

there was an actual, reasonable and necessary expenditure of the amounts which the company will have to prove.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC—Do you not believe that the engineers who have been occupied in construction of that road will have to be called to establish the amount that has been expended?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I doubt it, under the wording of the clause, but I have no doubt that they will have to if this Chamber adds the words "reasonable and necessary expenditure." Of course, my suggestion does not bear upon the second reading. I wanted to state exactly what was my view of the Act. If the Bill goes to committee it will then be time to move the amendment.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN—The Quebec and Saguenay Railway has had a somewhat unfortunate existence, but I do not know whether the promoters are entirely responsible for it. A witty Irishman once said that if his foresight was as good as his back-sight he would be an admirable business man. But whatever may have been the past history of this road, it seems to me that it is no use taking it into account now. What we have to consider is present circumstances, actual conditions. Briefly what are they? You have a population of about 60,000 people locked up in the mountains on the north shore. They have no access or egress during the entire winter. During the summer they only have the steamers.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—In fine weather.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN—Those people have paid for the railroads enjoyed by every other ratepayer in the Dominion; they have paid their full share. For 150 years they have had nothing at all, and they come to this Parliament now and say, "Are we going to be forsaken forever, or are you going to give us a fair share of transportation facilities?" This, it seems to me, is the position as far as the population of that section of the country is concerned. But there is more; you must add to the 60,000 people that live there—

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—There are more than that.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN—The population of the city of Quebec, a great many of whom travel constantly to Murray Bay and all those seaside resorts, and I might add a considerable portion of the population of the whole province of Quebec and even a great many Americans. From the view-

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.

point of the inhabiting population and of the travelling public this railway is required, and badly required, in that section of the country. There is another reason which strongly recommends the adoption of this measure. A great deal of money was spent in constructing the greater part of the Quebec and Saguenay, and that money is going to waste every day. The road that has been partly built is being washed away every day by the St. Lawrence. Of the money expended, \$350,000 has now been sunk to the bottom of the river. If we wait two or three or four years more, how much of that will be left? Is it not worth making an effort to save that money? It is true, hon. gentlemen, it is not an opportune time to spend money on railways; everybody admits that; but what is really the proposition submitted? This is the way it strikes me. There are three railways that the Government intend buying. How much money has been spent on each of them, and how much money do the Government intend paying for each of them? This is the way the case stands now. The Quebec and Montmorency has cost \$2,992,000 in round figures; how much do the Government intend paying for it?—\$2,500,000.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—To get the road.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN—Yes, to get the road. The Lotbinière and Megantic has cost \$349,000 in round figures. How much will the owners get for it?—\$330,000.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—The Government is to get the road.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN—The Quebec and Saguenay has cost \$4,872,000. The owners in addition are indebted for it to the extent of \$461,000, making in round figures \$5,333,000. Out of this amount must be deducted their subsidy. They have already received a subsidy from the Federal Government of \$132,000. What is the net cost to the owners? \$5,201,000. How much can they get? \$4,349,000.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—And the Government gets the road?

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN—Yes. How is it intended to pay for it? The Government has said this: the owners of the road will have to go to the Exchequer Court and establish the actual cost. In my opinion, it means the actual cost value. Like any individual whose property is being expropriated, they will be required to make proof