

from completing that gigantic enterprise because we are asked to spend something less than \$2,000,000? I do not believe it. I have great consideration and regard for the claims of St. John. I belong myself to the Province of New Brunswick, but I believe that if the new line had not been built from Harvey to St. John before this Short Line that none of this agitation would be heard of. It is because they have tasted of the luxury that they now want to keep the whole thing to themselves. The proposed enterprise is a continuation of the original scheme. The saving in distance by the calculation given to us is twenty-seven miles. That is quite an object on a railroad for the construction of which we have not hesitated to go through a foreign territory—on the construction of which we have spent so many millions of dollars. It will be a saving of more than an hour in time, because the country it traverses is very level. There will be no station between Fredericton and Moncton, and it will be a saving in time of more than the twenty-seven miles indicate. Admitting that the expenditure is a considerable one, still, I am strongly in favor of the enterprise, because it is one of general utility. I believe that we should be guarded, in the discussion of these questions, against exaggeration. The House has been placed under the impression by my hon. friend from Richmond that the cost of the road will be between three and four millions of dollars. The House is now laboring under that impression, irrespective of the statement made by the leader of the Government, based upon the report of two engineers, which I think we ought to consider as a proper estimate, rather than estimates given without any proof whatever.

HON. MR. MILLER—I discounted both statements, and took a medium.

HON. MR. POIRIER—In this case I would rather give credit to the parties who have made an actual survey, and have worked out figures, and profiles and specifications, than to statements of parties who have never seen the line. We have heard the plans criticised as being biased. I see that the plan is dated 1885, and at that time, unless Mr. Schreiber is

a prophet, which he may be, but which I am not prepared to believe, he could not foresee the discussion we are having to-day, and therefore we must assume that the plan he has given to us is a correct one. As the road runs now from Harvey to St. John, and from St. John to Moncton, it describes a right angle. We propose to cut this angle from the middle of the hypotenuse, and it must carry conviction with it that at least 27 miles will be saved. If we did not utilize the bridge which already exists 43 miles could be saved, but in order to save 43 miles we would have to build a new bridge, which would cost over \$300,000, and which is a very important sum. The Government have been blamed for loaning money towards the construction of that bridge. Here is a chance to make the loan a paying business, and if the bridge can be utilized for the Short Line it will be killing two birds with one stone. I am still more impressed with the accuracy of the statement made by the Government engineers by the fact that an independent survey has been made. I have been in communication myself with the parties, and their report coincides very nearly with that of the Government engineers. Their report as to the actual cost of the road is almost identical with the estimate made by the Government; therefore, I think we should base our vote on an estimate of \$1,840,000, rather than on the three or four millions referred to by the hon. gentleman opposite. When the project was first accepted a grant was made and approved of by Parliament of \$63,000 per mile for that distance. This \$63,000 capitalized would make about \$800,000, to which, if we add \$1,000,000, will construct the road; therefore, what the country is now asked to give is merely one million more to construct this railway.

HON. MR. MACINNES (Burlington)—The hon. gentleman is wrong in his figures. The \$63,000 capitalized, at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., would be about \$2,000,000.

HON. MR. POIRIER—Undoubtedly the interest on, \$2,000,000, at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., would be about what the hon. gentleman says; but I say, if we capitalize an annuity of \$63,000 for twenty years, to see how much cash we will have to pay at 4 per