

Commons Committee, and he now intended moving its reference to the Committee on Banking, Commerce and Railways.

Hon. Mr. ALEXANDER seconded the motion.

Hon. Mr. RYAN said—I presume there is nothing in this Bill that affects the priority of mortgages or preference investments in the road; nothing to disturb the rights of those mortgages.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER—Nothing whatever.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The arrangements of this Bill would have to be approved by the usual number of shareholders, two-thirds. So far as he could see, they had given their acquiescence.

Hon. Mr. RYAN, in reply to the hon. Secretary of State, said that really the shareholders of the road had little or no interest in the present proceedings, their shares being worth very little. It was the bond holders and those who had a right to vote. There was one thing peculiar in this bill; it said two thirds of those entitled to vote, but he believed the bond holders had that right. But the interests of the different security holders might be very various, one class being interested in an opposite direction to another. The proper way to take the views of those interests would be to get the vote by sections, each being asked to declare its mind, the decision to depend upon the majority of each class of security holders. There were preferential claims to be considered. He did not object to the second reading of the bill, making those observations merely to show how necessary it would be in committee to make all proper investigation, and see that the rights of the different security holders were duly protected.

Hon. Mr. FERRIER said that was the design of the promoters of the Bill. The very points just referred to were amply discussed by the Committee in the Commons, and would be discussed again by the Senate Committee. His hon. friend would then have an opportunity of dealing with the subject.

Hon. Mr. PENNY put a question as to the manner in which the rights of the holder of £5,000 of Champlain Railway bonds for instance, would be affected by the measure?

Hon. Mr. FERRIER thought that such a person would not be injuriously affected; a number of such parties were interested in this bill, which had been carefully looked into in reference to this point.

Hon. Mr. PENNY said that other classes were in the same position. Suppose a

man held a quantity of bonds of any class, and did not choose to accept this change, should he be overrun by the majority?

Hon. Mr. FERRIER replied that all those matters could be properly discussed in committee.

Second reading carried, and bill referred.

CAUGHNAWAGA SHIP CANAL.

Hon Mr. PENNY moved the second reading of the bill from the Commons to amend the Caughnawaga Ship Canal Act.

Hon. Mr. RYAN said he believed a bill on the subject of this Canal had been passed in the Legislature, so far back as 1846 or '47, since then repeated bills had been passed and the time for the completion of the work had been repeatedly extended, still no material progress had been made, and the project though much talked off from year to year remained in much the same position as when first spoken of some thirty years ago. He disapproved of these constant extensions of time which led to no result. He did not know how often they had been applied for, but on the last occasion about a year ago, the bill was in the hands of his hon. friend opposite (Hon. Mr. Skead), who on that occasion promised that he would not again bring forward any other proposals for further extension of time. He was glad to see that gentleman had adhered to his resolution and did not bring up the present Bill. He (Mr. Ryan) did not object to a good bill getting a little additional time, when it was absolutely necessary; but he believed now, as always, that this was one of the projects which if undertaken at all, should be in the hands of the Government of the country, it being a link of the great canal system of Canada. If it should be found prudent to make this particular canal, it should be under the control of the Government exclusively. The responsibility should rest with the Government of recommending this work or not. [Hear, hear.] The Bill, besides extending the time of commencement for two years and the time of completion for five years, had a clause for increasing the directors from nine to thirteen, and allowing a large majority of the Board to be aliens, which was important with regard to an undertaking of this sort, which ran to the borders of the neighboring Republic. He really had not had time to enquire whether it was usual that Americans as well as British subjects might become directors under such circumstances.