

the bill should be a government measure. Now if we asked an appropriation of \$20,000,000 to build such a bridge, he would be one of the first—

Mr. KELLNER: Mr. Chairman, the parliament of Canada should not listen to a debate on a little matter down in southern Ontario when a bill for something out in southern Alberta is under consideration. There can be no relevance in the argument, if it is an argument, which the hon. member has been making for the last half hour. I want to remind you, Mr. Chairman, that he has persistently read documents, newspapers and speeches, speeches made by members of the Alberta legislature. I am quite satisfied that during the larger part of the time he has not been in order, and I submit that it is due to parliament that the hon. member be kept a little closer to the subject.

The CHAIRMAN: In reference to this point of order, if hon. members would assist the chair in keeping order, it would be easier. At this distance it has been very hard to hear what is being said.

Mr. KELLNER: I am sure, Mr. Chairman, that there were things he said which were entirely out of order, and it might be well to rule upon them.

Mr. POWER: Mr. Chairman, I do not know what there is to rule upon. I have done my very utmost to listen to the remarks of the hon. member, but I could not understand what he was saying. I am in no position to say whether he was out of order or not. If the hon. gentleman who has just spoken will tell us what was said, we will know. I would recommend, however, that he tell us in a tone of voice sufficiently loud to be audible, whereupon we in this section of the house may know whether or not the hon. gentleman is out of order. I would like the point of order to be stated as clearly as possible.

Mr. HEPBURN: To satisfy my own curiosity, sir, I would like the hon. member to answer the query as to where I was out of order.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not want to be discourteous to the hon. member who raised the point of order. If order is kept in the committee so that I shall be able to hear the hon. gentleman who was speaking, I will see that he keeps in order.

Mr. SYLVESTRE (Translation): Mr. Chairman, I may be allowed to make a few comments in French seeing that the remarks made

in English have so greatly interested the house. Notwithstanding what the Minister of Railways (Mr. Dunning) may think, we are not trying to obstruct or oppose the bill of the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Kennedy). May we assure him that our intentions are of the very best towards him and that he has no more devoted or sincere friends than those who sit, Sir, to your right.

There are two things to be noted in this bill: the first, is that the company requests an extension of about 102 miles of its line from mile 357; the second, is a request for a further extension of about 86 miles. I must say, Sir, that I do not look favourably on private companies, especially those of railway companies which seek to obtain a charter like the one, at present, under consideration. We have the experience of the past in regard to private companies that have asked for grants to construct railways and which had but one aim in view, that of selling their interests or concede their rights for money consideration. We cannot conceive for a moment that a company, which is really in earnest and really has the intention to develop its line, will spend enormous sums to purchase locomotives, cars and construct a railway, simply to operate a few miles as in the present case. The experience of the past has been too dearly bought with schemes of this nature to induce us to adopt without matured thought the present project submitted to our consideration. We have seen, for instance, the National Railways forced to purchase branch lines from one end of Canada to the other at very high prices in order to save from bankruptcy companies whose shareholders would otherwise have been ruined.

Mr. MacDONALD (Cape Breton South) (Translation): Time is up.

Mr. SYLVESTRE (Text): I may say that my hon. friend does not disturb me.

(Translation): That is why I rose to take part in the discussion of the present bill, and notwithstanding the remarks of our national desk-pounder, it will not hinder me from discussing what interests me. The National Railways are already a burden on the country. . . .

Progress reported.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hour for private bills having been exhausted, the house will now revert to committee of supply.