

exempt from all taxation the property of these corporations without submitting a by-law to the will of the people! Now there are not one hundred men in the Province of Ontario, I believe, outside of the City of Toronto who understand and believe that a Bill like that was introduced. Why? Because it was withdrawn. Because the unworthy public men who dared to insult the intelligence of an Ontario Legislature by proposing such a scheme, withdrew it quietly, in the dark so to speak, and never dared stand up in the House to say a word in defence of it. (Applause.) I want you people to understand what these men in the Government of Ontario are prepared to do in order to keep power. Suppose there was in your township a long telephone line or electric railway. Under this Bill the municipal council would have the power without reference to the ratepayers to vote that no taxation should be levied on the property of these corporations for three years, and they could snap their fingers at their constituents! Now you can see the outrageous nature of this attempted legislation by Mr. Ross. You know that when a bonus is granted to a railway or to a factory of any kind, not only has a by-law to be submitted to the people, but it has to be endorsed by a vote of two-thirds or three-fifths of the people. But here this conspiracy, hatched and endeavored to be carried out by the men who compose the Government of the province, intended to take deliberately from the people of the province the power to levy taxation on any of these great corporations. They amended Bill No. 167, as Mr. Foy has stated, and within the last two months, two judges have declared that the amendments are of no use, and that the Scrap Iron Assessment is in force yet, so that the corporations still have the long end of the whiffle-tree, and they will keep it just as long as Mr. Ross keeps power. Now Mr. Ross held several meetings, just before sailing for England. He is coming home on Saturday, and some people say, I do not know whether it is true, that he has sent instructions to have a steam-beat load of people go over to Niagara and welcome him. Whether that be so or not, he is coming home on Saturday, and his friends are trying to raise a flourish of trumpets over his return. (Laughter.) Before Mr. Ross went to England, he on several occasions explained his position on the assessment law, but he never mentioned this Bill No. 175, that I have been dilating upon to you for the last few minutes. Why did he not mention it? Why was he afraid to mention it? Why was it that he who is considered one of the ablest men of the party in power went on platform after platform, explained his position on the assessment and other important questions and dared not tell the people he had introduced such a Bill? I think no greater compliment could be paid to the good sense and judgment of Mr. Ross, than the statement of the fact that he did not dare do it. (Laughter.)

AID TO RAILWAYS.

Now with regard to assistance to railways. We believe that the time has come when it should only be given for colonization and development purposes, for opening and developing the different portions of the country. (Hear, hear.) There is a point in connection with that that I wish to draw your attention to. The Province of Ontario during the long series of years gave large bonuses to a great number of railways. A few years ago the Dominion Parliament took control of these railways and made them Dominion railways; took them out of the hands of the Legislature of Ontario. Now I believe—although I have not yet been able to satisfy myself thoroughly as to all the facts—that within the last six months or so in the cases of similar railways in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, which were bonused by the Provinces, and which have been taken over by the Dominion—the Provinces have made claims to the Dominion Government and the Dominion Government has repaid the subsidies paid by the Provinces to the railways. Now should not Ontario be treated in the same way? (Hear, hear.) You will be surprised when I show