

clause is inserted with the sole object of satisfying my hon. friends and of giving the Canadian people a true picture of the situation. That cannot be done if contributions to the Canadian National Railway system are shown and grants to the other railroads of Canada omitted.

Mr. WALSH: This gives the Canadian people a picture, but not necessarily a true picture.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I was the one who suggested to the minister that a statement of all the land grants should be included. I assure the hon. member that I have no political motive, and I hope he will be kind enough to retract the suggestion of political motive, because if anyone tried to play politics in the committee he did. I think he was playing to the board of trade in Montreal and probably some other institutions.

Mr. WALSH: I would rather play to that body than play to the gallery.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: If the hon. member wants a true picture of what the Canadian people have contributed to the railway systems of Canada, let us put into the public accounts in this appendix everything that has been given to the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian National, and every other railway, including land grants which were very valuable to the railroads—not excepting the Canadian Pacific Railway. The railroads have made a barrel of money in selling lands that were granted to them by the Canadian people.

Mr. YOUNG: As a member of the committee, I am surprised that the hon. member for Mount Royal should say that any heat was displayed in its debates. I attended all the meetings and from beginning to end I thought the discussion of this bill was very amicable. If any heat at all was shown, perhaps the hon. member himself might lay claim to having had not too frigid a temperature on one or two occasions. I do not think he can charge any member of the committee with having displayed anything but a desire to thresh out the bill carefully and thoroughly. The hon. member said that this particular clause was inserted from some political motive. Again, may I say that as a member of that committee I listened very carefully all through the discussions for political motives, and only once during our debates was such a motive ascribed to anyone. That was done by the hon. member for Mount Royal: it had nothing to do with this resolution, but with another, and the crime he thought had been committed was that some hon. member who happened to be a Liberal moved a resolution, which was seconded by

[Mr. Beaubien.]

another Liberal. To this the hon. member for Mount Royal took objection, saying that it was highly political.

There was not the remotest suggestion of a political motive in connection with this clause. Why was it inserted? That is easily explained. My hon. friend insisted not only with regard to this but on every other section of the bill from beginning to end that the picture be not altered as presented in the annual statement of the Canadian National Railways. Throughout the discussion it was quite apparent that he wished to have brought into the Canadian National picture every bit of dead wood that we have been trying to eliminate in order to do away with duplication of accounts. He was never satisfied; he wanted to have the worst possible picture painted in the annual statement of the railways.

Then, at my right hon. friend's suggestion, hon. members took this view. They said, "If you really wish to have a true picture of the Canadian railway situation, if you want to have all the facts included in the public accounts, then by all means let us have the true picture; but instead of dealing only with one railway in Canada let us show what the dominion has done for all the railways in the country." That seemed quite reasonable to all the members of the committee and the suggestion was heartily accepted. I do not recall that even my right hon. friend offered more than a passing objection at the time. As a member who attended every meeting and witnessed the whole performance—if you want to call it a performance—I can tell the committee that it was as a result of the right hon. gentleman's insistence upon having a complete picture of the Canadian National railway situation presented to the people that this clause was inserted in the bill.

Mr. GRAYDON: I was surprised to hear the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Beaubien) speaking as he has done with regard to playing politics in this matter. I do not think there is very much wrong with the statements that have been made with regard to the political aspect of the discussion, and I have no less an authority than the Minister of Agriculture who on Friday night made this statement, as reported at page 1977 of Hansard of March 19:

The statement has been made that we should not introduce politics into the discussion. . . . I often wonder why men want to come to this parliament who do not want to discuss politics. I have always understood politics to be a business of the people of the country.

Perhaps that will clarify the matter for some of my hon. friends.