

road should be constructed now. We find that the then Minister of Railways was quoted as using words to a similar effect in a speech he made at Galt, that the time to build the road 'was immediately,' 'right away,' or words to that effect. Then we find that the Hon. Clifford Sifton, when accepting nomination at Brandon, for the election in 1908, used these words as reported in the papers:

So, therefore, if the people of the Northwest give Sir Wilfrid Laurier their endorsement at this election, then in three or four years we may expect to see trains running to Hudson Bay.

This quotation is a fair sample, and contains the kernel, of the speeches of the Liberal leaders during the campaign of 1908, namely, that the road was to be built 'now,' that it was to be built 'immediately,' that 'within three or four years we would see trains running to Hudson Bay,' language much stronger than that used by any of the Conservative leaders in regard to that matter. Now what are the facts? We did not see any haste adopted by the then administration in the construction of this road. We find that all they have actually done, outside of the contract, was to expend money on surveys, and to start building a bridge over the Saskatchewan river at the Pas. The question was asked the hon. member for Humboldt (Mr. Neely) how much of that bridge was constructed. I am not prepared to say now how much of it has been constructed, but I am prepared to say that during the elections just held I made particular inquiry to ascertain how much of that bridge was constructed, and I was informed on reliable authority that only two abutments and three piers had been constructed, after work had been proceeding for something like two seasons. Now, Sir, is it any wonder that the people in the west have lost confidence in the late administration for their want of expedition in the construction of this road?

Mr. NEELY. In Saskatchewan?

Mr. MCKAY. I am speaking more particularly for my constituency, which is nearest to this bridge, and I submit that the people there have lost confidence in the serious intention of the late administration to proceed with the speedy construction of this road. What has been done elsewhere? We find that a bridge was constructed at Saskatoon in one season, another bridge was constructed at Warman in one season, another bridge was constructed just south of Prince Albert, over the south branch, in one season, another bridge with as many piers, and if I remember rightly with one more pier than on the bridge required at the Pas, was constructed in

one season; and it took the late government, with all the money at its disposal it wanted, all this time to do what little construction has been done on the bridge at the Pas.

I submit, therefore, that the people in my constituency were justified in coming to the conclusion that the late administration were not serious in endeavouring to construct this road as speedily as possible.

In regard to the actual construction of the road, what do we find? We find that they did, just on the eve of the last election, send a contractor up there to start the construction of the road. When the contract was signed, I am not prepared to say, but this I know that the contractor did not get his men on the scene of operations until within two weeks of polling day. I submit that the latter portion of the remarks of the hon. member for Humboldt is a reply to the earlier part of his speech. He goes on to say that winter is the best time to clear the right of way. I submit that in that portion of the west the winter is not the proper time for the purpose of the construction of the road; that is the grading and so on. It may be and, I believe, it is the right time for the cutting out of the right of way, but there is still ample time, without losing a whole year, for the construction of the road, to do whatever work can be done on this road during the months of winter. I hope the government will look into this question immediately and, as the speech from the Throne states, make an announcement in regard to the road as soon as possible. I hope that the cutting out of the right of way will proceed during this winter, and that no time will be lost. I am satisfied that the present administration is in earnest about this undertaking. I am prepared to give this undertaking to the hon. member for Humboldt, that whenever he rises in his place to fight the cause of the western people, I will stand by him. The government will, so soon as they investigate this matter, go on with the construction of the road more expeditiously than did the late administration. If the present government decide to go on with the construction of this road, say within a month, they would still have plenty of time to cut out the right of way for the 185 miles for which the contract has been let, and there would still be ample time for the contractors to get the material on the other side of the river. Then, if they do not get their material and contracting plant on the other side of the river before the ice breaks I submit that the bridge will be completed this winter, but the present administration are taking hold of this matter vigorously and they intend to push it to a speedy conclusion.

Mr. J. G. TURRIFF (Assiniboia). My hon. friend from Prince Albert (Mr. Mc-