

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (Hon. W. S. Fielding). Has it been the practice to refer Bills of this nature to the Railway and Canals Committee? There can be no objection, but I do not think it is the custom.

Hon. Mr. COSTIGAN. I am only speaking from what I understand has been the practice. I know that the Bill of the Grand Falls Power Company, asking the right to build a dam and to construct booms at Grand Falls was sent to the Committee on Railways and Canals and that when an extension of power was asked by the company the Bill went to that same committee which discussed it very fully. These Bills asking for certain powers under the Railway Act have always gone to that committee, I know.

Mr. INGRAM. I would like to ask if this is the Bill a very large deputation is coming from New Brunswick to oppose?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Yes.

Mr. INGRAM. Then I object to the Bill going through until it is printed in English and French.

Mr. SPEAKER. We established the rule last year in regard to Private Bills that if they are not printed in French and if there is an objection to their being proceeded with, we must observe the rule requiring them to stand. In regard to this Bill the point of order is well taken. The Bill stands.

Order allowed to stand.

#### THE ATLANTIC AND LAKE SUPERIOR RAILWAY COMPANY.

On the order for:

Second reading of Bill (No. 36) respecting the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railway Company.—Mr. Ball.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES (Hon. Raymond Préfontaine). Mr. Speaker, I object to this Bill as it has not been printed in French.

Mr. SPEAKER. Stands.

Order allowed to stand.

#### SECOND READINGS.

Bill (No. 25) respecting the Eastern Townships Bank.—Mr. McIntosh.

Bill (No. 27) respecting the Canada National Railway and Transport Company.—Mr. Campbell.

Bill (No. 28) respecting the Atlantic, Quebec and Western Railway Company.—Mr. Lemieux.

Bill (No. 29) respecting the Grand Trunk Railway Company of Canada.—Mr. Geofrion.

Bill (No. 30) to incorporate the Federal Oil Company.—Mr. Belcourt.

Hon. Mr. COSTIGAN.

Bill (No. 31) respecting the Canadian Order of the Woodmen of the World.—Mr. Calvert.

Bill (No. 32) to incorporate the Dominion Institute of Amalgamated Engineering.—Mr. Morrison.

Bill (No. 33) to incorporate the Kootenay, Cariboo and Pacific Railway Company.—Mr. Morrison.

Bill (No. 34) to incorporate the Edmonton and Peace River Railway Company.—Mr. Scott.

Bill (No. 35) to incorporate the Coast Yukon Railway Company.—Mr. Macpherson.

#### EXPROPRIATION ACT AMENDMENT.

House again in Committee on Bill (No. 8) to amend the Expropriation Act.—The Minister of Justice.

On section 2,

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have listened with very close attention this afternoon to the debate which was very largely confined to the legal gentlemen in this House. It had more the character of a legal argument than that of an ordinary parliamentary debate, and I may feel some little fear of being classed with those individuals who sometimes step in where angels fear to tread in venturing upon a legal argument. However, I paid as close attention as I could and listened very closely for one argument which I thought was very essential to be advanced by the promoters of this Bill, and which I listened for in vain and that was the reason why legislation of this character was called for, to what extent, where and when the public interests had been so seriously prejudiced for lack of the extension of the expropriation powers which are asked for in this Bill. It is true that the hon. Minister of Railways and Canals (Hon. Mr. Blair) presented a very strong, voluble and vigorous argument in defence of the powers of expropriation exercised by the government, a principle that is conceded and which is well understood in this country, one that we all understand to be the law of the country and which we believe is a very great concession by the people who are willing to subserve their own private interests for the public welfare, and I think the sense of the House will concede that this ought to be enough, that it is sufficient and ought to be sufficient and as much as should be asked for by this government or any government. But, when they are asked to make such a large extension of it as is asked for in this Bill, we must call a halt and we must call upon ourselves and the government to step cautiously and carefully before arousing a strong public sentiment, a public prejudice in a matter of this kind. I said just now that we conceded the right of the government to expropriate property if the public interest demands it, but so far the promoters of this Bill have failed to show to any extent