

is no other future for the empire than the adoption of the principle of protection, and the point I wish to make after what we have heard this afternoon, is that the government, and especially the right hon. gentleman, are in duty bound to lay before the different members of the empire, when the consultation takes place during the coming summer the fact that protection must be the basis of the fiscal policy of the empire at large. That I consider to be the most important issue before the people of the country and that is the reason why I have brought it up here to-night. I have brought it up because if I have heard anything at all this afternoon I did hear the leader of the Liberal party declare in so many words that the principle of protection had made Canada prosperous, and if it has made Canada prosperous he should recommend the empire to adopt a similar policy.

Mr. HENRI BOURASSA (Labelle). Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to follow in the debate, but as I have an amendment to offer to the address, I would ask the government to consent to the adjournment of the debate, because this will raise a discussion. Therefore, I move the adjournment of the debate. Before the motion is adopted, as I would not like to take the government or the House by surprise, I am ready to give the text of my amendment which I will move on Monday. The text of my amendment will be this :

That the time has come when a railway policy should be framed by which the people of this country could expect some return for the enormous sacrifices they have made in order to further the development of their avenues of trade ; and especially to prevent our railway systems from falling under the control of foreign railway corporations.

Motion agreed to, and debate adjourned.

The PRIME MINISTER moved :

That the order for the consideration of the motion for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session, have precedence over all other business except Introduction of Bills, until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that the Clerk of the House had received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery a certificate of the election and return of George Riley, Esq., for the electoral district of Victoria, B.C.

On motion of the Prime Minister, House adjourned at 9.10 p.m.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MONDAY, February 17, 1902.

The Speaker took the Chair at Three o'clock.

TELEPHONES AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES BILL.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN (East York), moved for leave to introduce Bill (No. 2) regarding telephones and telephone companies.

Mr. SPROULE. Explain.

Mr. MACLEAN. Mr. Speaker, this Bill deals with telephones and telephone companies. It is based largely on the present general Acts respecting telegraphs, the clauses being very similar to the clauses of those Acts. For a moment, I desire to direct the attention of the House to the object which I have in view. The first clause of importance in this Bill is that the company has power to fix its tolls. The next clause provides that the company must give equal treatment; and the clause following that calls for government control, supervision and revision of those tolls. And, by tolls, I mean not only the charges made for messages, but the rentals of telephones. Under the Bill, all these tolls must be approved by the Governor in Council in the same way as are the rates of telegraph companies and railway companies. Another clause, in the same direction, provides that these tolls may be revised from time to time by the Governor in Council. It is also here provided that the telephone companies shall post up their tolls in their various offices. Another important clause, in the line of the general provisions I have referred to is one providing against unfair discrimination, while another clause provides that there shall be no rebates. A provision is made also for agreements between companies, just as, under the Railway Act, provision is made for agreement between railway companies, and as in those cases, the agreements must be approved by the Governor in Council. But the most important clause, and the one to which I desire to direct special attention, provides that every telephone company must give the right of way for the use of its system by every other telephone company, just as every railway company must give the use of its lines to other railway companies. At the present time we have one great telephone company in Canada—the Bell Telephone Company—which is in a position, at this moment, to refuse the use of its trunk line to every other company. This Act will compel the Bell Telephone Company and every other similar company to give what we might call running rights to other companies. There is also provision for the order of transmitting