

cient ability and standing to know that we cannot under the Act of last year take over the Quebec and Saguenay alone. This item is a revote for the purposes of that Act. So far as the condition of the road is concerned, the hon. gentleman had the report last year on that subject. If I remember rightly, about 80 per cent of the roadbed had been completed. The work of this year to put the road into proper shape and in running order was carried on under the supervision of Mr. Gordon Grant, Chief Engineer of the Transcontinental Railway. Every dollar of this three hundred and some odd thousand has been spent under the supervision of Mr. Grant, and he told me, I should think some two or three months ago, that the road bed was practically completed clear through to Murray Bay. There were a few bridges which had to be completed; they were under contract, and if we could get the rails we would have the trains running through to Murray Bay during the present season. But, being unable to get the rails, they could not possibly complete it.

Mr. MACDONALD: Are you doing that to win the war?

Mr. REID: We are doing that right now. And I say to the hon. gentleman that if we had brought in a Bill to change the present condition, it would have been to eliminate the other two roads and to take the Quebec and Saguenay alone. And that I understand, would have been satisfactory to the hon. gentleman. No conditions can be changed until an Act of Parliament has been passed. Referring to the point raised as to the money being spent illegally, I say that the Minister of Railways and Canals did it on the advice of the Minister of Justice, and with the consent of the Auditor General; and it was done with the object of getting the road completed at the earliest possible moment, so that the people would have the benefit of it. The Government were protected in the matter, because they would not pay one dollar of the purchase money until the judge of the Exchequer Court had given his judgment, which, of course, would be final and to the satisfaction of the Justice Department and of this House.

Mr. MACDONALD: If I wanted to get an apologist for a rotten, miserable, weak case, that nobody could be found to defend, I would go to my hon. friend the Minister of Customs. It is true he has not been admitted to the bar, but I have seen him perform so often in this House, and in the committees of the House, within the last [Mr. J. D. Reid.]

ten or fifteen years, that I really take off my hat to him as a member of the bar for ability in dodging, twisting, turning and scheming in the endeavour to put up a case when there was no case. He is an artist along those lines. I really do not think he has his proper place in the Administration. He would make a far better Minister of Justice than the gentleman who now occupies that position, because there are so many things that are laid to the door of this Government, things of which the country knows them to be guilty, and which none can defend with the same ease and grace as the hon. Minister of Customs. He would do far better than the Minister of Justice (Mr. Doherty), with his laboured, prolonged and strained utterances that nobody ever cares to follow and that nobody ever understands when they do follow them. My hon. friend has told us, with his tortuous windings, that it is a good thing for this country to-day that the Government should take \$3,667,745.07 out of the moneys that have been wrung from the people by direct taxation upon incomes and by various other methods that the Government have devised under the guise of winning the war and paying for war expenses, and hand it over to Rodolphe Forget for the purpose of enabling him to speculate in the stock of the Quebec and Saguenay. That is the true situation, no matter how the minister may sidestep or talk all around it.

Mr. LEMIEUX: Sir Rodolphe Forget.

Mr. MACDONALD: I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. Titles are so numerous these days that one forgets to give these gentlemen who have acquired them the full name to which they are entitled.

Mr. CARVELL: The Government ought to tax them \$10,000 apiece.

Mr. MACDONALD: My hon. friend from Carleton makes a good suggestion. We have found out that hon. gentlemen can get titles just the same as gentlemen can get titles in England, merely by buying them. That is one of the flatulent, silly, ridiculous things that hon. gentlemen opposite are perpetuating in this country for the purpose of patriotic performances under their Administration.

Mr. COCHRANE: Did Lord Shaughnessy buy his title?

Mr. MACDONALD: I do not know anything about Lord Shaughnessy. He is a good friend of the minister's. It was my