

Government. I drew this matter to the attention of the Minister of Colonization last year, and I had hoped he would have taken some note of it and investigated the conditions, but I am sorry to say that he has done no such thing. I also brought the matter before the Department of Railways and Canals, but got very little response. We have an investment in that railroad which the present Government tells us amounts to something like \$100,000 a mile; we have settlers in that district to the number of twelve thousand or more, and yet we are told that it is impossible to transport the products of that territory over this railway which cost us over \$100,000 a mile. Surely there must be bad management somewhere, and the bad management is quite evident when you travel through that country.

I am not going to move an amendment to the Address, but I do sincerely trust that the Government will take into consideration the matter of an early arrangement with the United States Government whereby our products can be shipped to that country either in Canadian or American cars.

Sir GEORGE E. FOSTER (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cahill) has put a perfectly proper case before the House and the Government in the interests of his constituents in that part of the country. It is an old question, as he will find when he commences to follow it up with the different departments. The exchange of cars between two countries situated like the United States and ours is a matter of great necessity and of the utmost convenience, but it is not so easy to effect as might seem at first sight. There have been times when we have had from ten to twenty thousand cars over on the other side in the service of the United States railways, in comparison with a much smaller number of United States cars on this side of the line. A railroad is, of course, very materially interested in having in the first place, its own cars at its disposal for freights within its own country, and it is but reasonable to expect it to put forth every effort to that end. The Government is interested in international trade, particularly in our resources which find a market in the United States and help to bring money into this country, and so stabilize to that extent the exchange situation or prevent it from becoming more adverse. Both Dominion and Provincial Governments are interested in colonizing portions of our country which are becoming gradually opened up, and I can assure my

hon. friend that there is no criminal intent, and not even any neglect, which can properly be charged either to the railway companies or to the Government in this matter.

The difficulty is to retain the proper proportion as between our own country and the United States, and under the congestions which have been prominent and continual during the war, and which are so continuing to a great extent at the present time, it is one of the most difficult problems in the world to equalize that interchange. My hon. friend will see that if we send three hundred cars up into that district, load them with pulp wood, and send them to the United States, and then find that we cannot get them back for five, six, seven, eight, nine or even twelve months, we are diminishing to that extent the number of our cars that are utilizable and are necessary in our own country to carry our own products. So that it is a measure of caution that the railways must take to prevent as many of their cars as possible from going to the United States over the proportion that we have of their cars in this country. We are taking a great deal of stuff down into the United States and are much interested in doing so. I will bring the matter to the attention of my colleague, the Minister of Railways, and can assure my hon. friend that it will receive the attention which it deserves, and that any possible remedy that can be had will be applied; because it is greatly in the interests of the railway company and of the country that it should be.

Mr. J. E. FONTAINE (Hull) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, allow me at the outset, to tender my tribute of congratulations to the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne.

It required no small measure of cleverness and imagination to expatiate at such length and so cleverly as they have done, with such a meagre and limited subject to draw upon as the Speech placed by the Government in the mouth of His Excellency.

It is gratifying to find that the opening of the session synchronises with the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

On several occasions, Canada has tendered a cordial welcome to members of the royal family. Twice already, Princes of Wales have visited Canada, and there was as much gratitude as loyalty in the cordiality of the reception tendered them; but none of those royal visitors have, I believe, won the esteem and heart of Canadians in