

APPENDIX No. 4

ADDITIONAL RAILWAYS A REQUISITE.

But what is wanted in that country is railways, and what I was sorry to see when I was there, it is not generally known I believe, that from Saskatoon to here, Round Valley (indicating on map) the Canadian Pacific Railway is building a line running exactly parallel with the Grand Trunk Pacific.

By Mr Jackson (Selkirk):

Q. How far apart?

A. Sometimes 25 feet, at other times two or three miles, but it made me sorry to see it.

By Mr. Staples:

Q. Did it make you sorry to see the Grand Trunk Pacific building close to the Canadian Pacific Railway down there at Portage la Prairie?

A. If you will give me a fair show now I am going to come back at you. Now, this line runs out of Portage la Prairie; how would they get out west if they did not go there. The Canadian Pacific Railway is down here (indicating on map).

Q. How far apart are they there?

A. They are not far apart; but how could two lines be far apart there when they both start from the same place?

Q. They could have gone north of Portage la Prairie?

A. Now, of course, I do not know about that because I am not within the proper ring to do so. I am not on the ground floor.

By Mr. McIntyre (Strathcona):

Q. There was a statement made a few moments ago that the belt between the G.T.P. and the C.P.R. and the C. and E. was without railway communication. The point is that the railway starts from La Combe there, and runs 50 miles, and there is another one starting from Moosejaw and there is supposed to be an arc of a circle from there, from La Combe to Moosejaw, which in a year or two will be completed. There is also a line you speak of running to Wetaskiwin that runs parallel with the other line?

A. That is what I want to emphasize, that we want more railroads in that country. I am very glad you have given that explanation, because that is just exactly what that other gentleman had reference to. That is what we want, railroads, in this country. As soon as we get them, and what the people want, water and fuel, then the country will be all right. I was going to suggest that an attempt be made at the crossing of Battle river, by boring to see if there is not coal there. I am satisfied that there is coal there, and if it extends as far as that point, then there is plenty of fuel, and the people can go on these southern prairies and do well.

Q. I may say that I have a letter now from a man living at the crossing of the Battle river, the Canadian Pacific Railway take it, coming out from Wetaskiwin, the crossing of the Battle there—I have a letter from a man living there, asking permission to take the coal off his farm and supply the settlers in the neighbourhood, so there is no doubt about there being coal there.

A. I went up the Grattan creek, along which the Grand Trunk Pacific passes, and from the indications I saw, it struck me there was coal, and that was the reason I was going to suggest that borings be made. I did not know about the other. I believe it is the duty of the government to have borings made whenever indications are shown such as I have referred to.

There are one or two other points I was going to make, and that is, that there are certain points at which it is absolutely necessary to get artesian water, and there should be attempts made by sinking artesian wells in this country to find out whether the water is good and how much they can get, because the railroads cannot run through any country without water for their engines.