

by the Canadian Pacific Railway, attained a position which before its construction we could hardly have expected to reach, and this progress we owe to a Government who have confidence in our future, who were equal to the occasion, and have marched in the line of progress since they took the reins of power. When this line of steamers is established and the short line is completed through to Halifax, we will be on the great highway between Asia and Europe, and Canada will take bounds in prosperity and greatness which we have not yet realized. With regard to the steamships calling at a French port, as I understand, the object is not only to establish a service with Great Britain, but to connect with western Europe, and my hon. friend's argument has failed to convince me that the fast service will be interfered with by making the connection with France. With regard to the port on the British Columbia coast, it is something with which we have nothing to do. Great Britain pays the largest part of the subsidy; what we have to show is that ours is the shortest and best route. The Government would probably have made shipwreck of this enterprise if they had endeavored to clog it with any such restriction as has been suggested. I have been on the British Columbia coast, and I do not see how vessels could call at all the ports that have been named—Victoria, Esquimalt and Vancouver. To impose such a condition would imperil, probably, the object we have in establishing a line which is to secure the best possible highway between Asia and Europe.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I do not rise to answer the objection of the hon. member from Halifax, that we ought not to have any communication with France, but I would remark that last year we had steamers going to France which received a subsidy from the Government. That subsidy has been discontinued, and I think it is only fair, since we do not get direct communication, that we should have indirect communication in the manner proposed by this Bill.

HON. MR. POWER—Would the hon. gentleman be kind enough to tell the House how much business that French line did?

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I have just stated that I do not intend to answer the objection of the hon. gentleman, and therefore I need not say any more on that question. I want to call the attention of the Government to the fact that the French version of the Bill is different, in clause 3, from the English version. In the English Bill, it is not necessary that the vessel leaving Halifax or Montreal shall go to Great Britain and then to France; it will be sufficient if there is another steamer which will go from the English port to France. That was the case with the Cunard line. I have gone myself from France to England by a vessel of that line and then taken another steamer of the line for America. I do not know whether it is intended that one of the terms of the contract shall be that the steamers leaving this country shall go first to England and then to France, or if the Government will be satisfied with these steamers making connection at an English port with other steamers for France. If the interpretation which I have given is correct, then we must amend the French version.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—Would it not be more advantageous to the trade of the country to have a direct steamer, than to require transshipment at an English port?

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—I have merely called attention to the fact.

HON. MR. ROSS—I would not have spoken if it had not been for some remarks made by the hon. gentleman from Halifax. In the first place, I may say that I approve entirely of these ocean steamship subsidies. I think the country will gain far more from the service than the amount to be expended upon it. The hon. gentleman from Halifax does not seem to understand, or does not want to understand, why the steamers should stop at a French port.

HON. MR. POWER—I did not say that; I think I understood it very well.

HON. MR. ROSS—He does not want to understand how they can call at a French port without lengthening the time of the passage across the Atlantic. If the hon. member had been disposed to understand the question he would have been