

To the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company, for a railway bridge over the St. Charles River, to give access to the City of Quebec, a subsidy not to exceed in the whole \$30,000; also for 12 miles of their railway from Lorette via Charlesbourg, to Quebec, a subsidy not exceeding \$3,200 per mile, nor exceeding in the whole \$38,400—\$68,400.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This road now connects with the Canadian Pacific Railway about five miles out of Quebec; they have found it a roundabout way of reaching Quebec, and the line has to encounter a very heavy grade.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the estimated cost of the bridge?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Upwards of \$200,000. It is a very large bridge, crossing the River St. Charles opposite the gas works.

Mr. BLAKE. What is the estimated cost of the 12 miles of the road?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. It is an expensive piece of road. I have not got the estimate, but the right of way is very expensive, as it comes down through one of the best portions of the country. Some of the grades are heavy.

Mr. BLAKE. We all know that it would cost more than \$3,200 a mile. That is a heavy piece of road, the right of way is going to be expensive, it is going to include the termini. So this will amount to \$240,000 for the railway and \$200,000 for the bridge, or \$440,000, to which must be added \$60,000 for pickings, which is very moderate in that locality, or in all half a million dollars. But the road has already access to the city of Quebec over the Canadian Pacific Railway, and it is thus proposed to spend half a million dollars to give them better facilities for entering the city. I think that this proposed grant could be very much better expended.

To the St. John Valley and Rivière du Loup Railway Company, for 22 miles of their railway from the village of Prince William towards the town of Woodstock, in lieu of the subsidy granted by the Act 50-51 Victoria, chapter 24, a subsidy not exceeding \$3,200 per mile, nor exceeding in the whole \$70,400.

Mr. BLAKE. But the hon. gentleman must remember that, although the First Minister may desire to calm the perturbed feelings of the hon. member for Albert (Mr. Weldon), the First Minister is going to throw the whole community into a state of agitation, for the hon. gentleman has already said that the Intercolonial was burden enough for this country to bear, and that he had no idea of taking over the branches.

INDIAN ADVANCEMENT ACT.

Mr. BLAKE. I wish to remark on only one section of this Bill, that is, section 9. If I understood the Minister aright, he says it is introduced at the request of some council of the Indians; but I do not think even that circumstance, extraordinary as it is, is a justification for the introduction of this provision in the Statute-book of Canada. That section provides for the punishment by imprisonment of any Indian proved guilty of deserting his or her family, wife or husband, as the case may be, without just cause, or of living in concubinage. I do not see on what principle we can undertake to apply very much more severe penalties, or a higher standard of morality to Indians, than we propose to enforce among the white population of this country. You say the Indians are less advanced than we are, that they occupy a lower position in morality, that some of them are pagans, that the christianity of some of them is not as high as we boast our own to be; they are to be guarded carefully; but then why in the world should you propose to enforce, by the criminal law, these provisions against them when you do not in the same way enforce such provisions against whites?

On section 11,

Mr. BLAKE. The words "an Indian on the reserve" would mean an Indian who lives on a reserve.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). This will be circumscribing their liberty very much. You would not be allowed to go on a reserve and have any dealings with the Indians, not even to sell to them for cash.

Mr. DEWDNEY. This is to prevent traders from starting stores on a reserve without consent.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). In absolutely forbidding any trading on a reserve, you would prevent Indians engaging in perfectly legitimate dealings. This, of course, applies to all the bands. Take the reserve in my riding, where the Indians are advanced. They engage in buying horses and cattle, and if they should do so on the reserve it would be illegal.

Mr. BLAKE. You had better apply your law to the locality in which the mischief arises and not anywhere else.

Mr. McNEILL. Very often traders bring liquor with them on to the reserve to sell to the Indians. In my constituency the Indian agents have complained of men coming on the reserve to trade but really to sell liquor.

Mr. BLAKE. Better amend the clause by making this portion refer only to Manitoba and the North-West.