

clause in this resolution which I can support.

Mr. J. D. REID (Grenville). Mr. Speaker, I estimate that it would cost nearly a quarter of a million dollars to make the necessary changes involved in carrying out the first part of this resolution. I am not opposed to anything that would be in the interests of the province of Prince Edward Island; but I think it is well to keep the accounts of the two railways separate, as they are now. I do not think any one on either side of the House makes any complaint even if this railway shows a loss in its operation. With no connections with any other railway, it is pretty hard to expect it to make a profit. I do not see that changing the name to Interprovincial would make any material difference. The name Intercolonial has been well known since confederation, and I am in favour of retaining it. To change the name would be simply to incur an unnecessary expenditure of \$200,000 or \$300,000. It would necessitate changing the whole book-keeping system of the railway. As to the ferry service between the island and the mainland, I think this government should do everything possible to make it efficient. I for one am in favour of doing everything necessary to provide the best possible communication between the island and the mainland. For many years I have heard members from the island on both sides of the House urging the government to build a tunnel. I would like to see an estimate of what such a work would cost laid on the table of the House. With the latest improvements in making tunnels, I think it might possibly be shown that it would cost less to build this tunnel than it now costs to maintain and operate the steamers between the island and the mainland. I suppose it is impossible to obtain such an estimate this session, but I hope it will be obtained and laid on the table of the House at the earliest possible moment. I believe the time will come when that tunnel will be built. The people of this country are in favour of providing the best possible communication between the mainland and Prince Edward Island, and there is certainly nothing that would give such a complete and satisfactory connection as a tunnel. At the present time, with the facilities that exist a tunnel could be built for perhaps one-half of what it could twenty or twenty-five years ago. I for one hope that an estimate of the cost of a tunnel will be laid before the House at no distant date, so that the matter may be thoroughly settled once and for all. In the meantime, unless the Minister of Railways can advance some good reason why the name should be changed, I think that the first part of the resolution should be dropped. The other parts of the resolution I would support.

Mr. HAUGHTON LENNOX (South Simcoe). I am entirely opposed to the proposal to change the name of the railway. We have not always had the most satisfactory conditions in the operation of the Intercolonial Railway, but it has been recognized as a great public work, and I hope the time will come when it will be operated on a more satisfactory basis than it has been in the past. With reference to the loss of cars, it would be easy to prevent that by having the word 'Canada' painted on each car. I do not experience the same difficulty that some hon. gentlemen do from the fact that we are referred to as colonists or Canada as a colony; and the term Intercolonial is quite satisfactory to me. However, I did not rise for the purpose of discussing that question so much as to submit a matter of very much more importance, and that is the question of the tunnel between Prince Edward Island and the mainland. I think the time has come when the government should take some definite and serious step to ascertain whether that scheme is feasible or not. I am not at all afraid of the expense provided it is gone into in a fair and businesslike way. In my opinion we ought not to treat this matter any longer, as it has been, as a perennial joke, but should treat it as one that ought to receive the most serious consideration.

An hon. MEMBER. What about the cost?

Mr. LENNOX. I do not know how much it would cost, but I would not be inclined to plunge into the scheme, as we did into the transcontinental project, without having the fullest preliminary investigation. What we require to do is to find out what it will cost and whether the project is a feasible one or not. As one of the members representing Ontario, I am fully prepared to take the responsibility of advocating a reasonable expenditure for the purpose of finding out whether we can remedy the present condition of Prince Edward Island by constructing a tunnel between the mainland and the island. I am not in favour of going into it at any cost, but I am inclined to think that the work can be carried out on terms beneficial to the Dominion, and I am disposed to advocate a proper investigation with the view of ascertaining whether it would not be in the interests of Canada as a whole, as well as of Prince Edward Island, to have this work carried out within a reasonable time.

Mr. A. A. WRIGHT (South Renfrew). You may think that a person coming from the province of Ontario has no interest directly with the people of the maritime provinces. Will you allow me to give you one instance out of many which have come under my own notice? For example, for a great many years we bought a large quantity of potatoes from