

which he referred appeared exclusively in the Toronto Star and was contributed by its Ottawa correspondent. I do not know whether my right hon. friend has investigated the source from which it came, but I am informed that the article in the Toronto Star was from an international news service in New York, and that a similar article appeared in the Toronto Telegram and also in the Montreal Herald, and apparently in a number of other papers, so that its publication was in no sense exclusive, and its source in no way the Toronto Star or any of its correspondents. I mention this because I think my right hon. friend would not wish to create a wrong impression with respect to any one particular publication.

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have investigated the matter further. The despatch appeared under an Ottawa date line, and I can find no other similar despatch. I have not been able personally to exhaust investigation of the various papers, but I have been told just what the right hon. gentleman says, that a despatch somewhat in the same sense—I have not seen it—appeared in two Toronto papers and in a Montreal paper. I have not yet received the clippings to ascertain whether they are the same despatch or not, but the Toronto Star despatch appeared under an Ottawa date line, and apparently it was sent from here. That being so, I thought it was important, in justice to all parties concerned, that a statement should be made in view of the fact that the correspondent of the paper I mentioned had seen the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs and had received the answer that I have indicated. I will try to see the clippings themselves between now and Monday if I can possibly do so to ascertain if they are the same despatch or not. I am not satisfied myself where it originated because I contented myself yesterday with believing it originated where the date line indicated—Ottawa.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

ST. WALBURG-LOON LAKE BRANCH LINE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. CAMERON R. McINTOSH (North Battleford): I desire to direct a question to the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) based on a brief letter I have received from Loon Lake, which I believe has been also forwarded to the Minister of Railways. The letter is addressed to me and is dated March 26, 1932.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cannot the hon. member ask his question without reading the letter?

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

He has just stated that the minister has been sent a copy of the letter.

Mr. McINTOSH: With all due deference, Mr. Speaker, there is a paragraph of the letter which I think should be mentioned in order to make clear the point of my question.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the hon. member says the minister has a copy of the letter.

Mr. McINTOSH: All right, whatever you say; I am quite willing to put the question now. I may say this is the fourth time I have asked this question this session; as yet I have not received a definite answer, and this letter is based on the questions I have already asked. The question concerns the steeling of 44 miles of grade between Loon Lake and St. Walburg in the northwestern part of Saskatchewan. I should like to ask the minister what action he intends to take on the petition he has received asking that steel be laid on the graded portion of this line between St. Walburg and Loon Lake. This is a definite question, and I should like a definite yes or no in answer. The time for action has arrived.

Hon. R. J. MANION (Minister of Railways and Canals): The hon. member asked what action was to be taken, and he demanded yes or no in answer. I hardly know which would be the more satisfactory to him under the circumstances.

Mr. McINTOSH: Yes, you do.

Mr. MANION: I think the question was answered, so far as the government could answer it, some weeks ago. The hon. member asked this question and I told him then that the work on this line was in exactly the same position as the work on other branch lines throughout the west and throughout Canada generally. The national railways is not considering going on with practically any branch line work this year, with the exception of a small amount scattered here and there throughout the country, and so far as I know there is very little possibility of this branch line being completed this year.

Mr. McINTOSH: But there is a possibility?

Mr. MANION: There is a possibility of almost anything.

BEAUHARNOIS POWER PROJECT

GUARANTEES BY GOVERNMENT FOR ADVANCES MADE BY BANKS

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I undertook to