

on all companies for the future, the obligation of carrying members free.

Hon. Mr. DRUMMOND—The address of the hon. gentleman is admirable, but he might extend it a little further. The moneys which these companies have received are public moneys, not contributed by members of parliament but by the whole country; just extend the argument further, and you will have obliged the railways to furnish passes, not only to members, but to every taxpayer in the Dominion, and there you are. I think it is ignominious to put on the statutes a provision that members of parliament are to be carried free by the railways. It certainly should do away with the mileage allowances now given to members, and if the hon. gentleman persists in his view, I shall move as an amendment that a taxpayer who has contributed towards the construction of any railway be included in the free pass arrangement.

Mr. McMULLEN—I differ from my hon. friend (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) although I sit on the same side of the House with him. I do not think the basis on which he places his argument for free passes for members is one that I could defend on a public platform; that is, that because we give these railways subsidies and subventions of one kind and another, they in return should treat members so generously as to carry them all over the country free. I think we should not do that. Every one will admit that there is no country in the world in which railways obtain legislation cheaper than they do in Canada. We know that it costs about as much to obtain a charter in England as to build a short road here. They pay members of certain committees a fee for every committee they attend—I think it is a guinea for each attendance. That is not the case in this country.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that the members of committees in England are paid by promoters for their services?

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—Yes.

Hon. Mr. SULLIVAN—And it is so understood?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Yes.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—And I say that in this country railways generally obtain their

Bills very reasonably. It costs them little or nothing.

Hon. Mr. McKAY (Truro)—Therefore, they ought to carry the members.

Hon. Mr. McMULLEN—And in past years the members of parliament have not been overpaid. The indemnity which has been granted them I can honestly say—and I sat in the House of Commons for twenty years—taking one year with another, has not enabled members to save very much. It would not count even into hundreds, out of the sessional indemnity, when they attended to all the duties devolving upon them, unless it was a very short session. This year's session is the longest session held in Canada for twenty years, and I do not think any one will go home with a decent surplus in his pocket. We are putting through a very large amount of legislation, and the railway companies are getting a very respectable share of it. I quite agree with the hon. leader of the opposition, that it is humiliating for us to put a clause in a Bill saying that railways must give us free passes, and I shall vote to strike out the clause. In the past railways have dealt generously with myself personally. Every year I received complimentary passes from the Canadian Pacific Railway and Grand Trunk Railway as a member of the House of Commons. Since I have been in the Senate, I have received the same, but I say that for me to sit here and vote for a Bill that will force them to concede as a right what is now granted to me as a compliment, would be humiliating and I am not prepared to vote for it. I say to my hon. friend the leader of the opposition that if he will move to strike out this clause and cannot get any other member to second his motion, I shall do so. I do not see why we should force the railway companies to give us free passes, although I quite admit that they get from the parliament of Canada legislation cheaper than in any other country in the world. For that they have treated members of parliament very generously. They have given us passes from year to year. Now, what more do we want? If they do not like to continue it, all right. Then there is another feature of it which I quite agree with, and that is, if members are going to continue to receive