

in a company of the character above referred to by capitalists in Great Britain, the United States and Canada. This very proper action caused the usual outcry on the part of those whose iconoclastic efforts were balked, and the Senate has been abused in the same way as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council were abused when they took similar ground. We sometimes pay dearly for democracy.

The leader of the Senate, a just man and a statesman, when speaking to the motion, stated that the matter was one which required the closest attention of the highest Courts in Canada, and which had already been dealt with by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Senator Lougheed in outlining his reasons for opposing the suggested clause doubtless expressed the view of the Government as a whole. He said:—

We are taking the judgment of the Privy Council upon this subject, and we are setting it up, not so far as the rights of the companies are involved in the question, and without any evidence before us of those agreements, or of the situation except the bald statements which are made by delegations and others who feel a degree of animosity to the company. We are asked to interfere with the vested rights which Parliament gave to this company and which have been confirmed by the Privy Council, and on the strength of which financial obligations representing fifteen or sixteen millions of dollars have been entered into by the companies, and with one wave of the hand we are asked to wipe out these very important rights.

I am not saying anything in vindication of the company. All I am stating is what I regard to be the principle that we have always consistently observed, namely, that we should not interfere with the vested rights of corporations which have been granted by this Parliament, even notwithstanding what public opinion may be on the subject. As I have already stated, if the Senate of Canada stands for anything, it must stand as a bulwark against the clamour and the agitation and the caprice of the public upon all such situations as this.

If the second chamber, which is not answerable to the elector, cannot take that position and cannot stem the pressure of agitation which is brought to bear upon the House of Commons, the popular chamber, in passing legislation of this kind, there is no place in Canada for a second chamber.