

would be better, in the interests of the subject which was then before their lordships, that they should wait for a short time until they could ascertain how far the Commons committee had gone in the investigation of the finances of India, and then he wound up with this language :

Should any suggestion emanate from the Commons committee, of which the government and their lordships might doubt the propriety, it would be their lordships' duty to institute a full inquiry before passing any measure founded on it.

Or in other words, that if the Commons Committee did not make a thorough investigation, or if they made any suggestions which their lordships might think were not in accordance with the evidence and facts, then it would be the duty of their lordships to proceed further with the investigation, and if their contention should be sustained, then it would be the duty of the House of Lords to reject any measure which might be presented to them founded on the report of the Commons Committee. I have no desire—and I am quite sure that the hon. gentlemen who voted as they did when the question of the Drummond County Railway was before the House, had no desire—to duplicate expense and the trouble that would follow in this investigation, it would therefore be quite proper for the Senate to postpone for a time, at least, the investigation, until we ascertain how far the Commons Committee are prepared to go in the investigation of this question. If they should fail in obtaining or seeking that information which I have asked for in that motion, then it will be the duty of the Senate to proceed with the further investigation and ascertain whether the contention of the Senate when they rejected that bill at the last session is correct or not. For these reasons I ask that the order be discharged and set down for Monday the 21st.

Hon. Mr. MILLS—I have no objection to the postponement that the hon. leader of the opposition suggests. I stated last year that the proper place for an examination into the expenditure of public money, was the House of Commons, and I referred to the precedent in the House of Lords that my hon. friend has mentioned to-day, the appointment of a Committee to investigate into the financial expenditure of India. If I recollect, that was a proposition for a joint committee. Disraeli at the time objected to the House

of Lords investigating the matter, on the ground that the expenditure of public money was a matter which solely belonged to the House of Commons, but in reply to him Mr. Gladstone said that that objection, if taken against an appropriation made by the House of Commons in England for expenditure within the United Kingdom, would be strictly correct, but that the expenditure of money of the people of Hindostan was a matter which was as open to the House of Lords to investigate as it was to the House of Commons, because it was an investigation into the expenditure of money which had not been appropriated by the House of Commons and therefore did not come solely within its jurisdiction. My hon. friend, I noticed in the resolution that is before us, has as the first resolution :

To inquire into the amount, source and expenditure of all subsidies granted to the Drummond County Railway Company, and of all other moneys received and expended by the said company, and the times and manner of such expenditure.

Now that is an inquiry into the expenditure of public money. It has happened in the House of Lords that they have inquired into the expenditure of public moneys, but it has not been the express object of the inquiry. It has been the mere incident of the inquiry, and if my hon. friend were to suggest that there should be an inquiry into the management of the Drummond County Railway and into the finances of that railway as an incident to that, there would be a right to inquire into the expenditure of the moneys which had been appropriated from any source, no matter whether it was a public source or not. I am not going to discuss the character of the resolution to-day. We shall consider that when my hon. friend reaches his resolution at the time to which he proposes its consideration shall be postponed.

Hon. Mr. MILLER—I am somewhat taken by surprise at the course which has been pursued by the hon. gentleman who has this motion in charge. There may be a good deal of force in what the hon. gentleman has said, that it might be wise for us not to duplicate the expense of investigating the affair of the Drummond County Railway here while a similar investigation is going on in the House of Commons, but that information was in the possession of my hon. friend at the time he made this motion, and it should