

company and see that the road is rapidly constructed, there is no hon. member in this House who desires to see the railway built this year and the people of that country get the accommodation they have so long waited for who can possibly vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell). I hope this Bill will receive no further opposition from members of this House. It is true there are some points that do not meet my approval in the course the hon. member for West Toronto has taken in this matter, and I cannot feel entirely in sympathy with him in regard to it. And I must state that the feeling prevails very largely throughout the North-West and Manitoba that the hon. member has perhaps used the position he occupies as president of this road in a manner that may possibly have delayed the construction of that railway. The hon. member for Richmond and Wolfe (Mr. Ives) stated that he held the position, in consequence of the stock he held, of saying to any contractors: I have got what will give you control of that railway; and that is where the point comes in, and where the question arises in my mind whether the member for Toronto has not held his price too high for that control.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. ORTON. Hon. members may say "hear, hear." I quite agree with hon. gentlemen on that point, and I do honestly believe there must have been something to quarrel about, and I am not going to spare the hon. gentleman in that matter, but I desire to see the road constructed and no obstacles placed in the way. The feeling, however, does prevail, notwithstanding the remarks of the hon. member for West Toronto, and I have just as much right to believe the hon. member for King's (Mr. Woodworth), and I think the hon. member for King's has, perhaps, not been fairly treated in this matter. I think he has shown his position to be equally as good in this transaction as has the hon. member for West Toronto, and I would like to have seen the Government appoint trustees at once, after giving to the hon. member a just return for the exertions he had made and the expense he had undergone and the loss of time, for I do believe that hon. gentlemen cannot possibly go into the propagation of a railway scheme like that without expecting to receive some reward. I would feel far better satisfied if some trustee were appointed by the Government, at any rate to see that nothing more than a fair amount, a fair consideration, was received by the gentlemen who hold that charter. At the same time, I cannot possibly vote for the amendment of the hon. member for Northumberland, simply because it will delay, to an uncertain time, the construction of that very important railway.

Mr. LISTER. The only true thing the hon. gentleman who has just sat down has said is, that the difficulty about this matter is that the price was too high.

Mr. SPEAKER. Order. I think the hon. gentleman should not say it is the only true thing.

Mr. LISTER. One of the true things and probably the truest thing is, that the price of the charter has been too high. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Beaty), as it appears, controlled this charter for some time, and for some reason which has not been explained here to-night, this road has not been built. I think I echo the feelings of every hon. gentleman on this side of the House, as well as on the other side, when I say that there is no person in this House but desires to see that road built, no person who does not desire to see the settlers in the North-West country relieved from the difficulties and disabilities under which they now labor, and who would not hail, I am sure, with pleasure any company that would be prepared to undertake the speedy construction of that road; but I say the Government are not discharging their duty in leaving the con-

struction of the road in the hands of the men who now have it. I say, that in view of the disclosures which have been made here to-night, and which have been made in the committee room for two or three weeks or more, it will be scandalous if the Government permits the gentlemen who now control this road to retain control of it. We find the hon. member for West Toronto and his friends on the directorate are not railway builders at all, that they never had anything to do with railways. Most of them, I believe, are lawyers practicing in the city of Toronto. They never did know anything about railways, and I do not suppose they desire to know anything except to get rid of this railway. Now, we have this hon. gentleman supporting the Government, coming to the Government and getting from it the grant of this land, and we have the Government in defiance of their own promise made in the committee room, in defiance of their own demands made in the committee room, requiring that hon. gentleman to present to the committee proofs that he had the ability to construct the road, now asking Parliament to allow him to retain control of the road and to extend the time for completing it. I say, Sir, that it is a monstrous thing that members of Parliament, sitting here representing the people, are permitted to traffic in railway charters. It is a well known fact, that many hon. gentlemen opposite have received favors of this kind from the Government, and I repeat, it is a scandal, it is a burning disgrace upon this Legislature, that such a thing should be permitted. If the Government do not now take this matter up when it has been brought to their notice on evidence that cannot be contradicted, if they do not purge this House of the wrong that has been done by the hon. member for West Toronto, they will be equally guilty with him in the eyes of the people of this country. It is all very well for the hon. gentleman for Wellington to charge that the Local Legislature did this. No charge can be made against hon. gentlemen opposite, but some of them jump up and say: "Oh, but you did something of the same kind!" Now, I challenge that hon. gentleman to mention one single member of the Local Legislature, who was a promoter of a railway company, receiving subsidies from the Local Legislature during the time my hon. leader was leading that House, or since. Sir, we all know that but for the hon. leader of the Opposition the Province of Ontario would have been badly off for railways. It was felt that the Province being rich, it was the duty of the Government to expend its surplus moneys in opening up that country. It was a wise policy, and time has proved it. The assessment rolls throughout that country will show it. There was nothing wrong in that; there is no hon. gentleman on this side of the House that objects to railways being subsidised. But what we do object to is that members of Parliament will come into this House and seek favors from the Government, which must inevitably handicap them, which must necessarily destroy the independence which they ought to have when they come here to represent their constituents. I say that is a thing which should be stamped out. It is a national disgrace that men should sit in this House who receive from the Government subsidies in money and lands for the construction of railways, who seek to get charters from this Parliament only for the purpose of trafficking in them. The evidence given is that this charter was obtained for that purpose only, and I must repeat the statement of my leader, that this House should stamp out this unclean thing, it should refuse to continue this charter. If the Government wish the construction of this road, they have the power to secure it. Let them do as they did when they gave a charter to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. It is not necessary that a Bill should be passed here; the Government has an inherent power to grant a charter by letters patent to any company they think proper. There is no difficulty in the way of constructing this road, and at