

and supper, because if we are to have a free ride we might as well have meals free.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Night and day and private car.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—Yes, when you are travelling with your family. I do not know what other hon. gentlemen think about it, but unless it is proposed to let this clause stand, I shall move that the following words be struck out: 'For members of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada.'

Hon. Mr. McKAY (Truro)—Can the hon. gentleman get a seconder?

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—I do not know; if it is not tested in committee, I shall test it in the House. With respect to the members of the commission, I think that is a very reasonable provision. Those who have the whole management of the railways under their charge should have free transportation. I have no objection to that, but I do think, for the credit of members of parliament and of the Senate in particular, we should not allow this to be made the law of the land. I know that it is said 'why, you accept passes'; so does one gentleman accept a lunch from another. That is a matter between a gentleman who invites and a gentleman who accepts, and if the railway companies think proper to extend a courtesy to any one, whether he is a member of parliament or not, it is for the one to whom the courtesy is extended to receive it or reject it. I think in that respect you should no more ask a company, or a body of men who have invested their capital in the construction of a railway, to carry members of parliament free any more than you should compel an individual to entertain certain persons at his home. That is the view I hold, and I hope the Senate will seriously consider the matter. My own intention is, if the committee do not strike out this clause, to take the course I have already indicated, and if that is defeated, I shall take occasion to move that it shall not apply to senators, acting, as I consider, in accord with the dignity of this House. The other House can take what views on the question they please.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND—I think this question can be examined from a higher

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL.

point than the one taken by the hon. gentleman. If the railways were built altogether with private money the companies would undoubtedly have a right to say: 'You cannot exact privileges from us,' but I should like the hon. gentleman to point me to one company that has not come to parliament for heavy subsidies, double subsidies in very many instances; so that we can say that if parliament had, from the inception of all those railways, imposed a condition that they should carry members of parliament free, they would have accepted the obligation in exchange for the subsidies and bounties given to them. To-day, hon. gentlemen may tell me that no such obligation has been imposed upon them, but everybody knows there is hardly a company—and especially the large companies—that has not had occasion to come and ask for privileges, bonuses, subsidies and so on, for lines and extensions, and which will appear again for privileges of one kind or another. So that we are not in the position of parties holding up railway companies and forcing them, because of the power we hold, to grant privileges. I am simply discussing this academic question, for we all know we receive yearly passes from railway companies. We are not legislating for to-day only; we are legislating for the future. I know that there is considerable of a sentiment in the country, more especially in Ontario and in Toronto, where some newspapers hold that members of parliament should not receive passes and should not be under any kind of obligation to railways. Is this proposed legislation not a complete answer to the argument that members of parliament should not be under a compliment to a railway even for a pass? It seems to me this question can be examined from two sides. Just now, I may say, till I hear the representatives of the railways on this question, that my inclination is to urge settling the question once and for all, not for to-day only, but for the future. There will be an immense expansion in this country. Railways will be built through the land. We will soon have a second transcontinental railway, and a third one if we live 20 years, and we will see railways running through to the Pacific and up to Hudson Bay, and it is as well to impose