

easier, a much cheaper, a much more rapid, and I may say, so far as the difficulty of getting immigrants through a neighboring country is concerned, a much safer line of communication in our own interests than any which at present exists. Of the whole of 433 miles from Prince Arthur's Landing to Winnipeg, the track has now been laid upon 401 miles, leaving only thirty-two miles to complete the link. On contract 41, from the 199th mile to the 233rd mile, the road is expected to be finished early in the present season. On contract 42, from the 233rd mile to the 300th mile, it will take a considerable portion of the next season as well as of this to finish the work. The contract time for finishing that work is July of next year, but I shall be extremely glad if the work can be quite finished during the next two or three succeeding months. However, as I have already stated, I have every reason to believe that during the coming month of July, there being only thirty-two miles of track now remaining to be completed on that line. The total expenditure on the line from Prince Arthur's Landing to Selkirk up to the present time is \$13,234,900, and the balance, which I estimated last year would be sufficient to complete it, of \$1,470,100, making \$14,705,000, or the estimate which I ventured to lay upon the Table of the House last year as the cost of that work; and after an additional year's experience the House will be glad to learn that I have no reason to suppose that that estimate will be exceeded.

Mr. BLAKE. Will the hon. gentleman give the figures of the present expenditure?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The present expenditure is \$13,234,900, leaving a balance of \$1,470,100, to complete the work as covered in my estimate of a year ago. The moment that the through track is laid in the month of July now coming, we expect to be able to carry, without materially interfering with the progress of the work, some traffic and the through immigrants which require to be provided for. I may say, Sir, that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has decided to establish its headquarters in the city of Winnipeg. The station grounds, the workshops and all the paraphernalia that are needed to carry on and operate a great line of railway, are to be placed at that point; and this decision having been reached, an investigation was made by them as to the most direct mode of carrying the line westward. As the House is aware, the Government had placed under contract the first 100 miles of that road, west of Winnipeg. The Company decided that it would be better to run a direct line west from