

Hudson Bay Railway Terminal

words left out "Provided the difficulty referred to is overcome." Why were those words left out? Mr. Speaker, I shall again retire to my chair, as I retired formerly, so that I may hear what the Minister of Railways has to say. I hope he will do better than the Minister of Agriculture has done in his bogus alibi. It would seem that he has not much inclination to speak.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to waste much time of the house, nor do I intend to copy my hon. friend's example of wasting time. I cannot lay my hand on the incident at all. I had the whole matter looked up at the time, and gave the information in connection with it. As to being unfair to Mr. Graham, I can say only that he is a friend of mine and I would not have attempted to be unfair to him. I had the evidence before me at the time, and I think it was quite conclusive that Mr. Graham was favourable to Nelson, just the same as others were.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Of course, we all were, provided Nelson could be made into a good harbour.

Mr. MANION: Well, what is the matter then?

Mr. MOTHERWELL: We were all in favour of it—only, we were not in favour of it, because it was no good. I would be pleased to hand the minister a copy of Hansard, to which there could be no objection. Imagine anybody stopping at a comma only seven words away from a full stop. Did he go into a trance; he does not do that very often. My hon. friend has often stood up and invoked an infusion of red Canadian blood into hon. members on this side of the house. I believe he has it, just as we have, but it seems to me there was a yellow streak infused into the hon. member when he perpetrated such a dastardly garble of the record as he did on that occasion. He could not find it he says; he and his colleagues have not been able to find a lot of returns which were asked for, and many letters are coming down only at the last minute. Now, Mr. Speaker, so far as I am concerned I am content to go into estimates.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Edmonton): Mr. Speaker, as my name has figured rather prominently in the controversy respecting Waterhen lake I think I should clear myself of any responsibility alleged to lie at my door concerning the spread of noxious weeds. What the ex-Minister of Agriculture has said is true; we inherited this project. I may say

[Mr. Motherwell.]

that throughout my whole administration of the Department of the Interior I set my face religiously against the drainage of any area and I do not think the statement can be made that any single area was drained while I was minister of that department. I took the stand that there was plenty of dry land in western Canada for settlement purposes, without any drainage whatever. Having inherited this project however something had to be done with it. Certainly there was no sow thistle in that lake when the water was taken off, and at the request of the municipalities on different occasions we spent money to meet the difficulties brought about by the sow thistle; I am speaking from memory. I do think my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture went somewhat out of his way to be critical of the administration of that particular project. I know if it had not been for the appearance of things I would have restored the dam and flooded the lake again, but when you get one of those difficult propositions you just have to do the best you can. It is quite true, as my hon. friend has inferred, that until perhaps the last two years we were in power the Department of Agriculture was not consulted about the matter. The land was leased and I believe farmed in an improper manner as far as land of that character is concerned. Land is always sour when water leaves it and difficulties will arise unless you leave it in grass and cultivate it in that manner for a few years.

I just desired to make these remarks, although I am not particularly interested in what the Minister of Agriculture or anyone else has to say with regard to my administration; I am always ready to defend it when it comes under review. I just want to say that as far as Waterhen lake is concerned we used our best judgment in the matter, and it is wholly erroneous to say we were responsible for seeding that lake or that community with sow thistle. I visited that district on two or three occasions, and every time complaints were made by the weed inspector, mowers were put in and the weeds cut. I am bound to say that from my observation that was not done to the same extent on the surrounding land. If my hon. friend looks up the records of the department he will find that expenditures were made for this very purpose on at least three occasions.

SUPPLY—AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS

Mr. T. F. DONNELLY (Willow Bunch): Before you leave the chair, Mr. Speaker, I desire to say a few words with regard to the position in which agriculture finds itself to-