

measure, be regarded as giving color to those statements. If the hon. gentleman wishes to do this in a candid manner—probably he did, but it did not occur to him—he has got, at the end of his motion, all he wants. It is usual to say, here is a subject which requires investigation, and then move for a committee to investigate it. He has got all he wants in number five of his resolutions, which is as follows :—

“5th. And generally to inquire into all matters relating to the Fort Francis Lock, with power to send for persons and papers, and to report from time to time to this Honorable House.”

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—That change could not prevent it from going on the Journals, it will have to go on anyway.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I am sorry for it. The hon. gentleman might consent to withdraw it. There was a time when my hon. friend from Toronto (Mr. Aikins) would not have done that.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—I rise to a question of order. The hon. gentleman says that unless a certain course is taken that resolution will go on the Journals of the House. I merely say that it will go on any way. I want to know if the hon. gentleman wants to make a personal attack on me for saying that.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I can assure the hon. gentleman, I had no intention to make a personal attack. What I wish to say is this—it very often happens that gentlemen get up here—in asking a question, actually—and proceed to attack the Government and make charges, and sit down again, get their answer, and no defence is allowed to go on record at all. Now, I say such things ought to be done fairly.

Hon. Mr. CHAPPAIS—It is a great shame.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—So it is. I hope whatever is done we will act fairly towards all parties, and whether this Government or any other administration is in power, they will be fairly treated. The resolution goes on to say :—

“To afford unbroken communication for steamers between the railway stations of Port Savanne and Keewatin.”

There is nothing to justify the hon. gentleman in putting that paragraph in. He expects steamers to go over those

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portages. The resolution proposes to enquire :—

“What will be the use of this lock for purposes of commerce?”

Every person must judge that for himself. What could I tell about that who have never been there? Who can tell that to the committee except the hon. gentleman himself and the hon. Senator from Kingston? Except those, I do not know that there is anyone else on the proposed committee who has been there before. What difference would it be if a vote were taken on it in this House? I understand there has been a committee on this subject before, and the hon. gentleman has cross-examined the whole engineering staff of the country.

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—That was not the committee.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—What was the committee?

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON — The Kaministiquia—another job.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I think the hon. gentleman does not need a committee to ascertain the “dimensions of the lock.” He must know that if he has read the report of the Minister of Public Works. Neither should it be necessary for him to enquire where :—

“The appropriation from which the money expended upon it has been taken.”

I do think the hon. gentleman should withdraw that motion and should move one simply asking for the appointment of a committee. The insinuation that the Government has been spending money without authority is not fair. However, I congratulate the hon. gentleman on having come to a much more calm and pleasant frame of mind than when he wrote his pamphlet.

Hon. Mr. MACPHERSON—I simply invite enquiry.

Hon. Mr. BROWN—I think you should take that course and not have everything cut and carved for the committee before the enquiry is commenced. If there were some great wrong which had been done, and you were trying to get at the bottom of it, you might possibly move such a resolution for the appointment of a committee.

At six p.m. the House rose for recess.