

honourable friend will see how unfounded and how unfair it is for him to stand up here and make such a complaint as he has made. The Bill before us is a very short one, and contains particular and exact reference to the \$25,000,000. The Bill does not say that the whole \$25,000,000 must be spent. We are providing that amount, and that is all the money that can be used for that purpose until the further authority of Parliament is obtained.

My honourable friend said that we would have to pay out a great deal of money. There is no more money to be paid out than we would have to hand over to the Canadian Northern in order to keep the road going. The Canadian Northern must be carried on or the country will lose the advantages in getting foodstuffs from the West and which are so badly needed by our Allies in Europe.

My honourable friend the leader of the Opposition suggested that this Bill be referred to the Railway Committee. I do not know whether he remembers making such a suggestion or not. I do not think he really meant it. I leave it to honourable gentlemen to imagine for themselves how such a plan would work out. I leave it to any member of the Railway Committee to imagine what would happen if we had a witness before that committee and honourable gentlemen on the other side of the House and honourable gentlemen on this side of the House were all trying to get answers to the question which they had in their minds. I would remind the members of what has been going on at the last four or five meetings of the committee. Just imagine trying to get information in this way. I am sure that the honourable the leader of the Opposition did not make this suggestion seriously, and I will forgive him for making it if it was not done seriously.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: The honourable gentleman is quite considerate.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: He has to be sometimes. To my mind the only alternatives are national ownership or national disaster. It is for this Parliament and the Parliament that succeeds it—and that will suit my honourable friend from Victoria (Hon. Mr. Cloran)—to deal with this matter. This is not a hard and fast bargain, the next Government can decide upon its own policy and carry it out. This Government does not bind the future Government, it is just doing what it is compelled to do for the time being under the circumstances. My honourable friend must admit the fairness

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of that. I know that my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Cloran) wants to be fair. As I said to him this afternoon, I do not know how he ever got so far astray when he was such a great friend of the late Sir Frank Smith. There may be hope for him yet. The honourable gentleman must admit that the present Government might have gone ahead and made a definite and distinct bargain; they might have made whatever arrangement they liked, and they might have bound the next Government by it. They did not do that, they only made provision to carry on this undertaking for the time being, and, as has been said in the House of Commons, they leave it to the incoming Government to settle the question.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: It is quite a load to leave to the next Government.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: The last Government left quite a load. I do not think this Government will leave very much; it cleans things up pretty well.

Hon. Mr. WATSON: There will not be much left for anybody.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Mr. Rogers said they were very undecided.

Hon. Mr. CROSBY: I regret that the member for De Salaberry (Hon. Mr. Béique) is not present, because it may seem unfair for me to say things when he is not here, and I have some questions I want to ask him; because, though he made a very long speech, like the honourable leader of the Opposition, not one single moment of his time did he give to discussing the principle or policy of the Bill. Some one accused him of being a member of the Canadian Pacific railway, and I was very glad he did, because otherwise he would not have said a word about the Bill at all. However, he pledged himself to this, that the railway should not go into the hands of the Canadian Pacific. I was glad to hear him say that, because that was proper and right. Although no one has greater faith in the Canadian Pacific railway than I have, I must say that if they had control of all the roads in Canada it would be impossible to make the people of this country believe that they were getting fair treatment, because there would be an appearance of monopoly, and the people are down on that. The people must be treated fairly, and they must be kept content; they must have fair play. But if we do not let this road go into the hands of the Canadian Pacific, where will it go? If the Government of this coun-