

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax.) Will the hon. gentleman permit me to say that he has misquoted my remarks in that he has not given my entire statement on this point. I said, immediately following the words the hon. gentleman has quoted:

"In all this, act reasonably, survey your country, consider your course, consider the distance to be saved, consider the cost of haulage to be saved. Do not plunge into the thing rashly, do not undertake to build it upon a survey made thirty or forty years ago when railway conditions were different from what they are at present. Go into the enterprise sanely, after having obtained information which would justify you in believing that it would give a better chance for trade to the people of the maritime provinces."

From Moncton to Lévis.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Hon. Sir William Mulock). The hon. gentleman has not at all displaced anything I have said. I did not pretend to read all his words I read the portion of his remarks wherein he said that if a better line can be procured he is prepared to build a line from Moncton to Lévis.

The Question of Cost is a Circumstance, but it is Not a Controlling Circumstance With the Hon. Gentleman,

Who, I am sure, will not say in this House that he is against the building of a line from Moncton to Lévis, nor for that matter from Lévis or Quebec to the Pacific ocean. The hon. gentleman is prepared to build a line from Moncton, to put it under contract from Moncton to Lévis if an engineer can tell him that a better line than the existing Intercolonial line can be obtained. That is his proposition, he has put himself on record and from it he cannot recede. Either that is true or he did not intend to express himself as he did in the language which I have quoted.

Hon. gentlemen have said that it will cost \$10,000,000, I think they say \$15,000,000 to build from Moncton to Lévis. If that line would be 400 miles long and \$25,000 a mile is put down as the cost, it will cost \$10,000,000. I am sure there is not an hon. gentleman in the House who will say that this is an unreasonable estimate.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.) Too low.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. Well, I won't say whether it is too low or not. The Minister of Finance, I think, estimated it at something like that. Now we have reached Lévis at the south side of the river St. Lawrence, a mile or two from the city of Quebec. What is his policy when he gets to the city of Quebec? Again, I will read his words:

"So far as the line from Quebec to Winnipeg is concerned, I am not disposed to minimize the possibility of that northern country. Looking at the history of the great west, there may be a great flood of settlement into that country north of Lake Superior, some day or other, at least up to a certain point west, but I do not think we know enough to justify us at present in saying that there will or will not be, because I do not know how far that country is capable of competing, in the early future, with the magnificent country we have in the North-west. I have some doubts as to whether or not that great northern country may compete as early as we would desire with the great western country. But I am not disposed to minimize its importance in any way, and to my mind the rational way of dealing with that road from Winnipeg to Quebec is this. To thoroughly explore and understand it, and then to build that line from Quebec to Winnipeg, as a colonization road, according as the requirements of the people and colonization demand. To build it after you have obtained the fullest possible information and obtain that information with the least possible delay. You may find curious