

right-of-way on which this proposed railway could be built.

Mr. J. D. REID: I shall certainly be glad to give the hon. member any information he desires in regard to this matter. We are simply taking over the rights of this company. A lot of money has been invested by the Canadian Northern in the purchase of a right-of-way through the city of Hamilton, for instance, and through all the territory from Toronto. As the Canadian Northern has been taken over by the Government this right-of-way will now belong to the people, and if this road is never built there will be a certain amount of money coming to the people of this country in return for that right-of-way.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The request that was made by the hon. member for Simcoe seems to me to be very reasonable. He wants to know if the right-of-way has been fully occupied by the Electrical Development Company, and the only answer he gets is that the right-of-way belongs to the Canadian Northern. That is all the more reason why we should have this information. The minister has not answered my hon. friend's question at all.

Mr. J. D. REID: I have not the information with me but I said I should be very glad to give him all the information he desired on the third reading.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: Let the Bill stand until you get the information.

Mr. J. D. REID: The hon. member did not ask that the Bill stand, but that I bring down the information on the third reading.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: It seems to me that this is the proper time to have the information.

Mr. CURRIE: Apparently the minister has not the information available at present. As I understand it, on the right-of-way of this railway company whose charter we are proposing to extend, the Electrical Development Company originally built one pole line, with the intention of building a railway line along the right-of-way, but within the last two years, owing to the extension of electric power, another power line has been built along this right-of-way some distance from the first one, and the whole right-of-way is now occupied. I am informed, however, that the railway company had purchased additional right-of-way so that they could build a railway if necessary, and I wanted to know whether it was a fact that they would have a right-of-way

[Mr. Currie.]

not cluttered up with the poles of the Electrical Development Company. Otherwise, the Government would have to bring down a Bill later on to take over the Electrical Development Company, who would undoubtedly make a kick if the railway was built along their right-of-way. I think we should know the exact situation before this Bill passes the House as to the rights that have been granted to the Electrical Development Company, what was paid for them, and all that sort of thing. It might turn out that we were taking over a worthless charter here which would be capitalized, if at all possible, by the company when it appears before the arbitration board in Toronto, and without giving full information in respect to the right-of-way. I think this is a very important matter, but I have no objection to the Bill being proceeded with, if the minister will bring down the information on the third reading. If that is satisfactory to me, I think it will be satisfactory to the House.

Mr. BUREAU: I was not in the Railway Committee when the question was discussed on the last occasion. Is this the same question that came up last year, when the Hydro-Electric representatives objected to an extension of the charter, or is this another railway company?

Mr. J. D. REID: Yes. The city of Toronto in regard to which we had the trouble about two years ago. I think the extension was for two years. The two years are up and the charter has to be renewed. Representatives of the Hydro-Electric Commission were before the committee a few days ago.

Mr. BUREAU: Is it the same question that was discussed on the last occasion?

Mr. J. D. REID: Yes. The city of Toronto was represented and the objections were withdrawn when it was explained that this railway and all its rights and benefits belonged to the people of Canada through the Canadian Northern System. It was also explained that the clause protecting the city of Toronto was in the charter that was being extended, and that, before anything would be done in connection with the carrying out of the completing of this line, the people of Toronto would be consulted by the Dominion Government, if the Government decided to proceed.

Mr. HOCKEN: I think the information asked for by the hon. member for Simcoe ought to be furnished. I have information