

Sir James Lougheed that Bill 125, an Act providing for the acquisition by His Majesty of the capital stock of the Canadian Northern Railway company, be now read a second time, and the motion in amendment of Hon. Mr. Bostock.

Hon. A. B. CROSBY: Honourable gentlemen, when I had the privilege adjourning this debate on Friday evening I had been discussing the principle and the policy involved in the Bill. From the statements made by the honourable leader of the Government in connection with the same and also the speeches made by the honourable gentleman from Kingston (Hon. Mr. Richardson), the honourable gentleman from Sydney (Hon. Mr. McLennan) and the honourable member for Wentworth (Hon. E. D. Smith), I feel that sufficient arguments have been advanced, if arguments were required after reading the Bill, to convince every honourable gentleman that no Bill has ever come before this House more entitled to the unanimous support of the members than the Bill now before us. We had decided that the principle and policy involved in the Bill were the principle and policy of stopping further payments to the Canadian Northern, and we had also decided that that was the only way to deal with this question. We had decided, by referring to the situation which exists throughout the Dominion of Canada, that the people would not be satisfied to give further aid to the Canadian Northern Railway company in order that they might keep their system in operation. We had decided also that one of the principles involved in the Bill was the question of equity, and that that matter should be arbitrated upon by the very best means which we could find in the Dominion of Canada. I am sure there is no honourable gentleman in this House who would deny that the Government have adopted the very best method of arbitration. They have named, as arbitrator to represent the Government, Chief Justice Meredith. The Government have provided that our arbitrator and the arbitrator to be appointed by the Canadian Northern shall confer, and, if they fail to agree upon the third arbitrator, his appointment shall be in the hands of the senior judge of the Exchequer Court of Canada.

If I have heard, in this House or anywhere else, a word in any way reflecting upon the method of this arbitration, or suggesting something better, it has been in the direction of saying that the matter should be referred

Hon. M. LAVERGNE.

to the Exchequer Court. Well, honourable gentlemen, if we give a judge of the Exchequer Court the opportunity of naming the third arbitrator, he may name himself. Thus would be removed the only complaint which has been made with regard to arbitration, if complaint has been made at all. But if the judge of the Exchequer Court does not name himself, he will nominate some other gentleman who, in his opinion, will be capable of filling the position probably as well as himself. So I say that is all that can be desired. We have decided also that, in the interest of this Dominion the road shall not be permitted to go into liquidation; that it would be disastrous to allow such a thing to occur; and therefore we must continue the road in proper operation, in order to maintain the traffic facilities which are essential to the best interest of the country, as well as to our overseas battalions and our Allies. An additional reason is in order that every man who is employed on that road shall continue his work as if nothing had happened, and in order that the \$12,000,000 to \$15,000,000 which are yearly paid to those men shall continue to be paid.

Then we come to discuss, more or less in detail, the other advantages that will come to the Dominion. Everybody who has been following this matter knows that all the provinces of Canada are interested in this Bill, and very many municipalities are interested. It has been said here by some honourable gentleman that the province of Quebec has not contributed anything in the way of subsidies or bonuses to the Canadian Northern railway. If that be so, the province of Quebec is much better off; but I do say here, and say it in the presence of honourable gentlemen representing that good old province, that the continuation and proper equipment of the Canadian Northern, as provided for in this Bill, are going to be of the greatest possible advantage to the province of Quebec as well as to the other provinces. Every province of Canada is interested in the question, as well as many municipalities. The provinces in the West are interested to a considerable degree. For what reason? Because in the West the branches of the Canadian Northern are of the very best; they go in all directions and provide facilities for the farmers and producers of that country equal to, if not greater than, those offered by the Canadian Pacific railway. Those products of the West are brought to the main line, and must be transported to the East. We shall be further interested when the railway is completed to Quebec and linked up with the