

ask for justice, and not only for justice but for the carrying out of the letter of the law ; and if it had been carried out, we would not be now in our present position. I maintain the position taken by my hon. friend (Mr. Langelier) yesterday, that it was a bribe offered, and that of the worst kind, because the people of Quebec were told that if they would elect a member to support the Government, then indeed they would have extended to them that measure of justice for which they were contending. The measure of the Government should come not as a favour but as a right, and as one carrying out the orders of Parliament.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I think that yesterday, when I was out of the House for a few moments, the Minister of Justice answered the hon. member for Quebec (Mr. Langelier), and told him, among other things, that the Government intended, as we have stated before, to bring in a measure to settle this question. The hon. leader of the Opposition does not say that it is a bad thing.

Mr. LAURIER. No.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. But the hon. gentleman is not pleased that this measure is to be brought in by us, not at his instance, but because we think it is for the public interest, for the interest of the north shore of the St. Lawrence, and also for the city of Quebec. Whether the good is done in that way by the present Government, or at the suggestion of my hon. friend opposite, surely he should not find fault with us when we are doing a good deed, for the hon. gentleman says it should be done, and that it should have been done some years ago. Suppose it should have been done as he suggests, now at all events he should not find fault with us because we are now adopting the course which he thinks should have been followed four or five years ago. The hon. gentleman calls this a new departure, on account of the election in Quebec Centre, and he represents the Conservative candidate (Mr. Châteauvert) as flanked on one side by the Minister of Militia, and on the other side by myself. I did not flank that gentleman very long, because I was only half an hour at one of the meetings, I being there as a citizen and an elector of the division. Unfortunately, I was not in the city to give my vote at that election, so the present member obtained an additional vote. I was present at the meeting, as I had a right to be, and as an elector. On being requested to address the electors, I did so in a very short speech, but I went there certainly for the purpose of showing that we were taking an interest in that election, in the same way as the member for Quebec Centre did not fail to have his friends to attend his meeting, and his wisdom in that regard was shown by the fact that he is here now. The hon. leader of the Opposition spoke of the sum of \$960,000, the appropriation which was used for the purchase of bonds. Well, these bonds were a mortgage on the property itself, and whether we purchased the bonds or whether we gave the money to the company, it was certainly the same thing. The bonds were always there, and the money would have been in the hands of the company purely and simply to meet the bonds. In this case we purchased these bonds—I do not remember at the moment what was the amount we paid for them, but, if I am not mistaken,

we purchased the bonds at a large discount, and, therefore, it was to the profit of the Government representing the country that these bonds were purchased in that way. To-day the question is not to go and squander these bonds, but the object is, as the Bill will show, to benefit the North Shore Railway and the city of Quebec. This money was given for that purpose and it is intended to be applied to that purpose. The hon. gentleman says that the interest of the company was not to improve the line, but rather to allow the line to run down, because, he says, if they improved the line then it would give value to these bonds and the company might have to pay interest on the bonds. I do not think there was much danger of that. I think the improvement of the line might not have given all the advantage that the hon. gentleman believes it would have given ; but, on the other hand, the hon. gentleman must see that the traffic on that road must have increased, and is increasing very much just now. It will increase much more when the money which has been used for these bonds may be used in some other way. It is just the time to use this money now ; the traffic is coming to this railway line, and if this very rapid line of steamers coming to the St. Lawrence comes very soon—

Mr. LAURIER. Yes ; they are coming very soon.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes, no doubt ; I hope they will, and when they do, the hon. gentleman will see at once that the improvements intended will be of great benefit, not only to the city of Quebec and to the north shore of the St. Lawrence, but to the country at large ; and, therefore, this money which the hon. gentleman calls an investment has been properly invested, and now the use of that investment will be a very great advantage to the country. The hon. gentleman said—and I have no doubt that when he says it he believes it—that the appropriation made by Parliament of \$1,000,000 or more was for the purpose of extending the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway to the city of Quebec. Well, that has been done ; the road has been extended to that city, and now there is only a very little gap which may be necessary to fill up to join it with the Intercolonial Railway, and I suppose time will settle that question as it has settled many other difficult questions. At all events, let us take things quietly, one by one, and I have no doubt that in that way we will succeed tolerably well. In this case the Government has promised and intend to bring down a measure to settle this question. That Bill will be forthcoming, but the hon. gentleman will be kind enough to give us a little time to bring it down, because we have had very little time lately to consider these matters. However, as soon as we possibly can the Bill will be brought down, and then the hon. gentleman, as well as all the other members in the House, will be in a position to see how the matter will be settled in so far as the Government is concerned. The House can obtain this information from the papers asked for by the hon. member for Quebec Centre (Mr. Langelier), and from the provisions of the Bill itself which the Government will submit to Parliament.

Mr. FRÉMONT. (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, the question brought up by the motion of the hon. member for Quebec Centre (Mr. Langelier), is of