

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—The question resolves itself into whether we shall travel by right or by favour. As matters stand now, we travel on free passes. It is useless to try and throw dust in one another's eyes and speak of high honour, or disgrace. I grant no one of my colleagues that privilege unless he can show that he travels and pays his fare. If he does, I will grant him the privilege of casting a reflection, but to try and pose for higher honour when in fact the mode of his travel is possibly of a lower character than the one proposed by law, I look upon as not absolutely in the best of form. I readily understand why some of these railway companies object to this legislation: and why? Because we are under obligation to them, because they hold those passes, if not as bribes, as semi-bribes. I know of cases, hon. gentlemen, where companies have withdrawn their passes because in committee members voted against their Bills. If that has been done once—and members have told me it has been done to them—I say that we should not be put in that position. If the companies are in a position to punish us, to lash us every time we don't vote at their bidding, then, it is clear, the granting of a pass is a semi-bribe. We should, in my humble estimation, either travel by right or abolish all passes. I am prepared to support either course, but I object to that sense of honour which consists in receiving favours and posing as men of higher honour than those who do not care to be under obligations to companies. What do we find? We find that those who oppose this clause are all recipients of passes. My hon. friend from Wellington did not deny that he was travelling on a free pass. The hon. leader of the opposition, whom we all respect, did not tell us that he did not travel on a free pass. The hon. gentleman from Kennebec (Hon. Mr. Drummond), who was so hard on his other colleagues and who, possibly, can afford to pay his fare, did not tell us that he was not travelling on free passes—he and his family and friends. Even my facetious and irrepressible friend from Kingston, who paid his compliments, his obeisance to his chief, who posed here as a paragon of virtue, conscientiousness and that sort of thing, who tried to be witty at my expense, and succeeded in being farci-

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cal—as in all cases he does,—he himself had to admit that he was travelling on a free pass, and he told us all he would vote for the Bill like a little man, and watch him, hon. gentlemen, when the vote comes on, and he will do the trick. He will vote for it.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon—I did not oppose the clause.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—I said the hon. gentleman would vote for it like a little man.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I did not use any offensive expression such as that in my remarks.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—Well then, like a big man. The matter stands in this way: we all travel on passes now. It makes no difference with the company, whilst they give us free transportation, what way they do it, except that we are under obligation in one case and in the other case we are not. I looked into the question about the way things are done in Europe, and I think hon. gentlemen will admit that legislators in Europe know and feel as keenly the sense of honour as we do. In France legislators travel free by law; in Italy, Belgium and Switzerland, they travel free by law, and I believe it is the same in Germany and Austria; and who in this House would throw the slur on those people that they have not a high sense of honour? They have, hon. gentlemen, and their sense of honour is not under obligation to railway companies. That is, in my estimation, and in theirs, the true sense of honour. Therefore, I shall vote for the clause, or vote to have it a misdemeanour for any company to give a free pass to any member of parliament. That is what I understand to be the right sense of honour.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE—As I was not present when the debate was commenced on the clause relating to free passes, and as I would not like to give a silent vote on a clause of this importance, I crave the indulgence of this honourable House to say just a