

West Toronto would place upon them. To do such a thing as we are asked to do by the hon. gentleman would be to show that we really did not know what we were about, and did not understand our business. I am quite satisfied that in the hands of the hon. member for Kent and his friends, the enterprise will be vigorously pushed forward. Although several of the gentlemen seeking incorporation are Americans, they are the very men who are able to furnish traffic for this road, and they can do it far better than men connected with the board of trade. I believe that these Americans, with the assistance of the Canadians who are connected with the enterprise, will make this route the success that in other hands it would not be. We have been told that these men have been working at this enterprise for three, four, five or six years. They have had several opportunities of coming before the House, but they did not make their appearance until the hon. member for Kent brought forward his Bill. I can quite understand that the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) is anxious that this Bill should not go through. He is afraid that this Bill might give a little eclat to the hon. member for Kent who, I understand, is going to meet him in West York, and therefore, he is doing his best to clip the wings of the hon. member for Kent and prevent him from getting this measure through the House. I think that if the hon. member for Kent goes into West York it will be the last we will see of the hon. member for West York. The man with the knife will take care of himself. The promoters of the Bill that has yet to come before the committee will have an opportunity of showing their good faith in the building of the road by joining my hon. friend's company. They can go in and subscribe for the stock, and if they subscribe for a sufficient amount of stock, I am sure that the hon. member for Kent will feel quite pleased to give them a seat at the board, and he will have their assistance and energy in pushing this thing to a successful conclusion. I did not intend to take part in this discussion but for the references that were made to my name in a way that I do not think my hon. friend intended, because I think he knows me too well to suggest that I am in this to make any profit out of it. I hope the businessmen in this House will see the absurdity of accepting such an amendment to the Bill as will prevent the road from being built. If this amendment is put in it will simply kill the Bill, and make it impossible for the promoters to push the road through.

Mr. W. H. MONTAGUE (Haldimand). Mr. Speaker, the members of the House know that no private Bill that has come before parliament for a number of years has created the interest that this Bill has

created, and I think the House ought to have some declaration of policy upon two or three points from the government of the day. We have had this amendment drawn by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Blair), to meet the views which prevail in the committee, but we are without a declaration of policy by the government on that amendment. Then, there is another matter which, it appears to me, we ought to have the declaration of the government upon, and it is this: This Bill is for an enterprise for the possession of which we have seen capitalists on the American side and capitalists on the Canadian side reaching out. We are led to believe that this franchise is valuable, and that this is an enterprise that will pay. The hon. Minister of Railways in speaking upon the question, goes rather against the contention I am making, by saying that it has not been demonstrated that the road is necessary, because the canal system has not been tried. There are these two views, first, that it is an exceedingly valuable franchise, and next, the declaration of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals that the enterprise is not necessary just at present. In view of either fact, in view of the fact that it is very valuable, or in view of the fact that it is not necessary at the present time, I, for one, would like to know how the government will treat a request for a subsidy for this line. It appears to me that this, perhaps, is a more important matter even than the amendment moved by the hon. member for West Toronto.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Better wait until we pass it.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Well, then, we will accept the declaration of the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), that he does not intend to apply for a subsidy.

Mr. WOOD. He did not say so.

Mr. MONTAGUE. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Wood) says that he did not say so, and that is an admission that he intends to apply for one. It is a simple matter for the government to deal with. Here is the declaration of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, who says that the time has not come to deal with it, here we have a company promoted by hon. gentlemen who say that they do not intend to try to make money out of it. I am not charging that they do, but I think the House ought to receive a declaration from the government, because it appears to me that it would influence the House a great deal in giving a vote. Does the government intend to grant a subsidy to this road in view of the declaration of the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals, or does it not? It appears to me that this is a matter of im-