

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON—The hon. gentleman who made the motion has thought it proper to bring to the notice of the House again—I do not know whether to bolster up his argument or to put a duplicate of his speech in the debates—a statement about the Canada Eastern railway. I cannot understand his object, but it would have been better if in making his reference to that railway he had been fair enough to say—

Hon. Mr. DOMVILLE—Order. You cannot say that. It is not parliamentary.

Hon. Mr. THOMPSON—In dealing with the subject he should have treated it on its merits. His statement with regard to the expense incurred in respect of the purchase and running of the Canada Eastern is not a proper exposition of the facts. The Blackville railway which is now united with the Canada Eastern, was built by the government of Canada in opposition to the thirty-five miles of the Canada Eastern at the instance of the gentleman who at that time represented Northumberland. At the same time, the influence of that gentleman was sufficient to take from the Canada Eastern the federal subsidy, so that the only subsidy to that line for thirty-five miles was the provincial subsidy. The government of Canada had constructed a bridge which they owned, and had to take care of in consequence of the party who had constructed it failing to pay the interest. It is not right, in referring to the purchase and maintenance of the Canada Eastern, that any expense in connection with that bridge should be charged against the Canada Eastern branch. Neither is the expenditure on the Blackville line fairly chargeable to the purchase of the Canada Eastern. The three works are now amalgamated, and the returns laid before the House show the cost of the three, and the maintenance of the three by the government of Canada. The Blackville line has never paid. For some time not a train passed over ten miles of the road, because the needs of that section apparently did not seem sufficient to warrant the government in going to the expense of running it, but now they have taken up, and are working it as one of the three works. The

Hon. Mr. POWER.

Canada Eastern is amalgamated with the Blackville road, and the bridge, and it is hardly fair to make the whole expenditure chargeable to the Canada Eastern. The Canada Eastern is one of the very best roads belonging to a private corporation in New Brunswick. The station houses that were built by the old company have never been renovated. They are there today, and the station house in Fredericton was constructed also before the purchase of the road by the government. The expenditures on the line are such as any well conducted railroad would require. They are betterments, which they were not actually forced to make unless it was to put the road in a better condition than before it was acquired by the government. Take any branch road in the maritime provinces. I am satisfied not one of them has as many improved conditions as are to be found on this Canada Eastern, yet they are being run and are accommodating the people. They are run in an economical way and the expenditures are kept as nearly within the earnings as possible. So far as I am personally concerned, I may add that, living as I do at Fredericton, this branch line in question can in no sense be of interest to that section of the province. Of the fifteen counties in New Brunswick, the Intercolonial railway does not touch seven. Eight of the counties enjoy all the advantages of the government railway, but I cannot think that the Senate would bring any great credit to itself by insisting upon its amendments to this Bill. As I understand the nature of this measure, it does not rest with the government to buy or lease any branch railway in the maritime provinces, nor can any road be purchased or leased without the sanction of parliament. If this legislation took the control out of the hands of parliament, and authorized the government to make purchases without consulting parliament, we could not follow and know if they carried out our instructions, or whether in making a purchase or lease they had protected the interests of Canada. Under this Bill, whatever the government may do in respect to the purchase or leasing of a line, has to come before parliament for our approval or disapproval. Under the circumstances, I can-