

SUPPLY—RAILWAYS AND CANALS—*Con.*

Emmerson, Hon. H. R. (Minister of Railways and Canals)—*Con.*

to \$36,060—2291. The purchasing agents—2292. Of course these men have to make the purchases at different places and give personal attention to them—2293. The work is very great, and from my observation I do not think they have an extravagant staff at all—2294. I do not think it has been found necessary; that district is not far removed from the base of supplies—2295. The approaches to the bridge are under the control of the commission, but the bridge itself has to be completed—2296. I find that I was under some misapprehension myself with respect to the section, thinking it was simply the Quebec bridge—2298. When they have the bridge completed we have the opportunity of utilizing it in connection with the G.T.R.—2299. As I understand it the duty will be cast upon the engineer in charge to make reports as to the progress of that bridge—2300. The construction of this road would include the surveys and expenses incidental thereto—2301.

Foster, Hon. Geo. E. (North Toronto)—2277.

Raises the question of what information the House is going to get—2277. There is no medium of communication between the House and the commission—2278. We do not have too profound a confidence in the commission, neither has the country—2279. Are we all the time to be bandied to and fro between an unwilling minister and an unresponsive commission?—2280. If Emmerson wishes to make a financial statement let us have it at once—2281. What we want is an explicit report from the commission—2285. In what capacities had these gentlemen previously served their country?—2287. We must keep the personal element separated from their position as commissioners—2288. What is the length of that line?—2289. Emmerson had better not commence the scandal mongering business—2290. There must come a time when some one will have something to say as to the expenditure—2291.

Haggart, Hon. John G. (South Lanark)—2282.

There has been an expenditure of \$500,000—2282. It is simply monstrous to tell the House that we are not to have any information till the surveys are finished—2283. Have you a report from them at all?—2284. A report in the newspapers as to the location between Lévis and Moncton—2286. I understand that there is a subsidy contract entered into between the Dominion government and the local government—2295. I understood that the approaches were constructed under the subsidy contract the same as a bridge—2296.

Ingram, A. B. (East Elgin)—2289.

He is accused of advising others to tamper with a ballot box—2289.

SUPPLY—RAILWAYS AND CANALS—*Con.*

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister)—2283.

The commission has not been in existence a year yet—2282. They may have received interim reports from surveyors here and there, but not enough for a report—2284. Has seen the report, but it gave no authority for the statements—2286. Not aware that any report has been made by the engineer in charge of the survey—2287. No, the government was not to take over the bridge, but it undertook to guarantee the bonds of the Quebec Bridge Company—2296.

Osler, E. B. (West Toronto)—2281.

Supposes the surveys will not be completed for three years at least; it is a most serious state of affairs—2281. It is surely an easy matter for the commission to report what they have done up to 1st of January—2285. It will be very important to have the schedules and the different lines of information defined—2286. Has there been a report on the other section?—2287. It is necessary for this House to have all the information—2291. The head purchasing agent is the key to the whole expenditure; he should be very well paid—2292. Are these four men independent purchasing agents or are they under the head of the general purchasing agent?—2293. Because there is no more difficult position to fill than that of purchasing agent—2293.

Sproule, T. S. (East Grey)—2298.

There is no such section under the Transcontinental Railway Act as the Quebec bridge section—2298. Then I am correct in understanding that we are not voting anything here for construction—2300. That explanation may be of some use but it is as clear as mud—2300.

Surveys, construction and other expenses, \$290,500—6427.

Emmerson, Hon. H. R. (Minister of Railways and Canals)—6427.

This is to defray the expenses of the commission from the 1st March to June 30th, 1905—6427.

Foster, Hon. Geo. E. (North Toronto)—6427.

No objection to this getting through and taking the discussion on the main estimates—6427.

Surveys, construction, and other expenses, \$1,328,500—7496.

Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—7496.

The only conditions I would make are that we have the printing expedited—7496. And that the supplementary to which reference has been made shall be brought up at a reasonably early date—7497.