

Mr. BARKER. No doubt the minister last year had details before him as the hon. minister has now. Perhaps they can be produced, they would give the explanation.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We will look into it.

Improvements at Point Tupper, \$25,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We have spent more of the vote of last year than we had supposed, when these estimates were prepared, would be spent. Therefore, I propose to reduce this item to \$6,000, all of which is a revote. I move that the item be reduced to \$6,000.

Item, as amended, voted.

Yard for freight business at Rivière du Loup, \$10,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This is to continue the work started in 1902-3. It was estimated that the \$25,000 would be expended, and, as the year has since closed, I suppose it has been expended. The work consists in filling, grading, renewing of sidings and so on. And this \$10,000 is for the building of sidings and to provide additional yard accommodation, including the removal of buildings.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. This is a total of \$35,000, which seems an enormous sum for a freight yard at Rivière du Loup.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Rivière du Loup is an important station.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. But there is another very important vote besides, for Rivière du Loup, of \$50,000, for engine house, machine shops and cars. This is only the expenditure for the yard.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. This is to finish the yard improvements, irrespective of the vote for buildings.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Out of this \$35,000, what is the amount for building? \$35,000 would buy the whole place.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The total expenditure on this particular time to the end of 1903 will be about \$26,000 for the yard only. My papers do not contain the information as to the total expenditure, but I will get that. To what particular date does the hon. gentleman want it?

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. What has been done at the yard there?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Grading and laying the sidings. This is asked now to complete the sidings and other necessary work, and provide the necessary accommodation, including the moving of the building.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Do you charge rails and ties in that also?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes, these will be additional sidings, which will be a proper charge to capital.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Are rails and ties charged in these improvements?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. Then there is a double payment for ties and rails. All the ties purchased for the Intercolonial are charged to capital account. You take them out of store and charge them to it.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. When they are purchased they are charged to stores account, when they go out on the road they are charged against it.

Mr. BARKER. What additions to the lengths of the siding have been made in this yard for this \$35,000?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. There is a considerable increase in the length of the sidings. I will get the figures later.

Mr. BLAIN. How much was spent last year?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. \$25,000, and \$10,000 more is wanted.

Mr. BLAIN. Last year, under the item 'To provide yard for freight business, Rivière du Loup, \$25,000,' the Minister of Railways and Canals made this statement:

This is for yard room and track. The yards are altogether too restricted. A portion of this is for land. We have not got the land yet, but it is estimated that \$15,000 will be sufficient to buy the land and grade it and put it in shape, and \$10,000 will put down the tracks.

There is a straight statement from the ex-Minister of Railways and Canals when he took his \$25,000 vote last year. Now the acting minister comes forward and says that he wants \$10,000 more.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. The manager informs me that he is not aware at this moment of anything having been spent for land. But the location was changed from the point where it was first contemplated, and yard improvements were made upon our own land, and we did not buy land.

Mr. BLAIN. That makes the position worse. They asked for \$15,000 last year for land, and now the minister says they did not require to purchase the land because they had land of their own. Notwithstanding that, he comes forward and says he has expended \$15,000 in improvements that were voted to purchase the land, and \$10,000 in addition; and now \$10,000 more are wanted. Is this the old policy, or is it a new one under the new minister?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. We will have to investigate before answering that question.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. This is extraordinary. You get a vote of \$15,000 for the purpose of purchasing land, but instead of purchasing land you use it to build a yard.