

is true, because the labour is required for harvest purposes. Harvest will be on in the West in less than 90 days from this moment, and that being the fact, what is the necessity of Parliament blindly voting anything from \$28,000,000 to \$100,000,000 which cannot possibly be spent at this time? There is provision in the Main Estimates for all that is required, or that can be required this year, and I think the reason that construction has gone on in the Long Lac cut-off is because the money is appropriated in the Main Estimates, and is available for that work as well as other work, and I doubt if there is any necessity for this Bill to pass.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I do not wish to intercept the argument of the leader of the Government, but there is one question which I would like to have settled clearly in order that some of us in this Chamber may understand where we are. In so far as the bulk of those proposed railways are concerned, I state quite frankly, without any hesitation at all, that I approve. I am not going to take up the time of this House in running over the western lines. I was Minister of Railways in the province of Saskatchewan for some five or six years, and it was my duty then to study the situation, and to understand it, and I have followed it ever since, and I know the railways that are proposed to be constructed here. I know the necessity for them; I know where they are located; I know the number of people settled there; I know what those people are trying to do; and I know what their difficulties are in getting their products to market.

Now, what is the proposition before this House? The proposition is, because the Government has brought down legislation in this form, that we should stop all railway legislation in this country. Well, I think that is not right. And if that is the objective, surely even at this stage we can prevail upon the Government to bring down their legislation in such form that it can be properly considered by this House.

Now, the question I ask is this. The leader of the Government says: "Now, gentlemen, let us refer this to a Committee, and let us consider each of these propositions separately." Well, I want to know where I stand when I get into that Committee. Can I move to strike out certain of those items in the schedule? Now, the question is very plain. The member for Winnipeg raises the same question that I raised a while ago: if we can get an assurance that, so far as this whole programme is concerned, the members of this House can express a clear-cut, definite

judgment as regards each of these items, then we know where we are. But if you ask us to accept the whole thing holus bolus, I do not know. I must maintain that so far as certain of those lines are concerned, they should have been constructed long ago. They are late now, and the development of Western Canada is being delayed because they have not been constructed. But if the Government of Canada at the present time put us in a position where we must accept all or nothing of these, I say it is exceedingly unfortunate indeed.

Hon. Mr. GILLIS: I want to say just a word in relation to this.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The leader is not through yet, is he?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I am through, unless some honourable gentleman would ask before voting on the amendment of my honourable friend that he needs some further information, or some special information on any lines that appear in the schedule.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: But the honourable gentleman is not answering my question. I have asked it twice.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But I was answering another.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Before I vote on this question I desire to know whether I have a right to move in this House that any one of those particular items be struck out. If it is referred to Committee, then I desire to know whether, after consideration in committee, we can strike out those items.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: The majority will do that; no one man can do that.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I ask, can they? I have no reply to that as yet.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I thought I had made myself quite clear on that point.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: As far as your personal opinion is concerned.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But my personal opinion is backed by the unanimous resolution of this Chamber.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUNTON: That we cannot do it?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That we cannot do it, and I would ask the honourable mover of the resolution, in order to verify my own interpretation of that resolution.

Hon. Mr. FOWLER: Ask the opinion of the Speaker.