

Mr. EMMERSON. The snow is packed in so hard there would be more difficulty in getting that brush out again than there would be in going to the woods and bringing in a supply of brush. They say these drifts are very hard. The leader of the opposition can probably testify on that point. The wind was so strong and it packed the snow so hard that people could drive teams of horses over the drifts without their sinking in. That is my information.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not know that you can expect freedom from conditions of this kind in the future. We know that there is a great deal of precipitation of moisture in the maritime provinces, both in winter and summer. During the past six or seven years, or up to three years ago, a great deal of that came in the winter time in the form of rain, or of snow followed by rain. But conditions were not such during the past winter. If you have a winter of unusual severity when the precipitation comes almost altogether in the form of snow, and sometimes in the form of rather moist snow which packs very hard, and may be followed by severely cold weather. You must expect occasionally to have conditions such as have prevailed during the present winter, although perhaps not to so great an extent. So far as regards the snow fences, I did not gather from those with whom I conversed that they were of no use; on the contrary I was told they were of considerable use, but that the snow fall was so enormous this winter that they did not suffice to prevent a blockade.

Mr. EMMERSON. They are good up to a certain point.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The benefit is greater if you have two or three fences on the exposed side. But I understood that at one time there were snow sheds there, I do not know whether they were regarded as useful now. On the line below the city of Quebec, I know there are snow sheds, I do not know whether they have been found useful. I suppose this matter is in the hands of the officers of the department, who are making a study of it. What I desire to suggest is that I think some provision should be made to guard against the recurrence of this difficulty in the future. Even if it should occur only at considerable intervals, nevertheless, it would be wise to take what is a reasonable precaution, because the enormous cost the country has been put to during the past winter would serve to erect snow fences and wind breaks along the road to a very considerable extent between Halifax and Amherst.

To increase accommodation at Halifax, \$200,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would like the hon. minister to explain this item.

Mr. EMMERSON. We are only asking during this year for \$200,000. My hon.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES.

friend from Leeds (Mr. Taylor) smiles over that modest request, but when he has heard of all the requirements of the situation I am afraid that he will not be in the mood for smiling. The situation at Halifax is such that we will necessarily, before the terminals there are put in such a condition that they will meet what we hope to be the requirements of the country, require a very large expenditure of money. The improvements contemplated cannot all be carried out in one year. The expenditure will have to be extended over a number of years. This year we have very modestly, I think, asked for \$200,000. We had in 1904-5 an appropriation of \$385,000. We anticipate that the expenditure during this current year will be \$185,000 and we are asking for the balance of \$200,000 as a revote on the assumption that we can only spend \$200,000, or not more than that on the ordinary construction works, provided the same progress is made during 1905-6 as is being made during the current fiscal year. There are several things to be done at Halifax. We require land for the engine house and that is a very difficult proposition. The physical conditions near Richmond where this engine house requires to be, make it almost impossible that we can secure land without very great expense; indeed, we cannot secure it without blasting or without constructing land somewhat encroaching upon the water, and in order to do that we have to do a lot of blasting so as to get the rock removed. We require an engine house which will be circular in form. The diameter will be about 350 feet. To get a piece of land there for that purpose, or to construct land, would require in the vicinity of \$35,000. Then, we want some land on Cornwallis street for the purposes of the railway. We want an electric plant. That is under construction.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. For what purpose—for lighting?

Mr. EMMERSON. For lighting the shops, station and everything of that kind. We require and we have been making improvements to the station. These improvements will cost about \$6,000. We want new tracks at the elevator. We anticipate that they will cost \$4,000. That work is now being done.

Mr. TAYLOR. And no grain going to the elevator.

Mr. EMMERSON. Not this year but we are hopeful. We do not anticipate that it will be a case of hope deferred. Then, we require the new wharf and freight shed which are under construction. They will cost about \$125,000.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Where is the new freight shed to be constructed?

Mr. EMMERSON. Right on the wharf. It is under contract now.