

"Cost of Opposition Scheme."

For example, we are told that it involves the building of 37 miles of railway from Montreal to Coteau. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy) allowed that the cost of that piece of road would be \$1,200,000. I am not going to put it that high. I am putting it down at \$1,110,000. Probably no exception will be taken to that item. We then proceed to the next link in this railway, that from Coteau Junction to Depot Harbour, involving the purchase of the Canada Atlantic Railway. The Canada Atlantic Railway Company owns, I am told, 400 miles. The hon. leader of the opposition told us that, and I give him as my authority. Of this 400 miles of railway a few miles of it are in the state of Vermont. If the hon. leader of the opposition proposes to buy the Canada Atlantic Railway system he will have to buy it all. Do hon. gentlemen opposite only figure upon buying 342 miles of railway from Coteau to Depot Harbour, or do they propose to buy it all?

Mr. CLANCY. The hon. gentleman is quite well aware that there has been an offer open to the world for not only the whole Canada Atlantic Railway, but for the whole system, including steamers and elevators, for \$11,000,000. Although I did not include it to-day it has to be included in it.

The Value of the Canada Atlantic.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. gentleman says that the whole Canada Atlantic Railway system was at one time offered for \$11,000,000. That may be, but we are not speaking of one time; we are speaking of now.

Mr. CLANCY. That is within twelve months.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am assured that there is no government or person who can acquire the Canada Atlantic Railway for anything like \$11,000,000. I understand that the minimum price placed upon the system is not less than \$17,000,000.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I have information exactly the opposite.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. To what extent does the hon. gentleman's information go?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I have information that it can be bought for \$14,000,000 at the outside, and probably for \$12,000,000 in cash.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. The hon. leader of the opposition says \$14,000,000 and the hon. member for Bothwell says \$11,000,000. I am told that the market price is not less than \$17,000,000, if it can be purchased to-day. At all events, between these prices we can put it down as \$15,000,000, that includes the mileage of railway in Vermont. What the government of Canada is going to do with railway in the state of Vermont, I am at a loss to understand.

Mr. TAYLOR. How much has the Grand Trunk Railway in the United States?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. I am speaking of the government buying railways in the United States; I am not speaking of private citizens doing so. If it is proposed by the hon. leader of the opposition or by the party supporting him to expend the people's money in the acquisition of railways in the United States, then, a different proposition is involved. If we were