

couragement given to travel between the great commercial city of St. John and points on the north shore of the province. The people of St. John were also encouraged to travel to Quebec and Montreal by the Intercolonial, with which road we had direct connection at Moncton. But to-day that is all done away with, and apparently no attention is paid to the comfort or convenience of people who wish to travel from St. John to the north shore of the province or to Quebec and Montreal. Any one leaving St. John for the north shore or for Quebec has to take a local train to Moncton, and wait there from one to three hours until he can catch a train going to the north or to Quebec, and the same thing applies on the return journey. No attention whatever is paid now to the comfort and convenience of the travelling public. Formerly we used to have a very good suburban service on the Intercolonial, but when I was down at St. John recently I found that that had all been changed, and to-day the suburban service from the country districts into the city of St. John is not much better than it was twenty years ago; it is certainly not as good as it was a couple of years ago, or even last year. These changes for the worse seem to have been made without any reason. I do not intend to take up any time in elaborating these just grounds for public complaint, as other hon. gentlemen will no doubt speak on this motion, and my hon. friend from Moncton will be able to speak of conditions in his district with more knowledge than I. I am simply voicing the complaints which are made in the portion of the province from which I come, and pointing out that the universal sentiment of the people is that there is no excuse for the want of accommodation, no excuse for the lack of regard to the comfort and convenience of the travelling public, and no excuse for the many disastrous wrecks that have occurred during the past year. I do not blame the minister for that, except in this sense; he ought to give personal attention to these matters. That is what a minister is for, it seems to me, to give personal attention to the management of the great interests which are confided to his care. I do not know whether the Minister of Railways gives these matters his personal attention or not. If he does, and still allows these things to go on, he is greatly to blame, and if he does not, he is to blame for leaving the management so entirely in the hands of the General Manager of the Intercolonial. I am going to support this motion of my hon. friend from

Rimouski (Mr. Boulay) because the spirit of it is good, though I would alter two or three words if I had the amending of it. But perhaps the minister will agree to an amendment himself, which will meet with the views of the House. This is a resolution which ought to be passed. The people of this country have a right to expect the Intercolonial to be managed just as any great railway company is managing its railway. It should be managed in such a way as to secure loyalty and the best possible service from its employees, and to prevent the gross injustice which has been done to the employees of this great railroad system in the past few years under the management of the present Minister of Railways and the gentleman whom he brought in from outside to occupy the responsible position of General Manager.

Mr. JOHN STANFIELD (Colchester): My name has been before the public more or less during the last few months in connection with this matter, and I wish to correct certain statements that have appeared in the newspapers of the country. I am sorry to say that the papers that are supposed to be friendly to me have magnified the incident in which my name was mentioned, and have made statements that were incorrect. A statement was sent out to the press from this House last Thursday or Friday night in connection with what the Minister of Railways had said in regard to some remarks made by my brother in the local House, and, according to this report, the Minister of Railways said that he did not know and did not care. I have consulted Hansard, and have spoken to the members who were sitting next to the minister when he was speaking, and I find that this newspaper report is absolutely false.

Mr. CARVELL: Stand by the minister.

Mr. STANFIELD: I will stand by what is fair and square, but will oppose him or any one else when I think it is right to do so. What I wish to say is this: Some hon. members on this side of the House, as well as on the other, were under the impression that I was trying to dictate to the Minister of Railways and the General Manager of Government Railways that a certain man should be promoted to a vacancy on the Intercolonial. I do not think that I have any right to dictate; I might suggest whom they might promote. But I say that we have as good men in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as can be obtained anywhere else; they have proved themselves to be so.