

Unemployment—Mr. MacMillan

siderable experience in cruising timber and estimating the value of standing timber on crown lands. I think I can speak with as much certainty as any man in northern Saskatchewan as to the timbers I have cruised.

The whole township 64, range 25, west of the third meridian has been inspected by me and is green timber. It is unsurveyed and I state positively that the timber is not fire-killed.

And further:

I know and personally inspected the west half and N.E. of 12, W. half and N.E. 13-62-25-W-3. This timber is not fire-killed but on the contrary is good green jack pine suitable for railway ties.

I trust this information is what you require.

I have also a letter from Mr. Fred McKenzie, Dominion land inspector at North Battleford. This letter refers to timber permit number 5068 which comprises some seven and three quarters square miles, and is one of the permits to which I have already referred. The letter reads:

I beg to report having inspected the above lands as to the timber thereon. These areas consist of a scattered cut of fire-killed jack pine and spruce situated on the north side of Pierce lake, Saskatchewan. As over 50 per cent of this timber is fire-killed or will die as a direct result of fire, I would recommend that it be disposed of under section 47 of the timber regulations, before it becomes a loss.

I have another letter from the same gentleman dated North Battleford, March 17, 1930, referring to timber permit 5069 which comprises some six and three-quarters square miles. Mr. McKenzie states that the timber therein was fire-killed, while these other gentlemen state it was not. I desire to continue to read from the evidence from which I was quoting when the house adjourned on March 1. I quote as follows from the examination for discovery by Mr. Reed of Mr. Sibbald, taken at Battleford on February 18:

Q. How is it that Marshall got a contract for ten thousand ties last December?

A. As I said before in the year 1930-31 on account of this unemployment situation they have let all kinds of small contracts.

His Lordship: I understood that was limited to one thousand?

A. The contracts to settlers is limited to a thousand.

Q. Nevertheless why should the Canadian National divert from their policy and take Marshall's contract or anybody else's contract rather than yours?

A. We still have our contract but they have been giving them to a great number of settlers. I think there are thirty contracts in the province of Saskatchewan to-day. This is the first year they have got away from it, and they say it is on account of the unemployment situation. Mr. Merkley, the Minister of Labour, made some arrangements with the Canadian National Railways with a view to relieving the unem-

[Mr. F. R. MacMillan.]

ployment situation and the matter is in his hands. He I think has a great deal to say about it, and it is under that general policy—

Mr. Reed:

Q. You know Sam Ferrie?

A. Yes.

Q. He had a contract for 50,000 in 1927-28?

A. Yes.

Q. You remember Ernest Atkinson had 50,000 in 1924 or 1925?

A. He may have. As I said before, we have only had control since 1925; several people had contracts until then.

They have had control only since 1925. The evidence continues:

Q. During that time from 1925 until last fall did the Canadian National Railways let any contract in northern Saskatchewan except through you?

A. Not to my knowledge.

Q. What about Sam Ferrie?

A. Sam Ferrie got a contract but when it was brought to their attention it was cancelled immediately. It was brought to the attention of Mr. Dunning and Mr. Ferrie's contract was cancelled.

I understand Mr. Ferrie was the campaign manager for the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh).

Mr. McINTOSH: No, he was not.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): That is the information I have.

Mr. McINTOSH: The hon. member's information is wrong, like a lot of the stuff he is putting out.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): It is very strange that with the great influence of the hon. member for North Battleford, Mr. Ferrie, his campaign manager, could not hold his contract.

Mr. VALLANCE: I think the hon. member should take that back; the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) denies the statement.

Mr. MacMILLAN (Saskatoon): When the natural resources were turned over to the provincial government of Saskatchewan I understand a royalty of five cents was being paid for these ties, but in the first year since that time I understand the royalty amounts to some eighteen cents. In the fall of 1929 and the spring of 1930 these people received contracts from the railway for 250,000 ties; they delivered 501,000, for which they were paid \$380,000. My point is that had the settlers been given the opportunity to supply these ties to the railway they would have been in better condition to-day. Probably a lot of this timber which was rated as fire-killed should not have been rated in that manner.