

that I would not reflect in any way on the body to which I belong. As to these other matters of the passes, I said that it was the better way to do what we were doing than to accept these passes in what is called the fly way, in a way that was not open and manly. Talk about committing any wrong to these companies, who are the companies? Are Mr. Wainwright, or Mr. Van Horne the companies? Not a bit of it. You cannot hurt the companies. There is no company to be hurt as a distinct body. I or anybody else may have shares in these companies. If any hon. gentleman has shares in the company—and I hope a great many of them have a great many shares—if they vote for this clause what are they doing? They are voting that they themselves shall pay a part of it. Therefore it is perfectly plain and legitimate to do so. I do not think there should be anything very compulsory about it. I think that they should take the ordinary passenger train, but that ought to suffice for them. Then as to the past, it is a well known fact that every hon. gentleman who was a member of this Senate received these passes, and I would not think when he got them from every company that it could be considered as a bribe from any individual company. The country does a great deal for those railways in every respect. We are the servants of the people of this country, and I cannot see that we are doing the slightest thing towards them that is not fair. I go further and say that if it is the wish of this House that the granting of these passes should be abolished altogether—because that is the true way to do it—insert a clause that no passes shall be issued, and I have no objection to it. Every member of this Senate should be informed on this question and asked to vote, because I would not wonder if next year hon. gentlemen would come here who had not been present at the discussion, and say 'If I had been here I would have voted against it' and bolster up dignity in that way. Some people may consider that it is undignified. It may look that way, though on an internal examination I do not think it is so, when you look at the company, who they are, and when you look at their relations to this Senate and the service that the Senate and Commons do you are bound to say that

there is nothing that can be called appropriating other people's property. I will mention one thing further, and that is with reference to the House of Commons. If the House of Commons had passed this clause in good faith unanimously, without a word of objection, as I have been told, why should we try to reflect on their dignity? Why should we say, by our action, that their conduct was not dignified, honourable and fair? What is the inevitable conclusion? If we think this is wrong and a sin, we must say that they are wrong, and I say along with this the mileage should be taken away.

I have only a word to say with reference to that. I am perfectly satisfied, because I would not have any credit for doing it, the amount is so small; but those gentlemen who live in British Columbia and in the maritime provinces receive considerable mileage, and the sacrifice of personal comfort which they make in coming here amply justifies the small pittance which is given to them. I would wish that in this country men should receive neither indemnity nor mileage, and then we would see how many honourable and fair men there would be who would come here and give their services free. I do not think the amount is any great consideration. Any man who comes here and gives his time should do so if he is an honourable and conscientious man. I am bound to say that some of these men would make a fuss afterwards who scarcely give us the benefit and advantage of their presence, but I think that these men who come and give all their time to business certainly deserve the small amount coming to them. I do not know any other parliament where there is an allowance of this kind given where it is looked upon as any other than a gift. You could have the same objection to the indemnity as to the mileage in a sense, because if you do not wish to take the one you might go further and be more virtuous and reject the other. I hope some of the senators will unite and send a circular to every hon. senator in this House and ask him to give us his honest opinion on it, and if a majority are in favour of rejecting these passes, I shall, on my sacred honour, also refuse.