

Mr. BLAIN. Will the minister bring down an explanation about this?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Certainly. But the explanation why the land was not required is because there was a change in the location.

To change air-brakes of passenger cars to quick action brakes and apply air signals, \$2,000.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. If you want to change your air-brakes and apply your signals, you charge the amount to capital account?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is an improvement.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Certainly it is, but why charge these things to capital account? Last year you took \$20,000 for this purpose, and now you want \$2,000 more. Will this new vote complete the work?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. No. Up to the end of 1904 there will remain 55 cars still requiring this change.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. I would ask the minister to take measures that whoever has charge of that department shall see that none of these items after this are charged to capital account. In fact, the whole capital account should be closed on the Inter-colonial.

Mr. BARKER. On how many cars were brakes changed for the \$20,000 authorized last year? I ask this because, from the quotation made from the 'Hansard' last year, it is clear we must have these details, or the money will be applied as the department pleases. Money is asked for a particular purpose, and there is no security whatever that the money will be expended in the way it is voted. The only security we have is to get the minister in charge of the estimates to commit himself on 'Hansard' to precisely what he is going to do with the money.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Up to June 30, 1902, the number of cars equipped was 55; to be equipped in 1902-3, estimated, 100; to be equipped for the current year, 1903-4, 40; making the number to be equipped at the end of 1904, 195. The average cost per car is \$50.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. \$50?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. How could you expend \$20,000 last year?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We have not a statement of the actual expenditure for the year just closed.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. It was \$20,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That was the appropriation.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Yes, and it is marked as the expenditure.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART.

Mr. BARKER. That would be \$400 a car. The money must have been used for some other purpose.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. It may have been used in the yard at Rivière du Loup.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We will have to give the hon. gentleman a statement of the actual expenditure for the year.

Mr. BARKER. I think the hon. minister ought to look into this.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We will allow the item to stand if the hon. gentleman wishes it.

Item allowed to stand.

To extend freight car shop at Moncton, \$27,500.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The amount of this appropriation last year was \$25,000, and the expenditure estimated to the end of June, \$12,500, showing the revote necessary to be \$12,500, and an additional amount of \$15,000 is asked for the work. The total estimated cost of the extension is \$40,000.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Will that complete the work?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, it is intended to complete it.

Mr. BLAIN. Is it a new building that is being put up there?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. It is an extension of an existing building.

Mr. BARKER. Can the hon. minister tell us the area of the extension?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The extension is to be 345 feet x 78 feet.

Mr. BARKER. In wood?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, a wooden building.

Mr. BARKER. And it costs how much?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. \$40,000 is the total expenditure estimated.

Mr. BARKER. For the extension of a wooden shop? It is a pretty good price.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. The hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Hon. Mr. Blair) did not get it for an extension at all last year.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The item read: 'To extend freight car repair shop at Moncton.'

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. The ex-minister said last year:

We propose to put up an entirely new building, 150 feet x 50 feet and about 50 feet high.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman is referring to another item?