

informed that the work has been completely stopped. A few days ago I gave the minister notice that I would ask this question.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS** (Mr. Blair). The hon. gentleman alludes to the contract that was recently made for the building of eleven and a half miles of railway on the island—the grading and levelling of the road-bed from Charlottetown to Murray Harbour. That work has been stopped for a reason which I think will commend itself to the hon. gentleman as sufficient. The contract, as the House has been informed already, was let to a Mr. McManus. Mr. McManus became mentally disqualified for doing any business or carrying on any work, and it was the desire of his friends, as well as his own desire, as far as he seemed to be able to express any desire, that the contract might be rescinded as respects himself; and upon looking into the matter we came to the conclusion, that in the interest of the work it was our duty to rescind the contract, and it has been rescinded. We are now in negotiation with the next tenderer, the amount of whose tender was very close to that of Mr. McManus, and I hope that before very long we shall be able to make such an arrangement that the work will be resumed. We have lost no time, I can assure the hon. gentleman, and I have given immediate attention to the matter. I am now in communication, through the officers of the department, with the next tenderer, Mr. Willard Kitchen.

Mr. MARTIN. I asked the hon. gentleman some time ago about the completion of the survey of the road, and he told me that it was to be proceeded with during this summer. The summer is now pretty well advanced, and I believe that no progress has been made in the completion of that survey. It was began as far back as the year 1897, during the progress of an election, and there has been nothing done since until 1899, during the progress of another election; and now, instead of it being proceeded with during the summer season, as the hon. gentleman told me it would be, nothing is being done.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I have heard nothing, since furnishing the House with the information to which the hon. gentleman alludes, to make me doubt the correctness of the statement that the surveys are being prosecuted. That was the information given me at the time, and I still believe it to be correct.

Mr. MARTIN. I wish to ask the hon. gentleman another question. Some time ago I asked him whether the cross line starting at a point on the proposed Belfast line connecting with New Perth or Cardigan passing near Montague Bridge, in connection

with this road had been surveyed, and he told me it was under the consideration of the government. I would like to know if he has come to any conclusion with regard to that matter?

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. I think I shall have to ask my hon. friend to give me formal notice of that. I am not at the moment prepared to enlighten him.

#### ANALYSIS OF EMERGENCY FOOD.

Mr. ALEX. McNEILL (North Bruce). I should like to call the attention of the government to a statement made a few minutes ago by the Minister of Militia and Defence, who, I am sorry to see, has left the House. In reply to a question asked by my hon. friend from Victoria, B.C. (Mr. Prior) he said that an analysis had been made by the Inland Revenue Department of a portion of the emergency rations which were sent to South Africa, and he said he was not going to produce the report of that analysis at the present time. I must say I think that is scarcely—

Mr. SPEAKER. My hon. friend is entering into an argument.

Mr. McNEILL. I will, if necessary, conclude with a motion, Mr. Speaker, because I regard this to be a matter of the very gravest importance.

Mr. SPEAKER. There is just this difficulty, that in the absence of the minister I think it is hardly fair.

Mr. McNEILL. I will not in the absence of the minister, if so requested. But, I wish before sitting down, to call the attention of my right hon. friend to the matter, and ask him to be good enough to speak to his colleague in reference to it, and point out to him that it is considered by some members of this House that if there be in the Inland Revenue Department a report of that analysis, it should be laid on the Table of the House at the earliest possible moment.

The **PRIME MINISTER** (Sir Wilfrid Laurier). In reply to my hon. friend from Bruce (Mr. McNeill), I beg to say that the Minister of Militia stated a moment ago that the analysis of the food sent to Africa proved to be identical with the analysis of the food that had been experimented on before at Kingston. At any rate, I would remind my hon. friend that this matter is to come up to-morrow, when the minister will probably be able to give my hon. friend every satisfaction.

Mr. McNEILL. What I wished my hon. friend to do was to take care that the report of the analysis should be laid on the Table to-morrow.

Mr. MARTIN.