

better to take a route seventy-nine miles longer and have easier grades.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I entirely concur with the hon. gentleman that every foot that is added to the grade is extremely objectionable. Of course, it will become a matter for the most careful consideration of the Government if they find a practicable pass there, to go thoroughly into the question of grades obtainable, and how far we would be justified in increasing somewhat the severity of the grade in order to obtain the important object of shortening the distance. That matter will, of course, receive the most careful consideration, but I think it would not be right to put it in the Bill because it is not in the least degree probable that we shall get a grade equally favorable to that of the Yellow Head Pass. I fully entertain, however, the principle the hon. gentleman has laid down as to the desirability of having easy grades.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I will not put the hon. gentleman to the trouble of dividing upon the question, and as this conversation will be reported I shall ask it to be passed on a division, because, as far as I am concerned, I am entirely opposed to the Bill.

Bill read the third time and passed.

#### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR IRELAND.

Sir LEONARD TILLEY moved that Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair for the House to go again into Committee of Supply.

Mr. BLAKE. It was understood that the hon. member for Victoria, N.B. (Mr. Costigan) had some motion to make upon the House being asked to go into Committee of Supply.

Mr. COSTIGAN. I beg leave to move an amendment to the motion now made by the hon. the Minister of Finance, that this House do now go into Committee of Supply. Before placing that motion in your hands, it is my duty to trespass upon the time of the House in order to explain the reasons why I invite the attention of the House to the subject of the motion which I intend to move. At an early period of this Session my attention was called to this subject. I was consulted by friends who sympathize with our fellow-countrymen who are suffering in Ireland, and who have been, for a long series of years past, seeking relief from what they consider the unsatisfactory system of Government under which they now live. I felt, Mr. Speaker, that this was a question, the introduction of which into this Parliament was of very great importance. I felt that to invite the consideration of this Parliament, and to ask this Parliament to express an opinion, was to ask it to take a very serious step. I have given the question all the consideration that I could, with a desire to discharge my duty faithfully towards my fellow-countrymen, and also towards the people of Canada. When I was approached on the subject, I stated at once that, so far as I was personally concerned, I would not hesitate at any time to undertake the duty of moving a resolution similar to the one of which I gave notice some time ago, in favor of reform in Ireland; but I would much prefer that the proposal should come from the people outside the House, and not be made subject to the mere desires or opinions of any individual members of this House. After a very short period I received such indications as led me to believe that a very large portion of the people of this country would view with very deep satisfaction a movement of this kind in order to obtain from Parliament an expression of opinion on this very grave subject. Believing that I was fully justified in undertaking the discharge of this important duty I at once took the steps necessary in order to bring it about; not only did I take the steps necessary to bring about the moving

Mr. MACKENZIE.

of the resolution, but also to secure the harmonious adoption of the principle by this House. I feel that to invite the House of Commons of Canada to express an opinion, to ask anything that the representatives of the people here in Parliament assembled might consider unreasonable, would be not to advance the interests of those whose case I seek to advocate, and in whose favor I ask an expression of the House. In consultation with friends, it was decided that in regard to the form of the resolution which should be moved in Parliament it would be well to consult those hon. members who might be expected more particularly to sympathize with us on that question. Those gentlemen from both Houses, the Senate as well as this House, were invited to attend a meeting to take the subject into consideration. A meeting was held and the subject discussed. A special Committee was formed at that meeting with a view of preparing resolutions which might cover the ground as expressed by resolution passed in the different cities and towns in Canada. I am glad to say that that duty was performed without any great difficulty; that those gentlemen gave their assistance cheerfully, and that there was on the part of those who did attend and took part in the work, an earnest and honest desire to frame such a resolution as the Parliament of Canada might be asked to adopt. The gentlemen present were equally anxious with myself that the sympathy of Parliament should be enlisted with the people of Ireland, and I am sure they felt they would not be justified in the discharge of the duty they owed to Canada to ask the Canadian Parliament or its members to pronounce in favor of a resolution which might be inconsistent with the position this Parliament occupies towards the Mother Country. I felt from the first that perhaps no motion which was brought before Parliament would obtain more real sympathy from the members than a motion of this kind. It would be well, perhaps, at this stage of my speech to say that after several drafts of resolutions had been prepared and submitted, after they had been carefully considered, many changes were made, all with a view of avoiding difficulties which we knew we had to contend against. When the resolutions of which a copy stands on the notice paper, had been before the House for some time, when hon. members had become familiar with the terms of those resolutions, I had occasion to feel my way among hon. members on both sides. I may say that I did not make a particular canvass, I did not make an individual canvass, either of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House or on this side; I trusted to the honesty of the cause, I trusted to the resolutions themselves, I trusted to the history of Ireland and its government, I trusted to the sense of fair-play and justice which every man representing a Canadian constituency must feel and be influenced by, and it is in full confidence of the existence of that sentiment that I introduce the resolutions to-day, and ask for them the sympathy and support of hon. members of this House. But I found that even though all our caution and tact were used in framing the resolutions so as to avoid objectionable features, they were still objected to by some hon. members on both sides of the House; therefore it is that in moving the resolutions to-day I hope the House will not be surprised if the wording of the resolutions has been modified, not interfering, however, with the principles involved, from that which I gave notice I would move. In moving these resolutions I cannot call it a difficult duty I have to perform, because I can say it sincerely and honestly that the difficulty appeared trifling to me. The importance of the duty I have to discharge, the conviction I entertain of the right I have to discharge that duty, are sufficient justification for my rising in this Parliament and taking advantage of the position I now hold and have for some time held, to move resolutions which I believe every fair-minded man in this country admit to be unobjectionable and unassailable. It