

a bushel. Under these circumstances how is the new railway going to compete with that six cent rate which can be established, and no doubt will be, between Fort William and Montreal? On what ground does the right hon. gentleman expect to control this traffic and why did he not deal with this aspect of the question instead of talking about bonding privileges and reading us long, wearisome extracts, containing accounts of the adventures of hunters and trappers two or three hundred years ago?

Then the hon. gentleman seems to have rather a curious idea as to the cost this enterprise will impose upon the country. He has admitted that we are to give to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway a bonus of \$3,780,000 in respect to the mountain section. I understood him to say that the seven years rental estimated on the basis of three per cent on the cost of construction on the eastern section would amount to about \$13,000,000—the Postmaster General shakes his head; what are the figures?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I think that when the premier used the figures \$13,000,000 he intended these figures to embrace not only the eastern division but the whole line.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Well, the Prime Minister was not very definite in his remarks and the Postmaster General may be right, but I gathered exactly the opposite of what the Postmaster General says. I understood the Prime Minister to say distinctly that the cost to the country in respect to the eastern section would be \$13,000,000.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Will my hon. friend the Postmaster General tell me what the cost will be, because we have no information as to the cost of that section.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am not in a position—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentlemen did not hear the rest of my sentence. I am not in a position to discuss the subject to-night.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Well it is a rather remarkable thing that we have this project brought down to the House and no man on the treasury benches is able to give us the slightest estimate of the cost of the road. It certainly fully sustains the declaration of the Prime Minister this afternoon when he said, that this project had been entered into without deliberation. Can any hon. gentleman on the treasury benches give us within ten million dollars of the cost of the eastern section?

Mr. BENNETT. Give them time to think.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax).

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Surely some hon. gentleman on the treasury benches can give an estimate within \$10,000,000 of it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I must say that this is a rather unusual spectacle—a project brought down; heralded by the right hon. gentleman in a two and a half hour's speech; tremendous applause from his supporters, and not a minister of the Crown can give us within \$10,000,000 of the cost of the eastern section.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). Well, certainly my right hon. friend put it very mildly when he said that this project had been gone into without deliberation. I should suppose that taking the estimate of the right hon. gentleman this afternoon, that he must conclude that that road would cost at least \$65,000,000, if I am right in my supposition that the seven years rental at three per cent amounts to \$13,000,000. As three per cent for seven years would amount to 21 per cent, you would simply have to multiply the 13 by 5 and you get \$65,000,000 as the estimated cost. If, however, the estimated amount of the rentals is only \$10,000,000, then you would have to reduce the cost to about \$5,000,000. And yet my right hon. friend alleged this afternoon that the whole cost to this country would be \$13,000,000. He winks out of sight the fact that this eastern section is to cost from \$50,000,000 to \$65,000,000, and I venture to say that in the end it will cost nearer \$75,000,000.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). And the right hon. gentleman presented the most delightful and pleasing spectacle to the country of a road built from the Atlantic to the Pacific costing this country only \$13,000,000. As a matter of fact, add \$50,000,000 or \$65,000,000 or perhaps \$75,000,000 to that and you get some idea of what this project—brought down without deliberation, brought at the end of the session, brought down in a hurry—means to this country.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). It is no wonder that the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Hon. Mr. Blair) shrunk from it. Some small wonder there may be perhaps that the right hon. gentleman saw fit to ask the ex-Minister (Hon. Mr. Blair) to keep his seat in the government and proclaim himself an adherent to that policy when in his heart he did not believe it to be in the interest of the country.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I hope, Mr. Speaker that there is not on the treasury benches any minister who had the same belief as the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals