

moving that the House do now adopt this report. My reason for doing so is this: It is a report concurred in by all the parties interested, unanimously concurred in by the committee, and I hope it will receive, not only the unanimous concurrence of this House, but of the other branch of Parliament. At this period of the Session, and with the prospect of a holiday before us, it is important that the Bill should be sent down to the other House, so that it may be concurred in there, and be in a position to be passed upon with other Bills, at the first meeting of the representatives of the Crown, which I am led to believe may be possible before the end of next week.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not see any objection to the Bill taking this present stage. I have seen the amendment, and it is an important one, but, at the same time, one which solves all the difficulties between the proposed company and the existing company, which is a railway running east from Quebec about 21 miles; but there is another point in the Bill to which my attention has been called, and while I hope that the Bill may be allowed to take this stage and get so much nearer completion, I propose to ask my hon. friend to let the third reading stand over until Wednesday, in order that this point may be considered.

HON. MR. MILLER—It was understood before the committee that the amendment would be concurred in to-day, and the third reading taken, and this course was recommended by the committee. The chairman was authorized to say that this was the desire, and that no notice would be required for any amendments that might be proposed at the third reading. The hon. member from Montreal has, I think, an amendment to move to a very important clause of the Bill, and it was understood that he might make that amendment without the usual notice required for amendments to private Bills. Unless there is some urgent reason for postponing the third reading until Wednesday, I do not see why, under the circumstances, it might not be read the third time immediately.

HON. MR. POWER—As a private member of the House, I feel very strongly that the step which the hon. leader of the House has recommended should be taken.

We are not very near the end of the Session; there is not the slightest risk of the Bill if it has to wait a couple of days, and I think his suggestion is a proper one.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I would say, in answer to my hon. friend from Richmond, that the point to which I refer is one of immense public importance, and I am not satisfied that it has received proper consideration.

HON. MR. MILLER—What clause is that?

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The bridge clause. I do not know that that was taken up in committee.

HON. MR. MILLER—It was, and I voted against it, and if the motion is made I shall vote against it here.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—It has not received such consideration from my colleagues as they desire to give it, and I was requested by the Minister of Railways to ask to have the Bill stand over until they have time to consider it.

HON. MR. DICKEY—It was brought to our notice, because an injustice to others might be involved if that fact were not brought out. An hon. member did propose to make a motion in the committee to-day with regard to that very clause, to strike it out, and it was felt that it was a matter, the committee having already divided upon it and having recommended the clause, that had better be placed before the House, and in order to meet the convenience of the hon. member who wanted to make a motion in amendment, it was agreed to recommend to the House that he should be at liberty to do so without giving regular notice. The matter was brought before us and very fully considered. However, the motion now before the House is for the adoption of the amendment.

The motion was agreed to.

HON. MR. LACOSTE—The third reading of the Bill being opposed to-day by some members, it is impossible for me to proceed. Under the circumstances, I move that the third reading take place on Wednesday next.