

The people in this part of the country would not be in their present condition had they been able to have had contracts with the railway for the supplying of ties.

Mr. VALLANCE: How is the present government handling it?

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): This government has nothing to do with it.

Mr. MANION: The railway bought so many ties before we came into power that none are needed at the present time.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): My hon. friend knows that the control of the natural resources now rests with the provincial government, and they control this business. He also knows that owing to the situation in which the national railways find themselves at present, they will not need any more ties for a long time to come. This is the manner in which our natural resources, the trust that the late government held for the people of Saskatchewan, were administered by them. I was glad to note that the former Minister of Interior, (Mr. Stewart, Edmonton), the other day suggested that some examination or investigation of this matter should be made by the provincial government of Saskatchewan.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Certainly.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): I concur heartily with him in that. It should be done in the interest of peace, order and good government in this country. I have talked to fire rangers in that section, and may I say to the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh)—and this is largely in his constituency—I am told by these men that the bush has been left in a deplorable condition. I am told that trees, sometimes three feet at the stump, would be felled and as the stump was too big for a tie, that big piece of timber was left to rot away. They cut the slash and let it lie where it fell; they did not try to burn it, and thus there is a great fire hazard in that part of my hon. friend's constituency. I thought my hon. friend would be much more concerned than he is about the interests of those he represents.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): While I concur in the suggestion for an investigation, if that investigation is held, my hon. friend will not find his statement upheld.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): I can only say to the hon. gentleman that this statement was made to me by men who were in his department when he was minister.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Yes, and I know the employees who made it.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): What are their names?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I shall give them when the time comes. There were two of them.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): The matter can be very easily established as regards permits 5068 and 5069. It is supposed to be fire-killed timber. They are both standing monuments to the mistake that was made by someone because it is green timber.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Is it not true the two individuals he mentioned who had contracts were responsible people? Can the amounts about which my hon. friend is complaining not be recovered from them?

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): I am not so much concerned about the contractors; I am concerned about the manner in which the timber was rated as fire-killed when it was not.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is the very thing my hon. friend can prove by having an investigation so as to have the amount recovered from them.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): Yes, but that is not up to the contractors; it is up to the Minister of the Interior of the late government.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I beg my hon. friend's pardon. I shall have a word or two to say about that.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): That is all I have to say in connection with that matter.

Before I sit down I should like to say a word about the riches of that great area of northern Saskatchewan. Last year we sent up from our city to that area some forty-two families who were on the unemployed list. We financed them to some extent, and I am glad to say that forty of the forty-two families will remain in that area, and that they are doing exceptionally well.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: That is because the government has a good member.

Mr. McINTOSH: They have not a railway built there yet.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): Had the railway not been constructed for political reasons and to serve my hon. friend's interests, they might have had it.

Mr. McINTOSH: That is buncombe.