

Prince Edward Island Railway—To increase accommodation at Charlottetown, \$85,000.

Mr. HACKETT. What is the nature of the increased accommodation at Charlottetown?

Mr. EMMERSON. For this purpose \$87,000 was voted last year, and \$2,000 of that was expended up to the 30th of June. The details were given last year, but if the committee wish I will repeat them.

Mr. LENNOX. It was not very fully explained last year.

Mr. EMMERSON. The following is the estimate: New station and covered platform, \$55,000; additional freight shed accommodation, \$5,000; additional land, \$4,000.

Mr. WILSON. How much land?

Mr. EMMERSON. We have not purchased it yet, but it is estimated that we can get the land for \$4,000.

Mr. HACKETT. Has the minister decided upon the land which will be purchased at Charlottetown?

Mr. EMMERSON. There are as usual differences of opinion as to what site should be selected, and I have not had the privilege of going there personally to form my own opinion.

Mr. HACKETT. Come over and see us?

Mr. EMMERSON. I would like to, but I suppose I would have difficulty in satisfying all the opinions that might be expressed.

Mr. WILSON. The minister ought to know how much land he wants?

Mr. EMMERSON. It is not exactly determined how much land we should want, but I would rather not state the exact quantity because if we were to make any detailed statement as to that it might affect the financial situation as regards the price. There are two or three points where the station might be located and the officers think that \$4,000 will purchase sufficient land.

Mr. WILSON. The minister ought to have some ideas as to the size of the station building; he ought to know whether or not he will erect it on the site of the present station.

Mr. LANCASTER. The minister had better come out of the clouds and land on the earth, and tell us how much land he wants for this station. He asks \$4,000 for this land and he coolly tells the committee that he does not know what it is for. Perhaps he does not want any land at all; perhaps he will build the new station on the site of the old. The minister should give us some reasons for wanting this \$4,000, or 4,000 cents for that matter. I confess that I do not think the hon. gentleman is dealing seriously with the committee. Time and again we have asked to-night for information, and we have been told that when the minister gets the money he will come to

Mr. EMMERSON.

some conclusion later on. That is a pretty cool fashion in which to ask us to vote the people's money. I protest against the principle of this thing; the minister is not on the land; he is in the clouds.

Mr. EMMERSON. This is not a celestial railway.

Mr. LANCASTER. It won't be a terrestrial railway either unless the minister gets down to the earth, where he can tell us something that is not misty and mystic. These estimates have been treated all day as if they were a huge joke. Why should we be asked to vote \$4,000 or 4,000 cents or one cent for that matter, until the minister has made up his mind as to where he is going to spend it and how he is going to spend it? This committee should know something of the circumstances surrounding the money they are asked to vote away for this purpose; and until the minister makes up his mind, with the assistance of his officers, that he does want some amount, I for one think this item ought not to pass at all.

Mr. HACKETT. I would like to ask the minister if he is in negotiation with the owners of the land at the foot of Great George street for the purchase of their rights for a site for this station?

Mr. EMMERSON. We have obtained prices on lands there. It is supposed that we shall require, in connection with the new station, between an acre and an acre and a half of land, and it has been estimated by the officers of the department that it should not cost more than \$4,000. The total vote of last year was \$87,000. That was under the same estimate as exists to-day. There was \$11,000 for additional siding and the re-arrangement of the yard, \$8,000 for additional wharf accommodation and dredging, and \$4,000 for engineering and inspection. I cannot give anything more definite than that. The work has not been gone on with. I shall expect, in company with the officials, to visit the locality and determine finally the exact location of the proposed station. It is impossible to say at present just where it will be. It would not be wise, perhaps, even if I knew it. The point is that additional accommodation is required, and we propose to go on with the work if parliament votes the money.

Mr. WILSON. I gather from what the minister says that he intends to move the station to some other part of the city; he has not told us why. He has not told us that he cannot get sufficient ground where the station is located now, or what he intends to do with the old station. If there is to be a new station built, especially in some other part of the city, we ought to have some reason for it.

Mr. EMMERSON. I have not said that the station is to be moved. In fact, I am frank enough to say that I have not been called upon to determine the question at