

should say my statement was absolutely correct, and that the contractor's fee was about \$210 per house.

MR. POULIOT—REFERENCE IN "LA PRESSE" TO
RULING BY MR. SPEAKER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. JEAN FRANÇOIS POULIOT (Temiscouata): I rise to a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, to vindicate Your Honour. My contention is that no journalist may impute motives to Your Honour or mention in the press motives which Your Honour has not expressed in your rulings. So far as I am concerned the rulings of the Chair are complete in themselves, and no press reporter has the right to impute motives to the Chair. Since the beginning of last month I have been waiting for a correction of a report which appeared in *La Presse* of Montreal of February 1, in connection with the tributes which were paid the day before to the late lamented Mr. Cardin. I have checked up what was said by Your Honour, which appears at page 21 of *Hansard*, and I do not find anything of the kind reported by the correspondent of *La Presse* and appearing at page 25 of the issue of that newspaper of February 1. This is what it said:

L'Orateur avait interrompu M. Pouliot parce que celui-ci avait émaillé son discours de citations de M. Cardin, choisies parmi les occasions où l'ancien ministre libéral s'était trouvé en désaccord avec le gouvernement.

Since my English speaking friends are kind enough to listen to me and no doubt are anxious to know how the remarks of Mr. Speaker were reported, I shall translate what I just said:

Mr. Speaker interrupted Mr. Pouliot because in his speech the latter mentioned quotations from Mr. Cardin chosen from the speeches in which the former Liberal minister was in disagreement with the government.

I contend, sir, you never said anything of the kind. I believe it was unfair for this newspaper to give these remarks as having been made by you, and I hope the proper means will be taken to have that newspaper report corrected as soon as possible.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The house resumed from Wednesday, March 5, consideration of the motion of Mr. J. W. MacNaught for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Bracken, and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Coldwell.

[Mr. Mackenzie.]

Mr. F. W. TOWNLEY-SMITH (North Battleford): On two previous occasions, Mr. Speaker, I have drawn attention to the fact that in my constituency of North Battleford we have two branch lines of the Canadian National railways that are incomplete. In each case the ends have been built but the centre portion has not been completed. In the line from Frenchman's Butte in northern Saskatchewan to Heinsburg, in northeastern Alberta, there is a gap of roughly forty miles. In the line from St. Walburg to Beaver River, some 135 miles still remain to be constructed. Many years ago people were encouraged to settle in these districts, which are heavily wooded, with the definite promise that a railway would be built to take care of their needs. They have been let down very badly and are now suffering unnecessary hardship because of the failure of some people to keep their word. Both Liberal and Conservative parties promised these branch lines. It is always bad business to break a promise.

The difficulties experienced by those unfortunate people who were persuaded to spend the best part of their lives in these two districts have been recounted on several occasions by the hon. member for The Battlefords (Mr. Campbell), the hon. member for Athabaska (Mr. Dechene) and myself. There are no good roads, and when winter comes the obstacles these settlers encounter become almost insurmountable. There is no encouragement for them to increase production either of grains or of live stock, as the long haulage, running anywhere from twenty to one hundred miles, is prohibitive. Schools and social services were practically non-existent until the new government took over in Saskatchewan, when schools and teachers were provided under great difficulties. The lack of railway facilities makes the situation very bad; the whole area which should be serviced by these lines is really an economic loss. If sickness assails them they can get no help. The emergency hospital planes which have been inaugurated by the government of Saskatchewan have proved very helpful, but even so the situation is still bad and the mortality rate is high.

May I say here how thoroughly I agree with the hon. member for Lanark (Mr. Blair), who dwelt upon the lack of consideration being shown the unfortunate people suffering from tuberculosis, cancer, arthritis and the like. I should like to say, however, that in my province of Saskatchewan free treatment has been provided for those suffering from cancer. Cancer clinics, hospitalization and all treatments known to medical science are provided, and at least we have awakened to the great need for research and free treatment.