

which bear particularly upon the maintenance and establishment of separate schools are italicised all the way through. That would not appear in an official statement, or ought not to. Evidently there is a tendency in it to make an argument as well as to present official information.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am not prepared at this moment to dispute what my hon. friend says; I simply tell him that it was done by the Secretary of State.

#### REPORT FROM RAILWAY COMMISSION.

Mr. H. LENNOX. On the 22nd of February last there was a discussion in reference to obtaining a report from the Board of Railway Commissioners on their work during the last financial year. Probably sufficient time has not elapsed for the preparation of that report, but I would ask the Minister of Railways if he can inform the House when we may expect it?

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). I had a conference with the chairman of the Railway Commission, and he stated that the secretary of the commission was now preparing such a report. As soon as it is placed in my hands I will lay it on the table of the House.

Mr. LENNOX. Can the hon. minister state any definite time when it will be ready?

Mr. EMMERSON. I did not ask the exact date. Only to day the chairman assured me that it was being prepared, but I did not ask whether it would be ready in a day or two. I assumed it would be ready in the near future.

#### GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC RAILWAY—SURVEYS.

Mr. FOSTER. There is another question I would like to ask the Minister of Railways. We have on several occasions pressed for some information with reference to surveys made upon the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific. It is a question in which parliament is of course very deeply interested inasmuch as parliament furnishes the guarantees for all, or very nearly, all the road and the money for a large part of it. The House has had no information at all up to the present time and the Minister of Railways has fallen back upon the non possumus argument; he has stated that he has no control over the commission. There ought to be some medium of communication between the commission and this House, and I imagine that it ought to be through the Minister of Railways. The representatives of the people ought to have access to the earliest information, especially when they are in session. Information has leaked out or has been given out by mem-

Mr. FOSTER.

bers of the commission as to what has been found. It is said that grades and facilities in the way of running a line have been discovered that were not dreamed of before. If this can be fairly well established it should be made known, but I find that the other day Mr. Hays, in making an address before a club in Toronto, gave absolutely definite information as to grades and curves. We have been in session now for two months, we, the representatives of the people who are responsible for the cash and the credit. Surely if there is such information we ought to have it, and it does look derogatory to the privileges of parliament and to the good business conduct of public affairs that a private club in Toronto or anywhere else should have definite and specific information with reference to this subject that has been withheld from the House. I simply call the attention of the First Minister and the Minister of Railways to this in order that it may be remedied. That information must be there or Mr. Hays could not have used it. If it is available I think it should be furnished to us as the House has asked for it.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The request of my hon. friend is not at all unreasonable, but I must tell him that the government has no information whatever up to the present time upon this subject. We have heard hearsay, as my hon. friend has, from different quarters that grades have been found which are very satisfactory and that the character of the land has been found to be far better than was expected. The Grand Trunk Pacific have had engineers surveying this country for the past two years and more and they may have information which the government has not, but which perhaps the commission may have at this time.

Mr. FOSTER. That is the point.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The commission has not made a report. The question has come up as to whether the commission should be asked to make a report. As to that I have not come to any conclusion; it is a question that deserves fair consideration before an answer is given one way or another. The government, however, have no information. It may be advisable to ask the commission for information. It is a matter for consideration which may well be looked into.

Mr. FOSTER. It seems to me that after we had pressed for the information before, some one should have taken the trouble to have asked the commission if they have information. Surely the government must have some means of getting that information. I must say to my hon. friend that the commission require money to carry on their work and I am sure that this House will not consent to give the money to carry it on unless we have the information. That