

fore me and at the moment I cannot remember what the arrangement was with reference to the running rights over that road. While Mr. Cochrane was absent, as Acting Minister I entered into an arrangement with the Quebec Government to run over that road instead of building a road into St. John paralleling from Westville in. The hon. member states that it would cost \$100,000 but I do not see how it could cost so much. This is a matter that the New Brunswick and the Dominion Governments would have to dispose of by some mutual agreement. In the Supplementary Estimates, which contain large items in connection with the railways, I shall have full information at my disposal and shall be able to give to my hon. friend more details than I can to-night. If he will let the matter stand until then I will try to answer him to better advantage than I can this evening.

The hon. member for Inverness (Mr. Chisholm) made some remarks in reference to the Inverness railway. I do not blame him for regretting the fact that the Government have not taken over that railway. There was an understanding last year that we would take over all these railways in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, at a certain rate per mile. I took this matter up with the bondholders, or the representatives of the bondholders, and it was agreed that they should get \$150,000 for that railway. The agreement was signed and we passed an Order in Council, but what happened I cannot tell. However, the hon. member, I think, will agree that I could not do more than I did. The parties having agreed on the price, it was not my fault that the agreement was not consummated, although I admit that it will probably be a serious thing for that part of the country.

The hon. member for Cape Breton North and Victoria (Mr. McKenzie) referred to branch lines in the county of Victoria. We are getting some more railway work done in Cape Breton. In the Supplementary Estimates there will be an item to pay for the Cape Breton road which runs to St. Peter's, this being commonly known as the Webb Road. At one time there was a scheme to project that road further along to Bras d'Or Lakes, but I do not think that is where the hon. member referred to. I agree with him that there should be extensions in the lower provinces, and I shall take up the question with the railway management to see what the situation is and ascertain to what extent the people in these localities can be served by ex-

tensions of railways. I agree that while we are constructing railways in the West we should not overlook other parts of the country where roads are necessary.

Now, may I ask hon. gentlemen opposite, in view of the fact that we have had a thorough discussion of the whole railway situation, and as there are large items in the Supplementary Estimates in connection with which the whole question can be brought up again, that they allow these items to pass at the present juncture. When the Supplementary Estimates are up I shall have no objection whatever to answering any questions hon. members may desire to put in connection with the railways or canals. The hour is getting rather late, and we might pass the items in the Main Estimates, and on the Supplementary Estimates there will be ample opportunity for hon. members to discuss any questions relative to canals or railways.

Mr. BUREAU: Then, as I understand the minister, there is a distinct understanding that on the Supplementary Estimates the whole matter may be gone over again.

Mr. J. D. REID: Everything may be gone over. I have items on canals and railways and I shall have no objection, as has been done this evening, to answering any questions hon. gentlemen may ask with reference to railways and canals.

Mr. CAHILL: These agreements may be all right to those who make them, but I have certain questions which I desire to submit to the minister and I want to ask them on the Main Estimates and not on the Supplementary Estimates, which will come up on the last night.

Mr. J. D. REID: Of course, I have no objection to going on now, but—

Mr. CAHILL: I admit that the hour is rather late. Two o'clock in the morning is an extraordinary time for us to be discussing important matters such as these; but I have questions I desire to ask.

Mr. J. D. REID: The hon. member will have an opportunity to ask questions on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. CAHILL: I think the minister could very well report progress and take up the Estimates to-morrow.

Mr. J. D. REID: On the Supplementary Estimates my hon. friend can ask the questions which he desires to submit as well as on these Estimates, and we could make