

*Edmonton, Dunvegan Railway*

be verified. Therefore I rule that the point of order is not well taken. I should read an amendment which has been moved, that the words "township seventy-eight" in line twenty-four be struck out and the words "townships seventy-seven or seventy-eight" substituted therefor.

Mr. DUNNING: I have another point of order with reference to the kind of discussion which has taken place on this bill. I refer to subsection (i), paragraph 293 of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, which is as follows:

Besides the prohibitions contained in this standing order, it has been sanctioned by usage both in England and in Canada, that a member, while speaking, must not:

(i) use his right of speech for the purpose of obstructing the business of the house.

The very tenor of the remarks of the hon. gentleman who has been addressing the committee has been to the effect that he is giving tit for tat, so to speak; he has suffered from obstruction and is therefore obstructing this measure. I am not blaming him for so doing; on a previous occasion the hon. member for Toronto Northwest calmly announced his intention to talk out a bill. I am protesting against the whole business of obstructing the work of the house in this way, and I think I am supported by this section.

Mr. SMITH (Stormont): Would the minister permit a question? Does he not think the hon. gentleman who has spoken to-night has brought up some points which do not indicate obstruction? He has shown the possibility of this road selling out, and he has shown that valuable franchises may be given for speculative purposes. Does not the minister think these matters should be drawn to the attention of the committee?

Mr. MANION: I think when a group get together to talk over things they should put up their best performer; I do not think we should be forced to listen for an hour to an uninteresting speech of this kind.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. gentleman speaking to the point of order?

Mr. MANION: Yes. I think my hon. friends would do better with a good speaker rather than such a dull performer.

Mr. CANNON: Before giving your decision, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that you look up the debate on the Georgian bay canal bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Early in the discussion I thought the remarks of the hon. member [The Chairman.]

were irrelevant and asked him to bring them more closely to bear on the subject before the committee. Later on I thought his remarks were relevant and allowed him to proceed.

Mr. HEPBURN: Now that this discussion has concluded we will go on.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Your time is up.

Mr. HEPBURN: No, it is not. I have tried to bring to the attention of hon. members who have been deliberately blocking bills of importance to southern Ontario the fact that if necessary we can hit back. A few settlers in Alberta may suffer, but it is a serious thing to Ontario that these bridge companies are not permitted to spend the millions of dollars which they propose to spend. We have the same responsibility to our electors, and we have just as much right to voice our opinions in this chamber. For instance, what right has the hon. member for Bow River to place an amendment on the order paper asking that a certain portion of the tolls collected on these bridges should be paid to the Dominion government? I submit that that is a matter for the Minister of Finance, and I did not know that he had delegated any of his powers to the hon. member for Bow River. I do not think the hon. member was in order in placing such an amendment on the order paper, which he did for no other reason than to obstruct the passage of these particular bills.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HEPBURN: You cannot get me excited; holler all you like. I like to hear the Tories holler, because it shows they are being hit in the right spot. However, I have attained my objective; I have shown hon. gentlemen opposite the foolishness of the tactics which they have pursued, so I think my time has not been entirely wasted. We are willing to co-operate. We are just as interested in Alberta and in the welfare of Alberta as we are in southern Ontario. I feel where there is unanimity in such matters, there should not be placed on the order paper by hon. members motions obviously for no purpose other than obstruction of these bills. For instance, the member for Rosetown (Mr. Evans) knew so little about the matter of the Detroit river bridge—which is being constructed to-day at a cost of some \$20,000,000 of American capital, with nine-tenths of the tolls upon it to be paid by Americans coming over to Canada, where they will spend hundreds of millions of dollars—that he voted against it. He says that