

hon. gentleman has said only goes to show the extreme impropriety of the course adopted by the Government in bringing down these important measures at this late period of the session. In all honour and conscience, every one of those resolutions should be laid before us at an early stage of the session, together with the papers connected with them, in order that we might examine into them, and be able to have some sort of an intelligent idea of what we are voting millions of money away for. Not half the House is here now, nor is it possible for us who are here to examine the papers which were put into my hon. friend's hands on Saturday last, at a time when only one or two at the outside could possibly examine them. I say that this whole system of keeping back these railway resolutions to this time of the session is perfectly disgraceful from a business point of view and in every other way.

For a railway from a point on the Intercolonial Railway between Ste. Flavie and Little Métis station to Matane, for 50 miles of such railway, a subsidy not exceeding \$3,200 per mile, nor exceeding in the whole \$160,000.

Mr. HAGGART. This road is projected from the Intercolonial Railway at a point near Little Métis station to follow down the St. Lawrence river to Matane. It is claimed that the construction of this road will be a great boon to the agricultural and commercial interests of the district. I believe this is a very good port, and that if a railway was constructed there, that, perhaps, it would be the best place for the purpose of landing mails from the steamships. I believe, also, that it is a road that is greatly commended, and in which a great deal of interest was taken by the late Government of Quebec.

Mr. LAURIER. I find no fault with the appropriation itself. If any section of the country is deserving of public aid I suppose this portion is as much entitled to it as any other. I see no provision yet as to whom the subsidy is to be paid, and I am not aware even that there is any intention of forming a company. The whole project seems to be so far in a very crude state.

Mr. HAGGART. I intend to add to the resolution the usual form giving the Government power to give it to a company to be formed.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Who are the promoters who come to the Government asking for this money, and what guarantee do they offer that they will go on?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. I think the hon. gentleman will find in the Quebec Act the names of the incorporators who have organized a company for the purpose of building this road. What the Minister of Railways has just stated, that he intends to surround this vote with the usual precautionary measure which is adopted in all these subsidies, makes it quite safe, and I do not see that there can be any more difficulty about this than about the other subsidies which have been granted under similar circumstances.

Mr. EDGAR. I would like to know what reasons there are for not naming the company in this case?

Mr. HAGGART. I intend to amend the resolution in the same form as the others.

Mr. EDGAR. That is not the point. In a good many cases where it was intended to take a general vote without naming the company, it was agreed that that was not desirable, except under exceedingly special circumstances, and in every case except one where these special circumstances were given, we have amended the resolution and inserted the name of the company to whom the money is to be paid. The Minister has told us that there is an authorized company for this railway, and I suppose it is to that company you wish to give the grant.

Mr. LAURIER. It is manifest that the subsidy must go to that company. They have got the Quebec subsidy, and no other company has been incorporated or can be incorporated.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. The subsidy granted by Quebec in 1890, was granted to the Matane Railway Company.

Mr. LAURIER. No other road can be chartered as long as this one is in existence; and as I suppose the Government do not contemplate to have a rival company organized, and the Dominion subsidy given to one, and the provincial subsidy to another, I do not see why this subsidy should not be given to the company which has undertaken to do the work.

Mr. EDGAR. If there is a reason why it cannot be given to that company, and it is apparent no other company can get it, why not strike the subsidy out and wait until there is another company ready to take it. There is no hurry in putting this subsidy through unless there is a company ready to take it.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. It seems to me that one of the first duties of the Government would be to ascertain all about this company. Under a clause in the statute which is framed for the purpose of protecting the money which will be voted by Parliament, it is said:

"The subsidies hereinbefore-mentioned as to be granted to companies named for that purpose, shall be granted to such companies respectively. The other subsidies shall be granted to such companies as shall be approved by the Governor in Council, as having established to his satisfaction their ability to construct and complete the said railways respectively."

Under this clause it is quite evident, without mentioning anything about the present company, that it would be the duty of the Government to ascertain by every means in its power, the desirability of that company being given the subsidy which is voted. If it be not given to that company it must be given to a company which is acceptable to the Governor in Council.

Mr. LAURIER. We would suppose that the Government would have ascertained all that before they asked for the appropriation. There is no special application made for this subsidy, and the provincial subsidy is made to the Matane Railway Company.

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. That does not tend us.

Mr. LAURIER. I know that very well, but are we to understand from the hon. gentleman that he has not ascertained whether that company is ready to build the railway or not? Are we to understand that he is going to vote \$160,000 without knowing where it is to go, or ascertain the condition of the country? If that is all the information