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## OPPOSITION CRITICISE COSTLY RAILROAD POLICY OF THE MORRIS GOVERNMENT

the first time that the leader of the build branch railways. Government has admitted that he These branches cost \$15,000 a mile now asked for will suffice to comwas out in his calculations. If the and actual cash expenditure to-day plete the work. We have a letter rt, hon. member was out in his calcu- was over \$5,000,000. lations four years ago, he is abso-

year 1914, but the clock has been put mate, but he knew these extras were struct and equip these branch lines. back four year and we are discussing required and certainly was well the branch railway resolutions and aware of the fact when two years not the third loan bill. We are not afterwards he said at Burin that four considering to-night whether the Pre- million dollars would cover the entire pretty closely, no Colony no matter mier had a mandate from the people cost of the branch railways. to build these railways, for he had The Prime Minister said that mem- the past 12 or 14 months to put it four years ago, in 1910, and we bers on this side of the House were 3½ per cent. loan upon the market. are not called upon now to decide a hostile court. What happened to Surely that is a matter that has occuwhether the contract was a good or the other chamber at that time? The pied the attention of the Government. bad one. We have it now and must leader of the Government in the Leg-

loan bill and this country is called the matter, and that four million dolupon to pay for the branches twice as lars would be sufficient to build and Canada got a black eye in asking for much as the people were led to be- equip the branch lines. lieve it would cost. We were told by The Hon. Mr. Robinson ridiculed these branch lines of railway would would cost nearer seven or eight mil be built without any further taxation lion dollars than four millions. on the people of the country.

put on the \$350,000 which were taken on the wrong side of the account. \$250,000 or an amount almost equiva- standing accounts in connection with lent to that required to pay the in- this work, but it is our duty as an

be raised for this purpose. Dr. Lloyd-Mr. Chairman, this is terest on the money necessary to ernment Engineer for the purpose of

islative Council had charge of resolutions and stated that very care We are now considering the third ful consideration had been given to

the Premier in his manifesto that the contention that the branch lines

Greatly Miscalculated What a commentary on that position | When the Prime Minister asked for to-day, when the Finance Minister another loan of two million dollars he has tabled his Budget and increased stated that the amount would not the duties by a quarter of a million only be sufficient fully to build and dollars more than the taxes in force equip the line, but that there would when the railway contract was made, be a balance left over. Yet, it was The Finance Minister has not only true, there was abalnce, but it was off last year, but has added another | We admit we have to pay all out-

Opposition to criticise the action of some progressive policy laid before

ascertaining whether the two millions from Mr. Hall, but that letter does not buttress up the case of the Govlutely out in his calculations to-night. The Prime Minister stated that the ernment to the extent that this two Apparently, we are not living in the extras were not included in his esti- million now asked for will fully con-

> Difficult To Get Money So far as I have been able to discover and I have followed the matter how substantial has attempted during

> It is is perfectly true that the financial stringency that existed almost

the whole of last year has somewhat abated, but it is by no means over, may22,tf and not long since the Dominion of a 4 per cent. loan.

Now, under these circumstances ment as men who are bound to watch the markets when anything unusual occurs, why has nothing been told us as to the reasons that prompted the Government to take this extraordin

Charged The Premier Surely that is more relevant to th question before us than a debate of whether we have a mandate or not, or whether the contracts are good,

bad or indifferent. Now, Sir, I make these criticisms and in doing so I can assure th mates I do not imply that he deliberately or wilfully deceived either this House or this country.

I do not charge him with that, but I do charge him with laxity in creatng an impression throughout this country-and an impression that not went through the country, but which was created in the minds of the leading members of his own ac ministration—that this country was going to get through this contract or a loan that would entail an annual in terest charges of \$140,000.

Mr. Coaker

Mr. Coaker-Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few remarks about this matter. I must first congratulate the Premier on the excellent speech which he has delivered. Now, I listened to his explanation as to the tract was a good one, and I must come to the conclusion that he has not established his case in showing

What I do most strongly condemn is what my friend, Dr. Lloyd, has pointed out, that the country was led five branch railways by an expenditure of four million dollars, and was one of the men who changed get these five branch railways for

Sensational Mistake The country at that time wanted

the Government with the object of it, and Sir Edward Morris came out preventing them from r peating their with this railway policy and promised mistakes. From the past utterances these five branches for four million of the Prime Minister are we now dollars. Then, to the astonishment justified in accepting his assurance of the country, it was found that this that no more money will require to four million dollars was not enough. Now they are bringing the amount The Government were obliged to up to eight millions, and no one requisition the services of the Gov- seems to know how much more it is

That is the serious point and the ability and with the knowledge he

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This is a point which the country and the people cannot understand. am now speaking from the standpoint of the common men-not men like Dr. Lloyd or Mr. Kent that can argue upon the legal aspect-but the common man, the man on the street,

The Premier said that if he was out in his estimate he was in good company, as Sir Robert Bond had estimated the distance at 190 miles, and Mr. Anderson at 275 miles. I never understood that Mr. Ander-

son was an authority on this mat be quoted with the authority of xpert upon railway matters or the surveys of land. . He will be delighted when he finds that he is such an important man.

Cost Too High

Now, there is another aspect to this question, and it is this, if the people had been told that this railroad policy was going to cost eight million dollars, they would never have had anything to do with it. They were satisfied to pay four million dollars or an annual interest charge of \$140,000 for these railways, but they are not satisfied to pay eight million dollars and \$280,000 as an interest tax for these branches.

We wanted some improvements in connection with the railway system, but there are dozens of things we wanted worse than these branches. Send in your order for the daily If this money had been used in buying these motor boats for the fisherit would not be necessary to put on this \$650,000 extra taxation, because hundreds of thousands of dollars would be coming into the revenue owing to increased imports, because of the great amount of wealth produced by our fishermen.

Cannot Afford It

We were satisfied to pay \$4,000,000 satisfied to pay \$8,000,000, because we cannot afford it. It would have bee much better to have spent this money in the development of our fishery and our agricultural and our lumbering resources, which would have meant increased earnings for our people.

Nw the Premier speaks of the money he got from Bell Island as helping to pay the interest on the wou'd have been there to add to the these railways. New, we do not give much credit for that money. We say that he should have got more than he did. If he had not got what he did we would say that he had no more brains than Sir Robert Bond.

Now, he only got 71/2 cents a ton He might have said to the Companies here is the Fishermen's Union demanding ten cent a ton on this ore. By the next election they will have eight or ten men in the House and and we will fix the matter for you. Not Well Handled

Now, I am sorry to say that we are not getting all the money we should out of our timber lands. It appears that there is a lot outstanding still From the information tabled we find that there is \$91,000 due the Crown Lands on these timber limits. I hope they will make an effort and get this

Now the Premier has stated that the wages in 1890 were 80 cents and a dollar a day, and to-day they are \$1.50. He forgot that a man who gets \$1.50 to-day is no better off than the man who got \$1.00 in 1890.

He speaks of having fixed the wages of the men working on the railway at \$1.50 a day. No, as a matter of fact the contractor could not get men to

Now let me tell him that the wages will not stand long at \$150, because next year the men will get \$1.60 and \$1.70, as we will not let them work

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