

in length, at \$2,234,009, and the cost of each separate section of ten miles was also given. The most expensive portion was the third ten-mile section from North Bay getting over the height of land between the waters flowing toward Mattawa River and Lake Nipissing and those flowing toward the Ottawa River, which was estimated at \$278,000. The lowest estimate was for ten miles near the end of the line, \$14,000 per mile. The latter, he said, in reply to Mr. Carscallen, included the cost and the laying of rails.

Mr. Stratton's Views.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, in a brief, vigorous speech, said the Government had gone about the matter in a most business-like way. The engineer had by instruction made a preliminary survey of two routes and the Government had taken the responsibility of adopting one of these. The bill clearly set forth the plan to be adopted, and there was no shirking of responsibility. Hon. gentlemen well knew that if information was given as to stations, stopping points, etc., attempts might be made by speculators to embarrass the construction of the line. All the necessary information which hon. gentlemen could desire in the public interest had been laid on the table, and if hon. gentlemen had not become seized of it, then the fault was due to their own lack of energy to read the papers or inability to understand them. As a matter of fact, hon. gentlemen had tried to convince themselves that the line would not be built, and now that they realized that its construction would be commenced almost immediately they were perturbed. The people of Toronto and the public generally were anxious to have the line and would have it.

Mr. Whitney's Charge.

Mr. Whitney said they all knew, of course, how much higher than themselves the Provincial Secretary was, and how much superior his ability and energy were. (Opposition applause.) A short time ago two distinguished gentlemen from Nova Scotia, visiting Ontario, had told him they understood there was to be a change of Premiers in Ontario. Mr. Whitney had answered: "Yes, as soon as we have the general elections." (Opposition applause and laughter.) They answered, "That is not what we mean. The Provincial Secretary has been down to the Maritime Provinces, and has declared that he is to be Premier, and he declared so to us." (Renewed laughter.)

Hon. Mr. Stratton—It is absolutely false and untrue, and I defy the hon. gentleman to name those gentlemen.

Mr. Whitney did not do so, but, continuing, said that four days afterwards one of the most distinguished members of the Ontario Reform party had remarked that the Provincial Secretary had nearly ruined one Government and would ruin another. (Laughter.) Continuing, Mr. Whitney again reiterated

his assertion that the House should be placed in possession of all information in regard to the subject.

A Company's Offer Rejected.

Hon. Mr. Latchford said the statement that there was not an atom of information before the House was absurd. He read from the report which had been presented. The line from North Bay to New Liskeard was 110 miles, which would be shortened by revision. The report declared that the line between Lake Temagami and Wabis Bay at New Liskeard presented no engineering difficulties and no heavier grade going south than 1 per cent., and going north 1.25 per cent., assuming that the loads would be southbound. This would give a road equal to the Northern or the Canada Atlantic, and at an average cost. There was room for a boat landing where the line touched Lake Temagami, and a sounding 200 feet from the shore showed a depth of twenty feet, which would enable the Province to partake in a large trade. Between Lake Temagami and Wabis Bay the forest was green and virgin. In reply to Col. Matheson, Mr. Latchford said the Government had rejected the offer of a company to build the railway at its cost, plus 10 or 15 per cent. No company had offered to build it for a bonus, except asking a larger amount than the Government would pay.

The Colonel Fears a Deficit.

Col. Matheson said the road would cost for interest and sinking fund \$200,000 a year for forty years, besides the possibility of its being run at a loss. It would be only a branch line.

Mr. Latchford—I don't know about that.

Col. Matheson repeated that it would be a branch line, and would probably be run at a loss. The Government should

have considered ways and means better before running into such a large expenditure.

The bill was then reported without amendments.

Hon. Mr. Latchford's bill to provide for the removal of obstructions in rivers and streams was reported without amendment.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt's bill to amend the high schools act was given its second reading.

Answers of Witnesses.

On the House again going into committee on Hon. Mr. Gibson's bill to amend the statute law, Mr. Gibson moved to strike out the clause providing that no person should be excused from answering any question upon the ground that the answer to such question may tend to criminate him. He was strongly of opinion that the provision should, if retained at all, be made a substantive bill.

Mr. Whitney concurred with this view and the clause was struck out.