

the hon. member for Yale in endorsing this proposed line.

There is one feature, however, that has not been brought out by the two previous speakers. This branch line, which I believe to be a sound business proposition, has been in the minds of the people of this district, which includes a considerable area, for many years. With the completion of this line to the point named, Lumby, transportation will be provided for a class of settlers who have been in there for a good many years, and a class that has not been mentioned by the two previous speakers from British Columbia. This line will provide transportation facilities for the settlers who have gone into what is called the Fire Valley district. In the last five years the province of British Columbia has built a highway or wagon road from a point called Edgewood, on the Arrow lakes, to Vernon in the Okanagan district. The settlers in the Fire Valley district went there a good many years ago, and the characteristics of the country are such that they have had no means of transportation. They have not had a wagon road in or out; they have had only a trail for many years. This particular district that I speak of is a strip of country something like a valley, seventy miles long, settled from one end to the other. Many mining properties have been developed there, but their further development is waiting upon transportation facilities. The only transportation they have had in the last ten or twenty years has been a boat service on the Arrow lakes. That service has filled certain requirements, but it has only touched one point, Edgewood. In the past few years the government have taken it upon themselves to complete a wagon road from Edgewood through this valley into the Okanagan district, and that road will be completed this year. That wagon road has been their only means of transportation in and out. With the completion of this branch line to Lumby and the completion of this wagon road which the British Columbia government is building, there will be a connecting link giving access to the settlers, and providing the transportation facilities that are necessary for the mining properties to develop. The development in this particular district will have an influence on the future development of the province, and the building of this line will in every way fulfil a longfelt want. In my own humble opinion it will only be a very short time before this branch line will be a revenue producer and be paying for itself.

Mr. FORKE: Mr. Chairman, I rise only for the purpose of taking exception to the

statement made by the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George, that we are voting these millions of dollars light-heartedly.

Mr. MARLER: I think we are.

Mr. FORKE: The hon. member is entitled to his opinion. I am not finding any fault with him, but he seems to object to my repeating his words. I am protesting against his statement that we are voting this money light-heartedly, and I think I have a perfect right to make that protest.

Mr. MARLER: Certainly.

Mr. FORKE: I can assure the hon. member that none of the members in this part of the House is doing so. It is very difficult for a member not familiar with the local circumstances to form an accurate judgment as to the value of any particular road that is proposed. I quite agree with the hon. member who said that we can only listen to those who are familiar with these different districts. I have listened very carefully to the criticisms that have been made by different members, and to the arguments that have been advanced by those supporting these railways, also to the statements of the minister, and had I thought that I could add anything to the discussion I certainly would not have kept quiet. I am trying, as I suppose every hon. member is doing, to form just as accurate a judgment as I possibly can as to these proposed lines, whether they should be built or not, but I cannot help but think in listening to some of the criticisms that they are not always put forward for the purpose of eliciting the facts. Sometimes they seem to have other motives behind them. Perhaps I have no right to make any statement of that kind, but it struck me that that might sometimes be the case.

A lot of money is proposed to be spent upon these branch lines, and it is a serious matter. The country is in a very critical position financially, and I do not want to see one dollar spent any more than does the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George, unless it can be shown to be in the best interests of this country. I do not think it is any use anyone getting up and repeating that phrase time and again. We had the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Church) making an eloquent speech to-night about the necessity for saving money, and then immediately afterwards he began to justify spending millions and millions in Toronto. Those millions may be perfectly legitimately spent in Toronto but it is no use for the defenders of that expenditure to criticize others who advocate spending money in some other locality. I have nothing