed to be and what the road actually cost, he knows from his own experience, since he has been a member of this Government, that many things cost a great deal more than one originally expects them to do. What, for example, about that public building, almost within sight of Parliament? When the Government is through paying for it, it will find that that building will cost a great deal more than was originally anticipated. This Government paid out over \$100,000—I think I am correct in the figure—to a couple of gentlemen, partisan friends, who spent over a year in investigating every contract in connection with the construction of the National Transcontinental railway, from one end to the other. What conclusion did they arrive at? Every hon. gentleman opposite knows that, before that report was brought into this House, rumours were spread broadcast throughout the country as to what great scandals were forthcoming against the late Administration. Since that report has been brought down and discussed here, scarcely a reputable Tory newspaper has dared to print a single line or to make a single reference to it.

At six o'clock, the House took recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

PRIVATE BILLS.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

The House in Committee on Private Bills, Mr. Seigny in the Chair.

Bill No. 52, respecting the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay Canal Company—Mr. G. V. White—in committee.

[Mr. Neely.]

On section 1—extension of time for completion:

Mr. GRAHAM: This went through the Railway Committee, did it?

Mr. LANCASTER: Yes. This is in exactly the same terms as the Bill of two years ago, with the same provision for the protection of the Government as to damages.

Mr. NESBITT: What extension of time is allowed?

Mr. LANCASTER: Three years to commence and nine to complete. We do not have the same rules with regard to canals as to railways.

Mr. NESBITT: Under certain circumstances we have the right to take it over?

Mr. LANCASTER: Yes. And if the Government take it over they pay only limited species of damages.

Mr. GRAHAM: Has the Government any policy to announce on the Georgian Bay canal?

Hon. W. T. WHITE: This is hardly an opportune time to discuss the general question. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) is not present. I understand that the policy of the hon. gentleman (Mr. Graham) is to stop all public works.

Mr. GRAHAM: No.

Mr. WHITE: That is the view expressed by many of his associates. The policy of the Government, as announced in the Budget speech, is that we are not proceeding with new works until the sources from which the expenditure is to be defrayed are apparent.

Mr. CARVELL: Not much hope for the Georgian Bay canal this year.

Mr. WHITE: Does the hon. gentleman suggest that we should go on with it at once?

Mr. GRAHAM: No, my suggestion is that the hon. gentleman should make up his mind at once about it. If he does not intend to do anything this year, let him make up his mind whether or not he intends to do something next year. A commission was appointed a couple of years ago to investigate the commercial possibilities of this scheme. Have they made any report to the Government?

Mr. WHITE: No report has been made. I understand that the commission is at work obtaining the necessary information as