

Fisher,
Fitzpatrick,
Flint,
Fertier,
Fraser (Guysborough),
Godbout,
Gould,
Johnston,
Landerkin,

Russell,
Rutherford,
Scriven,
Semple,
Sutherland,
Talbot,
Tolmie, and
Wood.—49.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, before you declare the motion carried, I would like to have the names read by the Clerk of the House.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Before that is done, I should like to say that I was paired with the member for West Bruce (Mr. Tolmie).

Mr. TAYLOR. It is not for that purpose.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. The intention is to challenge the right of certain members to vote on this question, and in order to do that, it is necessary to have the names read.

The Clerk of the House having read the names.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of challenging the right of certain hon. members to vote, under the well-known rule of the Canadian House of Commons, following the old order of the English House of Commons, which will be found in Bourinot's 'Parliamentary Procedure and Practice,' at page 455 :

No member is entitled to vote upon any question in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, and the vote of any member so interested will be disallowed.

I have no personal feeling whatever in this matter, but I think it is very necessary that the House should understand what the position of members who are interested in this Bill is, and whether they do not come within this rule. I hold that the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen), the hon. member for Kent (Mr. Campbell), and the hon. senior member for Hamilton (Mr. Wood), are all disqualified under this rule from voting for a Bill to incorporate a company in which they hold the very important and influential position of directors, and have, therefore, the most clear and decided pecuniary interest in the measure that could possibly be established. I ask therefore that their names be struck from this division.

Mr. JAMES McMULLEN (North Wellington). I wish to say, in reply to the hon. gentleman, that I have no pecuniary interest, in any shape or way, in this measure, never having contributed a cent to this company in any shape or form. My hon. friend says that I am a director. My name is only placed on the provisional board which will have the right to elect the directors. Had I had any interest in the measure that would

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have disqualified me from voting, I certainly could not have voted; but I consider that I have no interest whatever in it that affects my rights as a member of this House.

Mr. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL (Kent, Ont). I have only to say, Mr. Speaker, so far as I am concerned, that when the Bill was placed in my hands, my name was not on the board. At the request of the other gentlemen I allowed my name to go on as one of the provisional directors; but up to this date—I do not know what may happen in the future—I have no pecuniary interest whatever in this Bill. I have not contributed one single farthing, and I have not been asked to contribute one single farthing. I think, therefore, that I have a right to vote.

Mr. A. T. WOOD (Hamilton). I think it is needless for me, Mr. Speaker, to repeat what the other gentlemen have stated. I have not contributed one cent, though, as the promoter of the Bill has stated, I do not know what the consequence may be in the future. I am interested in the Bill going through and the road being built in the public interest, in my interest, and in the interest of my constituents; and I think it is very small business for any gentleman to take exception to my vote.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. leader of the opposition has quoted correctly the rule of the House :

No member is entitled to vote upon any question in which he has a direct pecuniary interest, and the vote of any member so interested will be disallowed.

I am not aware that the question in this particular form has ever before arisen in this House within my parliamentary experience. I hesitate to instruct the clerk to strike the names of the hon. members from the division list when they state that they have no pecuniary interest in the measure. We have always accepted the statements of members.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I think, Mr. Speaker, that the statement made by these hon. gentlemen, that they have not contributed anything, was evidently made under the impression that the point was taken on the ground of their having done something to promote the interests of the Bill; but one of the hon. gentlemen was candid enough to say that while he had not so far contributed anything, he did not know what might be in the future. I want the House to understand that it is in no party spirit that I raise this point; but because it is very necessary that we should have a clear understanding of what that rule means and whom it includes. I hold that it includes a member of this House whose name appears on a Bill as a provisional director,