

all. If I am, and when I am, it is my purpose to endeavour to determine it in the public interest, and having regard to the trade interests of the island and the city of Charlottetown.

Mr. WILSON. Will the hon. minister tell us what is the matter with the present station? Why is it that he wants more accommodation? Is it for freight or passenger traffic?

Mr. EMMERSON. It is for all departments. As I am informed, the present station is entirely inadequate to the business requirements of Prince Edward Island and the city of Charlottetown.

Mr. WILSON. Is there any difficulty in getting land where the station is now?

Mr. EMMERSON. It must be borne in mind that the general offices of the Prince Edward Island Railway are in the old building, and they require to be re-arranged to afford additional room and greater convenience. More yard room and more siding room are also required. This vote covers all these conveniences.

Mr. WILSON. The hon. minister has not told us whether or not he could get the land there.

Mr. HASZARD. As I know all about the situation in Charlottetown, I may say that the present station is altogether unsuited to the requirements of railway business, and at the same time it is placed on about the only piece of soft land that can be found in that part of the city. A few years ago the land about the present station had to be built up to such an extent that it was claimed that the water was turned on the other side of the street to such an extent that an action for damages was threatened against the Railway Department, and the department has since been threatened time and again. There is no doubt that the present site of the station is not at all suitable and will not be acceptable to the people. The difference between the Railway Department and the people of Charlottetown, so far as I can understand, is this. The railway authorities think they can utilize some of the land at present owned by the government and used as a railway yard. The people of the city feel that the station should be carried further west and built on high, dry land; and the reason why this matter has been delayed the last two or three years is because they cannot agree among themselves as to where the station should be built. As the hon. member for West Prince has said, they consider that at the foot of George street is the most suitable and acceptable, but for some reason or other the engineers claim that there are engineering difficulties in the way. I myself applied to the department about two months ago for a report on that site, but although I have been calling on the department a great many times since, I have not yet succeeded in

getting it. I would like to have some assurance from the minister that the report will be furnished without delay.

Mr. WILSON. Have they got it in the department?

Mr. HASZARD. I understand that they are preparing it. There is just this difficulty that the people have not been willing to accept the site which the Railway Department are desirous of using. If that site should be used, the Railway Department would require to buy a little more land in order to have sufficient room for the present works and the new station.

Mr. LANCASTER. The hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat says that the people of Charlottetown are not willing to accept some particular site. I do not understand what the people have to do with it in the sense he indicates. The people of the whole Dominion are called on to furnish a lot of money for some very indefinite, vague proposition, and it appears that the people of Charlottetown are in controversy with the government as to where the government should build the station. But if the government are able to run the railway, they ought to be able to decide where the station should be built, and take the responsibility of a decision without entering into any controversy with the people of Charlottetown. Until the government know where the station is to be built, they should not ask this House to allot an indefinite sum for the purchase of land that may or may not be required. The hon. minister has told us that he has given the House most definite information. But all he has told us is that certain sums are asked for to do certain things and certain other sums are asked for to do certain other things, but he does not say that any one of the sums asked for will be required to do any certain thing. He wants us to vote \$4,000 for the purpose of buying land which may after all not be required. Three years ago, when I was in the city of Charlottetown I went to Summerside from the station in question, and unless the city has been built up very much in the neighbourhood of that station within the last three years, there should not be any difficulty in getting land there. It seemed to me that the station was on the outskirts of the city and that here was any amount of vacant land to be had in that locality at a very moderate price. I do not think the Minister of Railways ought to have a member like myself, from the Niagara district of Ontario, telling him about the condition of things in Charlottetown, nor do I think that he ought to have another member from Charlottetown giving him information. It is he who ought to give this House the information and who ought to be in a position to tell this House definitely what he proposes to do with the money and not leave us in doubt as to whether he will use the money or not. I could understand his tell-