

hon. gentleman does not bring any charge against the Government, in a corrupt sense. All he says is the Minister of Public Works did not fairly and justly estimate the loss (from the hon. gentleman's point of view) that it would be to this country to go on with that expenditure; that when he concluded to deflect the line of railway north and this communication would not be in the line of the railway, he should have abandoned this work after the expenditure of \$110,000, and let it go. The Government thought differently.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON — And spend \$500,000.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The hon. gentleman criticises us for expending money in completing a work, which we believe will be of considerable importance, not only to that section, but to the whole of the North-West. I am advised that the land along Rainy River, is of a very superior character; that already a very considerable population has gone in there; that in the last two or three years, some two or three hundred persons have settled there; that the Department of the Interior have laid off several townships, and it is quite evident the country has considerable attraction for immigrants. Another of the advantages that, I am advised, will flow from the completion of those works—though my hon. friend appears to doubt it very much—is that it will afford an avenue for the bringing in of sawn lumber into the North-West. At the present time, as hon. members know, the prices for lumber in Manitoba and the North-West are quite high. I think clear stuff is worth about \$50 a thousand, and inferior boards sell for \$20 per thousand.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—Where? At Winnipeg?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Yes; I was reading in a Manitoba paper and found that was the price.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—You can get clear lumber at Winnipeg for \$25 to \$30 per thousand.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—In a Manitoba paper, which I have now before me, the price of clear lumber is put down at \$50 to \$55.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—That must be seasoned lumber.

Hon. Mr. Scott.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It is quite obvious that the price of lumber in that country is very high, and that this communication will enable parties to bring lumber through Rainy River down to the North-West Angle, and thence by rail to Manitoba and the North-West.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—From the State of Minnesota.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It comes from Minnesota now, and the facilities for transporting it will be greatly increased by the construction of this work, and if we can give cheap lumber to our own people it will be of advantage to them no matter where it comes from.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—Minnesota will derive all the benefit if there is any.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—A gentleman in the Department of the Interior informs me that there is a thousand millions of feet of lumber in the country north and north-west of Rainy Lake, and the outlet for that lumber would be by Lake of the Woods and the railway west from Keewatin. If that is the fact, I am clearly of the opinion—and I am sure any gentleman who looks at this question without prejudice will arrive at the same conclusion—it was much better for the Government to have gone on with the improvements after having commenced them than to abandon them, in view of the two arguments I have mentioned, that is, the population now settled on the fertile lands in the valley of the Rainy River, and the large amount of lumber available on the north and north-west of Rainy Lake, that will have to be taken out by this route. I do not think it is necessary for me to advert to the report of the Minister of Public Works, although I have a copy in my hands, in which attention is called to this particular work. It cannot be alleged, as it has been insinuated, that the Government built it without proper authority from Parliament, because the authority I have already quoted, and the vote appears in the estimates for an amount at least equal to the present expenditure. The hon. gentleman had knowledge of the inception of this work and did not then take means to call attention to it. The hon. Senator from Toronto, (Mr. Aikins) did call attention to it, but went no further than to enquire how fast the work