

Arbitrator appointed entirely by the Government would be altogether impartial; some other way might be devised in this connection.

MR. MACKENZIE: What other way? The Judges are appointed by the Government.

MR. HADDOW said, at all events, he was very glad—as his constituents also would be—to hear this proposal. He had great hopes that it would be effective. They all knew that it was very objectionable to most people to have recourse to law, even though they might succeed. The expenses they thus incurred were considerable, and to have the chance of settlement by arbitration would be considered a great boon by a great many in his county.

MR. LANGEVIN said he was afraid that this amendment of the hon. the Minister of Public Works would not meet the case. He feared that the cost would be very heavy, and it would fall on the Government. In a case of \$20, \$5 or \$30, if the Government were not satisfied with the evidence sent by the complainant, they would have to send down an arbitrator who would have to summon witnesses, hold a court and report. A number of days would thus be occupied; the arbitrator would make a report which would be sent to the hon. the Minister of Public Works, and the latter would have to investigate the matter. In connection with such large works as the Intercolonial or the Pacific Railway or the canals, the number of these cases would be very numerous; the arbitrators would constantly be occupied in investigating them, and the cost of this would be very heavy. If he rightly understood the hon. the Minister of Public Works, this cost would be borne by the Government. He really believed that it would be better that these claims should be sent up to the hon. the Minister of Public Works, and, if they were not settled within a reasonable period, the party, if he was not satisfied with the decision, should have the right to go before a Court of justice in the same way as any individual now had the right to do with respect to the Grand Trunk, Great Western or Canada Southern Railways. If these

cases were left in the hands of the Public Works Department, it would be said that they were decided by those who, in the opinion of the public, had committed the offence, through its officers. He supposed that the hon. the Minister of Public Works, out of 50 cases, would receive the report of his officers, at all events, in 48 or 49; hence the litigants would always have the same complaint to make. They would say they had no chance; that an officer of the Government had been sent down, who had for his witnesses officers of the Government; that these had combined together, and that was the result. But, if the complainant had a right to go before a Judge—he would not say a jury—he would be satisfied; the Judge stood between the Government and the people; was independent of the Government; and let him decide if the complainant was not content with the decision of the hon. the Minister of Public Works. This plan would be less costly than the other. He did not suppose that more than twenty out of one hundred cases, and perhaps a less proportion, would go before a Court of justice. In every case under the present scheme, the party complaining would say that he could not obtain justice, and, if an arbitrator was sent down, that the hon. the Minister of Public Works took the *ipse dixit* of this officer. He believed that the hon. gentleman, before the report was received from the Committee of the Whole, would reconsider the matter, and would allow these parties concerned in these cases where the sums claimed were small, to go before a Court, as was done in the case of any other railway company.

MR. MACKENZIE said he did not think that they could do this. The hon. gentleman would understand that, in many cases where a clear claim was made out, payment was not deferred. This would be only necessary in such cases as were disputed, where the evidence was conflicting, and the railway officers reported that there was reason to believe that the Government was not liable. In these instances only, an investigation was

MR. HADDOW.