

stitutional, because the Parliament of Canada is asked to do a thing which the province of British Columbia alone has a right to do.

Hon. Mr. WILSON—They were not seized with that.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—They were so seized with that point that it is the ground on which they make their report. One hon. gentleman said that because the government had property in British Columbia, that property came under the jurisdiction of the federal parliament. If Prince Fushimi, while passing through British Columbia, had purchased property there, would that property come under the jurisdiction of the Japanese government? Or, take a case nearer home: The island of St. Helen belongs to the Dominion government. Does any one suppose that it is thereby removed from the jurisdiction of the Quebec legislature and the municipal authority? The fact of the government being the proprietor of a piece of land in a province does not deprive the legislature of its powers within its limits. The other question raised was that the original Bill had contained the declaration that the work was for the general advantage of Canada, and that it had been dropped from the Bill before the Bill came to us. But it was dropped with the assent of the promoters themselves. They thought they had sufficient grounds for securing this legislation without that clause. Surely when the Bill came to us we had to consider it as it was when introduced here and not as it had been originally framed.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—The committee report that the preamble of the Bill has not been proved, because they are not satisfied that this parliament has jurisdiction to pass the Bill. I have not the advantage of being a member of the Railway Committee, and consequently do not know what discussion took place in the committee. The practice in both Houses is that unless some reason is shown to reject such a report as this, it is adopted. I, for one, would not attempt to depart from that practice, and would vote for the adoption of the report if I did not feel some hesitation in doing so. The hon. gentleman from Yale has told us that certain matters were not presented or discussed before the committee, and that the

decision arrived at might have been otherwise had those matters been considered.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—They were considered.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—The hon. gentleman from Yale has told us that this company is to operate within territory which is Dominion property wholly. That its operations are to be on streams which are navigable. Every one knows that navigable streams are within the exclusive jurisdiction of this parliament. If either of these statements is correct, and if it is so that the matter was not fully discussed by the committee, I would have considerable hesitation in adopting the report as read.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—But the report alludes to that.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT—The facts on which the committee found that the preamble was not proved, do not appear to have been laid before the committee. The statement is made by members of that committee that the matter was not discussed in the light of the two propositions I have mentioned. Now, if it is so, that these lands are altogether Dominion lands, and that the company is going to operate on rivers which are wholly navigable, my first impression is that this parliament has jurisdiction to pass this Bill, and if those facts are not established or disproved before the committee, how can we decide this question? How are those who are not members of the committee to decide between the conflicting statements made here this evening? I am not in a position to give an intelligent vote, and I shall not vote on the question of concurrence. The vote should not be pressed when a number of hon. gentlemen say that they have not information on which to express an opinion. They can only get the information by having the matter referred back to the committee. It seems to me that hon. gentlemen who are prepared to vote on the question ought to consent to refer the Bill back to the committee so that those who are not as enlightened as they are may get further light.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—When we show that those matters were discussed in the com-