

Mr. OLIVER—Can you give the Committee any idea of the value of land from Queen to Bathurst Street, on the south of the 100 feet strip, say twenty or twenty-five feet wide?

Mr. CASSELS—I am told that they paid \$1,000 an acre for their station grounds. The actual cost of building up the 100 feet strip was about five times as much, because it was made from a ditch. On the south of the strip the land is perfectly smooth, and I am satisfied that the Government would give it.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON—As the Mayor of Toronto has been appealed to, and is present to-day, I think it is but right that he should be heard.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—The opinion of the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Toronto may be very valuable, but we do not want to hear it unless they are interested in this Bill.

Hon. Mr. ROBINSON—They might tell us what the effect would be on the whole of the people they represent.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. CUMBERLAND—Might I be permitted to say that, in the event of His Worship referring to any question of the title or occupation of the Northern, I should like to have the privilege of saying a few words on the subject.

The CHAIRMAN—That would be a matter for the Committee to decide.

Mayor BEATTY—I do not propose to detain you at any length, after the many observations that have been made on this matter, and especially as I do not represent any railway. I am fortunate in that respect, probably, in coming before you; but, in representing the City of Toronto, I represent the interests of the public at large.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Is that the sole character in which you speak?

Mayor BEATTY—That is the sole character.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—Then I think that Mr. Beatty should not be heard.

Mayor BEATTY—I represent an interest of a very important character, and one that I think should be heard, at all events. I shall not occupy the attention of the Committee very long about it. The position of the City of Toronto is this: we want that railroad to come into Toronto. The city has given \$350,000 for the purpose of having the Credit Valley Railway come in as an independent line to Bathurst Street. One of the conditions upon which that bonus was given was that it should be an independent line, and the Company gave a bond for \$500,000 that they should come into the city independent of the Grand Trunk or any railroad whatever. All that we want is to have that done. We do not care how you do it, and we come here with no hostility whatever to the Northern or the Grand Trunk, both of which have done great things for Toronto. The citizens of Toronto have thought the Credit Valley Railway a road in their interest, and have aided it to the extent of \$350,000 for the purpose of bringing it into the city, and we ask that this Parliament shall, as far as possible, assist in carrying out this object. Now, that is the true light to view it in. The mere question of private rights does not come up here, and why? A good deal has been said here about vested rights, but what do railway companies care about vested rights? What has the Credit Valley Company cared about the vested rights of the farmers and municipalities on the 160 miles of its route? They go on their sinuous way like a devouring dragon, eating up farms and lots.