

The Manitoulin Railway

How the Conservatives Found the Road, and What They Have Done in the Matter

Well, now, the hon. member for the Soo went on to say, "What have the Government done towards building the Manitoulin Railway?" Let me say just a word in regard to that. When the Conservative Party came into power, what did they find? We found a company headed by our friend, Mr. Clergue, from the hon. gentleman's own constituency, the man he boasts so much about, and let me say a man I am proud of so far as the past history of the Province is concerned, had a charter. By virtue of that charter he had gone on and surveyed the line, and acquired a good deal of information in regard to the country. The Government of the past days had the benefit of this information, and had given him a grant of 7,100 acres per mile, and he had then left it. When the Liberals left office in this Province there was not a single acre of land nor a single dollar standing to the credit of the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway. When the Conservative Party came in the matter was brought to the attention of the present Government, and a more sympathetic hearing could not have been given any person.

GONE FURTHER THAN THE LIBERALS

A Government could not be more sympathetic toward that proposal than the present Government. The old grant of 7,100 acres per mile was revived, and an additional cash bonus of \$5,000 per mile was offered to Mr. Clergue or anyone else who would build the road. Though they have not built the road, they have gone further than any Liberal Government pretended to go in the past toward the building of the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway. And, Sir, I go further and say, I believe we have the sympathy of the Government to-day, and that **if the road be not built by the present owners of the franchise some other way will be devised whereby the railway will be built.** But, at any rate, I say it does not become the hon. member for the Soo, or anybody else, to say anything reflecting on the present Government as to that. This Government has done everything we could expect them to do in reason toward the building of that railway.

PREMIERS, HONEST AND OTHERWISE

Now Sir, another point. The hon. gentleman said that we are making a good deal of the fact that our present Premier is honest. And, Sir, it is admitted on every side that he is honest. However, the hon. gentle-