

THE DEBATES  
OF THE  
SENATE OF CANADA

IN THE  
FOURTH SESSION OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF CANADA, APPOINTED TO  
MEET FOR THE DESPATCH OF BUSINESS ON THURSDAY, THE TWENTY-  
EIGHTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF  
THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

THE SENATE.

OTTAWA, Thursday, May 14, 1908.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bill (YY) An Act respecting the Crown Life Insurance Company.—(Hon. Mr. Lougheed.)

QUEBEC BRIDGE AND RAILWAY COMPANY.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY inquired :

Does the government intend to substitute itself for the Quebec Bridge and Railway Company, as it has reserved the right to do, in virtue of the contract entered into between it and the said company on the 19th October, 1903?

Is it true that in such event the Government would be then held to reimburse to each of the shareholders of the said company the whole amount of capital paid up by such shareholders, together with interest at five per cent upon all his payments from the date of each payment, and moreover a premium of ten per cent upon the capital paid by each shareholder into the capital of the company?

And in case of the government deciding to make thus a triple payment to each shareholder, of entire reimbursement of his capital, of payment of the interest accrued thereon, and of a premium of ten per cent, is it then the intention of the government to effect these payments without delay and with-

out reserve, or does it propose to wait, before making them, until the courts of justice have established what are the responsibilities which may weigh upon the company, and what are the pecuniary damages which the company may be condemned to pay to the heirs of the unfortunate victims of the terrible collapse of the month of August last?

Hon. Mr. POWER—I wish to raise a question of order with respect to this notice. The first part of the notice, I think, is in order : 'Does the government intend to substitute itself for the Quebec Bridge and Railway Company, as it has reserved the right to do, in virtue of the contract entered into between it and the said company on October 19, 1903,' but I contend that the other two paragraphs are out of order, because they are hypothetical. The second one wants to know, if it is true, if such a thing happens, what will the government do? A question of that kind is clearly hypothetical.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—No, no.

Hon. Mr. POWER—And the last paragraph is open to the same objection; in case the government does so and so, what is to happen. The authorities which I read yesterday included, among notices and questions, which were irregular and out of order, hypothetical questions, and I simply wish to add—it is a matter which does not require any argument—that at