

there would be no freight to keep up these lines, and that the whole enterprise would end in disappointment. But to-day those men who opposed those enterprises most strenuously have to admit that the expenditure on those important public works have placed us before the world as a young country with great possibilities, a country which will rival in prosperity and progress any other country in the world. Canada is richly endowed with wealth in natural products; all it requires is to open avenues to those sources of wealth and bring them to the notice of the outside world. Under these circumstances, I think it is unnecessary to prolong the debate. I am wholly in favor of those subsidies, and I believe that they will do great good to this country.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I must throw myself on the indulgence of the House, and ask permission to reply to some of the arguments which have been advanced against the measure. As regards the merits of the Bill, I do not know that I need say much. The defence of it, led on by the brief and brilliant speech of the hon. gentleman from Richmond, followed by several other gentlemen who have referred to the subject, has left me very little to say on that score, but there are one or two points on which I would like to say a word or two. My hon. friend from Halifax, not content with criticising the Bill, finds fault with the mode in which the business is conducted in this House, and he spoke in the strongest possible language of the conduct of the Government towards the Senate in keeping back to the end of the Session all the important measures, or nearly all, and throwing upon us at the last moment an immense mass of work, with which it is impossible to deal properly.

HON. MR. POWER—I simply followed the example of the hon. gentleman from Richmond.

HON. MR. MILLER—But not under similar circumstances.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I venture to say there has not been, since the hon. gentleman became a member of the Senate, as much continuous work in this House as has been done during this Session. The

legislative business of the Session has been spread over the whole of the Session, a large number of important measures have been initiated here, and we have received from the other House from day to day a large number of important Bills, all of which have been carefully discussed. At all events, if any hon. gentleman who finds fault with our mode of procedure did not discuss them as much as he would like to have done it was his fault, and not the fault of the mode in which the public business was conducted. Up to this time no Bill has been pushed a step forward without the entire assent of every member of the Senate. Any member who has asked for further time to consider and discuss a Bill has received my instantaneous assent. In fact, on one or two occasions the House has rather differed from me as to the propriety of putting a measure off in order that hon. gentlemen might have a further time for considering it. At this moment there are not more than four or five measures of any importance to come before the Senate, and those are, for the most part, measures which have been before the country for the greater part of the Session, and which have been discussed elsewhere, and with which every member is familiar, and whose passage in the other House has been delayed because of the long debates on political questions, and even by the discussions on those measures themselves.

HON. MR. POWER—Perhaps the hon. gentleman will allow me to state that I did not complain of the mode in which business has been transacted in this House. I wish to say now that the hon. gentleman has always shown the utmost desire to promote fair discussion and to give every opportunity for the discussion of measures in this House. I spoke altogether of the conduct of the Government in keeping measures back and not giving them to us earlier in the Session.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—That is precisely what I say—that the Government have not kept measures back. It has been a complaint, so far as I remember, of the Senate at the conclusion of each Session that the Government had kept their measures back, and that important Bills were hurled on us *en masse* at the last

HON. MR. DEVER.