

The ACTING SPEAKER (Hon. Mr. Power)—The hon. gentleman from Hastings, when he rose to speak, asked the permission of the House to depart from the usual rule, and that appeared to be unanimously granted. No one objected, and, therefore, I do not think the point of order is well taken.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—In deference to my hon. friend from the West, I will not pursue this discussion any further, so far as I am concerned; but the hon. gentleman should have known, and I think would have known, if he had been paying attention to what had been going on, instead of talking to his friends, that I asked special permission, and called special attention to the fact that I had no right to speak and desired to know if there was any objection to it, and I added that if there was any objection I would not again address the House. I have great respect for the hon. gentleman and his knowledge of the rules. I have no more to say upon the question. It is for the Senate to say whether they will send this Bill back to committee or not. I can tell my hon. friend that he will have a jolly good fight before he gets through.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I think it is the duty of hon. gentlemen present to get all the information on this Bill, and all the evidence they can procure before the committee, to defeat or to grant it, and the promoters have simply asked to have the Bill referred back to the committee, and state that they have some further information in regard to it. I think it would be unwise to kill this Bill until we have the facts before us, and I am in favour of referring it back to the committee.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—This discussion has afforded much amusement to me, and a little instruction. I find that eminent members of the Railway Committee are putting their views before this hon. House in a contradictory fashion. We have the most eminent lights on that committee on one side, and the most eminent lights on the other side. Some tell us that the Bill has been discussed on its merits, and should be relegated to limbo. Other eminent members of that committee say no, that the

Bill has not been discussed on its merits—that there is still information to be elicited in favour of the Bill. Now, what are we poor innocent members who do not belong to that committee to think of this condition of things? Are we in a position to accept the word of the hon. gentleman from Toronto, an eminent legal disquisitor on points of this kind, or are we to accept the constitutional views of the hon. gentleman from De Salaberry, whose knowledge is equally fundamental on the same ground! What am I to do? For whom am I going to vote? Their arguments are solid, bright and brilliant, and backed up by men of experience like the hon. gentleman from Hastings, who is opposed to the Bill, and like another hon. senator of great experience who is opposed to the measure. There are others who are in favour of it. What can I do?

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Send it back to the committee and get more light.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—That is probably the only alternative for me.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—No, adopt the report of the committee.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—But I cannot understand the position of hon. gentlemen. We have had an explanation here from the most eminent gentlemen on that Railway Committee, the hon. gentlemen from Hastings, Toronto, St. John, De Salaberry, and others, and they are all at sixes and sevens, how am I going to cast an intelligent vote?

Hon. Mr. LANDRY—Well, go out.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—I will not be so severe on my hon. friend from Stadacona for that expression as I was on the hon. gentleman from Hastings on account of the expression used by him, because I know the Gaelic wit is responsible for his utterances, and there was not the severity of tone which characterized the remarks of the hon. gentleman from Hastings the other night. It comes to this—and it is what I have been arguing for during the past four or five years—that when a committee makes a report, it should mention the substantial facts upon which it bases its decision, and not leave it to each individual senator of that committee to come into this