

line, the Orangedale-Cheticamp, later on and show the great wealth of that part of the country. I am not going to blame the Government entirely for not taking over the road, but I am convinced their offer was entirely too low, the bondholders, for reasons I have stated, did not accept the Government's offer. The only fault I find with the Government is that they offered a price which I consider was ridiculously low, and which was not sufficient to induce the owners of the road to sell but simply gave their friend an opportunity of acquiring the bonds cheaply. There was every justification in the world for the Government offering a substantial price, and every justification to expect good results from the acquisition and extension of this road. I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that there was no branch line in Western Canada that I know of that offered one-fourth the possibilities of this branch line. The Government knew that. I placed all the facts before them. I regret they did not take over the road, from the standpoint of the development of our natural resources and from the standpoint of the traffic to the Intercolonial railway. I hope, however, that the future has a little more brightness in store for us than we have experienced in the past.

Mr. McKENZIE: I shall make one of the very briefest speeches I have ever made in this House, because the facts which I have to put before the minister can be confined in very narrow compass. I have no great condemnation for the minister of the Government in this matter except this, that we should not be called upon to discuss the very large and comprehensive question of railways at this stage of the session, and I hope that at the next session of Parliament the Minister of Railways will make a determined effort to have his railway business brought down in time to give us a fuller opportunity of dealing with it. As it is now, the session is in its expiring moments and we are in very hot weather. I wish to remind the minister that in 1914 a resolution was accepted by him, representing the Government at that time, in connection with railways in Western Canada. There are very few cases on record where a resolution moved by an Opposition member in this House is accepted by the Government, but here is the record. On the 16th of March, 1914, I moved this resolution in the House:

That in the opinion of this House the time has arrived for the extension of the Intercolonial railway of Canada into the non-railway sections

[Mr. Chisholm.]

of the Maritime Provinces within reasonable range of the said railway.

This resolution and the discussion on it will be found on page 1736 and following pages of Hansard of that year. Last year again I moved another resolution. I would emphasize that the resolution of the 16th of March, 1914, which I have just read, was accepted by the Government. During the war years I said nothing at all about railways. I kept absolutely quiet, but last year I moved this resolution:

Be it resolved, that in the opinion of this House the proposals of the said resolution of the 16th of March, A.D., 1914, should be carried forward to completion at the earliest possible date.

That was moved last year, and the question being put on the motion, it was resolved in the affirmative. The Government, therefore, at the second session last year, by accepting that resolution again approved of the resolution I moved in 1914. I am not going to weary the minister or the House with arguments because my arguments were accepted in 1914. The Government re-affirmed their acceptance of them last year, that is, that certain extensions of the Intercolonial railway should be made in the Maritime Provinces. I had particularly in mind the road into the county of Victoria which was surveyed in 1911. The contract for the road was let in 1911, but a change of Government took place and the Hon. Mr. Cochrane, the Minister of Railways after the change of Government, took the ground that there were too many claims on the treasury for him to undertake this work at that time. Here is, I think, a unique position: This House committed itself on two occasions to the necessities of the case which I have presented, and I am now asking the minister in justice to the Government and in justice to Parliament to carry out this resolution which has been twice accepted by the House. The minister may not be able to make a start in my part of the country this year, but at least he could check over the survey that has already been made in that county. The survey was made in 1911 and the contract was let. The records are in the department. I think in view of the record of Parliament in connection with this matter I am absolutely within my right when I ask the minister to check over the survey that has already been made in Victoria, and extend the survey further north in the county, to see what can be done and what results can be got from a survey of his own further north where the line is absolutely required.