

\$707; total, \$44,099. That is the estimated cost given in detail.

Mr. BLAKE. How was it that the contract was only for \$25,000, when the actual cost was so much greater?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The road had not been surveyed nor located when the appropriation was asked for, and it was found that to make it useful we had to extend it further than was originally intended. Repairs and improvements, Rivière du Loup Branch, \$500. This is to pay old land claims.

Mr. BLAKE. Hardly. You would not put them under repairs and improvements.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. What sort of an improvement is an old land claim?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. These old land claims may involve making certain improvements in order to meet the claims with reference to damage to lands. I think that is an item that generally comes under repairs and improvements.

Mr. BLAKE. It would be well in the future to know that in Parliamentary parlance repairs and improvements mean old land claims.

St. Charles Branch..... \$230,000 00

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman promised to give full information on this item.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. With respect to the expenditure on the St. Charles Branch, the first expenditure was made in 1881-82, \$660; 1882-83, \$482,197; from June 30th, 1883, to 31st December, 1883, \$196,242; total, \$679,099. The details of expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1883, and the six months ending 31st December, 1883, were as follows: Grading, \$113,378; bridging, \$30,202; removing buildings, \$640; land and damages, \$302,710; ballasting, \$597; track-laying, \$1,761; rails and fastenings, \$60,449; steam shovel, \$7,408; fencing, \$4,898; crib work, \$105,294; surveying and inspection, \$7,362; advertising, \$1,328; sleepers, \$11,461; engine and car hire and transport, \$10,326; crossings, \$236; Hadlow engine house, \$19,429; total \$678,439. Expended previous to 1882-83 \$660; making a total expenditure up to 31st December 1883, \$679,099. The estimated cost of work remaining to be done is as follows: Grading, bridging, &c., \$50,200, land and damages (depends on awards) \$51,700; rip-rap, \$2,000; fencing, \$3,200; road crossings, \$1,000; sleepers, \$600; rails, \$22,200; frogs and switches, \$5,700; ballasting, \$11,400; track-laying, \$400; station building, \$20,000; engineering, superintendence, &c., \$8,600; coal wharf, \$40,000, being a total of \$220,000. This gives a gross total of \$899,099. Adding \$50,000 for probable extra cost and damages, it gives a total probable cost of \$949,099.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman's estimate in this case as well as in other cases has been largely exceeded. The estimate was about \$500,000, whereas the cost as now estimated will be \$950,000. Under what headings has the great difference occurred?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The principal point of difference is in regard to the cost of right of way and the property required in connection with it.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman estimated the total cost at about \$500,000, and I find that the land has cost about \$400,000.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I have already stated that I found myself entirely astray in regard to the estimate made. I took the precaution before I made my estimate of applying to the best sources of information within my power. I had the road carefully surveyed; I employed what I sup-

posed to be the most competent persons to make an estimate of what the land damages would be; and my estimate has proved to be entirely fallacious. The land and property were placed at a value which I thought was simply impossible. Every effort was made on the part of the Government to keep the cost at the lowest possible amount.

Mr. BLAKE. Who were these mistaken valuers?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will furnish the hon. gentleman with their names.

Mr. BLAKE. I believe the road is about thirteen miles long.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will give the exact distance.

Mr. BLAKE. I hope the hon. gentleman will not have occasion to buy much more land in that part of the country. I am glad real estate is so very high there, and I trust the remainder of the real estate possesses the same value as that which the hon. gentleman found himself obliged to buy. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will explain with regard to the item of steam shovels.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. We found it was cheaper to buy steam shovels and carry out the work by the Department than to have it done by contract. The engine and cars were engaged from the Intercolonial, and the cost price was charged.

Construction Account..... \$10,000 00

Mr. BLAKE. What is this construction account?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. That is another case of repairs.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not like paying these old claims under this head. Where is this?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This is on the main line of railway. They are for claims which have been resisted for years, and we were compelled to send them for arbitration. One of them is the case of James Faulkner, a very old claim, which was resisted as strongly as possible, but it seems that when these claims for damages to land or property arise we must deal with them as they come up.

Halifax Street Railway Company vs. The Queen..... \$906 59

Mr. BLAKE. What is this case of the Halifax Street Railway against the Queen?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. This railway was crossed in carrying the extension of the road when my predecessor was in office. They put in an enormous claim, which was resisted, and finally it was taken to the Exchequer Court. These are the expenses.

Mr. DAVIES. Were no damages paid?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. They got a small amount—I think \$200.

Mr. DAVIES. Did it go to the Supreme Court?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Yes. There is an account of Mr. D. O'Connor for \$424.89, so it must have been in the Exchequer Court. I am under the impression that they have appealed it to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Then there is \$471.70 to Mr. Wallace Graham. These are evidently the expenses of the Crown.

To pay Fabien Rochette for land taken..... \$1,702 66

Mr. BLAKE. What is this claim?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The claim was to pay Fabien Rochette for land taken, \$1,702.66. In the land expropriated from Mr. Gabriel Lemieux, was a small plot occupied by Mr. Rochette under a lease known as "*bail à rente con-*