

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—Thirteen miles.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Can the hon. Secretary of State tell what it will cost?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I could not. Perhaps some hon. gentleman will know. It is a pretty level country.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middlesex)—It was stated in the House that it would cost \$400,000—about \$30,000 a mile.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—According to our experience, that would be \$60,000. You double the government estimate.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—There is only \$30,000 voted towards it. I may say that I have been over the ground very often, and it is as near a dead level for that distance as I can imagine.

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—How crooked will it be?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—I do not know where they get 13 miles. Ten miles is very much nearer. It is through the centre of an absolutely level country. There is scarcely a roll in that distance.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—An absolutely level road, equal to the prairie, is to cost \$30,000 a mile.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Halifax)—No.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—If it is only 13 miles and is to cost \$400,000 that is a large sum.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I think my hon. friend from Belleville need not be uneasy about it, because the government will see that it will cost that.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—There must be over-classification before it will cost that.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Could the hon. gentleman assure the House that this road will be commenced before the general election, because I intend to call the attention of the House to the fact that for the province of Nova Scotia alone, in the last supplementary estimates submitted to parliament, there were no less than 142 appropriations for harbours and wharfs and ditches and all that sort of thing.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Some of them \$500 each.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—They run from \$500 to three or ten thousand dollars each. I suppose we are to understand that the different constituencies can be bought for that price?

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—They will not require to be built a second time.

Hon. M. ROSS (Halifax)—A good many of those items are renewals of former grants.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—And unless the elections come on they will be allowed to lapse.

The SPEAKER—I would draw the hon. gentleman's attention to the Bill which is before the House.

The motion was agreed to and the Bill was read the second time.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS SERVICE FROM GREAT BRITAIN BILL.

SECOND AND THIRD READINGS.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (201) An Act to assist in maintaining an independent and efficient service of telegraphic news from Great Britain for publication in the Canadian press. He said: Some years ago a subsidy was granted to a concern in London, England, for the purpose of gathering and sending news to the Canadian press. The grant for some years was \$15,000 a year. It ran out this year and they pressed to have it continued for three years longer. This Bill proposes to take authority from parliament to comply with their request. The first year the sum of \$9,000 is to be paid, the next year \$12,000, and the following \$3,000.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—Why the rapid ascent from nine to twelve thousand, and the more rapid descent from twelve to three thousand?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The presumption is they ought to be able to make it self-sustaining, that we ought to assist the papers until it is on that basis, and it is proposed to continue the subsidy three years longer.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—It is scarcely probable that they will do that if they can assess the government.