

ways? I would call the attention of hon. gentlemen to the present situation where it is proposed that a railway shall be built from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Suppose that we enacted here a provision by which that railway company, before it could cross a municipality, had to get the consent of that municipality.

Mr. LANCASTER. No one has suggested that they should be prevented from crossing a municipality.

Mr. WADE. I do not want to put you wrong and you are not going to put me wrong.

Mr. LANCASTER. Do not put up a man of straw.

Mr. WADE. If you are going to give a municipality this right for which the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) is contending, then you must be logical and you cannot allow a railway to cross a municipality until they have obtained the consent of that municipality. That is the logical conclusion of what he said.

Mr. LANCASTER. No.

Mr. WADE. The hon. gentleman repeated that.

Mr. LANCASTER. We never contended that.

Mr. WADE. Would it be right or fair that a municipality could come in and say: You must not pass along a street of this municipality? It may be the only possible place where they can pass through that municipality but the municipality will say: No, you cannot pass through, you will have to go around. Here is a provision which should be exercised only in extreme cases and we have appointed a tribunal to judge and determine as to when an extreme case arose and with such a provision I cannot see what my hon. friends have to complain of.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals shall have leave to withdraw his first amendment to section 184 that the following words be inserted 'incorporated after the passing of this Act'?

Amendment withdrawn.

Mr. SPROULE. I would not waste the time of the committee by making any further observations regarding this subject if it were not for a statement or two made by the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals and by the hon. member for Annapolis (Mr. Wade). The hon. member for Annapolis has thought fit to read the hon. member for East Grey a lecture because he happened to be in this House years ago and did not object to a clause in the Railway

Act which was passed at that time, when so far as my knowledge goes he was not present. But he said these very same grievances existed in 1888 and that they existed even before confederation.

Mr. WADE. I did not use the word 'grievances.' Do not put words into my mouth.

Mr. SPROULE. I say these grievances exist to-day. Why was it that the attention of parliament was not directed to the question then as it is to-day?

Mr. COWAN. You were here; we were not.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the matter with the hon. member for South Essex (Mr. Cowan)?

Mr. COWAN. I say that you were here and we were not.

Mr. SPROULE. It is impossible for the hon. gentleman to keep quiet. It was because of the fact that we had no electric railways and no street railways then in Canada. We had none of the troubles then that we have to-day.

Mr. WADE. No street railways in 1888?

Mr. SPROULE. I have answered the hon. member. I do not know whether he wants to be facetious or foolish. He can play either part to his heart's content. At the time when these discussions took place regarding provincial rights we had not street railways or electric railways to any great extent in Canada. They have grown up since that. At first when we had electric railways they were incorporated by the provinces, but since that it happened that the owners of these railway corporations came here for rights that had been denied by the provinces. They came here to secure rights that they could not get from the provinces and then they were taken out of the control of the provinces.

Mr. COWAN. What electric railway in this Dominion has been incorporated by this parliament?

Mr. SPROULE. I am going to address myself to the committee, not to the hon. member (Mr. Cowan) who seems so particularly anxious, whenever I am on my feet, to interrupt me. It is something that I have never done to him. I have had quite enough of it from that source, and if I must say what will be very disagreeable, I will say it. I can tell the hon. gentleman that. At that time we had very little trouble from this source, but when we began to take over these railway corporations and give them the powers that the federal parliament alone could give, strong objection was raised to it. Although the evil had not grown to the present extent, they were strenuously fought by members on both sides of this House,

Mr. WADE.