

imagined. Promises like these were made at every meeting. He promised it in the French language, which he has spoken to-night, and he also promised it in English, and I was surprised that he did not speak English to-night, as he speaks that language very well. Well, he was elected by an immense majority. We were not surprised. I do not see why the hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) does not get up and say something in favour of his county. He was not there himself, but his namesake was there, the member for Bonaventure in the local. He went a great deal further than the present member in the Commons (Mr. Guite) : he said that this railway would be such a boon to the counties of Bonaventure and Gaspé that the whole question in that election was the railway question. He went further than that and he said things so profane that I scarcely dare repeat them here. He said : If the bishops and the priests send the Liberals to a certain place, we will go there like gentlemen, in cars on this railway ; we will no longer have to go there on foot.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.
A very clever idea.

MR. BERGERON. I suppose that is where my hon. friend wants to go. We told the people then that this was purely and simply an election promise. We told the people then not to believe the member for Bonaventure, who was probably sincere in what he said, because it was purely an election scheme, and that as soon as the object of the Government in carrying that county was attained, the road would come to a standstill, and it has come to a standstill.

MR. GUITE. (Translation.) Allow me to say again, Mr. Chairman, that I do not regret having made to this House the statement which my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron) has just animadverted upon, and that I still feel confident, as I was before, that the Government of the day will mete out even-handed justice to my constituency. I had good grounds for complaining of the late Administration, in connection with the Baie des Chaleurs Railway matter, on account of their having for so long a time ceased to operate that line. I did certainly place more confidence in the present Government, and I still cherish the hopes, in concert with the electors of Gaspé, and, still more, I do feel satisfied that we have much more to expect from the present Government in connection with the building of this railway than we could expect from the hon. gentlemen opposite.

MR. LEMIEUX. (Translation.) Mr. Chairman, I am at a loss to understand why this Baie des Chaleurs Railway matter stirs up to such a degree the wrath of my hon. friend from Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron). I do not suppose the reason is that, when the hon. gentleman went down to Bonaventure, with his hon. friend of Montmorency (Mr. Cas-

grain), he had to come back to Montreal over this railway line, looking quite sheepish after the defeat he had sustained there. The hon. gentlemen opposite seem to be under the impression that this road has been operated in view of the federal election which took place in that county, but, as everybody knows, the Government had been asked to operate the road long before the death of the late member (Mr. Fauvel) had occurred. Mr. Fauvel, accompanied by the hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Préfontaine), Mr. Lemieux, the member for Bonaventure in the Quebec legislature and myself came up to Ottawa in order to interview the Government, and ask them to run this road, in order to give to the people of Gaspé the railway facilities they had so long been waiting for. The Government complied with our request, and the road was run all through the winter. True, there is, this year, a balance of \$18,000 on the wrong side of the account, for the running of this railway ; but it is only fair to add that the Government have operated it through the worst season of the year. Were they now to run it through the summer season and the winter, the receipts would cover the expenditure. As a matter of fact, I may say the late Government never dealt fairly by the people of Gaspé in connection with this railway matter. They handed over the road to schemers, men whose names are far from conveying the idea of honesty and uprightness, and this is why the road is now on the verge of bankruptcy. But, as I said, were the road to be run on a business basis it would pay its operating expenses. As I said here, last night, when speaking about the steamer's service between Quebec and Gaspé, from now until this Parliament ends, I shall never cease with my hon. friend from Bonaventure agitating this railway question. The county of Gaspé is the oldest county in the Dominion, the first one to be discovered in this country, and still, it is the only one that is deprived of railway communication with the other portions of the country. This is the first time that a Government grants to that county an appropriation enabling it to establish communication with the civilized world. It is the bounden duty of the Dominion Government to deal fairly by this portion of the province of Quebec that has been so long ignored. When the line of the Intercolonial was surveyed, it was agreed upon that this railway should be extended down to Gaspé Basin ; but we all know how, on the suggestion of some of those wealthy merchants mentioned by my hon. friend the late Postmaster General (Sir Adolphe Caron), like the Robins, who wished to keep the population of that county in a state of bondage, the Intercolonial was not extended down to Gaspé Basin. As I said, the Baie des Chaleurs Railway was handed over to some well-known jobbers of the province of Quebec.

MR. TALBOT. Armstrong.

MR. BERGERON.