

should contain a provision that those steamers should call either at Esquimalt or Victoria.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B.C.)—Why?

HON. MR. POWER—Simply because Victoria is the principal city in British Columbia, and British Columbia is the Province for whose benefit this subsidy is chiefly intended.

HON. MR. MCINNES—Yes; but Victoria is not British Columbia, by any means.

HON. MR. POWER—I am quite aware that Victoria is not British Columbia, but the steamers will have to pass by Esquimalt, which is practically the harbor for Victoria, and calling at Esquimalt will cause very little delay in the trip. I think it is the more reasonable to require that the steamers should call at Esquimalt, when we find in the next clause of the Bill the provision that steamers going to England shall make connection with a French port. The 3rd clause is very like the sort of work that the Canadian Government has been in the habit of doing. We propose to spend the immense sum of \$500,000 a year for the purpose of securing a fast line of steamers between Canada and the United Kingdom. That is a matter the desirability of which is open to discussion, whether any line of steamers, no matter how swift, between Great Britain and Canada, would be worth \$500,000 a year to this country. That is a matter which may be discussed; but what do we do in the very measure which provides for this? We say that that line shall make connection with a French port. Hon. gentlemen will see that this provision must, to a certain extent, defeat the very object of the Bill.

HON. MR. CARVELL—No.

HON. MR. POWER—I say it must. If that line of steamers makes connection with a French port the steamers must either call at a French port between Canada and the terminal point in Great Britain, or they must go from Great Britain to a port in France.

HON. MR. CARVELL—No.

HON. MR. POWER—Then perhaps the hon. gentleman will tell me what will be done?

HON. MR. CARVELL—A vessel leaves Canada for Liverpool, making a fast passage to that port. Then, before returning to Canada she goes to a French port, but that does not in any way interfere with the fast passage across the Atlantic.

HON. MR. POWER—That is exactly what I stated: I said that either the steamers must call first at a French port and afterwards at a port in Great Britain, or call at a British port and then proceed to a French port. When I gave way to the hon. gentleman to hear his explanation I thought it was barely possible that some arrangement might be made by which a subsidiary line of steamers would run from the terminal port in England to a French port. Now, I contend that the condition imposed by this Bill must, to a very great extent, render this scheme useless. If a line of steamers is to call at a French port between Canada and Great Britain then it cannot be a swift line of steamers to Great Britain; it cannot be a line that will make anything like the fast time that is made between New York and Great Britain. If the steamers run, say to Liverpool—although that would be a rather out-of-the-way port if they are going to France—or if they run to Southampton and then to France, what is the effect? It is not a line of steamers so much between Great Britain and Canada as between France and Canada. The terminal port will be in France and, of course, this line of steamers will not have the same opportunities of getting freight and generally increasing trade between this country and Great Britain as they would have if the terminal port was in England. What was the object of putting in that provision to call at France? We have practically no trade with France. It is a protectionist country, like Canada. France buys almost nothing from us, and we buy but little from France. The few costly goods that we buy from France can be imported from England about as cheaply as direct. What is the object of putting that provision in the Bill? It is simply an illustration of the way in which this country is governed. Because there may happen to be some gentlemen from the Province of Quebec, with so little sense as to suppose—