

of rivalry is very well—nothing could be better. Nothing gives people such a stimulus to do things in a spirited and successful way, not committing commercial extravagance, but looking in all things for the main chance in a straightforward and honorable way; but it seems to me, for St. John to submit to see its traffic carried away to Halifax is the strangest thing I ever heard of. I have heard of cities subsidizing railways to go to them, but I never heard of the Government of a country coming to Parliament and asking for a grant of money for the construction of a railroad which is to carry freight away from one of the best winter ports we have. That, to me, is perfectly inexplicable. The next thing we have is two railways—I can hardly call them rival railways, because they are both, in a measure, Government roads—at all events, the Government are largely concerned in building the Canadian Pacific Railway, and have been entirely concerned in building the Intercolonial Railway, and yet here is a line which is to interfere with the traffic of the Intercolonial Railway, and that, as I am told, the best constructed and probably the most thriving part of the whole line. This is another strange thing, that the Government should build an opposition line to one they own already, and that they should build it in a way which will do their own line the most injury. That is another very strange incident in this affair, and it begins to enable me to explain the cause of the singular new political experience which awaits the Government. Whether they are victorious in this debate this evening or sustain a defeat they will have the mortification of seeing some of their strongest supporters leading the debate against them. It is gratifying to me to observe the opposition to this Bill, because it shows that there are independent men in this House, who are not to be persuaded by party against their convictions. That, to me, is a redeeming point. The hon. gentleman from Fredericton thought the estimates of the engineers were to be relied upon. Certainly, if their reputation is at stake, and they have made an instrumental survey of the road, that might be alleged; but I do not know that any such survey has been made in this instance, and until I am sure of

that I am not prepared to attach very great importance to the estimates of the engineers. We do not find, either, that the estimate is accepted by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, who certainly, in their dealings with this Parliament and Government, have not been very quiet or silent suitors. They have generally urged their claims with a good deal of force. At all events, they have been generally able to convince the Government of the justice of their views. But we find that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company are not very anxious about this line. If it is constructed they will accept the responsibility cast upon them, but they are not anxious to have it. They do not think the road can be built very cheaply, or that the saving of distance will be as great as is alleged. As to the Intercolonial Railway, I think the hon. gentleman, not very long ago, made a very good suggestion about it—that some day or other, when he undertakes the management of it himself, he will be able to make it pay better than it has of late. I shall not be sorry to see that day, because we all know that the Intercolonial Railway has not been winning golden opinions of late. On the contrary, there have been some very serious breakdowns and a good many interruptions upon it; and therefore, if the hon. gentleman contemplates anything of that sort, his coming will be hailed with satisfaction by the public. For the reasons I have stated, I cannot do otherwise than support the hon. gentleman from Richmond, who has moved that this Bill be not now read the second time, but that it be read the second time this day six months.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—If I ask the indulgence of the House for a few minutes, it is mainly because a suggestion, very delicately put by my hon. friend from Richmond, but which has been re-echoed in the corridors of the House, appears to me to impugn the good faith of the Government in this matter.

HON. MR. MILLER—I certainly never said anything which I intended should be construed into anything of that sort.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend, as I said, did it in a very delicate way, and not in the slightest degree offensively,