

this session; for that reason we are acquiring the balance of the stock of the Canadian Northern. Does any hon. gentlemen, even though he be no more acquainted than I am with railway operation, doubt that by the system of co-operative management to which I have alluded we can save millions of dollars annually in operating expenses in the future? There is absolutely no doubt about it; it seems plain to me that such must be the case. I asked these railway experts about it, and every one of them has assured me that if it should be practicable to carry out some system of that kind, we would save not only enormous sums in capital expenditure, but enormous sums every year, perhaps \$15,000,000 or \$20,000,000, in the operation of these roads. I believe it would also give more efficient operation. That is one of the great problems of Canada in the immediate future. It is one of the problems to which every member of the House ought to direct his attention; it is one of the problems which must engage the attention of the Parliament that is to be summoned in the near future. I believe that notwithstanding the enormous difficulties which they present to us, the railway problems of Canada may be effectively solved by some such means. I hope, indeed, that when the question does come in Parliament, hon. gentlemen on both sides, will co-operate to the end that I have indicated, and that we shall in that way be able to deal, without serious detriment to the public interest, with the tremendous problems of transportation which will lie at the very threshold of our duty when the next Parliament is summoned.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou): Mr. Speaker, the hour is late, and as we sat rather late this morning discussing this Bill, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: I beg to give notice that at the next sitting of the House I will move that the debate on the third reading of Bill No. 125 shall not be further adjourned.

Mr. MACDONALD: Does my hon. friend think it is fair to give notice of that kind, in view of the address just made by the Prime Minister? Does he think that the address of the Prime Minister is one which the House ought not to consider?

Sir THOMAS WHITE: This Bill has now been under debate for two weeks. Friday

night is not a convenient night to take the vote, because so many members go home. If the leader of the Opposition desires to speak, as far as this side of the House is concerned, he will not be confined to twenty minutes. But I do not see how we can be assured that this debate will be brought to an end to-morrow night unless this notice is given and the necessary motion moved to-morrow. Having regard to the convenience of hon. gentlemen on both sides of the House, I think that this vote should be taken to-morrow night, not Friday night.

Mr. MACDONALD: My hon. friend is not paying his leader a very great compliment when he asks the House to dispense with consideration of that right hon. gentleman's address.

Sir THOMAS WHITE: My hon. friend need not worry about my views in regard to that.

Mr. LEMIEUX: I suppose these are the last terms imposed by Sir Clifford Sifton.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: There is no desire to be unfair to my hon. friend. If we get any assurance that the debate will conclude to-morrow we are prepared to go on in the ordinary way. As we cannot get any such assurance we have to give this notice. With the consent of the House, the remarks of the hon. gentleman might be continued; I should not for a moment dream of raising objection if consent of the House was given.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: The Minister of Finance has said that the debate upon this Bill has lasted two weeks. I do not know that it should have lasted any shorter time than that. The question is one of the most important that we have ever had before us; it is full of complications; it is full of figures. We were given information from time to time as the debate went on. Even if the debate should require one day more, I think the Government might very well be satisfied. I know that Friday is not a very convenient day to take up such business as this, but there is other business before the House. The Government cannot complain that we have in any way delayed their business. Perhaps my hon. friend will reconsider the matter, and decide not to press this motion to-morrow.

On motion of Sir Robert Borden, the House adjourned at 11.15 p.m.