

copies for eighty men. We have had no time to look at it. I think there is something more than land speculation in this Bill. I have an inkling that perhaps the Minister of Immigration and Colonization (Mr. Calder) has a few roads going through counties that are not strangers to him. It may have a political purpose. I understood the hon. member for Strathcona (Mr. Douglas) to say that an election had been won on one or two of these railways.

Mr. J. M. DOUGLAS: On one of them.

Mr. BUREAU: I am going to ask my partner who keeps better company now and knows all about fictitious charters and perhaps he will give the information to me and we will be able to discover things that it will be to the advantage of the country to know.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We would need to postpone consideration for a much longer time than Monday to get the owners of the land along forty-two lines of railway. I am afraid the night is getting so late that the hon. gentleman's mental resourcefulness is waning or he could think of some better reason for wanting this postponed. Does he suggest that in the history of granting charters the Government of the day has ever come down with the names of the owners and occupiers of the lands along the line of the projected route? The suggestion really stuns one's sense of propriety. What has the hon. gentleman in his mind? If he thinks there is anything sinister behind the extension of a charter and has information, or claims that he has, to substantiate that idea, I suggest that he bring it before Parliament on Monday. If he can show anything of the nature that he has indicated to-night he will produce somewhat of a sensation in this House. If he has such evidence, it will have a very great effect in determining the vote of hon. members on the Bill before the Committee. In the meantime, although we do not seem to be on the discussion of the schedule, I do not think we should delay the House longer, and I move that the consideration of the schedule be postponed.

Motion agreed to.

On the preamble:

Mr. McKENZIE: On the preamble I wish to point out that there is all the difference in the world between an ordinary company looking for a revival of a charter and this situation. If a company has an old charter and wants to build a road, that company has to take the responsibility of furnishing

[Mr. Bureau.]

the money and of dealing with the people through whose land it is building. It is a private concern. But here are forty-four companies that the people are taking over and here are forty-four lines of railway that this House is undertaking to build and about which nobody knows the first thing whatever. Yet we are smiled at and we are called simpering idiots because we ask for information. Here are forty-four companies building forty-four lines of railway with our money, with the money of the Canadian people. We do not know what it is going to cost or how many miles of road are going to be built. We are left in a state of entire and hopeless ignorance on these points. Still we have in front of us a body of intelligent men who say that it is utterly absurd for the representatives of the Canadian people to try and find out anything about these roads. The Acting Minister of Justice says that it is the same as if an ordinary company spending their own dollars were here looking for an extension. It is nothing of the kind. It is our money, it is our business, and we should know something about it before it is forced over our heads in this way.

Mr. MEIGHEN: We are not undertaking to build railways and therefore the remarks of the hon. gentleman mean nothing whatever.

Mr. McKENZIE: This is to build railways.

Mr. MEIGHEN: This Bill provides for authority to build them after Parliament votes it, as provided in section 23.

Mr. BUREAU: This schedule gives us no information. My hon. friend says I can get the information between now and Monday. I have some more interesting and better company to keep between now and Monday than that of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and I have something better to do than to find out about lands that are owned by the Canadian Northern Railway. Although my hon. friend the Acting Minister of Justice is endowed with immaculate nerve, he seems to have lost it. Late hours are telling on him. He knows that between now and Monday I cannot get any information. I have reason to suspect by the way they are crowding this that there is something wrong about it, and that there is some land speculation and political patronage and influence behind it. My hon. friend says that they could not procure the name of every owner. I do not think they would have to deal with