

government. The party opposite sat on the treasury benches' for 15 years; and I am surprised that some members of that party now in this House are ready to put forward the assertion that it is only a coincidence—that within two or three months of the time when the local Liberal Nova Scotia government was to die by effluxion of time, the announcement should be made that the Dominion government was at last going to do what it should have done years before, namely begin the building of branch lines in Nova Scotia.

I have the utmost confidence in the programme of the present administration. We do not wish to hurry unduly—it is sometimes well to make haste slowly. We have had certain developments and facts borne in upon our minds lately which seem to teach us the advisability of not rushing into large expenditures and extensive railway construction before having proper surveys made and proper estimates of cost. It is the part of wisdom to learn from experience; and it seems to me that the experience we have dearly purchased in connection with the large contracts for construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific, we may well lay to heart, and in our further railway development not hurry too much. That seems to be the case in connection with the complaint of the hon. member for Guysborough (Mr. Sinclair)—the information was not sufficient, the surveys are not complete, and it is well not to rush into large expenditures unless we see where we are going to get off at.

Mr. SINCLAIR. My hon. friend from Cumberland (Mr. Rhodes) seemed to indicate that there was too much surveying done on the branch line into the county of Guysborough.

Now, his proposal appears to be to go ahead and have some more surveys. That is the only remedy he gives us. He says that for the past twenty years this proposed railway has been used as an election dodge, and that surveying has been done from time to time for that purpose; and, therefore, as we are now in power, we will go on surveying—notwithstanding the fact that the results of all the surveys made are in the possession of the government for which they are going to pay the large sum of \$85,000. I want to point out again to the hon. member for Cumberland (Mr. Rhodes), that this survey is completed, I mean the survey from Sunnybrae down the East river to St. Mary's, and to the town of Guysborough, and from the Cross Roads of Country Harbour to the deep waters of Country Harbour; I understand the government have already got a complete survey of all that line. It was contended, however, that a

Mr. McCURDY.

shorter line might be brought down the West river and the engineers were surveying that, and would have been allowed to go on with their work. My hon. friend from Queens-Shelburne (Mr. McCurdy), said that there was not sufficient information. I would like to ask him what additional information has the government in its possession about the branch to Musquodoboit? I presume the information they have about one of these roads is the same as they have about the other. They cannot have any more information as to the traffic, the business, and the cost of construction, with regard to one road than the other. They have got information about both of these lines, as a matter of fact all the information they require, therefore, there can be no excuse of that kind. Besides, the present government were not so cautious as my hon. friend would indicate. The Prime Minister a few weeks ago, when there was a local election in Prince Edward Island, did not wait for information, but announced that the government was to build a car-ferry across to the island. I venture to say that the minister cannot tell us now, cannot give us the slightest information, as to the cost of this car-ferry or as to the cost of widening the rails. But that did not deter him from sending a telegram to the Conservative party in Prince Edward Island.

Mr. COCHRANE. I did not send any telegram.

Mr. SINCLAIR. The Prime Minister sent it. If my hon. friend feels any more cheerful from the fact that the Prime Minister sent it and not himself, he is welcome to any joy he can get out of it. When therefore, it was intended to hoodwink the people of Prince Edward Island, and offer them a bribe to vote for the Conservative party—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SINCLAIR. To offer them an inducement, at all events.

Mr. RHODES. I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman says the Prime Minister attempted to hoodwink the people of Prince Edward Island. That remark is not parliamentary, and should be withdrawn.

Mr. SINCLAIR. I corrected myself, and used the word 'induced.' But it appears now, and my hon. friend will not deny it, that it was for the purpose of assisting the Conservative party in the province of Prince Edward Island that the telegram was sent. And it was sent without the slightest information, without knowing the