

taken information from correct quarters he would have discovered that within a very few days the Government will have the road opened and operated.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—Moreover, I am afraid that the Government will have to operate the road for many years to come. The hon. gentleman in trying to prove that the Government had lacked in not operating that part of the road between Amos and Quebec since December last, gave as evidence that that would have been a good proposition, one of Mr. Authier's letters saying that if the road had been in operation they would have been able to ship some 30 or 40 thousand loads of pulpwood and a couple of millions of logs.

The hon. gentleman from Nipissing disposed of that question very readily. We know that the hon. gentleman is a man of vast experience in the lumber trade and understands it perfectly well. He is also familiar with the transportation of timber, and pulp wood, floating it on streams or transporting it by rail, and he told us that the transportation of 30,000 or 40,000 cords of pulp wood would mean practically nothing, and the freight to be earned on the transportation of 2,000,000 feet of logs would bring about \$5,000. If all the business done by the company was the transporting of goods to the value of about ten or fifteen thousand dollars during the three or four months, it would not be very encouraging for the Government to operate the railway. As I said a moment ago, the Government is bound to open the road very soon and keep it in operation, though if the Grand Trunk Pacific were agreeable to the arrangements which were made in 1903, the company would have to take hold of the road and operate it. But gentlemen who were in this House in 1903 remember very well with what reluctance the Grand Trunk Pacific came to the conclusion that they would have to agree to take the lease of that road from Superior Junction down to Moncton. We heard in the House and on the street then that the Grand Trunk Pacific Company would not have worked and kept in operation that part of the road. Why? Because the Grand Trunk Pacific Company, which is practically the Grand Trunk Railway, has interests in diverting all its trade to Portland, in the State of Maine. That company has already spent about \$25,000,000 in making and improving the port of Port-

land. They have no interest at all in the ports of St. John or Halifax.

They may use Montreal as a port in summer time, but they will never use the ports of St. John or Halifax in winter time. Why? Because their line of railway is shorter to Portland by 200 or 300 miles; because they have a fine port which they have made themselves, on which they have spent several million dollars; we will never see the Grand Trunk Pacific using the Transcontinental from Superior Junction down to Quebec or Moncton. As I said a little while ago, the hon. gentleman from Mille Iles (Hon. Mr. David) failed to give us evidence that the road ought to have been kept in operation from Amos down to Quebec since December last. I expected a gentleman of the experience of the hon. member from De Lanaudière (Hon. Mr. Casgrain) would give us some further explanation and some further evidence that the road needed to be operated during the last winter. However, to my great disappointment the hon. gentleman never mentioned a word about that.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—Yes.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—He never said it was necessary to operate the road from Amos down to Quebec. He said there might be some difficulties—a few travellers who were going down to Quebec or Champlain county might have to go by North Bay and then come down to Montreal. He failed to tell us how many travellers he expected would want to travel that way since December last. He also told us that the land is so good on each side of Cochrane, that we would in the next few years see large towns built, and the country settled by farmers in good circumstances. If in five, ten, fifteen, or twenty years we see that, which everybody would be happy to see, that the land is so good that all the settlers will try to go there, then we are sure the road will be prosperous. Even though in 15 or 20 years many settlers will be there and will have to ship their goods by rail, how would that help in the operating of the road from December last?

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN—If there is no road operating the road from December last?

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—No, but I have just said if the hon. gentleman from Mille Isle (Hon. Mr. David) had obtained correct information, he would have been informed