

sentative of the Canadian Pacific Railway, said if the words 'be extended' were added it would do.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—That was discussed. The hon. gentleman will see that would affect freight as well as passengers.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—I had the intention of offering an amendment somewhat similar to that proposed by the hon. gentleman. I think the railway companies have treated members of parliament, and many other people, generously in giving passes, and it is rather imposing on railway companies to require them by law to grant free transportation on all trains to members of parliament as well as members of the legislatures, and others.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—That is not in this section.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—This clause refers to the same subject more or less directly. I would propose an amendment to the general provision respecting free carriage. Now, I would not do that with the object of preventing the railway corporations from granting passes but I desire to make the provision more general, and leave it optional with the railways, as at present, to grant passes to members of parliament or others, as they desire to do, a liberty which I cannot find that they have under the Bill as it stands. Let us put in another clause at the end of subsection 5, which requires the railway company to grant free transportation on its trains to members of the Senate, and House of Commons of Canada, and for members of the board, &c., Now, I presume the members of the board will have free transportation on the railways whether that is there or not, and it is imposing on the generosity of railway companies in general to put in this clause. We impose a good many duties on them under this Bill, but that I think, is extending them a little too far. It is doing something for ourselves, which the public would not expect us to do, and I would suggest striking out all that part of

the 5th subsection which compels them to grant free transportation to members of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON—What would the hon. gentleman put in its place?

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (P.E.I.)—I would leave it to the railways of Canada to grant free passes to the members of parliament. They have been doing so, and they should be left to treat members of parliament as they have been doing heretofore. Some hon. gentlemen have said that a pass is something in the nature of a bribe to a member of parliament. That is an absurdity. No man can consider anything of that kind with respect to passes. I have got passes, I would not like to say over how many railways, and I have only used those passes on two or three railroads that connect with my own residence in coming to parliament. Others have been sent to me. I might make free use of them, just as I have done with those I received from other railways, but I never required to do so. It must be a pretty serious tax on a railway company to grant free passes to members of parliament attending their duties, many of them might spend the greater part of their time in travelling during the year, and they can do so with those passes without any expense to themselves. I would leave that matter entirely with the railway companies, and would not include anything in the Bill which makes it compulsory for them to grant free transportation to members of parliament.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—We had an evidence in the admission by a member of the House, when this matter was discussed a few days ago, that these passes did affect a man's vote in this Chamber. In the three or four hours when the railway representatives addressed the Senate on matters pertaining to this Bill, they took no exception to the provisions of this clause, admitting, as a matter of fact, that members of parliament did receive passes, and they had no objection to concede it by law. There is no doubt the