

of his colleagues to take immediate steps to ascertain, if they can, whether the navigation of Hudson's Bay is practicable, as I would fain hope it may be, for four or five months in the year. I called the attention of the Government in the early part of the Session to the subject; but I do not suppose, as one of their independent supporters says, they will take any advice from me; nevertheless, I would again call attention to the fact that very little is known respecting the navigation of Hudson's Bay, and it should be an easy matter to arrange with the British Government to employ one or two vessels of the fleet in deciding questions respecting this route. But though I do not undervalue this route, and though I desire that this should be done, I say this, that at best no grain can go out of Hudson's Bay until nearly one year after the grain has ripened, and that it will be a most inadequate method of relieving the people from the dangers which threaten them under the present monopoly. We have seen enough in by-gone days of the extraordinary misrepresentations in which the hon. Minister of Railways indulges, but I will venture to say that, although he was a little quieter in his demeanor than usual, he never was so thoroughly himself as when, on a late occasion, he attempted to show the people and members of this House, some of whom, at all events, are cognizant of the facts I have stated, some of whom must remember those things of which I have spoken, that it was due to his exertions, and to those of his colleagues, that the North-West has been thrown open to settlement and civilization. Once for all I deny, and that most emphatically, that the hon. gentleman, so long as the matter continued under his own control, displayed any energy, activity or skill, in doing anything for the purpose of opening up that country. We have the record of his three years' Administration, and what does it amount to? Simply to the construction of fifty or sixty miles of railway, through a prairie section. The hon. gentleman did absolutely nothing; and yet he attempted, and his followers cheered him to the echo, to belittle the hon. member for Lambton, who did all that it was possible to do to secure an easy approach to the North-West, under our own control, and that without being a monopoly for anybody, whereby would have been afforded the great desideratum of cheap freights for those who went to live in the North-West.

It being Six o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

CANADIAN ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY.

On the Order for the House to go into Committee on Bill (No. 77) relating to the Canadian Electric Light Company, and to confer certain powers upon the said Company, being read,

Mr. McDOUGALL. I am instructed to withdraw the Bill. It is so altered and changed in its character that the promoters have decided not to proceed with it. I move that the order be discharged.

Motion agreed to.

THIRD READINGS.

The following Bills were severally considered in Committee, reported, read the third time and passed:—

Bill (No. 61) to incorporate the Ontario Pacific Railway. —(Mr. Bergin.)

Bill (No. 89) to incorporate the Great Eastern Railway Company.—(Mr. Massue.)

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, it was a matter of no little surprise to me to hear the hon. the Minister of Railways in

submitting a very small measure to the House—a measure having for its sole object the changing of the point where the Canadian Pacific Railway is to pass through the Rocky Mountains—enter into a discussion of the whole question, go again into the merits of the contract the Government entered into with the Syndicate, and discuss in detail the amendments which hon. gentlemen on this side of the House submitted twelve months ago. The hon. gentleman did not think fit to discuss those amendments at the time; but after considering them for twelve months, he has concluded that it would be well to make some observations with regard to them. Now, Sir, why has the hon. gentleman adopted this course? It is perfectly obvious that it is not because the Government have a great deal of time on their hands, and do not well know what to do with it. It is true, they have made very little progress. We have met here day after day without an opportunity of considering those measures which the Government promised at the beginning of the Session; we have still to have brought before us some of the most important of those measures, and yet the hon. gentleman occupied a large portion of yesterday, and has forced hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to discuss a question that was disposed of by the vote of this House at the last Session of Parliament. It is perfectly obvious that the hon. gentleman sees mischief before him. The hon. gentleman knows right well that the policy on which the Government have entered is not likely to bear fruits favorable to the Administration; he knows right well that the country are already alarmed at the evils likely to grow out of that policy, and that the longer he delays, the greater the difficulties of the Government are likely to become. The hon. gentleman is like Macbeth, who seeing the ghost of the murdered Banquo, says: "Do not shake your gory looks at me; do not say that I did it." But the hon. gentleman did do it; it was he who forced this policy on Parliament last year; it was he who refused to give Parliament the information to which Parliament was entitled. He has entered into a discursive discussion of almost every conceivable topic with which this House has power to deal, upon a measure consisting of but one clause. The hon. gentleman, I dare say, has read in the Arabian Nights Entertainments of the genii who was found closed up in a keg, and who when set free became a tremendous smoke; but he did not end in smoke, but assumed the gigantic proportions of a human form, and was likely to prove destructive of his benefactor. The hon. gentleman sees the same object before him; he sees a body of gigantic proportions, called into existence by the Administration and the sanction of Parliament at its last Session, and he sees that this tremendous body is likely to prove disastrous to its friends. Sir, the hon. gentleman has threatened the House with a dissolution; he has told us that we on this side of the House are very much afraid of a dissolution. I do not think the hon. gentleman has seen or heard anything in the conduct of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House to warrant him in concluding that we are afraid of an appeal to the country. There can be no doubt whatever that if an election had taken place the next day after the election of 1878, the result would have been entirely different. The hon. gentleman knows that they succeeded in a great measure because of the over-confidence of our friends, and if it had been supposed that the Government were likely to be defeated there can be no doubt that the result would have been different; and the hon. gentleman knows right well that the Government are not likely to succeed in an appeal to the country, although they think their chances of success are better now than they would be at a later period. Sir, it is perfectly obvious that if these hon. gentlemen believed that the country was with them, and had confidence in their own policy on this and other questions, they would not have been occupying nearly