

Mr. CAHILL: This is in no sense a Government Bill. Are the Government going to take power to build branch lines any where they like, as they are doing by this Bill and holding it out as a bait to the western members, telling them that if they do not support this Government they will not get these roads, but if they do they will get them instead of tariff reduction? If the Government were honest with the Opposition and with their supporters they would have come down with a statement showing what these lines were and where they proposed to build them. Do you expect us to sanction the building of forty-odd railway extensions without knowing where they are?

Mr. MORPHY: They are all set out in the schedule.

Mr. CAHILL: Where is the schedule?

Mr. MORPHY: Every member of the House has it.

Mr. CAHILL: It has not even been distributed yet. You may have received one but you are closer to the treasury benches than I am.

Mr. MORPHY: The leader of the Opposition has one.

Mr. McKENZIE: I just got it now. It was not given to me but I borrowed it from somebody else.

Mr. BOYS: The hon. member for Three Rivers had it two hours ago.

Mr. CAHILL: I am afraid I will have to ask you, Mr. Chairman, to keep order. The Government are obstructing so much that we are unable to get information. I am quite willing to answer any question that any member wishes to put to me.

Mr. KEEFER: Will you answer it correctly and fairly?

Mr. McKENZIE: The hon. member has no business to put a question of that kind.

Mr. CAHILL: I will agree to answer any question just as honestly as any member on that side and much more honestly than my hon. friend.

Mr. KEEFER: You are not really desiring to kill time?

Mr. CAHILL: Hon. gentlemen are obstructing again. Surely these hon. gentlemen do not expect this debate to be carried on here with a number of officials around that we cannot ask questions of.

[Mr. Lemieux.]

The Government will have to turn to each of these officials and get them to answer the questions we put. I would like to take the schedule, go to a railway map and see where these lines are proposed to be constructed. Instead of asking us to swallow forty-four lines to be built throughout Western Canada without regard to where they are to be built or their mileage, the Government should consent to a reference of this Bill to the Railway Committee. On the first discussion of this subject the minister made the statement that the directors were temporary. He said he wanted to divorce the railway management as far as possible from politics and the Government. Now he comes back and we have a new policy laid down to build forty-four lines. The day before yesterday he said that they had no policy yet because the Government were going to appoint new directors who would be practically independent. Now he comes along and tells us that they propose to build forty-four lines all of which have apparently been sanctioned by these temporary directors. When you remember that the temporary directorate have already arranged to spend \$70,000,000 what can we expect from the permanent directorate?

Because that is what is amounts to. Mr. Hanna, according to the press, made the statement the other day that they were going to spend \$70,000,000 in the Western country. He may have been wrong in that statement, but the Government have admitted that they are going to build forty-four lines of railway. A few days ago, when asked to make a statement regarding the railway policy of the Government the Minister of Railways said that the present was not the time to give that information, but to wait until the Railway Estimates were being considered. Apparently, notwithstanding that, the Government have decided to build all these lines of railway, but are not willing that we should know anything about it. Therefore this afternoon they slip out a schedule of those lines and then expect us to swallow it. It seems to me that is the most unreasonable proposal that was ever drawn to my attention, I never heard anything like it. If the directors of this company are only temporary directors, and have not decided on any plans, how does the Government come to have such a policy with regard to the construction of these lines?

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS: Would it relieve the hon. gentleman's mind if I were to assure him that all the lines in the province