

prepared to pay any amount of millions for railways in the West, in the Northwest, through the mountain passes, and through the sea of mountain to go to Vancouver. We have not balked at it, but we voted the money cheerfully. The people of the province of Quebec, when there was nobody in the Northwest except a few halfbreeds and Indians to pay for anything, built a road up there. We built the road from Halifax to Quebec when the population of the Maritime Provinces was mighty slim and not very rich, and I remember the time—and I fancy many of the hon. members here will remember, especially the gentleman who now occupies the chair—when he formed one of La Maison Blue under the Langevins, the Girouards, the Chapleaus and the Ouimets. I think he was one of the leading spirits of La Maison Blue in 1884.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY—And he is yet.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—And the hon. ex-Prime Minister is not here to listen to the reminiscences of his past. When Sir John Macdonald hesitated to grant to the Canadian Pacific Railway an extra \$30,000,000, after having given them 25,000,000 acres of land and 670 miles of the branch on the north shore of lake Superior built by Mackenzie, and after having got a tremendous amount in cash, these same people from the West came to the Dominion Parliament asking for a loan of \$30,000,000. Sir John hesitated, and hesitated so much that Lord Mount Stephen, who was a plain citizen at that time, was leaving the city of Ottawa a discouraged man, because the Bank of Montreal was on the verge of bankruptcy if the \$30,000,000 was not granted. And what happened? In spite of that serious condition of things, the hon. Speaker and his leaders formed a cave called La Maison Blue, and said: "If the Canadian Pacific Railway is going to get \$30,000,000 for the West, Quebec has got to get its share too, and it has got to stand by the road that runs now from Quebec to Ottawa, the North Shore railway," and the fight went on with La Maison Blue for days and weeks, and finally a man who afterwards became the Speaker, a minister in the Government, and a judge of the Supreme Court of Quebec, said, "Stand by your demands," and the cave of La Maison Blue stood by their demand, and Sir John, so as to get Parliament to vote \$30,000,000 for the Canadian Pacific Railway, had to grant \$14,000,000 for subsidies to Quebec. That was the beginning of railway legislation in this

Hon. Mr. CLORAN.

Parliament, and I think the hon. gentleman from Argenteuil was one of them. If I am not mistaken, although he is English, he stood by his confreres from Quebec in that demand, and I think the hon. gentleman from Lauzon stood by his confreres, and I think the hon. gentleman from Montmagny, if he had been in charge, would have stood by them too. I think the Hon. Mr. Fiset stood with them. I do not see a Quebec senator that did not stand behind that demand on Sir John Macdonald when they said: "If you are going to give everything to the West, why not give a few crumbs from the table to Quebec?"

Hon. Mr. WATSON—I voted against it.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN—The hon. gentleman is from the West. There is the history of this legislation of granting money to corporations. Sir John Macdonald yielded. It was not his intention or desire to grant the \$30,000,000, but he had to do it. It turned out well. The Bank of Montreal was saved; the road was built, and is to-day a credit, not only to Canada, but to the imperial enterprises of the Empire. Now we are asked to-day to vote a sum of money to buy and become proprietors of a road in a district which has had no railway communication since the days of Adam, which is a long time ago. They are there on the north shore locked up by snow and ice for seven months in the year, and the hon. senator from Montarville said there were 60,000 of a population. I think his calculation is small. There are more than that from Quebec to Saguenay. You have got three or four counties. Each county must have at least 15,000 to 20,000. You have more than 60,000 from Quebec down to Chicoutimi and all these places, so when the hon. gentleman said there was 60,000 he was not over the mark, but under it. These people are locked out for seven or eight months in the year, having no communication with the outside world except by sleds. How is this Parliament going to keep them in that condition? Have they not earned their spurs? Have they not contributed to the wealth of the country? Have they not given good citizens to the country? Anybody who has travelled from Quebec down through Baie St. Paul, Murray Bay, Chicoutimi and Saguenay will know they have what they call sturdy Canadians. They are not all French. I want this hon. House to understand that a good portion of the population on the north shore of the St. Lawrence is composed of