

work should be resumed next session. My purpose was to seek some means of having all the facts that we gathered weighed by specialists during the recess, and a report made by them to us as to the value of various parts of the evidence. The committee has not the special knowledge to enable it to weigh the evidence as it should be weighed. If my prayer to the Government were answered the committee's task would be enormously helped next session.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Honourable members—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Would my honourable friend allow me? I desire to say that we cannot be certain as to what decision may be made by the committee next session, if it is reappointed.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Quite right.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The committee may decide that certain parts of the evidence should be tested by outside engineers and accountants. But in that event the committee would have to lay down some general lines along which the specialists should work. It is expected that Parliament will prorogue before midnight. This railway matter is so involved that I have serious doubts as to the possibility of our framing, in the short time now at our disposal, a basis upon which examination by experts should proceed. Besides, though the committee took considerable evidence, it may be found necessary to supplement this next session. These are reasons why I feel we should abstain from suggesting to the Government at this stage the appointment of outside engineers and accountants to continue the work started by our committee—for that is what the suggestion would mean. I think it is necessary that we should pursue our study of the railway problem next session, in order to do justice to ourselves and the Senate as a whole, and I hope the committee will be reappointed.

Hon. JAMES MURDOCK: Again I express sincere regret that I was not informed of the last meeting of this special committee, although it is fair to say I knew that a meeting would be hurriedly called. I was not present. In view of what has been said, I think it is only fair to place on record what it is we are talking about now. When this investigation started we heard from our honourable friend from Montarville (Hon. Mr. Beaubien)—

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I hope my honourable friend will refrain from going very deeply into an examination of the ques-

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN.

tion now; that he will limit himself to what we have been discussing.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I will try to do that. We heard that unification was inevitable. And the first witness who came before the committee undertook to prove that it was inevitable—

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I appeal to His Honour the Speaker. All honourable members of this House must be treated alike. My honourable friend was kind enough to call me to order, and since I was consequently prevented from discussing evidence brought before the committee, I hope he will be good enough to abide by the same ruling.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I will do that. My honourable friend has made the suggestion that we recommend to the Government that during the recess a company of experts be employed to inquire into the whole situation.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: No.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Whence emanated that proposal?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: That never emanated anywhere.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: That is what my honourable friend said.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: No.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I think the record will show that my honourable friend suggested we should ask the Government to employ a firm of accountants and engineers to inquire into and make an analysis of the situation of both railways. Is that fair?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Will my honourable friend allow me? The suggestion first came from Sir Edward Beatty—

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: That is what I was going to say, and I am glad you said it.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Here was the situation facing us. We had two sets of evidence, and there was a conflict between them.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: That is all I was trying to say. The suggestion came as an afterthought from Sir Edward Beatty the last time he was before the committee. I wanted the record to show where that suggestion came from.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: I cannot speak of the record, but I can speak of what is in my own mind, and that is why I made that suggestion and requested the Government to act upon it.