

union of Canada wants these matters attended to and the people will not believe that this government has done its duty when its members sit silent and do not say that they will attend to these matters or that these matters should not be attended to. They must do one thing or the other. If they were not ready to proceed with the business of this session they were not obliged to call parliament together at the hour they did. They have called parliament together apparently for the purpose of considering the contract with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company. Most of the discussion has arisen in regard to that matter, but they have had pointed out to them over and over again during the last two or three days other matters of equal importance to the people of Canada which should be attended to and in regard to which I submit the only inference that can be drawn by the people is that this government did not call this session with any regard to what the interests of the people demand, because they do not have any reference to the interests of the people except in so far as they relate to the Grand Trunk Pacific contract. They have called this session purely and simply to enable them to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company or the Grand Trunk Railway Company.

Now, this debate has developed a good many important facts and I propose to touch upon one or two of them. We have had a very practical interesting and instructive, although short address—in my opinion much too short—from the hon. member for South Wentworth (Mr. Smith) who spoke last night in this House. That hon. gentleman touched upon a question that has occupied days and days of every session since I have had the honour of being elected to represent a constituency in this House. The transportation question has received the most marked attention. My hon. friend from South Wentworth yesterday afternoon pointed out that our trade is going through the port of Boston and not through the port of Montreal. We have had hon. gentlemen opposite answering, or attempting to answer some of the speeches made on this side of the House and they all appear to be very anxious to protect the interests of the province of Quebec. My hon. friend from South Wentworth wants the St. Lawrence route and the port of Montreal to get the trade which Boston is now getting. He quoted some figures in this House which were instructive to me. I did not understand the situation as clearly before he did so and I believe the government did not understand it either. If they did understand it they are more to blame than I am because they do not say that this important matter should be attended to. The hon. gentleman pointed out in this House clearly and distinctly that something has to be done by the government in regard to freight rates between the points of shipment and Boston and Mon-

treal and in regard to facilities for shipping our products across the Atlantic ocean. We have had hon. gentlemen from the province of Quebec speaking in this debate upon matters upon which they are very fond of talking upon all occasions and upon the slightest provocation, but they have nothing to say in regard to these matters which my hon. friend claims should be attended to immediately. We do not find any member of the government telling my hon. friend that these things will be attended to. We do not find them explaining wherein my hon. friend is wrong in what he says and we must draw the inference that this government has no time to attend to any such question because its time is, in its opinion, more wisely taken up with other matters which is very significant. I can remember that at the last session of this House, summoned a little more than a year ago, the main question in the speech from the Throne was the transportation question. It was not attended to, but the government thought it was important enough to make it the principal item in the bill of fare which we were summoned a year ago to consider. The government promised in the speech from the Throne to inquire into the transportation question. Instead of inquiring into the whole question it made a deal with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company and with no other institution. Nothing has been done in regard to the transportation question and we have to thank hon. members on the opposite side of the House for pointing out the needs of the country in this regard as my hon. friend did yesterday. Then, we have the speech of my hon. friend the newly elected member for St. John (Mr. Daniel). I was astonished to hear an hon. gentleman on the other side of the House say that he could not understand why the people of St. John elected my hon. friend. If he had listened to him for five minutes and if he had looked at him for five minutes while he was speaking he could very well have understood from his character, his ability and high standing why the people of St. John preferred him. I do not wish to presume but, perhaps, although I am a younger man than my hon. friend, he will not find fault with me for saying that I welcome him to this House not only because he is a Conservative but because I can see that he is going to be one of the most useful members in the House before he is here very long. My hon. friend pointed out in his speech several important matters that require the attention of this government. Hon. gentlemen opposite seem to imagine that the people should be satisfied with what the government choose to give them and that they must not have the impudence to ask for more. My hon. friend pointed out several matters that affect the interests of the maritime provinces which require attention. The hon. leader of the opposition pointed out in his speech a great many matters that should be dealt