

age of the convictions that we all, more or less, have in our hearts. We all like to have free passes. I do not believe there is any one, excepting the hon. gentleman from Kingston (Hon. Mr. Sullivan) who does not like to travel on free passes. If that is the case, and if we are in the future to travel on passes, let us have it in the law. As for the mileage allowance, I should like to ask my hon. friend, who admits that he has a free pass, what ground he has for claiming mileage if he actually travels free? Let us keep this clause in the Bill, and make it obligatory for railroads all over the Dominion to give us free transportation.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—In replying to the statement made by the hon. gentleman from Montreal (Hon. Mr. Drummond) a good many years ago in the House of Commons, I advocated exactly what is in this Bill, that members of parliament should be provided with free passes. Railway companies have made it a rule to grant free passes, particularly to their friends who supported their legislation. I have a pass, and I had the experience of being one of three in the House of Commons who were refused passes for a number of years because we did not support legislation for a certain corporation. I do not think any member of parliament should be placed in a position to not receive the same privileges that other members do, and I for one advocated then, and I advocate now, that what the railway companies do in practice, they should be required to do by law. I know in the country a great many people say that members of parliament are influenced in the stand they take on legislation affecting railways by favours granted them by railway corporations. That would be removed entirely if we enacted that members of parliament should be allowed to travel on railways in Canada free, as we do travel to-day. The hon. gentleman from Montreal stated that, to be logical, we ought to go further and move that all the ratepayers be allowed to travel free because the subsidies to railways have been paid out of the taxes of the people. The representatives of the people are entirely different from the ratepayers. The representatives are required to leave their business and attend to the public business here. I think they do it fairly well, and they do not stand in the same position as their constituents. It is important that

members of parliament should acquaint themselves with all portions of the Dominion of Canada, and we are not all millionaires—we cannot all afford to take a private car, or go off for a three or four weeks trip at the expense that travelling involves in this country, though it would be a good thing that members of parliament should acquaint themselves with all portions of the Dominion. A great many of us have to vote on questions that come before us without local knowledge of the country through which new lines are to be built. If we could travel at the lowest possible cost, we would no doubt travel and learn more about the country, and for that reason I am in favour of every member having free transportation. It has been suggested that the mileage be struck out. I do not know whether the mileage was intended to pay our transportation or not; but I know this, the gentlemen who receive passes where others do not, draw their mileage. The man who is living in Montreal, or even Toronto, is not in the same position as the man who comes from British Columbia or Manitoba or the North-west Territories. The additional mileage received for travelling to and from the capital does not recompense him—he is out of pocket much more than those who live in Ottawa and draw no mileage. The inconvenience of being away from home for months is very considerable. I venture to say the hon. gentleman from Calgary, for instance, could not go home and return for less than \$40 even when travelling on pass. For that reason I am in favour of the mileage being retained, and also in favour of the clause of this Bill which provides that members of parliament should have free transportation on all railways in Canada.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—I honour the sentiment of the hon. gentleman from Belleville in moving to strike out this clause. I believe he acted from the best of motives and the finest sense of honour, and I give him credit for it. If there is anybody in this country who, beyond others, has a right to get a pass on any road from one end of the country to the other, it is Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER—Why?

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Because he does more work than any other member of this