

people of any province in Canada. We will suspend judgment but with a suspension of judgment there should be a suspension of action in the matter of legislation relating to this undertaking.

I am not going to discuss the character of the undertaking. I shall not enter into details as to the road running here or there. It is not even pertinent, in my judgment, to this discussion to refer to the character of the road. The one point that was so well made by my hon. friend from Carleton was that wrong-doing had been charged with respect to moneys that have already been paid, perhaps with respect to moneys that have been paid under the authority of this Parliament. Charges have been made with respect to the appropriation of these moneys as well as the moneys received from the province of New Brunswick. Until these charges are determined, until the facts are exposed, until the men are exonerated or found to be guilty, this Parliament should withhold action. I hold that the Legislature of New Brunswick and, aye, indeed, the Governor of the province of New Brunswick, should have had their hands stayed before any further movement was made in respect to the matter.

My hon. friend from Carleton has referred to the aid that has been given by the province of New Brunswick in connection with other railways in that province. It is a very important matter to the province. It is a matter of supreme importance in my judgment, and it affects not merely parties. We have the hon. member for York, N.B., (Mr. McLeod) talking about Liberals and about Conservatives in face of the facts as they have been disclosed.

This subject rises superior to the fate of parties; it is the fate of a province that is hanging in the balance, and not the fate of a Government. My hon. friend from Carleton is entitled, not merely to the thanks of this House, but to the thanks of the people of all Canada for the action he has taken this afternoon; and these thanks he will receive. The Minister of Trade and Commerce, in answer to a question put by me the other day, practically said that there had been a proposition placed before the Government of Canada, asking for three million dollars to aid in the construction of these bridges which have been so lightly referred to by the hon. member for York (Mr. McLeod), and he said that proposition was under the consideration of

[Mr. Emmerson.]

the Government. The hon. member for Carleton seized this opportunity, as was his duty, to bring to the notice of the Minister of Railways and his colleagues the facts concerning the whole miserable transaction, with the idea of impelling this Government to pause in any action that it might intend to take. I am sure the Minister of Finance is grateful for having the facts brought to his notice. The Minister of Finance, in that splendid Budget speech he made the other day, was called upon to explain and apologize for a great many misfortunes, and I am sure he feels grateful to the hon. member for Carleton for having brought to his notice facts which may induce him to be careful in his steps, so that next year he will not be called upon to apologize, and to excuse, and to explain with reference to this three million dollar transaction, in connection with the River Valley railway bridges.

My hon. friend from York (Mr. McLeod) indulged in some very extravagant language with respect to the character of the National Transcontinental railway through the province of New Brunswick, and he said it would be a monument of the crime that had been committed against that province. The province of New Brunswick during the last two or three decades has been declining in population in proportion with the increase in the other provinces. At every decennial census we have been brought face to face with the loss of representation in this House of Commons, and the construction of the National Transcontinental railway through this unsettled portion of the province, traversing a country rich in natural resources will, it is hoped, contribute very materially to adding to the population of our province. That railway was built in the interests of Canada; it was built, in my judgment, in the proper location and along the proper route, and I think history will demonstrate that the wisest course was pursued by the Government, and that the province of New Brunswick will have reason to feel grateful.

But, that is apart altogether from the question raised by my hon. friend from Carleton, which seems to have been misapprehended entirely by the hon. member for York. I have never heard in the Legislature of New Brunswick any similar utterance to that to which we were treated this afternoon by the hon. member (Mr. McLeod). I do not know whether that style of oratory prevails to-day in the New Brunswick Legislature, but I do know, that if