

Hon. Mr. Brooks: That is on the canal system.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: I just want to put that on record.

The main features of this bill have been so well covered that I do not propose to comment further on the matter at this late hour.

In closing, may I say that I have endeavoured to keep my remarks on an impartial and nonpolitical basis. If the measure becomes law I am anxious to see the act given a fair trial, and I again repeat the words of the Leader of the Opposition, "I am in favour of the bill."

Hon. Malcolm Hollett: Honourable senators, I do not intend to take up much of your time, but I am a Canadian—as a matter of fact, I received a placard to that effect today. I live in little Newfoundland, opposite the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, and I have not heard the word Newfoundland mentioned since this debate began. I did hear an honourable senator opposite complaining that his grain cheque was not made out by the computer system. I heard some honourable senators complaining about things in other parts of Canada, but I did not hear Newfoundland mentioned at all.

It is nearly 18 years since we entered Confederation, and I remember hearing speakers on the public platform in Newfoundland in those rugged days before we entered Confederation, say that we would get a railway comparable to that of the rest of the country, as soon as they could build it.

In Newfoundland today we have a narrow-gauge railway, and it takes twice as long to travel from Port aux Basques to St. John's as it would if we had a wider gauge. We were promised a wider gauge but it has not been built yet.

I merely rise to remind the commissioners, when they are appointed, that we are still expecting that railway to be rebuilt with regular gauge rails which as I say, would make possible the journey from Port aux Basques to St. John's in almost half the time; and the cost to carry freight back and forth would be considerably less. I am quite sure that my friend opposite, Senator Cook, will agree with me when I say that we want that wide-gauge railway.

As for other means of transportation, I think Air Canada is marvelous. We in Newfoundland have every reason to admire the service it provides. We are flying across the

ocean more and more. The ships are also doing a splendid job.

I am not complaining at all. I am just reminding the Senate of, and asking the commissioners when appointed, to remember the promise that was made to the people of Newfoundland 18 years ago.

Hon. Mr. Aseltine: Do you want them to abandon your railroad and build a new one?

Hon. Mr. Hollett: Yes, that is what we want them to do.

Hon. Jean-Paul Deschatelets: Honourable senators,—

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, if the honourable Senator Deschatelets speaks now it will have the effect of closing the debate.

Hon. Mr. Deschatelets: Honourable senators, I have some good news for you—I will be brief.

I wish to thank all the honourable senators who have taken part in this excellent debate; they have all been very kind to me in their remarks. I appreciate this, and also wish to tell them how valuable have been their contributions to this debate. I wish to put some emphasis on the fact that since the beginning this debate has been kept on the highest level. I believe we have seen the Senate at its best.

Honourable senators, I had prepared answers to some difficult questions which were raised, but since in a few minutes I am going to move that this bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, and since the Minister of Transport will appear before that committee, I think that better answers and more elaborate details could be given in committee. Therefore, I think it will be found more satisfactory if at this time I conclude my remarks by saying that if the debate that has taken place is a sample of what is going to occur in committee, then we shall have a lively and interesting hearing.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. Deschatelets, bill referred to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications.