

offered so many advantages over the others, he did not see why it should not be accepted without the delay of another survey. He spoke not merely as a representative from Northumberland, but of the Dominion. All that he claimed was that the route should be chosen on the evidence of disinterested persons.

Mr. Burpee thought it was useless arguing the question till the routes were surveyed and evidence placed before the House. He was quite willing to leave the deciding of the route to the Government. From what evidence he could gather, it appeared to him the Central route was preferable. Grading was no heavier than on some parts of the Grand Trunk, and yet no difficulty was experienced there.

Mr. Robitaille contended that there was evidence before the House sufficient to form an intelligent decision as to the respective merits of the different routes. He went on to quote from Major Robinson and Mr. Fleming's reports to show that the North Shore route would be cheaper and would serve the trade of the country better than the Central. He also was willing to leave the decision to the Government.

Mr. Tremblay, after arguing in French in favour of the North Shore route, moved that the Bill be referred back to Committee of the Whole for the purpose of amending it by adding a clause adopting Major Robinson's route, subject to approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

Hon. Mr. Langevin said the motion left members no alternative but to vote against the Government or against Robinson's Line. The Bill provided that a choice of line be made by Government after new surveys and most careful consideration. If the motion was adopted, it was a vote of want of confidence. If rejected, the opponents of that measure would contend in England that Robinson's line had been rejected by this House. Great considerations were attached to the decisions, and Government would act in the interest of colonization, commerce, local and general; but Ministers could not be bound by such a motion, against which many members favourable to Robinson's line would vote.

Mr. Sylvain, seconder of the motion, said he was now satisfied that the Government would favour Robinson's line, and did not want to push the motion through.

Hon. Mr. Dorion said the motion only declared that Robinson's line was the best—this opinion being shared by a great majority of this House. If Ministers opposed it, it was because there were some other motives, and they would not favour that line.

Mr. Ferguson considered the amendment as a useless occupation of the time of the House, and deprecated the entire discussion which had been maintained by the Maritime representatives, as if they only should have the privilege of speech upon the subject which they had, from their local prejudices, so far involved in perplexity as to make it probable that a three months' debate would scarcely be long enough to conclude the discussion. It seemed to him that the Western Provinces had also some right to be heard, as wherever the road might be laid, it would have to bear not the least share of the cost. To him who had none but the public interests to desire to serve the controversy of this night, and the last, had afforded sufficient corroboration of his already formed opinion that the Government should be left to determine the issue, which he would leave in their hands, trusting that the interests of the whole country would be thus impartially secured.

The amendment was then withdrawn, and the Bill read a third time and passed.

Mr. Tremblay said he was perfectly satisfied the Secretary of State was in favour of Robinson's Line and consented to withdraw his motion.

FOREIGN AGGRESSIONS ACT

On motion of **Hon. Mr. Cartier**, the Foreign Aggressions Act was read a second and third time and passed. Mr. Cartier explained that this Bill was only an extension of the old Canadian Act to the whole Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Dorion regretted that such an Act was necessary; but if Government had information in their possession which justified such an Act, he could not object to its being passed. He would much rather, however, have seen the law abolished in Ontario and Quebec, than extended to the Lower Provinces.

Hon. Mr. Anglin thought special power should be given to regular judges in case of necessity rather than that military courts should be established.