

buted towards the construction of railways and the extent to which other sections have been benefited by the expenditure for the construction of Dominion lines, or by sums of money granted to bonus competing lines, or lines entering into new territory. I have no desire to detain the House with further remarks at this stage, but I intend before the close of the session to bring the whole question before the House by resolution.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman will find most of the information asked for in this motion in the railway statistics and in the report of the Minister of that department, but I have no doubt that he desires to have a compilation of the whole as a matter of easy reference. I think a moment's reflection will show the hon. gentleman that it will take some time before it can be prepared in the complete state in which he requires it. Take, for instance, the seventh paragraph of the motion in which he asks "for the entire cost of each line built in each province including the equipment." It would be somewhat difficult, I think, to give the information required by that paragraph, because, if I understand it aright, it applies to all the railways which have been built in each province in the Dominion since Confederation, whether by private parties, or by the Dominion, or the Provincial Governments. The hon. gentleman shakes his head as if I do not read it aright. If I am in error as to his meaning I think it would be well that the paragraph should be more explicit in order that the Railway Department, when they set their clerks at work to prepare the return, should know precisely what the hon. gentleman wants. The paragraph does not say, you will observe, that it refers to roads built by the Dominion or by provincial or other aid, but it makes a bald request for the entire cost of each line built in each province, including the equipment. I will also call the attention of the hon. gentleman to the first paragraph of the motion in which he makes an exception to the Canadian Pacific Railway main line and the "Soo" Branch. I do not know why the hon. gentleman has added the "Soo" Branch, because it implies that Government aid of some kind has been given to that road. I believe the House is aware that the Dominion Government has never extended any aid to the "Soo" Branch which was built entirely out of the resources of the Canadian Pacific Railway. If I might be permitted I would suggest the propriety of striking out the words "the Soo Branch" in that paragraph, for I do not suppose the hon. gentleman wishes to have the motion pass in such a manner as would imply that aid has been given to a road which has received no aid. As far as the information can be obtained by the department it will be prepared and brought down as early as possible.

Mr. McMULLEN. My reason for leaving out the main lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Intercolonial Railway was this: The Dominion was supposed to be committed to the construction of those lines. The Intercolonial Railway is looked upon as a necessity and so is the Canadian Pacific Railway. It was undoubtedly understood at Confederation that the Intercolonial Railway should be built, and it is understood also that the Dominion should construct the Canadian Pacific Railway. Consequently I consider that the money spent on

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these lines was spent in accordance with the understanding that the Government had to carry out.

Mr. BOWELL. The hon. gentleman will understand that I only made objection to the "Soo" line being included.

Mr. McMULLEN. I was not aware that no aid was given to the "Soo" line, and I am quite willing that that should be dropped out of the paragraph. As regards the seventh paragraph, I will consent that it should read "the entire cost of each line built or assisted in each province by the Dominion." That was my object in asking for the return, and I am quite willing that it should be confined to those lines assisted by the Dominion.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I think it is very desirable that we should get the information as fully as possible, which is asked for by the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen). I was one of those who attended the deputation which waited on the First Minister some time ago in reference to the refund of these bonuses. The difficulty complained of by the First Minister at that time was just the difficulty which is sought to be removed by the return asked for in this resolution, for none of those gentlemen who spoke on that occasion were able to lay clearly before the First Minister the various places in which Dominion aid had been granted. This return now asked for, if made out fully and thoroughly, will enable the Government to see whether all these people who ask for a refund have a clear and a distinct right to receive it. It will at once settle that question and remove that objection. Certainly it did appear to me, as it appeared to the member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), that there were gentlemen attending that deputation who could scarcely expect any refund for their localities as they had already had public money expended in them and it would be impossible for them to get a refund. In fact it did appear to me that the deputation was so unwieldly, embracing so many and widely different interests, and involving such a large outlay of public money, that the Government could not entertain their proposals. Instead of there being a sincere desire to secure to these localities that had a right to the refund, that had reasonable grounds to expect the refund, and from the assurance given by the First Minister last session that their claims would be considered, the unwieldly character of the deputation would have a tendency to prevent these localities which had a right to expect it, getting justice. On that ground I regretted the composition of the deputation, because I know, and I think the members of the Government know, that there are some counties which have never received any public money, and which have been paying all along to enterprises which have been assisted by the Government in other localities. It is on behalf of these counties that we want to get the clearest and most distinct information that it is possible for the Government to give, so that there will be no invidious distinction made, and so that there will be no counties or localities coming to the Government asking for aid unless they are entitled to it. It is only through the fullest and most ample knowledge which we can obtain from the Government that we will be able, and that the Government itself will be able to arrive at a decision as to the justice of the claims put forward. The county from which I come has a perfect right to a refund of some portion of the railway bonuses