

they? We have a line of steamers at present which is not a seventeen-knot line, it is true; yet the difference between the present line and a seventeen-knot line would not be great enough to induce the Government of England to help to establish the new line by an Imperial grant; because the object of that Government is to obtain a means of communication between the extreme east and Liverpool and London in the shortest possible time. It was part of the policy propounded by the late Government to have the steamers built under the supervision of the British Admiralty, and it was upon that condition that the Imperial Government were prepared to contribute a large sum of money towards their construction. Sir, I have but one word more to say. The hon. member who preceded me, the hon. member for Quebec County (Mr. Fitzpatrick), to justify the issue of the Governor General's warrants, instanced the railway service. Why, Sir, I remember the day when a resolution was moved in this House by the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), condemning an expenditure of \$300,000 which was required for the Intercolonial Railway, under a Governor General's warrant. So that upon that question, again, it seems to me the authorities differ. I desired, Mr. Speaker, in as short a speech as I could make to express my opinion more especially upon a question—the school question—with which my name has been identified. I fought the question from the beginning upon the grounds I have stated to the House, and I still adhere to the same grounds.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. MONK. Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to claim your attention or that of the hon. members of this House. I had formed the project rather of listening to this, the first debate which I have witnessed in this House, in order to obtain information and to adopt some guidance for my conduct in the future, in so far as I might be called upon to take part in the debates of this honourable House. If I am induced to break that resolution, it is due to the silence of the hon. leader of this House (Mr. Laurier) upon a question which deeply interests the constituency I have the honour to represent. I feel, Sir, that it would scarcely be fair to those who have honoured me with their mandate for me to remain silent and not to join my voice to those of the many who have been heard before me in soliciting from the hon. leader of this House some categorical utterance regarding the fiscal policy of the party which he leads—some statement of the governing principle which will guide him and his colleagues in the examination of the tariff, which is the task

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

they are to enter upon as soon as we separate. Permit me to tell you, Sir, and the hon. members of this House, that I represent a large constituency with two-fold interests—with great interests that can be secured, protected, and safeguarded by a few words, which it is my duty to-day to ask the hon. leader of the House to utter as soon as he can possibly do so. The constituency which I represent is contiguous to the city of Montreal, the metropolis of this Dominion. It lies to the north-west of that great city. As you leave the city limits and enter the constituency of Jacques Cartier, you find a large number of manufactories which extend far into the county, as far as Lachine. These manufactories have been encouraged by the sacrifices of the local municipalities in which they are established. But, Sir, there is something more. They have been built up and have prospered and are standing there to-day in virtue of the policy which has controlled the destinies of this country during the past eighteen years. I am not in a position now to say what is the capital invested in these large industrial enterprises, but I think I am safe in saying that millions have been invested in them by serious men who are anxious to know if the fiscal policy under which these enterprises have begun and have prospered is going to be continued, or, if modified, in what sense, in what direction is that modification going to tend. Of these vast sums of money invested in these enterprises, there is this view to be taken, namely, that the continuance and maintenance of them engrosses the care and attention of a large class which, I think, is entitled to the earnest consideration of this House and Government. I speak of the numberless workmen employed in the maintenance of those industries and in their operation. And let me tell you, Sir, that a more intelligent, a more diligent and a more thrifty class of people I have never met, although I have travelled much all over the world. Now, Sir, as you go west from that part of the constituency which is settled in the way I have indicated, you meet with a large agricultural population. That population has in its possession a farming country of the richest quality, and they have sought to carry out in their farming operations all the improvements which modern progress and science can suggest. That class is also deeply interested in the knowledge of what the fiscal policy which is about to be inaugurated is going to be—at least what is going to be its leading principle. Not only is that class interested in agricultural pursuits, but the properties upon which they live, being in the immediate vicinity of Montreal are undergoing a continual change. In other words, what is an agricultural property to-day, in view of the continual progress and enlargement of the city of Montreal and its extension in every direction, loses its agricultural aspect and obtains a