

Hon. Mr. DRUMMOND—I quite agree in the proposed amendment.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Settlers going from Ontario to the west would be placed in the same position as to reduced passenger rates as immigrants or people coming from foreign countries. I think that is the practice now of the different railways. They have immigrant trains, and if there is a carload of freight belonging to people who are living in any portion of Canada to the western portion section, they give them, not free transportation, but lesser rates than the ordinary rates.

Hon. Mr. DRUMMOND—I think it is very proper it should be so.

Hon. Mr. KERR (Toronto)—I do not understand that this clause is prohibitive. It is one which permits the railway company to issue these passes in a definite way, but there is not anything prohibitive about it. I wish to point out that there is a class of persons prohibited that probably it is not intended to prohibit. During the time of harvest a large number of harvesters go to the North-west to assist in saving the crops. They obtain special rates for going and returning. They would not come within the class of persons called immigrants or settlers, and it seems to me that this whole clause might be much more liberalized. I do not see why we should prevent them issuing free passes or reduced tickets according as they find they have business to justify it.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—I direct attention to clause 265, which is the clause providing against any discrimination as to rates. The opinion does prevail that under clause 265 the power is taken away from railway companies to adopt reduced rates other than those allowed by the board, or to issue passes. It seems to me 265 should be modified to provide that it does not extend to either the issuance of passes or reduced passenger rates. If that were done, we could strike out subclause 3 of clause 275 altogether and do away with what seems to me to be a very embarrassing subsection.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I think it is better as it is.

Hon. Mr. KERR—They call these 'harvesters' excursions,' or something of that kind, and they have here a provision for an ex-

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED.

cursion or commutation passenger ticket. I doubt whether that is really applicable to a harvester. He is not going on an excursion. He is going out, to return after he has done certain work. It seems to me it would be a great improvement to strike out this clause and give them power to issue passenger tickets as they please.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—This clause 265 precludes them from doing what they are doing. Hence the necessity for clause 275.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Clause 265 is intended to prevent favours being shown, or discrimination made between different classes of passengers, and we are simply excepting in this subclause before us these particular cases from the operations of clause 265.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It does not go far enough.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I move that the words 'when coming from foreign countries' be struck out.

The amendment was adopted.

Hon. Mr. WATSON renewed his amendment to subsection 4 of clause 275.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—I object to the amendment proposed by the hon. gentleman from Marquette. You might as well legislate that every member of the community over a certain age should be carried free. There is scarcely a person who does not belong to some society, and are we to legislate that all these people are to be transported free on the railways? I think that is going too far—further than parliament would be justified in going—that members of parliament and members of the legislature are to be carried free, and also members of any other association in the country are to be carried free by the railways, is imposing on the railway companies. We are endeavouring to put those companies in such a position that they would be under control of a board that is supposed to do justice between the railway companies and the people, but I would rather leave it to the good sense of the members of that board to decide any point of this kind than to put it in an Act of parliament that compels them to give free transportation.